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Self expression and authenticity in Mohan Hazian's personal communication through the book "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

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ABSTRACT

This study looks at how Mohan Hazian shows himself and stays true to who he is through his book "Goresan Seorang Berandal." Mohan, a well-known figure in the creative world, shares his real thoughts and feelings in his writing. His book is not just a recounting of his life story; it is also a way for him to talk about himself and how he deals with the pressures of fame and the expectations of public life. This study uses a descriptive and qualitative approach, focusing on how stories are told. The data were obtained by examining the text, the way words are used, and the symbols that show how Mohan communicates about himself. The findings show that Mohan expresses himself through honest and emotional storytelling, demonstrating bravery in being open and real. His work shows the importance of being true to oneself by rejecting fake ideas and promoting free thinking in urban life. The book acts as a personal space for honest emotions and deep thinking and also stands up against the image-driven culture of the digital world.

Keywords: authenticity; book analysis; mohan hazian; self expression; personal communication

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1. INTRODUCTION

In today's world, where social media and instant messaging are ubiquitous, expressing oneself is more important than ever (Swastiwi, 2024). Currently, everyone wants to showcase their best side in the online world, whether through photos, posts, or creative content. They do this to prove their existence and be a part of the virtual community. However, there is a problem behind the shiny images and perfect looks. The more people attempt to appear real, the more they miss who they truly are. This shows that being real is something people desire, but it is difficult to maintain, especially for young people in cities who feel pressure to always appear well-adjusted.

In this situation, Mohan Hazian's presence is worth investigating. He is not just a successful young businessman running the streetwear brand ThanksInsomnia, but also someone who has been recognized for his values of freedom, hard work, and for standing up against strict systems (Rifani, 2025). In this case, it is worth paying attention to Mohan Hazian. He is not only a successful young businessman who owns the streetwear brand ThanksInsomnia, but he is also someone who has been acknowledged for his beliefs in freedom, hard work, and for fighting against strict rules.

"Goresan Seorang Berandal" is not a motivational book, and it is not simply about telling the story of a successful journey (Andreas, 2021). It feels like a personal diary of a young person growing into a full adult. The stories are not trying to be perfect or clever; they are real, simple, and emotional. That is what makes the book special: its honesty and messiness, which create meaning. Through his writing, Mohan shows how casual conversations can have a deep and thoughtful impact. Each sentence feels like a door opening into the deepest parts of his identity, parts he does not always understand but wants to be seen and accepted for.

In a world where people often show only their best side, Mohan's willingness to share his vulnerable and honest feelings in this book is a strong way of expressing himself. He does not act like someone who already has all the answers; instead, he shows himself as someone who is still trying to understand things. From the idea of communication theory, this kind of sharing can be seen as a way of being open and honest with others, where someone shares their thoughts, emotions, and life experiences to create a more real and meaningful connection (Sawaki & Wahyuni, 2025). In "Goresan Seorang Berandal," Mohan writes in a way that allows him to talk to the reader and also talk to himself. He is not just sharing with the world but also speaking to his own mind.

The idea of being real has a significant meaning. From an existentialist perspective, authenticity means having the courage to stay true to oneself even when external forces attempt to assimilate individuals (Anam, 2025). For Mohan, being a "BERANDAL" does not imply breaking rules in a harmful manner, but rather standing against false ideas that people often believe. He uses the word "primaries" to highlight the importance of thinking freely, acting bravely, and expressing feelings honestly without fear of judgment. Therefore, the term "BERANDAL" in his book's title is not merely a clever way to grab attention, but a profound concept pertaining to the discovery and embodiment of one's true self. The book also illustrates how writing can serve as a means of connecting with others, even in a world saturated with images and videos. While many young people favor communicating through their mobile devices, Mohan prefers using words to share his thoughts and emotions. This demonstrates that communication does not always necessitate face-to-face interactions or direct communication; it can also occur through thoughtful and honest writing. In Mohan's book, readers can engage in a dialogue with the author, not through back-and-forth exchanges, but by allowing his words to foster a shared sentiment and understanding.

Mohan's choice to write "Goresan Seorang Berandal" can also be seen as a way to resist a digital culture that often pushes for uniformity. In a world focused on "likes" and "followers," having the bravery to show one's vulnerable and human side is a form of rebellion. His writing challenges the idea of the perfect, successful entrepreneur and instead presents a real person who learns, makes mistakes, gets back up, and reflects on their experiences. In this context, personal communication becomes a tool for freedom because, through writing, Mohan can express his true self without pretending to be someone else.

From a communication perspective, this work discusses how the role of media has changed from simply sharing information to becoming a space where people can contemplate themselves. Books are not merely used to convey messages; they also assist people in learning more about themselves (Dewayani, 2017). Mohan uses writing to create his own reality and share it with others in a way that feels honest and healing. Writing serves as a means of self-reflection for Mohan, aiding him in understanding and coming to terms with his life experiences (Yanti et al., 2025).

By contrast, the book can also be seen as a way of expressing identity, in which Mohan tells his story through the tales he chooses. The story not only shows his own experiences but also helps shape how others perceive themselves. In this case, personal communication is a continuous process of creating meaning. Mohan isn't making up a false picture, but instead sharing his identity through a story he controls. This is a form of self-branding that is honest and reflective, not attempting to deceive or control others.

This phenomenon is important to study because it shows how people express themselves and stay true to who they are through communication in creative works. In the academic world, most studies on personal communication focus on face-to-face interactions; however, expressing oneself through written works, such as books, is often not given enough attention. In fact, works such as "Goresan Seorang Berandal" offer a chance to learn more about the deeper side of personal communication, in which language helps connect a person's inner thoughts with the outside world.

This study aims to explore and understand how Mohan Hazian expresses self-expression and authenticity in his book "Goresan Seorang Berandal." Using a personal communication approach, this study focuses on the stories, language, and symbols used throughout the text. Through this approach, it seeks to reveal how Mohan communicates aspects of himself through his writing and how authenticity is manifested in his narratives. It also examines the social and cultural background that shapes his creative process. Academically, this research contributes to the field of communication studies, particularly in understanding self-expression and authenticity in personal communication. Practically, it encourages younger generations to express themselves genuinely through creative works. In a society that often values image over truth, "Goresan Seorang Berandal" reminds readers that the most meaningful communication arises from honesty and courage in being true to oneself. Therefore, this study views Mohan Hazian's work not only as a text but also as a reflection of how human communication continually seeks meaning, sincerity, and freedom in expressing identity. Based on this background, this study seeks to answer the question: How does Mohan Hazian express self-expression and authenticity through his writing in "Goresan Seorang Berandal"?

2. METHODOLOGY

This research applies a qualitative approach with a descriptive orientation to gain a deep understanding of the meanings of personal communication, self-expression, and authenticity as portrayed through Mohan Hazian's experiences in "Goresan Seorang Berandal." A qualitative approach is considered appropriate because the study emphasizes the interpretation of meaning rather than numerical measurement or frequency. It seeks to explore how individuals express feelings and experiences, which naturally differ from one person to another. Through this approach, the researcher investigates the values, emotions, and patterns of personal communication reflected in Mohan's stories. The descriptive orientation in qualitative research enables the researcher to present communication phenomena as they genuinely occur without alteration or value judgment.

The purpose of this research is to study the book "Goresan Seorang Berandal" by Mohan Hazian, published by Shira Media. This book was selected because it includes a personal and thoughtful story that shares the author's feelings and spiritual experiences. The main information used in the research comes from Mohan's writing, which was examined based on themes such as personal communication, self-expression, and genuineness. Additional support comes from interview records, articles, and other sources, such as book reviews, media coverage, and public comments from authors related to this work. Using this information, the researcher aims to explore the background of Mohan's creative process and how his genuine message is formed through his writing.

The data in this study were collected through document analysis, particularly by conducting an in-depth reading of the text “Goresan Seorang Berandal.” The process began with a comprehensive reading of the book to identify key ideas, linguistic styles, and communication patterns. Passages that reflected self-expression, emotional honesty, and personal reflection were categorized into thematic groups. These themes were further linked to theoretical concepts such as self-disclosure, authenticity, personal communication, and identity construction through narrative.

For the data analysis, this study adopts an interpretive and thematic analysis technique. Interpretive analysis is used to understand the meanings behind the text, focusing on how the author’s words, structure, and symbols communicate his personal experiences and worldview. Thematic analysis helps identify recurring ideas and patterns across the text. By combining these two approaches, the researcher not only examines the surface meaning of the text but also explores the deeper layers of experience that shape Mohan Hazian’s expression of self.

The analysis procedure included several stages: repeated reading to ensure comprehension accuracy, coding and grouping text fragments according to themes, interpreting the relationship between symbols and meanings, and verifying findings using theoretical references and supporting sources. This process ensures the validity and consistency of the interpretation. Through this analytical approach, this study aims to reveal how Mohan Hazian constructs his authentic self through personal communication and contribute to the development of narrative-based qualitative communication studies in Indonesia.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. General Description of the Book “Goresan Seorang Berandal”

Mohan Hazian is a young man from Lampung who is known as the founder of the streetwear brand Thankinsomnia. In addition to being involved in the creative world and fashion industry, he is also active in writing a number of works with a non-formal but meaningful writing style. Through his writings, Mohan presents a typical perspective of young people who are critical, honest, and reflective of social realities and personal experiences. The character of his writing, which tends to be strange but still substantial, makes him a representation of a creative generation that expresses ideas through the medium of fashion and literature simultaneously (see [Figure 1](#)).



Figure 1. Mohan Hazian

Hazian’s “Goresan Seorang Berandal” is a thoughtful work based on the author's personal and deep life experiences. He writes not just to share a story, but to create a space where he and the reader can talk about hurts, searching for meaning, and the freedom to think freely ([Chrismonica, 2024](#)). This book has stories that are usually written as short pieces, sayings, and poetic writings that pack a lot of meaning. With

his free and genuine way of writing, Mohan builds a space for close and real personal sharing, showing the complex nature of the human soul that always deals with ideas like right and wrong, faith, and how society works (see [Figure 2](#)).

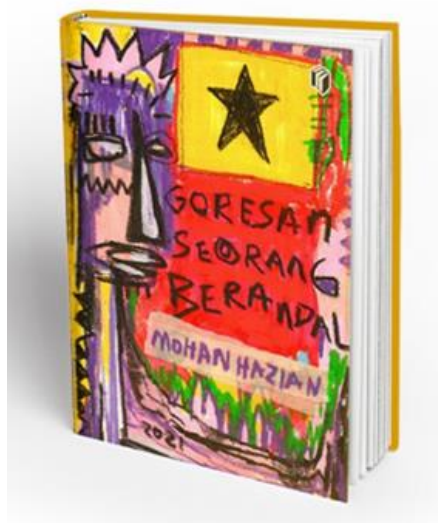


Figure 2. Book of Scratches by Mohan Hazian

This book does not follow a straightforward narrative like most novels. Instead, it is composed of smaller parts that each tell their own story about feelings and ideas. However, all these parts are linked because they come from the same real-life experiences of Mohan. This writing style shows that "A Berandal's Scratches" is not meant to be read in order from start to finish. Each part makes the reader stop and think, trying to understand it on their own. In terms of how we share things with others, this style shows that being open and honest does not have to follow a timeline. It is about being real and sharing from the heart without holding back ([Widjanarko et al., 2025](#)). Mohan's writing in this book shows his natural way of speaking and doesn't follow strict rules. He uses words that are tough but also beautiful, direct but full of feeling, and full of meaning but easy to understand. His style of talking, which is strong but also caring, helps connect with the reader. In personal writing, this kind of language shows how brave he is to be honest and real without trying to hide or change himself. He does not let society's rules or expectations of stories control how he speaks.

This book discusses the internal conflict a person faces with issues such as sin, loss, and love. Mohan shows his true, soft, angry, and loving side. A central theme in the book is resisting fake behavior in society and attempting to discover one's real identity. He aims to demonstrate that being a "BERANDAL" is not about opposing rules but about being a genuine person who rejects lies and seeks the truth in its purest form. It is in this pursuit that genuine communication becomes important, as it requires courage to share the most personal aspects of oneself, even if it entails facing criticism.

"Goresan Seorang Berandal" is not just a book; it is also a way for Mohan to communicate with his audience. The book functions as a space where he shares his personal experiences and spiritual growth. Through this, readers get to see his inner journey. From a communication perspective, this can be seen as a form of storytelling that helps people shape their identity by the stories they tell" ([Pamungkas et al., 2024](#)). Mohan shows himself not as someone who has everything figured out, but as a person who keeps learning to understand his mistakes and being truthful.

In the social context, this book also offers a criticism of the moral dishonesty in today's society. Mohan uses bold and challenging words to question common ideas about hard work, love, and what life is really about. He uses a thoughtful and direct style to encourage the reader to have a conversation, not just with the book, but also with themselves. Every sentence is meant to start a discussion and make the reader think, as though Mohan is talking directly to their thoughts.

The book shows how real and honest Mohan is by the way he accepts his own mistakes and weaknesses without feeling bad about them. He openly shares his fears, uncertainties, and even the parts

of himself that people often try to hide, especially those that do not fit with traditional ideas of being good. In talking to others, this approach means being very open about who you are, including the not-so-nice parts, because you have come to terms with them (Rusyda, 2025). This book serves as a place for healing through language, where Mohan heals himself by expressing his thoughts, and the reader heals by connecting emotionally. In terms of style, "Goresan Seorang Berandal" reflects modern writing that mixes literature, deep thinking about life, and spiritual messaging. This blend makes the book more than just words; it becomes a rich, layered experience that can touch people from different backgrounds. Mohan writes in a free, natural way, sometimes like a personal diary, sometimes like a quiet lesson, and sometimes like a passionate protest. This variety gives readers a powerful emotional journey, showing how writing can be a way to understand and express oneself.

The use of the term "BERANDAL" in the title of the book carries profound symbolic significance. The word goes beyond simply representing a rebellion against social norms; it signifies a process of deconstructing the negative labels imposed by society. Within the realm of cultural communication, such an action can be interpreted as an effort to reframe meaning, which involves altering the meaning of a term to align with a new reality. Mohan portrays "BERANDAL" as a symbol of a person who is honest with himself, who chooses suffering over facade. Therefore, the communication in this book is emancipatory and liberating. Readers are not only invited to comprehend the text but also to engage in the process of self-reflection. The communication between the writer and the reader is dialogical; Mohan does not seek to be fully understood, but rather encourages the reader to discover himself within the writing. This aligns with the theory of existential communication, which perceives communication not merely as an exchange of messages but as an encounter between human beings. In this context, Mohan's writing represents a transcendent form of communication.

In terms of public acceptance, "Goresan Seorang Berandal" received wide attention because of its courage to raise a taboo but humane theme. Many readers reacted not because they agreed, but because they felt moved by the honesty that is uncommon in most popular writings. This reaction shows that real communication can go beyond logic and directly reach people's emotions. This means that Mohan managed to deliver effective communication not because of his formal structure, but because of his honesty (see Figure 3).



Figure 3. Positive response from netizens to the book post “scratch a BERANDAL”

Source: TikTok account [mybook021](#) (2023)

Overall, "Goresan Seorang Berandal" can be understood as a form of self-communication that finds a balance between honesty and reflection. It is a medium for writers to negotiate their identity, heal inner wounds, and invite others to do the same. Through this work, Mohan Hazian proves that authentic personal communication does not have to be gentle or polite; it can be wild, loud, and raw, but that is precisely where the beauty and truth lie. This book is a testament to the fact that writing can serve as the most honest, personal, and human act of communication.

3.2. Analysis of Mohan Hazian's Self-Expression in the Book "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

Self-expression is one of the most basic forms of personal communication, in which individuals openly express their inner contents, thoughts, and feelings to themselves and to others. In the context of Mohan Hazian's "Goresan Seorang Berandal", "writing is used as the main medium to channel his expression. He writes not just to tell a story, but to overflow the existential turmoil that is not accommodated by everyday conversation. Self-expression in this work becomes a form of communication that is therapeutic, where language acts as a container for healing souls wounded by social reality and restrained morality.

One of the main characteristics of Mohan's self-expression is his courage to display the sides that are usually hidden by individuals in public spaces. He writes about despair, anger, loss of direction, and sin without any effort to polish it into a heroic story. In one fragment, he wrote: "I like people I can emulate. Starting from the way he talks, the way he dresses, the way a person puts food in the fish cage. I just want to be friends with people whose behavior can be a good example. If it's bad, I'll keep my distance and not be hostile." This sentence demonstrates a deep level of self-disclosure, in which the author acknowledges his contradictions without fear. In the theory of interpersonal communication, this is a high-level form of communication, as it involves the expression of authentic and vulnerable emotions (see [Figure 4](#)).

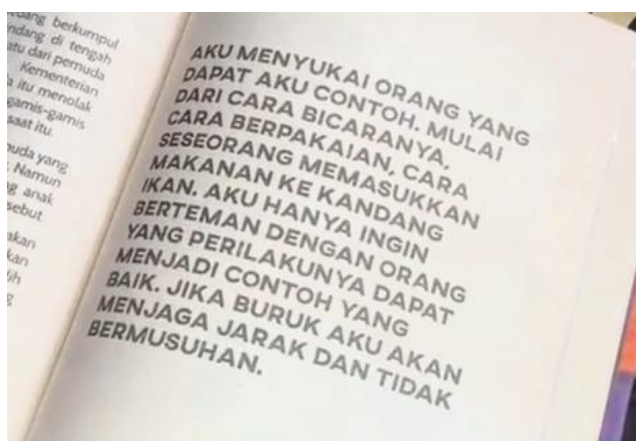


Figure 4. Documentation of Mohan Hazian's Book "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

Sumber: TikTok account [memets_](#) (2023)

This part shows a type of self-disclosure in which people discuss their personal values, how they like to interact with others, and what they consider important in relationships. The sentence "I like people I can emulate" shows a need in oneself to find role models, which helps shape who they really are. In the study of how people communicate with each other, this is part of the attitude-sharing aspect, in which people reveal their true opinions, beliefs, and values that are not always shown in everyday actions.

Mohan's words show a good mix of honesty about himself and understanding of how society affects him. He does not act like a perfect person but instead admits that his experiences are shaped by the world around him. The phrase "if it's bad I'll keep my distance and not be hostile" shows that he communicates in a mature way, being clear and strong without being mean. This helps him keep his feelings and values in check. This matches the idea of managing personal boundaries, which means being open in relationships without losing one's identity.

Furthermore, this expression also includes the moral part of showing one's values, which act as a guide for how someone interacts with others. Mohan not only shares his social preferences, but also explains how he chooses friendships based on how people behave, not just on their status or how close they feel emotionally. This attitude shows that he is genuine, as he judges friendships by how people act, not by how they look. These pieces describe a process of growing up, talking to oneself, understanding oneself, thinking about one's morals, and clearly expressing one's values. Self-disclosure in this quote is not just about saying what you like; it is also a deliberate, ethical, and real way of seeing oneself, as Mohan

shows by choosing who he gets close to. Mohan's way of expressing himself isn't through emotional outbursts, but through clear and thoughtful reflection. He understands that writing is a form of communication that requires honesty, not just feelings. In other words, he does not write simply because he feels something; he also thinks about those feelings. This thoughtful approach makes his expression both emotional and intelligent. In this way, the communication Mohan creates is like a conversation he has with himself and also invites the reader to think about what he says.

In the context of self-expression theory, what Mohan does connects to the idea of expressive communication, which is about freeing emotions and creating personal meaning. He uses metaphors and symbols to express feelings that are hard to put into words. For example, in another passage, he wrote, "We have our own way of spending our days. Some like to spend time quietly, others prefer to work. There are also those who spend their time complaining and doing nothing. Whatever we do every day will have an impact later on." This shows how self-expression not only shares feelings but also shapes a person's view of life, society, and religion. He writes knowing that being honest, even if it is painful, is the most genuine way to communicate (see [Figure 5](#)).



Figure 5. Documentation of Mohan Hazian's Book – "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

Source: TikTok account [mhd.ryanprayuda \(2025\)](#)

This part shows a way of communicating that focuses on looking inside yourself and understanding life's deeper meaning. The line "we have our own way of spending our days" shows that everyone has their own unique way of living, with their own thoughts and how they see time. This is a quiet sharing of self; the writer does not say feelings directly but shows their values through accepting how different people act and live. The sentence "some like to spend time quietly, some prefer to work" shows thinking about how people express themselves. It talks about two ways of showing who we are: being quiet and thinking (like when you sit and think) and doing something creative (like working or making things). In the idea of expressive communication, both ways are equally important. Quiet time can be a way of talking to yourself, and working can be a way of showing who you are to others.

Furthermore, the sentence "there are also those who spend their time complaining, and do nothing" is not meant to judge people but to observe a situation in which some humans have lost their way in expressing themselves. Mohan sees himself as someone who understands and feels for others, rather than trying to criticize. This shows a mature way of looking at life, being able to share thoughts and views without needing to be the main focus of truth.

In conclusion, the idea that "whatever we do every day is bound to have an impact later on" shows a clear understanding of how our actions connect to time and meaning. From an existential communication perspective, it means that every action, even the smallest ones, helps shape who we are and how we fit into the world around us. This passage expresses a quiet but meaningful self-reflection. It is not about strong emotions or sudden reactions, but about thoughtful awareness of how communication comes from deep thinking, not from emotional impulses. Mohan writes as though he's talking to himself, but he's really asking the reader to consider how they live their life and what that means for their future.

Mohan tends to express himself in a spontaneous way. His writing often feels raw, as if it were written all at once without much editing. This is not because he is careless, but because he wants to retain the real emotions he feels when he writes. This style relates to the idea of immediacy in communication, in which the feelings someone has are closely matched with the words they use. By keeping his writing spontaneous, Mohan makes his communication feel intense and genuine, allowing readers to connect directly with his emotions.

Mohan's way of expressing himself can also be seen as a type of resistance against usual ways of communicating. In a society that judges people based on how polite their language is, Mohan chooses to write with simple but truthful words. He refused to submit to social censorship that limited human expression. In cultural communication theory, this kind of action is a form of counter-discourse, which is an attempt to counter the dominant narrative that oppresses individual freedom of speech. Thus, Mohan's self-expression has a political dimension, as he uses language to reclaim autonomy over himself. In many ways, Mohan also combines personal expression with social empathy. He writes not only for himself but for all those who feel oppressed by guilt or alienated from the norm. He wrote, "It is a mistake to equate the wise and the clever. I prefer to brainstorm with clever people. I also prefer to listen to clever people tell stories rather than clever people who are patronizing. I don't like smart people, I trust doctors more."

In the quote, "Equating the smart and the clever is wrong. I prefer to brainstorm with clever people. I also prefer to listen to clever people tell stories rather than clever people who are patronizing. I do not like smart people, I trust doctors more," Mohan Hazian presents a smart social reflection as well as satire. Through this statement, he criticized the tendency of society to often highly value academic intelligence but forget the meaning of intelligence as an adaptive and contextual thinking ability. For Mohan, "smart" is not just knowing, but sensitive, sincere, and not patronizing. With a light and ironic style of language, he asserts that intelligence without empathy only breeds intellectual distance and arrogance. From a semiotic perspective, this quote creates a clear contrast between the two uses of the word "smart." In this case, "smart" stands for wisdom that comes from experience and understanding of people, not just having a lot of knowledge. Through this simple story, Mohan encourages readers to think about what intelligence really means and how we share ideas in our everyday lives.

In personal communication, Mohan Hazian uses a calm and easygoing style of speaking, but his words are full of deep thought. His writing offers social criticism in a gentle and clever way, making his messages familiar and relatable to everyday experiences. He does not see intelligence as something that makes someone better than others, but rather as a tool to help people connect with each other in a more meaningful way. In this way, the idea of "ingenuity" that Mohan talks about becomes a sign of practical wisdom that comes from understanding and caring for others. This approach shows not only his honesty but also a way of communicating that encourages people to think about the value of simplicity, kindness, and fairness when sharing ideas in today's world.

Mohan's way of expressing himself shows how language and body work together. Even though he writes, the reader can sense the emotions behind each sentence. Every punctuation mark feels like a pause in breathing, and every metaphor feels like a heartbeat that hides a deeper sadness. This shows that Mohan's communication is not just about words; it is also about movement and feelings. In a way, he writes with his body and emotions. According to phenomenological communication theory, real communication occurs when words become part of a person's lived experience. The honesty in Mohan's writing creates a strong emotional connection with his readers. Many people say they find themselves in his words, even if they do not know him. This shows that communication from genuine self-expression has power that reaches beyond individual experience. When someone is brave enough to be themselves

openly, they are not only speaking for themselves but also for others who feel the same way. Therefore, Mohan's self-expression becomes a kind of empathetic communication that brings people together through shared emotions (see Figure 6).

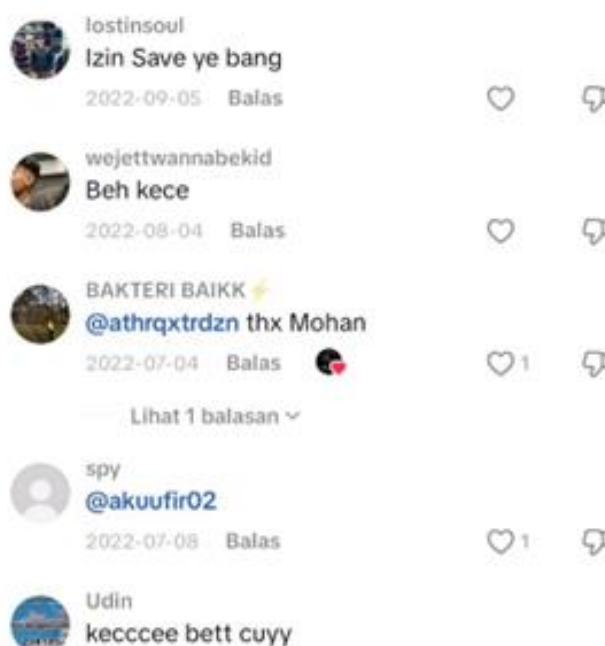


Figure 6. Documentation of Positive Response from Mohan Hazian's Book – "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

Source: TikTok account [irfnmlnaa1](#) (2022)

Overall, the self-expression in the book "Goresan Seorang Berandal" can be seen as the most honest and radical form of personal communication. Mohan Hazian refuses to hide behind imagery, choosing to write with the blood of his own emotions, and lets the reader interpret without masks. This makes language a space of freedom, not just a means of communication. In Mohan's hands, self-expression becomes an existential act of a declaration that humans have the right to be honest about themselves, even if the world is not ready to hear them. This is the essence of authentic communication, the spirit of the work "Goresan Seorang Berandal."

3.3. Analysis of Authenticity in Mohan Hazian's Personal Communication

The concept of authenticity in personal communication is rooted in the individual's honesty towards himself, the experience he has lived, and the message conveyed (Harapan & Ahmad, 2022). Authenticity is not just about being open, but about how well what you feel, think, and say match up (Zamroni, 2022). In the work "Goresan Seorang Berandal," Mohan Hazian shows a very strong sense of being real. He does not try to create a perfect image or pretend to be someone else. Instead, he lets himself be as he really is in a raw and honest way. His writing acts like a mirror, showing emotional, spiritual, and intellectual truth all at once. Mohan's honesty is clear because he refuses to follow the standards of lying that are common in public communication. He doesn't try to fit in with what society expects or write just to please readers. In one part, he wrote: "I don't care about what I achieved last year, last month, or last week. What matters is the new thing I need to do. I know my own weaknesses. I want to have many friends but I don't like being around people much. I'd rather be in my own space. So, I made something so others can come and visit me" (see Figure 7).

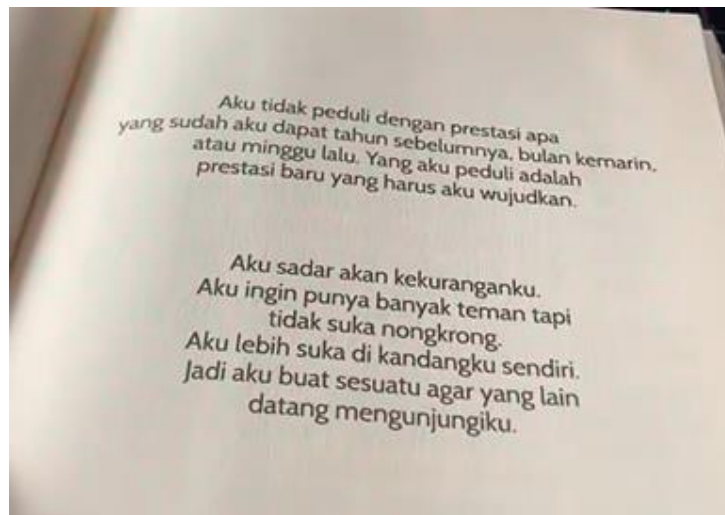


Figure 7. Documentation of Mohan Hazian's Book – "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

Sumber: TikTok account [maspramm19](#) (2025)

The quote refers to how people build their sense of self by focusing on growth and achievement in a meaningful way. It shows someone who does not worry about past successes but instead values new achievements they are working towards. This demonstrates a true desire to keep improving from the inside, not just for external approval. By thinking about "new achievements," the person is driven by their own goals and values, not just by what others think is important. This type of thinking aligns with the idea of self-congruence, in which a person's actions match their true values. In this case, the author shows that they are consistent in acting in ways that truly reflect their inner drive for growth and personal values.

Furthermore, the statement, "I am aware of my shortcomings. I prefer to be in my own cage. So I make something for others to come and visit me," shows a genuine way of communicating that moves from knowing one's own weaknesses to expressing personal limits and choices. Instead of giving in to social pressure to act in a standard way, the author picks a communication style that best fits them, which is creating art to connect with others. This attitude shows courage in staying true to oneself without ignoring the needs of society; thus, the message shared is both expressive and capable of changing things. For this reason, the text has a strong psychological and communicative aspect, showing that being honest with oneself is the most important type of communication when building meaningful and honest relationships.

Mohan's honesty is also seen in how he admits his own weaknesses. He writes with the understanding that people are not perfect but are always growing and changing. He does not believe in simple ideas, such as right or wrong, holy or sinful, good or bad. Instead, he prefers to be truthful about the flaws and imperfections that come with being human. In one of his writings, he said, "There is something more valuable than a diamond. That's an idea." This sentence shows a real and thoughtful way of talking about oneself, in which sharing honest feelings helps people grow, not just cover up their mistakes.

This short quote shows how important an idea is, not just as a commodity, but as something that truly matters in life. The statement "There is something more expensive than diamonds. It is an idea." highlights how human creativity is the main driver behind building civilization. From the perspective of communication philosophy, ideas come from deep thinking and show that people can create their own meaning and come up with new things. Placing ideas on the same level as diamonds, a symbol of wealth, means the author sees creativity not just as a wild thought, but as a way for people to reach their full potential and change society. Thus, this text suggests that human thinking is the most valuable thing in today's world.

Furthermore, the quote can be interpreted using a creative communication approach that focuses on making ideas as a way to provide value. In this case, ideas act as a kind of symbolic message that links

personal thoughts to larger social changes (Hasbullah & Ahid, 2022). The author believes that intellectual property is more important than collecting physical things because ideas can create new and lasting value. In terms of signs and symbols, the word "diamond" stands for the values of capitalism, while "idea" represents knowledge and progress. Thus, this statement is both uplifting and a critique of how focused modern society is on material things, by showing that the real power of people comes from their ability to think and come up with new things.

In the theory of existential communication, authenticity occurs when a person is brave enough to look at themselves without hiding behind a social image (Temaluru et al., 2019). Mohan Hazian demonstrates this in a strong way, he refuses all kinds of fake moral acts and writes from a place of real honesty. He is not talking to the public; instead, he is talking to himself, and the reader is merely observing the conversation. This way of sharing shows that being genuine is not something that can be simply learned or acted out; rather, it is a type of inner bravery that is evident in every word he writes.

In the story, Mohan's realness comes through the way he uses words that match the feelings he is showing. When he is angry, his writing feels strong and full of energy. When he is sad, his words are soft and full of sadness. When he is thinking deeply, his sentences become short and meaningful. This shows that there is a close link between what he feels and how he expresses it. He does not use words to hide from his feelings but rather uses them to show his true self. In personal conversations, this match means he is very real because there's no gap between "I write" and "I feel." His honesty can also be seen in how he talks about being alone. He often writes about being separated from others, but not in a way that sounds desperate. For Mohan, being alone is a peaceful time to listen to his own thoughts. He wrote, "I used to be poor, poorer than you. But when it changed everything, poverty used to be like oxygen to me. It's all around me, around me, but it's invisible, it can only be felt." This shows how he talks to himself in a real way, and that helps him connect more honestly with others. In this sense, being real is not about having everything you want but about having a true connection with yourself (see Figure 8).



Figure 8. Documentation of Mohan Hazian's Book – "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

This quote reveals personal feelings about living in poverty, using strong and thoughtful metaphors. The line, "Poverty used to be like oxygen to me. It is around me, surrounds me, but is invisible, can only be felt," shows a deep understanding of the real social world that is always present but not always seen. From the perspective of communication in sociology, this is a type of storytelling that uses symbols and images to share experiences. The writer does not simply talk about poverty as being poor, but as a way of

thinking and feeling that affects how they see life. The story also shows a change in how the person sees themselves over time, with time becoming a way to create a new sense of self beyond the limits of poverty.

These quotes can be regarded as examples of honest and real communication, in which the author shares his life story with truth and clarity. Being open about a difficult past without making it sound better than it is or ignoring it shows a strong willingness to be honest with oneself. This corresponds to the idea in humanistic thinking that gaining clarity through communication helps us understand who we are and come to terms with difficult experiences. The use of the word "oxygen" adds deeper meaning, turning poverty from just a financial issue into something that is deeply connected to a person's identity. Thus, this work is not only about sharing personal feelings but also about pointing out social problems and suggesting that suffering can lead to growth and a better understanding of life.

In the social world, Mohan's honesty is a rebellious act. He lives in a culture where people often use words to hide the real truth instead of sharing it. By writing honestly, Mohan fought against the usual way of communicating, which keeps people controlled by false ideas. He did not want to be a part of everyday conversations that are full of lies and half-truths. Instead, he chose to be truthful as a way of standing up for what is right. In the study of communication, this choice is seen as a way to free people from harmful social rules and values (Darwis & Azwar, 2024).

Mohan's honesty also questions the usual idea of the "perfect speaker," which is often linked with being polite and keeping emotions in check. In "Goesan Seorang Berandal," communication is beautiful because it is not flawless. He writes with strong emotions, sentences that are not always tidy, and a structure that is not always clear. However, it is this unevenness that makes the reader feel genuine honesty. This matches Carl Rogers' thoughts from *The Interpersonal Relationship*, which states that being real and showing your true self is more important than making everything perfect in how you express yourself (see Figure 9).

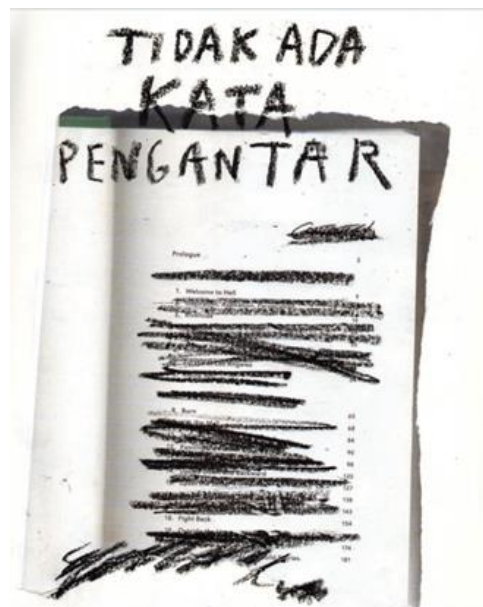


Figure 9. Documentation of Mohan Hazian's Book – "Goesan Seorang Berandal"

The book "Goesan Seorang Berandal" by Mohan Hazian does not have a preface, which actually shows the author's free, honest, and informal nature. The lack of an introduction means that the work wants to speak directly through its content without needing an introduction that sets the meaning or direction for the reader. Mohan's writing is not structured in a traditional way, which shows his spontaneous and honest expression, as though he writes from a deep well of feelings and life reflections without following standard literary rules. This makes his work feel real, raw, and full of energy, capturing the spirit of a "BERANDAL" who finds beauty in chaos.

Mohan's honesty also shows he is brave enough to let go of controlling how others understand his work. He knows that every person will have their own way of seeing what he writes, and he does not try to change that. This shows that he really understands how communication works; that meaning is something people agree on together, not something you can impose on someone else. (Nurlela et al., 2024). In this context, authenticity becomes a form of trust in the reader and in the communication process itself. He writes, leaving its meaning to the time and consciousness of others.

Mohan Hazian's personal communication shows real honesty, which comes from the bravery to live truthfully. He writes not to seem correct, but to be genuine. In "Goresan Seorang Berandal" communication isn't just about passing on information; it becomes a way of shaping who he is. Mohan says that being real is key to being human, because it means looking at oneself without fear, speaking without hiding, and writing without pretending. Thus, this work is not just a book; it is an experience that connects deeply with what it means to be human.

3.4. Theoretical Synthesis of Self-Expression, Authenticity, and Personal Communication in the Book "Goresan Seorang Berandal"

In modern studies of how people communicate, there is an ongoing discussion about the relationship between self-expression, genuineness, and personal communication. These three ideas are connected in a way that supports each other. Self-expression is a person's way of showing their inner thoughts and feelings. Being authentic means being honest and true in what one says. Personal communication is the way people connect with each other, and it helps bring together self-expression and authenticity in real-life relationships (Fuadi et al., 2025). In the context of Mohan Hazian's "Goresan Seorang Berandal," this relationship is not just an idea but a real, living connection. It becomes a way of communicating that shows how humans talk to themselves, to society, and to the meaning of being human.

Mohan Hazian writes not to demonstrate literary ability, but to affirm one's existence in an absurd world. Thus, every expression that appears in his writings is the result of a process of negotiation between inner consciousness and external pressures. Authenticity plays a major role here; it becomes a benchmark to the extent to which personal communication that occurs in the text can be said to be honest and reflective. Self-expression without authenticity will only give birth to performance, while authenticity without self-expression will be reduced to silence. Mohan combines the two through writing that does not deceive, does not hide, and does not compromise on his reality

Theoretically, this relationship can be understood through a phenomenological approach to communication. Phenomenology places the subjective experience of man at the center of meaning (Wita & Mursal, 2022). In this context, Mohan Hazian's writing can be read as a phenomenological communication proxy, in which life experiences become raw materials for the formation of personal meaning. He did not go along with the usual way stories are told and instead wrote in short, broken pieces. This style shows how life and human feelings are never fully put together. Therefore, Mohan's writing comes from a deep understanding of existence, not from the rules society tells people how to speak.

In personal conversations, Carl Rogers' idea about congruence or matching the real self with how we present ourselves is important when looking at Mohan Hazian. Rogers believed that good communication happens when someone can share their true self without hiding behind things they use to protect their ego (Maharani et al., 2023). In "Goresan Seorang Berandal," this harmony is clear in Mohan's skill to write from the most delicate places, even when he knows that being honest can hurt relationships. This shows the bravery to truly "share" a kind of personal expression that no longer keeps a gap between words and the soul.

The synthesis between authenticity and self-expression can also be read through George Herbert Mead's symbolic interactionism approach. In this theory, the self is understood to be a result of symbolic interactions between individuals and the social environment (Halik, 2024). Mohan Hazian, in his writing, actually reversed the direction, he started communication from within, not from the social structure. He wrote to greet himself, not to meet public expectations. However, it is precisely in this sincerity that the symbolic interaction with the reader becomes stronger. The reader feels addressed not as an anonymous mass, but as an individual who is being invited to a dialogue by other consciousnesses. This shows that

the most effective communication does not always come from public rhetoric but from personal honesty that resonates universally.

Another dimension of this synthesis can be understood through the narrative communication theory developed by Walter Fisher. Fisher emphasizes that humans are *homo narrans* creatures who understand the world through stories (Johassan, 2023). In the context of "Goresan Seorang Berandal," Mohan Hazian writes not to construct a linear story, but to assert the truth of the narrative that is emotional and moral. He uses stories to bring together his mixed feelings and thoughts, turning them into something that can be shared and understood, both by himself and by others. Thus, Mohan's way of expressing himself goes beyond simply sharing his thoughts; it becomes a structured way of telling a story that shows what it means to be human.

Mohan's writing can be understood in more than one way, which means it leaves room for different meanings. The real honesty in his writing comes from how open the meaning is. Instead of telling the reader exactly what to think, it asks them to feel and experience a change in their own way of thinking. This is similar to the idea from Hans Georg Gadamer that real connection happens when the understanding of the writer and the reader come together (Prasetyono, 2022). In this situation, Mohan's personal communication is trying to expand the view of humanity by being honest about existence without forcing anyone to agree.

The spiritual side is another key part of this idea. Mohan Hazian talks about God, sin, and regret in a way that feels human and not rigid. He shares real personal faith experiences rather than simply following what a church or religious group says. This shows that being true to yourself is connected to the spiritual part of life. When people think deeply about their beliefs, they often face something bigger than themselves. In this case, talking personally helps find a new, closer, and more equal spiritual meaning.

From a cultural communication perspective, Mohan challenges the silence and lies that are common in Indonesian society. He openly discusses topics such as sin, sexuality, anger, and loss, which are usually hidden because of cultural rules. His honesty has personal and political meanings. It fights against a system that prevents people from expressing themselves truthfully. This corresponds with Habermas' idea of *comm*, which is a communication that helps people break free from false ideas and become more open and real (Fensi, 2023). Mohan, with his bravery, has used a kind of communication that helps people express themselves freely in personal writing. This shows that personal communication does not always have to be spoken directly between people. Mohan Hazian's writing shows that writing can be a more honest way to share thoughts than talking face to face. When writing, someone can express themselves without worrying about being judged immediately, which leads to more honest feelings. This means that personal communication can go beyond simply talking to someone and become a way to share thoughts over time and distance. Through his writing, Mohan captures the conversation between himself and the ideas that come alive every time someone reads his text again.

Based on the interpretive and thematic analysis, this study reveals that *self expression*, *authenticity*, and *emotional honesty* are central themes in Mohan Hazian's "Goresan Seorang Berandal." Through interpretive analysis, the researcher finds that Mohan's writings reflect deep personal struggles and emotional experiences that shape his communication style. The words, metaphors, and narrative structure he uses reveal how pain, sincerity, and reflection become tools of self-disclosure and identity formation. The thematic analysis identifies three interconnected themes: communication as a form of self-expression rooted in personal experience, authenticity as a moral stance in expressing truth, and emotional honesty as a bridge between self and others. Together, these themes illustrate that real communication is not merely about transferring information but about revealing one's true self. Through these findings, Mohan Hazian emerges not only as an author but also as a communicator who embodies his messages through lived experience. His narrative shows that communication becomes most meaningful when it reflects inner truth rather than external appearance. In this sense, "Goresan Seorang Berandal" demonstrates that authentic communication represents the highest form of human freedom, in which words, feelings, and identity merge in sincere expression.

4. CONCLUSION

This study begins with the idea that personal communication is more than simply sending and receiving messages. It is a way for people to show who they are through words, symbols, and expressions. In Mohan Hazian's book "Goresan Seorang Berandal," we see how language connects inner thoughts with the world around us. Mohan writes to share the truth, even when society tries to ignore it. He shows that humans have a dark side that is just as real as their light side. According to the theory of authentic communication, being brave enough to show our weaknesses makes communication more real and meaningful. Therefore, this study shows that personal communication can be a place for freedom and healing, not just a way to present ourselves to others.

After closely examining the story, how it's structured, and the way it's told in "Goresan Seorang Berandal", it became clear that Mohan Hazian created a form of self communication that is based on being genuine and expressing existence honestly. He does not follow a moral story that limits this expression; instead, he uses a truthful story that openly talks about sin, loss, and love as natural parts of being human. From a phenomenological perspective, this is communication that comes directly from real-life experiences, not something artificially made. The unique part of this study is that Mohan Hazian does not just see literary works as beautiful things to look at but as real acts of personal communication, like an inner conversation that connects with the thoughts and feelings of the readers.

This study broadens the knowledge regarding how self-expression, genuineness, and interpersonal communication are connected. These three ideas are closely linked and support one another, creating a web of different meanings. Self-expression without authenticity loses depth, authenticity without expression loses form, and communication without both loses soul. Through Mohan Hazian's work, communication is understood not only as a social activity but also as an existential act to "become, " to be honest, to be aware, and to become a whole human being. This research also contributes to the study of contemporary communication by offering the perspective that personal writing media can be an effective means of reflective communication in building self-awareness and social awareness.

Based on these findings, further research should explore the dimension of personal communication in other contemporary Indonesian literary works that highlight the courage to express existential honesty. Cross-disciplinary studies between communication science, existential psychology, and literature can also enrich our understanding of how language becomes a space for therapy and liberation. Ultimately, this study confirms that the most meaningful communication is not the one that strives for perfection, but the one that dares to be honest. As Mohan Hazian in *The Strokes of a BERANDAL*, true communication is the courage to speak to the world in the most sincere voice of oneself.

Ethical Approval

Not Applicable

Informed Consent Statement

Not Applicable

Authors' Contributions

Not Applicable

Disclosure Statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

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