

# Dithley's Hermeneutical Interpretation on 'Heaven and Smile' Episode of Digital Comic 'Banggaber'

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## Abstract

Digital comics, such as Banggaber digital comics, circulate through WebToon and social media platforms like Instagram. They are also distributed online via computers and mobile devices. Social media showcases the allure of Banggaber Digital Comics and their potent message, which this study endeavours to illustrate. This qualitative study employs Dilthey's hermeneutics in comics. Data on digital comics is digital comic banggaber on Instagram with visualization heaven and smile, a way to collect information that includes visual research and observation. The findings demonstrate the appearance of Islamic values in individual experiences, shaped by historical and social perspectives. The comics' visual representation conveys the significance of a mother in a person's life, highlighting the acceptance of mothers as figures who offer peace and hope.

## Keywords

Banggaber; Digital Comics; Dilthey's Hermeneutics; Islamic Values

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## INTRODUCTION

The use of the Internet, which peaked in the early 2000s, positively impacted the growth of comics in Indonesia. For comic book creators, large publishers weren't necessary. They could create and distribute work for a small group of people. This group included Si Juki, Tahilalats, and Bang Gaber in the 2000s. Through websites like WebToon and Instagram social media, such as the digital comic Banggaber, digital comics are practically distributed on the internet via computers and mobile phones [1]. One of the comics that is extensively circulated online, particularly on social media, is the Banggaber comic. The Banggaber comic has a simple look that resembles a one-panel comic, yet it is packed with meaning, necessitating a deeper examination of both the visual aspects of the comic and its central concept [2].

Rizal Fahmi, a comic book creator, created Banggaber, a work that raises awareness of social issues. The social media site Instagram showcases this comic in full-panel form. The Banggaber comic, whose plot raises social issues as analyzed in the display of events between parents and children, is one of the resurging Indonesian comics, where comic readers and connoisseurs alike want to enjoy comics created by Indonesian comic artists.

Researchers have already used Tahilalat comics as study subjects. For instance, studies such as "System Concept Visual" by Monica and R. Drajatno Widi Utomo Syntax in Tahilalats, and "Representation of Nur Aliffiana's Millennial Generation Identity Through Humor in the Form of Animation on Social Media (Semiotic Visual Animation Analysis on Instagram Tahilalats, Komik. Zero, and Komik Grontol)" have already been conducted. Studies such as "Messages of Social Criticism in Comic Cartoon Illustrations (Roland Barthes Semiotics Analysis on the Instagram Account @Banggaber)" by Firdan Ardhiyansyah and "Audience Meaning Related to Comic Memes on the Instagram Account @Banggaber: A Case Study Related to Posts on Religious and Political Issues" by Amanda Faras Nabila utilize the Banggaber comic as their subject.

The Banggaber Digital Comic is popular and conveys a powerful message. The Banggaber digital comics brim with profound meanings and values, including Islamic ones. This study aims to delve deeper into these meanings and values, employing Dilthey's hermeneutics to uncover these profound Islamic principles. This research also tries to ascertain Dilthey's hermeneutic interpretation of Islamic values with the text Heaven on the Soles of Mothers' Feet and Hidden Behind Their Smiles in the Banggaber digital comic Heaven edition.

## METHOD

This qualitative research, with a focus on comics, employs Dilthey's hermeneutics as an analysis method. Banggaber's digital comic from Instagram serves as the data source. This research gathered data through observation, visual studies, an analysis of Instagram comics, Banggaber comics, and a visual examination of the data hidden within the mother's smile.

A form of investigation and comprehension called qualitative research emphasizes social phenomena and human concerns. Researchers constructed intricate visualizations for this study, evaluated language, supplied in-depth information about the respondent's perspective, and carried out experiments in actual environments [3].

In qualitative research, the researcher serves as the primary instrument. Therefore, to formulate questions, carry out analyses, and simplify the subject of study, researchers need in-depth theory and knowledge. This investigation places special emphasis on the connection between significance and worth [4].

Interacting and observing people in their natural environment is the primary information or data collection method for qualitative research. In addition, this calls for approaching or researching

individuals connected to the research topic to comprehend their language and worldview [5].

Several considerations, including the method's better adaptability when presented with contradicting facts, the direct link these methods generate between the researcher and the responder, and the method's greater sensitivity, according to Moleong, influence the acceptance of qualitative approaches. If needed, acclimate to the data pattern [6].

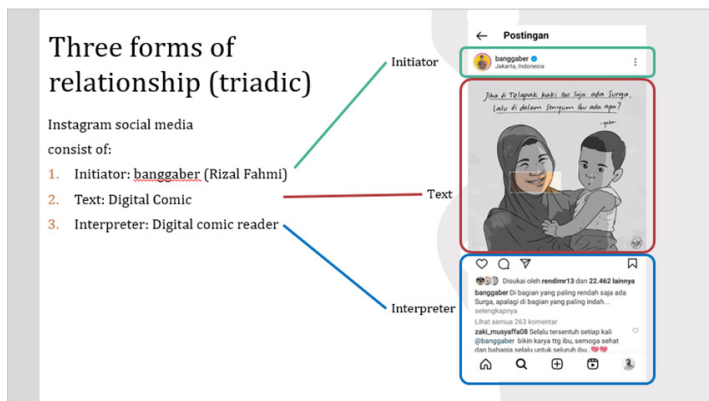
Hermeneutics is the interpretation of the qualities and meaning of human works and activities to create an understanding of them. Wilhelm Christian Ludwig Dilthey, who was born in 1833 and died in 1911, emphasized the importance of humans in his hermeneutics in his hermeneutic idea [7].

Dilthey places a strong emphasis on comprehending how people's subjective experiences fit into their historical and social contexts. When doing hermeneutical analysis, Dilthey also places a strong emphasis on comprehending how people interpret their own experiences. Dilthey acknowledges in the critical analysis step that different subjective interpretations can have various ethical and value ramifications [8].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the analysis process, hermeneutics uses the relationship triad—the relationship between the initiator and the text, the relationship between the interpreter and the initiator, and the relationship between the interpreter and the text—to reveal messages and meanings.

Social media platforms like Instagram showcase these three types of relationships, including the one between the initiator and the text. The picture below illustrates this triadic relationship. In this example, the proud comic artist Rizal Fahmi is the initiator. Gaber's text is a one-panel digital comic, and a digital comic reader interprets it.



**Figure 1.** Three forms of relationship (triadic) in Banggaber social media Instagram  
Source: Syarip Hidayat, 2023

This comic artwork by Rizal Fahmi on Instagram, uploaded on June 20, 2022, will be the subject of analysis. In April 2023, 22,463 readers liked the Heaven and Smile episode upload analysis, and 263 left comments.

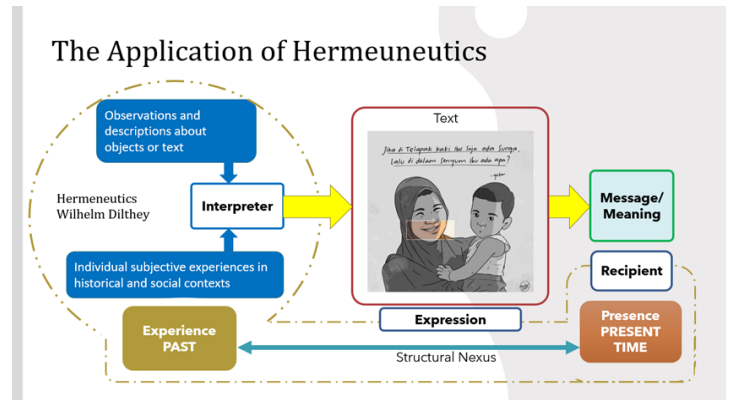
An adult woman and a young child visualize this object as a mother and her child, with the mother displaying a smile. The comic artist emphasizes the mother's smile in the section by utilizing contact and color forms, which serve as visual elements. They are fascinating and play a significant role in comic artists' displays.

After that, a line that reads, "If there is heaven in the soles of the mother's feet, then what is in the mother's smile?" appears at the top of the image. Dilthey's hermeneutics allows for a more thorough examination of this text, making it more instructive in its message delivery.

While Dilthey's hermeneutics mentions that the interpreter makes observations and descriptions of the objects and texts that appear in the initial process, the application of this hermeneutical analysis also involves three parts in the process of disclosing its meaning. Consequently, the triadic relationship reveals the application of this hermeneutical analysis in greater detail. Dilthey mentions that the nexus of structure in hermeneutics also ties the experience of specific subjects in historical and social contexts, where these contexts are an initial component of the experience.

The structure of the elements or components of previous experience and the presence of the present are interdependent in this structure, meaning that the current messages are based on the reader's past and subjective social experiences.

**Figure 2.** The application of Hermeneutics in the interpreter process in the nexus of structures in the emergence of messages/meanings, Source: Syarip Hidayat, 2023



For the recipient to comprehend and bring up the text's message or meaning, the nexus process's expression of the section's structure establishes a link between prior experience and the present. Here, it becomes evident that personal experiences from the past, then conveyed in the present, can manifest the message.

The process of expression shows that a mother plays a vital role in the family, from conception to raising children, and that heaven is under her feet. We must all show maternal respect and be filial. In Islam, a mother holds the highest role.

This structural nexus has a deeper explanation and relation with Islamic values, According to a hadith from Abu Hurairah RA, "O Messenger of Allah, to whom should I worship first?" a person asked the Prophet Sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam. The Prophet shallahu 'alaihi wasallam answered, "Your mother!" Then anybody else, the individual inquired once more. The Prophet shallahu 'alaihi wasallam answered, "Your mother!" The question, "Then who else?" was repeated. Your mother, he retorted. when the questioner inquired again, "Then who else?" The Prophet (sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam) responded, "Then your father," (HR. Bukhari) [9].

Three times the mother's name and once the father's name is mentioned in the hadith. The tale says you must respect your mother three times as much as you do heaven under your mother's feet. That doesn't, however, imply that you don't appreciate your father as a child.

A mother's service takes a much more expansive form than her sacrifice. Mother suffered during childbirth, nearly losing her life in the process. She also looks after and breastfeeds her offspring.

It cannot be measured by the kindnesses and sacrifices a mother makes for her child or the contributions parents make to their offspring. The heaven in question extends beyond the afterlife. However, the intended methods aim to provide us with Ridha, love, affection, and the genuineness of our mothers. It is also thought that by honoring mothers, Allah will guide us and grant us His pardon. Eventually, He will provide them with the protection to follow all His instructions and the strength to adhere to all His prohibitions.

**Interpretation of the text of heaven on the soles of the mother's feet**

*Jika di Telapak kaki Ibu saja ada Surga, lalu di dalam senyum Ibu ada apa?*

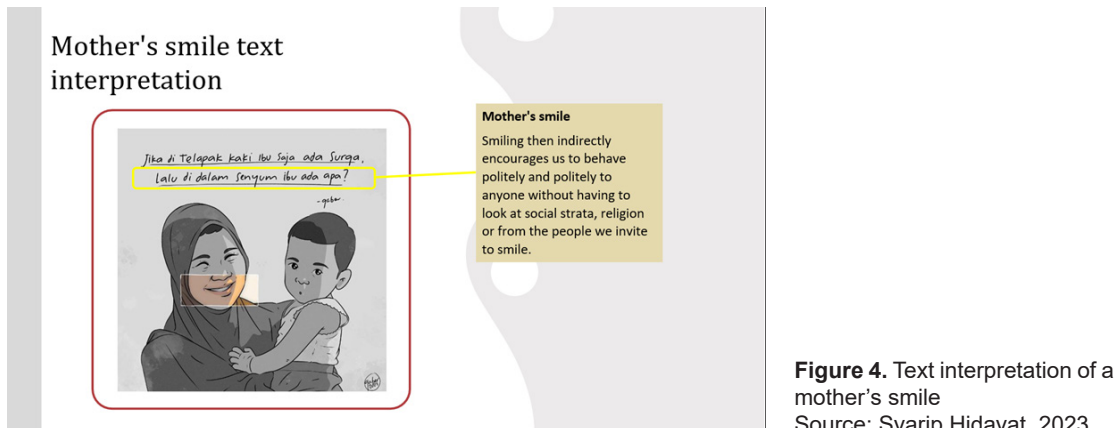
**The soles of mother's feet are heaven**  
A mother also has an important role in the family, from conceiving to raising children. It is often heard that heaven is under the feet of mothers. This is related to filial piety and respect for a mother. A mother has the highest position in Islam.

Hadith narrated by Bukhari, the Prophet Muhammad SAW said that the mother's name was pronounced three times and the father once. The allegory of heaven under the feet of the mother is the parable that as a child you must respect three times as well as your mother.

**Figure 3.** Interpretation of the text as Islamic Values Source: Syarip Hidayat, 2023

The phrase “heaven under mothers’ soles” is a metaphor because, as children, we must submit to and serve our mothers. Being loyal to mothers means prioritizing, respecting, and valuing their interests. Living in paradise at the mother’s feet demonstrates obedience and devotion. Engaging in this service will open the path to paradise.

The mother prioritizes herself before the father. In his book, Quraish Shihab says that a mother is something very vital for a child’s life, while a child is something for a mother’s life. One of God’s most amazing creations, in his opinion, is Mother [10].



**Figure 4.** Text interpretation of a mother’s smile  
Source: Syarip Hidayat, 2023

A mother’s heart is the most wonderful gift from God, and it is through her that virtue springs. When a mother conceives, gives birth, breastfeeds, and instills moral ideals in her children, she immediately interacts with other people. Therefore, one could argue that the mother’s relationship with her child is one-sided.

“If heaven is in your mother’s soles, then what’s in her smile?” says the continued text of the comic. We can say about this smile that it subtly encourages us to act politely and formally toward everyone, regardless of social class, religion, or the individual we are smiling with. This is because smiling can make people around you happier.

## CONCLUSION

BDilthey’s hermeneutics is an analysis method that mentions the individual’s subjective experience in historical and social contexts. In this digital comic text, the comic creator and the interpreter interact, and it is clear that each Instagram social media exposure highlights the individual’s subjective experience with Islamic values as a message and meaning.

The initiator’s text yields a fresh message. Most of it suggests that the mother figure plays a crucial role in their lives, leading to a multitude of prayers and aspirations from this individual perspective.

Personal experience informs how people might recognize that their mother plays a significant role in their lives, from a historical and social perspective. Additionally, personal experience can help people understand that the mother is a source of comfort and hope.

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