Not all failures count equal for BOPS (buy online, pick-up in store) customers: Identification of BOPS quality dimensions and examination of failure effects by the dimension

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1. Introduction

1.1. Contextual Background – Omnichannel

- The Prevalence of Omnichannel Retail
 - Multichannel retailers are evolving to 'Omnichannel' by integrating and coordinating the channels to allow consumers to use multiple channels without boundaries during purchase.
 - A study of 46,000 shoppers shows that omnichannel customers are more loyal and spent more than single-channel customers. The more channels they use, the more money they spend in the store (Sopadjieva, Dholakia, & Benjamin, 2017).
- Buy-Online-Pick-up-in-Store (BOPS) service
 - BOPS, or 'click-and-collect' service is an omnichannel shopping option that consumers order and purchase items online and pick them up at the offline store, instead of having the items delivered.
 - BOPS is the most popular cross-channel service among multichannel retailers, and the numbers are constantly increasing (Grau, 2009; Ma, Su, & Oh, 2014; Produce retailer, 2018).

1. Introduction

1.1. Contextual Background – Service Quality of BOPS

- Service Failure in BOPS
 - While the BOPS system is relatively well established, problems with collection are not rare (Forbes, 2018).
 - Customers perceive omnichannel experience as a brand experience, blurring the distinction of channels (Huré et al., 2017; Rosenmayer et al., 2018).



Managing the service quality of <u>offline</u> service (the <u>pick-up stage</u>) of BOPS may be critical to the success of omnichannel retail management

1. Introduction

1.2. Research Needs

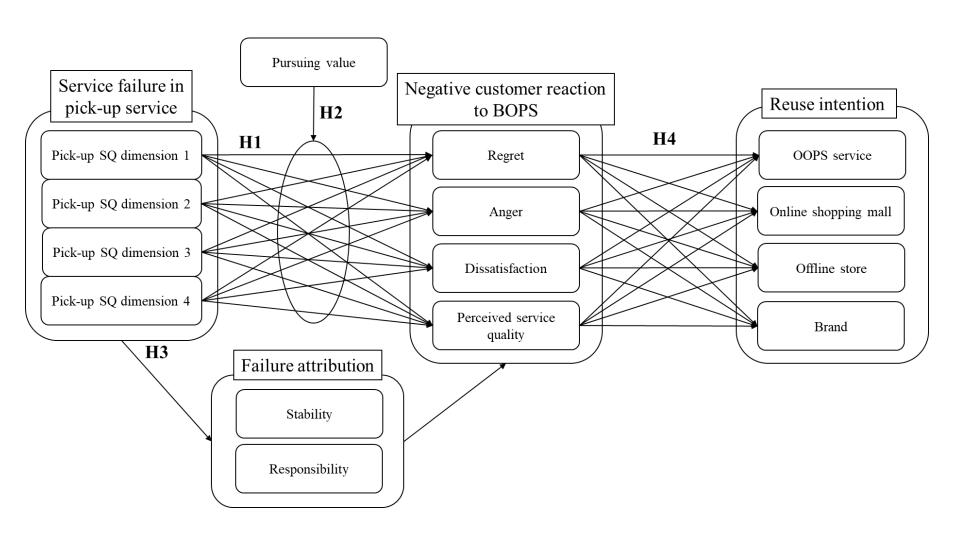
- Empirical research on service quality of omnichannel retail is limited, while the importance of managing customer experience across diverse channels is emphasized (Ostrom, Parasuraman, Bowen, Patricio, & Voss, 2015).
- Research on the offline service quality of BOPS is needed.



Focusing on the physical encounter of the BOPS process, offline pick-up stage, this research aims to

- 1) identify the attributes of pick-up service quality of BOPS and
- 2) examine the effect of service failure in each quality dimension.

2.1. Research Model



2.2. Hypotheses (1/2)

- The influence of each service quality dimension on consumer reaction is not equal, and the impact of different types of service failure also varies (Parasuraman et al., 1988; Wall & Berry, 2007).
- Firm's explicit and implicit service promise influences customer's expectation level and zone of tolerance of the service quality (Zeithaml, Berry, & Parasuraman, 1993).
- Service failure influences negative customer reactions both emotionally and cognitively.
- → H1. The impact of service failure on each negative customer reaction (regret, anger, dissatisfaction, and perceived service quality) varies depending on the pick-up service quality dimension of the failure.
- Consumers choose BOPS for a particular purchase-specific goal or value.
- According to goal relevance theory, stimulus that is relevant to current goal or interest receives more attention and is memorized better (Levine & Edelstein, 2009).
- Shopping motive influences emotions and service quality perception, and attracts individuals to focus on the relevant aspect of service (Dawson, Bloch, & Ridgway, 1990; McCabe, Rosenbaum, & Yurchisin, 2007).
- → H2. Consumers' pursuing value of using BOPS moderates the influence of service failures on each negative consumer reactions (regret, anger, dissatisfaction, and perceived service quality).

2.2. Hypotheses (2/2)

- Failure attribution is dependent on the origin of the service failure, thus will be influenced by the type of service failure (Iglesias, 2009).
- Each attribution has different psychological mechanism, which triggers different emotions (Weiner, 2000), and satisfaction and quality perceptions are influenced independently by failure attribution (Iglesias, 2009).
- Responsibility attribution may change the type of reaction (ex. firm anger / myself regret), while stability factor may influence the degree of negative reactions.
- → H3. Failure attribution (responsibility and stability) mediates the influence of service failures on each negative customer reaction (regret, anger, dissatisfaction, and perceived service quality).
- Through *halo effect*, the evaluation about one channel may spill over to attitudes towards other channels and the whole firm (Pauwels et al. 2011; Kwon and Lennon, 2009).
- Perceived service quality and satisfaction both directly and strongly influence customer behavioral (Cronin & Tayler, 1992; Baker & Crompton, 2000)
- Specific negative emotions directly affect behavior, independently of dissatisfaction (Laros & Steenkamp, 2005; Zeelenberg & Pieters, 2004).
- → H4. Each negative consumer emotions(regret, anger, dissatisfaction, and perceived service quality) differently influences the reuse intention on BOPS service, online shopping mall, offline store, and the brand.

3.1. Research Procedure

Step 1. Qualitative study

Methodology: Critical Incident Technique

Step 2. Scale Development

Methodology: EFA & CFA

Study 1. Scale development

: Identify the attributes of pick-up service quality of BOPS

Step 3. Experimental Study

Methodology: Scenario experiment (online)

Study 2. Model test

: Examine the effect of service failure in each quality dimensions

3.2. Critical Incident Technique (CIT) Research

Purpose of the study

- The main purpose is to investigate the service quality attributes of Buy-Online-Pickup-in-Store (BOPS) service of omnichannel retailers that leads to consumer satisfaction or dissatisfaction.
- Specifically, the study aims to gain insights on the following:
 - Aspects(Dimensions) of BOPS service that lead to satisfactory or dissatisfactory experience (IV)
 - Consumer's value or purpose pursued by using BOPS (Moderator)
 - Consumer responses due to the critical BOPS incidents (Insights for research model)

Procedure

- Subject: Recent BOPS users among American consumers (who have used omnichannel retailers' BOPS service in last 12 months and had a particularly satisfying or dissatisfying experience.)
- Data collection method: Qualtrics survey on Amazon's Mturk
- Data collection: 2018.05.24~2018.06.02
- Number of samples: initial 161 → final 108 (satisfying experience: 52 / dissatisfying experience: 56)

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