



WATER IN THE VISUAL STRUCTURE OF DIGITAL COMIC BANG GABER BY RIZAL FAHMI

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Abstract

Water is a natural element for human survival, not just fulfilling daily needs in activities such as drinking, bathing, and others. Water has a crucial role in the process of life. This role indicates that water is a symbol attached to every living thing, especially humans. The relationship between water and humans is often visualized in various forms and mediums. One of them is in the digital comic Bang Gaber by Rizal Fahmi, which features the element of water in the digital comic theme. The use of water elements and symbols is one of the attractions of the digital comic to be studied more deeply related to its visual structure. This research is included in the Qualitative, using an approach to the Science of Fine Arts (Comic). The data source is Rizal Fahmi, comic artist of Bang Gaber, taken from Instagram. Data collection techniques through observation and visual studies. Data analysis with the support of the relevant literature review on the visual structure. The theory used to analyze is the structuralism theory of Levi-Strauss about the structure in a comic artwork. The research results show that the visual structure of digital comics with the theme of water in comics consists of the surface structure as a tangible visualization of water as an object that delivers philosophical thinking in life and is symbolized metaphorically. At the same time, deep structures are in the form of wisdom, toughness, and self-acceptance. Given that Bang Gaber's Digital Comics is one of the revivals of Indonesian comics, comic book fans may easily access them. Visual analysis is necessary to uncover the emerging visual structure and understand this digital comic's messages and meanings.

Keywords: Bang Gaber, Digital Comic, Visual Structure, Water

INTRODUCTION

Water is a natural element that is available for human survival, not just fulfilling daily needs in carrying out activities, such as drinking, bathing, and others. Water turns out to have a very important role in the process of life. This indicates that water is a symbol attached to every living thing, especially humans. The relationship between water and humans is often visualized in various forms and mediums. One of them is in the digital comic Bang Gaber by Rizal Fahmi, which features the element of water in the digital comic theme. The use of water elements and symbols is one of the attractions of the digital comic to be studied more deeply related to its visual structure.

Indonesian comics reached their height of popularity in the 1960s and 1970s before physically fading away. According to Djair Warni, Comic artist Jaka Sembung voiced the belief that the publishing sector was not supportive, which made comics by Indonesian comic artists dull [1].



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Comic artists were not dependent on major publishers, could make and distribute their works in a small community, and subsequently distributed their work online as a result of the extensive usage of the internet in Indonesia in the early 2000s. The Bang Gaber cartoon is widely popular online, particularly on social media [2].

The Bang Gaber comic has a straight forward aesthetic from the perspective of a one-panel comic, but it is packed with meaning, necessitating a closer examination of both the comic's visual elements and its underlying themes.

This Bang Gaber comic is one of the resurgences of Indonesian comics, where many readers and comic enthusiasts desire to enjoy the Bang Gaber comics in their stories that address social concerns.

The visual structure looking at that emerges, the study that has been done using Bang Gaber's digital comic object may be completed on the assessment of the visual side of the comic, necessitating more research that complements the earlier research.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is included in the Qualitative, using an approach to the Science of Fine Arts (Comic). The data source is Rizal Fahmi, comic artist of Bang Gaber, taken from Instagram. Data collection techniques through observation and visual studies. Data analysis with the support of the relevant literature review on the visual structure.

The data came from Bang Gaber's comics, which were taken via Instagram. Visual studies and observational techniques were used to obtain data. With the aid of the pertinent literature research on visual structure, data analysis was completed.

Qualitative research is innovative and carried out in a practical environment. The researcher is the primary instrument in qualitative research. Therefore, researchers need to have thorough theory and expertise in order to develop questions, conduct analysis, and simplify the subject of study. The connection between meaning and value is more heavily emphasized in this study [3].

Required data or information Interacting with and seeing individuals in their natural settings are the main ways that qualitative research is collected. Additionally, it entails approaching or observing people who are pertinent to the research emphasis in order to try to comprehend their language and perspective on the world [3].

According to Moleong, the qualitative method was chosen with a number of factors in mind, such as its greater adaptability when dealing with diverse realities, the direct connection it fosters between researchers and respondents, and its greater sensitivity. and adjust to the encountered pattern of data [4].

Bogdan and Taylor convey about qualitative research methodology as a type of research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or verbal statements made by the subject and observable behavior [4].

In qualitative research, a researcher engages over several months with a variety of subjects to learn about their backgrounds, daily routines, behaviors, and physical and mental traits. According to Bogdan and Biklen, the qualities of qualitative research include the use of natural, descriptive data rather than numerical data, inductive data processing, and the importance of meaning in qualitative research [5].

The visual structure of this digital comic will be analyzed using Levi-Strauss' structuralism, which divides the structure into two categories: the outer structure (surface structure) and the inner structure (deep structure) [6].

The outside structure is the interaction between parts that we can make or build based on the exterior or empirical nature of the relationship, but the inner structure is a specific arrangement that we develop based on the outer structure that we have succeeded in making. However, the empirical side of the phenomena we study doesn't always demonstrate it. One can create these inner structures by comparing and contrasting the many discovered or created outward structures. It is further stated that using this internal structure as a model for interpreting the events under research is more acceptable because we understand many of the cultural phenomena he examines through it.

In addition to the concept of structure, Levi-Strauss also incorporates the concept of change. The transformations that are explored here must be distinguished from the notion of transformation as it is often conceived. Lévi-Strauss uses the term "transformation" to describe transformation, even though transformation is more commonly referred to as "change." The process of converting something into another in a certain area and time is what the concept of change refers to, and this is the most obvious distinction between the two. "Transformation" is a term used to describe surface-level alterations only [7].

Levi-Strauss bases his thesis on myth analysis. In order to highlight overlapping paradigms, it combines functions vertically and employs myth versions with non-linear structural models. Given that myths are universal, Susanto Levi-Strauss came to the conclusion that they are essentially random or unpredictable. One can ascertain the interrelationships or interrelationships between these aspects by integrating the elements of a myth. Myth falls under the linguistic umbrella. Myth is composed of linguistic-like units, just like language [8].

Myth and language cannot be accurately compared when seen in the context of time. The sense of langue and parole states that synchronic and diachronic elements, as well as specific temporal aspects, can all be used to examine language. Both irreversible and reversible time exist in mythology. That is to say, despite the appearance of change at times, myths have persisted throughout history [8].

DISCUSSION

Comics are a type of cartoon that can act out a story in a sequence that is closely related to images and can reveal characters, and is made to entertain the reader [9]. A collection of images and symbols placed in a particular order to transmit information and elicit aesthetic assumptions from the reader is what is known as a comic [10].

Digital comics use digital media, where digital media is media that is encoded in a machine-readable format. In digital electronic devices, digital media can be viewed, produced, modified, distributed, and maintained. The definition of comics as an art form in McCloud is based on comic book master Will Eisner. Since the definition of the word "comic" has not been clarified, it can still be said that this sense is ambiguous and subject to many interpretations [11].

Based on this description, it is clear that comics are a type of art that does not always have to be in the form of a book. They can also be accommodated in a single frame and communicate ideas through specific texts. For example, virtually gaining access to computers and cell phones via the internet (mobile phones) [12].

Komik Bang Gaber uses a platform with social media Instagram, where comic creator Rizal Fahmi uploads posts from comic content in the form of only one panel, but even though only one panel is enriched with interesting visualizations and with the addition of text to strengthen the message in the comic.

Rizal Fahmi has been interested in comics since childhood, Rizal is a comic creator like Nurfadli who uses social media and the internet where his work has been popular and has followers on social media Instagram through the @banggaber account of 335 thousand followers.



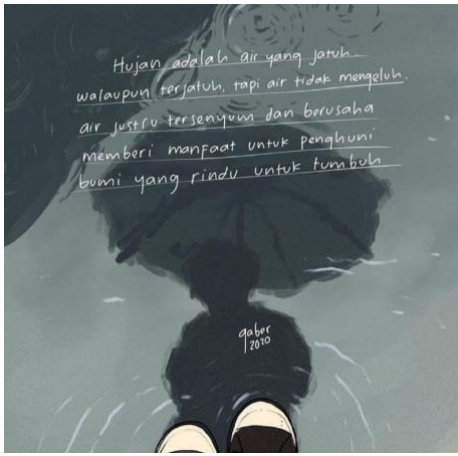
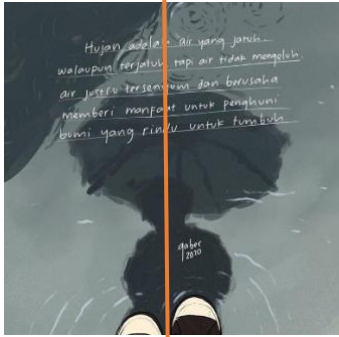

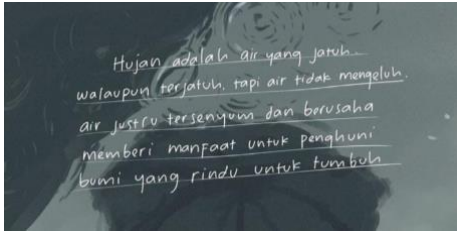
Figure 1. Profile Banggaber at Instagram
[Source: Screenshot Instagram]




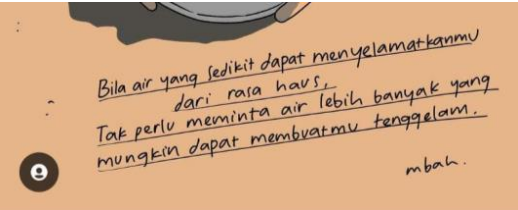
Every living thing needs water. It is even said that humans can survive without eating for a maximum of 40 days, as long as they maintain their body fluid intake by drinking.




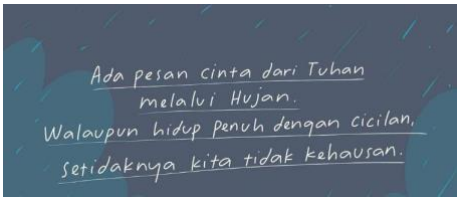
Water is closely related to daily activities, besides that water has the ability to give life, but it can also bring danger. Water is very important, because it can give life, like plants that need water, if not watered will wither and die. However, in addition to providing benefits, it turns out that water can also cause disasters such as floods, the dangers posed by water, there must be a reason. such as the habit of littering, so that the garbage accumulates, and clogs up causing flooding.

There are 3 comic objects that will be examined visually on the water theme, namely: first, uploading a water theme comic with a rain theme uploaded on Thursday, November 4, 2021; both uploads of glass water comics were uploaded on Sunday, November 21, 2020; and the three raindrops were uploaded on Saturday, June 2, 2022. The following is a table regarding the visual analysis of the water theme Bang Gaber comic with visual structure analysis on comic frames, composition, color and comic text.

Tabel 1. Visual Analysis (Outer Structure) of Bang Gaber's comic water theme
 [Source: Syarip Hidayat]

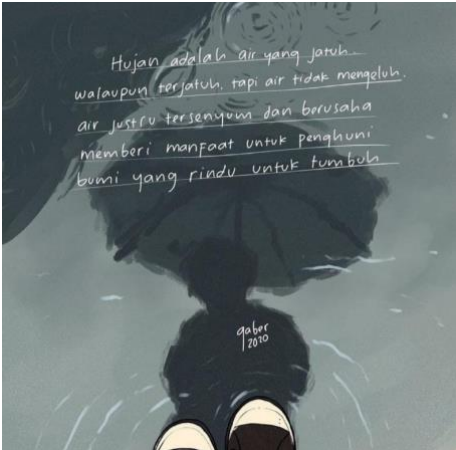
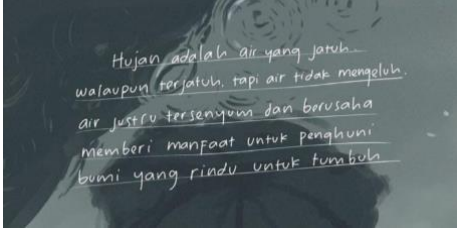
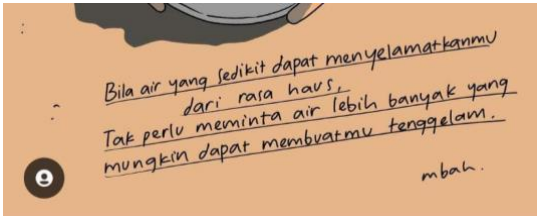
No	Comic Visuals	Visual Analysis (Surface Structure)
1.	<p>Screenshot of Bang Gaber's Instagram Comics with the theme of rain was uploaded on Thursday, November 4, 2021</p>  <p>Full screen shot</p>	<p>Comic frame: One Frame</p>  <p>Symmetrical compositional</p> <p>Composition: Symmetrical compositional appearance with shadow characters holding umbrellas and shoes at the bottom that are balanced on the right and left, balanced with text that is above the center</p>  <p>Color: Colors use cool colors, point of interest visualization is dominant using dark blue, light blue, and gray</p>  <p>"Hujan adalah air yang jatuh walaupun terjatuh tapi air tidak mengeluh, air justru tersenyum dan berusaha memberi manfaat untuk penghuni bumi yang rindu untuk tumbuh"</p> <p>Comic text: "Rain is water that falls even though it falls but the water does not complain, the water actually smiles and tries to benefit the inhabitants of the earth who long to grow" The text here emphasizes the most important part according to the visualization of the comic image and is reinforced with text, to further clarify the message and meaning of this comic.</p>



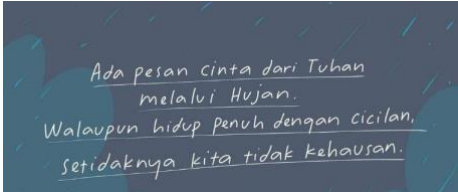
No	Comic Visuals	Visual Analysis (Surface Structure)
2.	<p>Screenshot of the Instagram Comic Bang Gaber glass water uploaded on Sunday, November 21, 2020</p>  <p>Full screen shot</p>	<p>Comic Frames: One Frame</p>  <p>Asymmetrical Composition</p> <p>Composition:</p> <p>The compositional appearance is asymmetrical, both hands holding a glass, but balance with text as a counterweight at the bottom of the overall composition, and a background that strengthens the composition.</p>  <p>Color:</p> <p>The colors used in this uploaded comic are warm colors, the choice of warm colors further strengthens the visualization of the atmosphere of the glass on the table.</p>  <p>"Bila air yang sedikit dapat menyelamatkanmu dari rasa haus, Tak perlu meminta air lebih banyak yang mungkin dapat membuatmu tenggelam"</p> <p>Comic text: "If a little water can save you from thirst, there's no need to ask for more water that might drown you" Text strengthens the visualization of comic images and to further clarify the message and meaning of this comic.</p>

No	Comic Visuals	Visual Analysis (Surface Structure)
3.	<p>Screenshot of Bang Gaber's Instagram Comics raindrops uploaded on Saturday, June 2, 2022</p>  <p>Full screen shot</p>	<p>Comic Frames: One Frame</p>  <p>Symmetrical Composition</p> <p>Composition: The appearance is a symmetrical composition with a central figure balanced on the right and left.</p>  <p>Color: The colors used in this uploaded comic include bright colors, choosing a bright color with a dominant blue color on the comic background to display cloudiness, this color strengthens the visualization of the relationship between the person being displayed.</p>  <p>“Ada pesan cinta dari Tuhan melalui Hujan. Walaupun hidup penuh dengan cicilan, setidaknya kita tidak kehausan.”</p> <p>Comic text: “There is a message of love from God through the rain. Even though life is full of installments, at least we're not thirsty.” Text strengthens the visualization of comic images and to further clarify the message and meaning of this comic.</p>

The three objects analyzed, when viewed from a comic theory perspective, the panels used for the three objects use a one-panel display, in the panel a visualization of water is shown, the water is displayed in several forms, both in the form of rainwater, rainwater reflections, and water. drink, then this visualization is strengthened by depictions that support the atmosphere of this one-panel comic, including umbrellas, raincoats as well as glasses and tables.

Tabel 2. Deep Structural Analysis in Bang Gaber's comic water theme
[Source: Syarip Hidayat]

No	Comic Visuals	Deep Structure Analysis
1.	<p>Screenshot of Bang Gaber's Instagram Comics with the theme of rain was uploaded on Thursday, November 4, 2021</p>  <p>Full screen shot</p>	 <p>Text section</p> <p>Comic text: "Hujan adalah air yang jatuh walaupun terjatuh tapi air tidak mengeluh, air justru tersenyum dan berusaha memberi manfaat untuk penghuni bumi yang rindu untuk tumbuh" "Rain is water that falls even though it falls but the water does not complain, the water actually smiles and tries to benefit the inhabitants of the earth who long to grow"</p> <p>Keyword text: Rainwater, Falling, Not complaining Smile, Try to benefit, grow</p> <p>The keywords above give the meaning that water is metaphorized as something/someone who, even though it falls, in its downturn, still provides benefits to others. So it can be seen that the meaning of water here is as a giver of life and strength.</p>
No	Comic Visuals	Deep Structure Analysis
2.	<p>Screenshot of the Instagram Comic Bang Gaber glass water uploaded on Sunday, November 21, 2020</p>	 <p>Text section</p> <p>Comic text: "Bila air yang sedikit dapat menyelamatkanmu</p>

	 <p>Full screen shot</p>	<p>dari rasa haus, Tak perlu meminta air lebih banyak yang mungkin dapat membuatmu tenggelam”</p> <p>"If a little water can save you from thirst, there's no need to ask for more water that might drown you"</p> <p>Keyword text: A little water saves from thirst, The more water, the more you drown</p> <p>The keywords above give the meaning that water is metaphorized as sustenance. So that it can be interpreted as sustenance, because if a little is enough, if it is too much it must be shared. The meaning that appears in this digital comic is gratitude.</p>
No	Comic Visuals	Deep Structure Analysis
3.	<p>Screenshot of Bang Gaber's Instagram Comics raindrops uploaded on Saturday, June 2, 2022</p> 	 <p>Text section</p> <p>Comic text: “Ada pesan cinta dari Tuhan melalui Hujan. Walaupun hidup penuh dengan cicilan, setidaknya kita tidak kehausan.”</p> <p>“There is a message of love from God through the rain. Even though life is full of installments, at least we're not thirsty.”</p> <p>Keyword text: Messages of love from God, through the rain, life is full of installments, at least we are not thirsty.”</p> <p>The keywords above give the meaning that water is metaphorized as rain is sustenance, installments mean worship, the meaning of this comic is wisdom.</p>

The text in this one-panel comic is the most important part and strengthens the message in the comic, because it is this text that is more likely to deliver the message directed by the comic creator, as in the first object "Rain is water that falls even though it falls but the water doesn't complain, water actually smile and try to give benefits to the inhabitants of

the earth who long to grow” in this first text conveys a message about the meaning of water as a giver of life and strength.

In the second object, the text reads "If a little water can save you from thirst, there's no need to ask for more water that might make you drown." This text strengthens the visualization of comic images and to further clarify the message and meaning of this comic. Water here can be interpreted as sustenance, a little is enough, if there is too much it must be shared. The meaning that appears in this digital comic is gratitude.

The third object of the text reads “There is a message of love from God through the rain. Even though life is full of installments, at least we're not thirsty." Text strengthens the visualization of comic images and to further clarify the message and meaning of this comic. Rain is sustenance, installment means worship, the meaning of this comic is wisdom.

So that from the three objects we can analyze through Levi Strauss' structuralism where on the surface structure the water depiction is clear with its position as rain water and drinking water which is supported by visualization in strengthening the composition of the comic display as a whole panel.

In this structuralism there is a second structure, namely the deep structure. Text becomes a reinforcement in conveying meaning that is not directly visible so that it can be positioned as a structure in which several meanings can be drawn from the objects analyzed here, water as a giver of life and strength, water as a reminder in gratitude, then water as a messenger in making policies.

CONCLUSION

Bang Gaber's Digital Comics is one of the revivals of Indonesian comics; through the social media platform Instagram, comic lovers can easily access Bang Gaber's digital comics, so visual analysis is needed to find visual structures that appear. It can be known more deeply about this digital comic's messages and meanings.

The analysis was carried out using a qualitative method with the data processed through the source of the data work of comic artist Bang Gaber which was taken from Instagram. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation and visual studies.

The analysis step is carried out by describing visualization using art theory in comics. Frame, Composition and colour are analyzed to describe the analysis step on structuralism from Levi Strauss with the outer and inner structure.

The research results show that the visual structure of digital comics with the theme of water in comics consists of internal structures of wisdom, toughness, and self-acceptance. While the outer structure is a tangible visualization of water as an object that delivers philosophical thinking in life and is symbolized metaphorically

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