



## **Power Relation in The Novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015)**

**Rahmat Fadhli<sup>1</sup>, Desvalini Anwar<sup>2</sup>**

English Department  
Faculty of Languages and Arts  
Universitas Negeri Padang  
email: [rahmatfadhli800@gmail.com](mailto:rahmatfadhli800@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

This research is the analysis of the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015). The highlight of this research is to find the discourses of power relations contained in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon 2015, and to find the form of resistance to abuse of power in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon 2015 and what causes it. Descriptive qualitative method is applied in this research. In this novel the researcher found that Pauline had abused her power over her daughter in 2 types of discourse. The first discourse is family, namely Pauline who has the role of a mother for her child. The second discourse is health, namely Pauline who has the role of doctor for her child. The researcher found that the daughter character (Madeline) also showed resistance in 2 different roles towards her mother, namely as a child and also as a patient.

**Keywords:** Power relation, novel

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Relationships are a part of human life that cannot be separated. Relationships bind people together on a fundamental level. They interact with one another on a social and interpersonal level. According to Cherry (2022) Relationships can be categorized into seven categories, such as: Romantic relationships, Friendships, Acquaintances, Professional/Work relationships, Sexual relationships, Situational relationships (sometimes called "situationships") and Family relationships. Different traits distinguish one relationship from the others. Commitment, honesty, trust, and respect define a romantic relationship. Typically, it involves a man and a woman. Friendship is a type of relationship where there are absolutely no formalities or hesitations. Because they desire to boost their chances of earning a promotion and accessing better career possibilities, people who have work relationships might collaborate in their professional networks to accomplish their objectives and aspirations. The last type of connection is a family, where members are related through marriage or blood.

<sup>1</sup> English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on December 2023

<sup>2</sup> Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang



It is possible to observe the manifestation of power relations in the course of interpersonal communication in all of the relationships mentioned above. Most people are certainly familiar with power. Undoubtedly, we frequently hear about it in the news, particularly in relation to governmental and political matters. Power can come from anywhere and operate anywhere, thus it is not generally thought of as being related to politics and the government. According to Foucault (as cited in Lynch, 2010) "Power is never anything more than a relationship that can, and must, be studied only by looking at the interplay of the terms of the relationship". From this definition, it can be concluded that power is not an object but rather a relation.

We all must be familiar with the word "Power" because since we were kids, we have always been taught that we must have high aspirations so that when we grow up, we can have a higher power as well. What is power? "Power" is a social force that helps a person to move other people more easily, regulate people, and even eliminate resistance to the owner of power. The relationship between the effectiveness of a ruler or leader and power cannot be separated. The position occupied by the rulers can be realized when the rulers with their power is able to influence or arouse the people under them to do what they want. Power relations can be anywhere such as in an administration, or within an institution, or in a family (Foucault as cited in Balan, 2010).

Everyone has their own power capacity, whether it's at school, at work, or at home. For example, at school, students must follow the directions of their teacher because it is the teacher who has the "power" to give grades to the students. In the office, employees must follow the directions of their boss because the boss is the one who has the "power" to control and pays them. At home, children must follow the directions of their parents because it is the parents who has the "power" to take care for them and feed them every day. It means that the parents have "parental power" over their children.

What is "parental power"? John Locke (as cited in Rutegwalera, 2018) defines parental power as:

The power that the parent has to raise their children and to govern them for their sake until they reach an age or a level of knowledge where they can be assumed to be able to comprehend the law, whether it be the law of nature or the municipal law of their nation, and at that point, they are to be left in charge of themselves (Locke, 2005: 123).

From this definition, it can be revealed that parents have full control over their children. parents can limit their children for the good of their children, until their children can live independently. However, what happens when parents abuse their power over their own children? This is what happened in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015) and this is what will be the topic of discussion in this research.

*Everything, Everything* is the debut young adult novel by Jamaican-American author Nicola Yoon, first published by Delacorte Books for Young Readers in 2015. Ayesha (2015) said that: "The way the author describes Madeline's world using such beautiful imagery makes the reader appreciate the little things in life". This novel tells the story of a mother (Pauline) who is a doctor who experienced

trauma in her past, which caused her to diagnose her daughter (Madeline) with a rare disease called severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), also known as "bubble baby disease", and decided to lock her own daughter in the house since her daughter is still 8 months old until her daughter is 18 years old now. This novel is one of literary works that uses the abuse of power as the main conflict. This conflict can be analyzed by using the power relation theory of Michel Foucault which discusses the relation of power among the characters in the novel.

## B. RESEARCH METHOD

Descriptive qualitative method is applied in this research. Leslie Gelling (2015) states that qualitative methods are used to answer questions about experience, meaning and perspective most often from the standpoint of the participant. Qualitative research aims to obtain a full picture of a matter according to the human perspective studied. Qualitative research relates to ideas, perceptions, opinions or beliefs of the person being studied and all of them cannot be measured by numbers. This means, the activity in this research is only collecting, arranging, and analyzing the data and then making conclusions according to the data after investigating the data analysis by using the power relation theory by Michel Foucault. This research applies descriptive qualitative research method because it is aimed at describing the power relations among the characters in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015).

## C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Research Findings

*Everything, Everything* is a novel that tells the story of a girl (Madeline Whittier) who has been diagnosed with a rare disease called severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), also known as "bubble baby disease" by her mother (Pauline Whittier) who is a doctor. This novel tells the story through the first-person perspective of the main character Madeline Whittier. The focus of this chapter is more on the investigation of power relations within the mother (Pauline) and the daughter (Madeline). The mother and daughter characters serve as representations for the existence of power relations. The characters in this novel often use power against each other. Foucault asserts, "Where there is power there is resistance". Madeline, the main character, was under her mother's control from the moment she was 8 months old until she was 18 years old. She shall provide the 'resistance' through her actions. There are several findings that the researcher found related to power relations among the characters in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon, namely: 1. Discourse of Power Relation. 2. Resistance Against Abuse Of Power.

## **2. Discussion**

### **2.1 Discourse of Power Relation**

In this novel the researcher found that Pauline had abused her power over her daughter in 2 types of discourse. The first discourse is family, namely Pauline who has the role of a mother for her child. The second discourse is health, namely Pauline who has the role of doctor for her child.

#### **2.1.1 Abuse of Power as a Mother**

In this sub-chapter, the researcher want to discuss about the first findings namely the power domination exercised by the mother over her daughter in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015). What is the meaning of domination? According to “Merriam Webster” the definition of domination is “supremacy or preeminence over another”. From this definition, It can be concluded that domination can occur when someone who has higher power uses their power to control someone with lower power. Power domination in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015) is carried out by the mother Character (Pauline), it can be seen from the action through several quotes in the novel which depicts that she has full power to control her daughter's life for 17 years.

##### **2.1.1.1 Power Domination**

The power that Pauline has over Madeline can be seen on the first page, as can be seen on the first page, paragraph 4:

I don't know why I do this. There's no one else here except my mother, who never reads, and my nurse, Carla, who has no time to read because she spends all her time watching me breathe. I rarely have visitors, and so there's no one to lend my books to. There's no one who needs reminding that the forgotten book on his or her shelf belongs to me.

From the quotation "...There's no one else here except my mother, who never reads, and my nurse, Carla, who has no time to read because she spends all her time watching me breath..." it can be revealed that the mother character (Pauline) has full control over her daughter (Madeline), because there is no one else in the house besides Pauline, Madeline, and Carla, a nurse hired by Pauline to look after Madeline while she goes to work. This is in accordance with Foucault's statement which states:

"I am not referring to Power with a capital P, dominating and imposing its rationality upon the totality of the social body. in fact, there are power relations. They are multiple; they have different forms, they can be in play in family relations, or within an institution, or an administration" (Foucault in Balan, 2010, p4).



Pauline's power over Madeline can also be seen on page 3, in the second paragraph:

Basically, I'm allergic to the world. Anything can trigger a bout of sickness. It could be the chemicals in the cleaner used to wipe the table that I just touched. It could be someone's perfume. It could be the exotic spice in the food I just ate. It could be one, or all, or none of these things, or something else entirely. No one knows the triggers, but everyone knows the consequences. According to my mom I almost died as an infant. And so I stay on SCID row. I don't leave my house, have not left my house in seventeen years.

From the quotation "According to my mom I almost died as an infant. And so I stay on SCID row. I don't leave my house, have not left my house in seventeen years". It can be concluded that since her husband's death 17 years ago, Pauline has full control over the life of her daughter (Madeline), who is still 8 months old. Since that day Pauline began to lock her own daughter in her house with the reason that her daughter suffered from Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) disease or better known as Bubble Baby Disease. This is in line with Foucault's statement which states "power is omnipresent, that is, power can be found in all social interactions" (Foucault in Lynch, 2010).

On page 24 paragraph 10, it can be seen again that Pauline has power over Madeline.

The bell rings again.

My mom half rises from her chair.

Carla stands all the way up.

The bell sounds for a third time. I smile for no reason.

"Want me to get it, ma'am?" Carla asks.

My mom waves her off. "Stay here," she says to me.

Carla moves to stand behind me, her hands pressing down lightly on my shoulder. I know I should stay here. I know I'm expected to. Certainly I expect me to, but somehow, today, I just can't. I need to know who it is, even if it's just a wayward traveler.

From the quotation above, It can be seen that Pauline has power over Madeline because she orders Madeline to stay where she is and Madeline also has to obey the orders. Even when Madeline wanted to go to see who came to their house when Pauline wasn't paying attention, Carla held on to Madeline so she wouldn't go out and disobey her mother's orders as shown in the following quote "Carla moves to stand behind me, her hands pressing down lightly on my shoulder". This is compatible with Foucault's statement which states "power is not a thing but a relation and power operates at the most micro levels of social relations. Power is omnipresent at every level of the social body" (2007).

### 2.2.1 Abuse of Power as a Doctor

In this sub-chapter, the researcher want to discuss about the second findings that is abuse of power in the novel *Everything, Everything*. Michel Foucault (as cited in “Brainy Quote”, n.d) states that “Power is not an institution, and not a structure; neither is it a certain strength we are endowed with; it is the name that one attributes to a complex strategical situation in a particular society”. From this quote, it can be concluded that someone with a higher power must have greater influence, and it is not impossible for someone to abuse their status for personal gain. One example is when a teacher abuses his/her status as a teacher to not pass a student that he/she doesn't like, even though the student gets good grades. This also happens in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015) carried out by the mother character's (Pauline) who is a doctor, abusing her status as a doctor to diagnose her own daughter's illness which turned out to be a falsification diagnosis and it could be said that she had committed malpractice against her own daughter.

#### 2.2.1.1 Falsification Diagnosis and Malpractice

There is definition about falsification from “Cambridge Dictionary”, it said that falsification is the action of changing something, such as a document, in order to deceive people. And the definition of diagnosis according to “Cambridge Dictionary” is a judgment about what a particular illness or problem is, made after examining it. It can be concluded that Falsification Diagnosis is the action of changing the judgment about what a particular illness or problem that someone have, in order to deceive people. This is what the mother character (Pauline) does in the novel *Everything, Everything*, where she abuses her status as a doctor to make a false diagnosis of her own daughter's illness, it could even be said that she has committed malpractice against her own daughter.

The meaning of malpractice based on the “Britannica Dictionary” is careless, wrong, or illegal actions by someone (such as a doctor) who is performing a professional duty. most people think malpractice is a negligence committed by someone, especially for a doctor, but according to Guwandi (as cited in Ardianingtyas and Tampubolon 2004) Malpractice has a broader meaning than negligence. Because apart from including the meaning of negligence, the term malpractice also includes actions that are carried out intentionally (intentional, *dolus*, *onzettelijk*) and violate the law. From the quotation above, it can be concluded that a doctor may commit malpractice on purpose because they have power over their status as a doctor and ordinary people will certainly listen to the words of a doctor who is considered more knowledgeable about diseases than ordinary people. However, by committing such malpractice they will receive quite severe consequences such as being sued in court and their license to practice will be revoked.

Falsification diagnosis and malpractice occurs in the novel *Everything, Everything* that is done by the character Pauline to her daughter Madeline, that is revealed when Madeline told Pauline that she received an e-mail from Dr. Francis, a doctor who

treated Madeline when she suddenly became ill and was hospitalized in Hawaii, saying that actually Madeline did not have SCID. This can be seen on the page 222 paragraph 5-15 as stated below:

I take another step. "This letter. She, Dr. Francis, thinks I'm not sick."  
She stares at me as if I haven't spoken. She doesn't speak for so long that I begin to question if I have spoken after all.  
"What are you talking about?"  
"She says she doesn't think I have SCID. She doesn't think I've ever had it."  
She lowers herself to the edge of the bed. "Oh, no. Is this why you came to see me?"  
Her voice is soft, pitying. "She got your hopes up, didn't she?"  
She gestures for me to come and sit beside her. She takes the letter from my hands and wraps her arms around me. "I'm sorry, but it's not true," she says.  
I sag into her arms. She's right. I had gotten my hopes up. Her arms feel so good around me. I feel warm and protected and safe.  
She strokes my hair. "I'm sorry you had to see this. It's so irresponsible."  
"It's OK," I say against her shoulder. "I knew it was a mistake. I didn't get my hopes up."  
She pulls away to look into my eyes. "Of course it's a mistake."  
Her eyes fill with tears and she pulls me back into her arms. "SCID is so rare and so complicated, honey. Not everyone understands it. There are just so many versions and every person reacts a little differently."

From the quotation above, It can be seen that Pauline denies Dr. Francis' statement in her letter saying that Madeline did not suffer from SCID and started to act as if what Dr. Francis said was a lie and only what she said was true by saying "'Of course it's a mistake.' ... 'SCID is so rare and so complicated, honey. Not everyone understands it. There are just so many versions and every person reacts a little differently.'" From this quote it can be seen that Pauline seems to know very well about SCID which can be seen from her words explaining that SCID has different symptoms in each sufferer, but on page 228 paragraph 3-4 the researcher found that Pauline actually didn't know about SCID either, as stated below:

And then her record keeping becomes less meticulous. I find a printout about RSV from the web. She circled a section that explains that RSV is more severe in people with compromised immune systems. I find a photocopy of the first page of an article on SCID from a medical journal. Her scrawls in the margins are illegible. After that there's a single visit to an allergist and then visits to three different immunologists. Each concludes that no illness was found.

And that's it.

From the quotation "I find a photocopy of the first page of an article on SCID from a medical journal". It can be seen that Pauline just saw a medical journal about SCID and immediately diagnosed that her daughter was suffering from SCID. It can be said to be a falsification diagnosis because actually her daughter was not suffering from SCID, because there was no evidence to suggest that Madeline

suffered from SCID. From the quotation “Each concludes that no illness was found. And that’s it”. it can be concluded that Madeline did not find any evidence related to the SCID disease she was suffering from as her mother said and what she found instead was the evidence indicating that she did not actually have any disease at all. This is appropriate with Foucault’s statement which states “power is not a thing but a relation and power operates at the most micro levels of social relations. Power is omnipresent at every level of the social body” (2007).

## **2.2 Resistance Against Abuse of Power**

In this sub-chapter, the researcher would like to explain about the last findings, that is the resistance that comes from the daughter (Madeline). Previously, I will explain in advance what is resistance and why resistance can arise in power relation. Resistance is a productive effect from power. Resistance is always about denying, challenging or undermining power (relations or claims by power). Foucault’s famous quote from his book, *The History of Sexuality*, said that “where there is power there is resistance” (1990, p. 95). Indeed, resistance cannot be separated from power because that is a strong completeness. If there is resistance, there must be a cause for that resistance.

As mentioned in point 4.1 previously, the mother character (Pauline) abuses her power in 2 roles towards her child, namely as a mother and also as a doctor. So in this point, the researcher found that the daughter character (Madeline) also showed resistance in 2 different roles towards her mother, namely as a child and also as a patient. In this novel, the researcher found several triggers for resistance carried out by the daughter character’s (Madeline). The researcher found that there were 2 causes of Madeline’s resistance as a child; the first reason is the desire to go out, and the second reason is the desire to meet someone that she loves. The researcher also found the cause of Madeline’s resistance as a patient of her mother, that is the desire to find the truth about the illness.

### **2.2.1 Resistance as a Child**

Can you imagine how it felt to be cooped up in the house for 17 years? this is what Madeline, the main character in the novel *Everything, Everything* feels. she has been cooped up in her house for 17 years and is not allowed to go out because according to her mother she has a rare disease that causes her to be allergic to everything on this earth, the disease is called Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) or also known as Bubble Baby disease.

#### **2.2.1.1 The desire to go outside**

The first reason of Madeline’s resistance as a child is the desire to go outside. Madeline’s desire to go outside is first seen on page 10 paragraph 3 as follows:

Really there’s only one thing to wish for—a magical cure that will allow me to run free outside like a wild animal. But I never make that wish because it’s impossible.



It's like wishing that mermaids and dragons and unicorns were real. Instead I wish for something more likely than a cure. Something less likely to make us both sad.

From this quote it can be seen that Madeline really wanted to be able to go out and live a normal life like a teenager in general, but she did not tell her mother what she wanted because she didn't want to make her mother sad because of her wish on her birthday which should be filled with joy.

Madeline's desire to go out next can be seen on page 61 paragraph 1-3 as quoted below:

THE SUNROOM IS my favorite room in the house. It's almost all glass—glass roof and floor-to-ceiling glass windows that look out onto our perfectly manicured back lawn.

The room's decor is like a movie set of a tropical rain forest. It's filled with realistic and lush-looking fake tropical plants. Banana and coconut trees laden with fake fruit and hibiscus plants with fake flowers are everywhere. There's even a babbling stream that snakes its way through the room, but there are no fish—at least no real ones. The furniture is aged white wicker that looks like it's been sitting in the sun. Because it's meant to be tropical, my mom keeps a heated fan running and a slightly too-warm breeze fills the room.

Most days I love it because I can imagine that the glass has fallen away and I'm Outside. Other days I feel like a fish in an aquarium.

From these quotes It can be seen that the Sunroom made by Pauline at her home, which aims to make her daughter Madeline feel what it's like to be outside, instead makes her feel more trapped like a fish in an aquarium and made Madeline even more eager to go outside.

#### **2.2.1.2 The desire to meet the loved ones**

The second reason of Madeline's resistance as a child is the desire to meet someone that she loves. Have you ever imagined what first love feels like? For some people their first love may feel like watching the sun set on the beach, and for others it feels like butterflies are dancing in their stomach and that is what Madeline experienced when Olly visited her house to meet her for the first time. It can be seen on page 67 in the last paragraph "By the afternoon I acknowledge in my head that Carla might be onto something. I might not be in love, but I'm in like. I'm in serious like. I wander the house aimlessly, seeing Olly everywhere". From this quote it can be seen that she is clearly in love with Olly, but he still convinces herself that she just likes him, even though he always imagines him in front of her wherever she goes.

Madeline's desire to meet her love, Olly, is getting peaked as seen on page 114 paragraph 8-11 as follows:

I don't see what happens next because I pull away from my mom and I'm running. I don't think; I just move. I fly out of the room and down the hall. I'm through the air lock and out the door in no time at all.

I don't know where I'm going, but I have to get to him.

I don't know what I'm doing, but I have to protect him.

I sprint across our grass to the edge of the lawn closest to Olly's house. His father is lunging for him again when I scream, "STOP!"

From the quotation "I don't know where I'm going, but I have to get to him. I don't know what I'm doing, but I have to protect him", It could be seen that Madeline wasn't even aware that her body was moving itself out of the house to chase Olly who was being beaten by her father and it can be concluded that Madeline loves Olly very much. From the quotation "I sprint across our grass to the edge of the lawn closest to Olly's house. His father is lunging for him again when I scream, "STOP!" it can be seen that she cannot see Olly get hurt, she even ignores her own illness and prefers to go out of her house for the first time in her life to save him from his father's anger, this shows that Madeline really cares about Olly.

### **2.2.2 Resistance as a Patient**

Have you ever thought how it feels when something that we have always believed to be the truth, turns out to be not the truth? For example, when someone who thinks their child is their own biological child, turns out to be someone else's child, or when we buy a branded item at a very high price which turns out to be a fake. We will definitely feel very disappointed when these things happen to us, and we shall feel cheated too. That was more or less how Madeline felt when she learned the truth about her illness which she believed to be a disease that would never heal because there was still no medicine that could cure her SCID.

#### **2.2.2.1 The desire to find the truth about the illness**

Madeline's desire to find the truth about her illness can be found on page 227 paragraph 2-3 as shown in the following quote:

I can't wait for answers to come to me. I have to find them.

It takes all my effort to walk instead of run to my mom's office. I'm sure she's asleep, but I can't risk waking her. I grab the handle and for one horrible moment I think the door will be locked and I will have to wait and I cannot wait. But the handle turns and the room lets me right in like it's been waiting for me, like it's been expecting me.

From the quote "I can't wait for answers to come to me. I have to find them" it can be seen that Madeline's desire to find out the truth about her illness has peaked. In the quote "It takes all my effort to walk instead of run to my mom's office. I'm sure

she's asleep, but I can't risk waking her" it can be seen that she has made up her mind and started walking slowly towards her mother's office because she didn't want to wake her sleeping mother, which showed some fear in Madeline, if she did wake her mother, she would not be able to enter the office to search for evidence of her illness.

When Madeline arrived in her mother's office, she started to search for her and found nothing, as quoted from page 228 paragraph 5-6 of the following quote:

I'm breathing too quickly as I run over to her bookshelves. I pull down books, shake them by their spines willing something to fall out—a forgotten lab result, an official diagnosis. I find nothing.

But nothing is not evidence.

From the quotation above, it can be concluded that Madeline did not find any evidence of SCID in her mother's office. But she still didn't give up and still thought that the evidence she was looking for was elsewhere, but the results were still nil as written on page 228 paragraph 7-9 below:

Maybe the proof is elsewhere. It takes me only one try to guess her password — Madeline. I spend two hours looking through every document on her computer. I search her Internet browser history. I look in the trash folder.

Nothing.

Nothing.

On page 228 paragraphs 10-11 It can be found that Madeline began to feel confused and did not believe that there was no evidence whatsoever to suggest that she was suffering from SCID as in the following quote:

Where's the proof of the life I have lived?

I turn a slow pirouette in the middle of the room. I don't believe the evidence of my own eyes. I don't believe what I'm not seeing. How can there be nothing? It's like my sickness was invented out of the much-too-thin air that I'm breathing.

From the quotation above, it can be concluded that Madeline felt her whole life was a lie from her mother and it was that lie that caused her body's immune system to become weak. It was even said by Dr. Chase, a SCID Specialist, that she had immunity like an infant's immunity as quoted from page 236, paragraph 11-16 as stated below:

He stands, too, agitated and seeming even more nervous than before. "Before you go there's one more thing."

I sit back down. “Because of the circumstance of your upbringing, we’re not sure about the state of your immune system.”

“What does that mean?”

“We think it’s possible that it’s underdeveloped, like an infant’s.”

“An infant?”

“Your immune system hasn’t been exposed to a lifetime of common viruses and bacterial infections. It hasn’t had time to get experience with fighting these infections. It hasn’t had time to get strong.”

From the quotation “We think it's possible that it's underdeveloped, like an infant's”. It can be seen that Madeline has the endurance of an infant, this is because, as previously explained, that Pauline committed malpractice against her own daughter, namely by diagnosing her daughter with SCID which in the end it was revealed that her daughter Madeline did not have any disease, but because she was always locked in the house by her mother for 17 years, her immune system became very weak like an infant.

On page 238, second paragraph, the researcher discover the truth behind everything Pauline did to Madeline, as in the quote below:

Dr. Chase tells me that he thinks she needs a therapist. He thinks it might be a long time before she’s able to tell me exactly what happened, if ever. He guesses that she suffered some sort of a breakdown after my dad and brother died.

From the quotation above, it can be seen that the reason why Pauline carried out all of her actions, starting from diagnosing her own daughter with SCID to locking her daughter in the house for 17 years, was because she had a phobia due to the death of her husband and son in an accident 17 years ago. In this novel, the name of the phobia experienced by Pauline is not mentioned, but the researcher can reveal that it is “Thanatophobia”. Lisa Fritscher (2023) on “verywellmind.com” states that “Thanatophobia is an intense fear of death or dying. For some, this involves a fear of being dead. Others are afraid of the dying process. A person with thanatophobia can fear their own death or they might fear the death of someone they love”. From this quotation, it can be seen that the cause of Pauline's phobia is the same as the cause of thanatophobia, namely a phobia caused by losing someone she loves.

## **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **1. Conclusion**

The Novel Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon depicted the power relation in family relationships. There are several findings that the researcher found related to power relations among the characters in the novel Everything,



Everything. The first one is the discourse of power relation, and the second one is the resistance against the abuse of power.

The power relation between Pauline and Madeline is not static but evolves throughout the novel. Madeline's resistance against her mother's domination symbolizes her struggle for control over her own life, while Pauline's actions reflect a mother's desire to protect her daughter at any cost. The dynamics of these complex power relations encapsulate the universal tension between parental authority and the child's desire for freedom to determine his or her own path in life.

Ultimately, *Everything, Everything* portrays the nuanced nature of power relations within the context of family and personal development. It illustrates that power is not a one-dimensional concept but is shaped by circumstances, agency, and the ability to make choices. The novel highlights the transformation of Madeline from a powerless, sheltered girl into a young woman who can shape her own destiny.

The first conclusion of this research is in accordance with Michel Foucault's statement, namely "knowledge is power". Although Foucault did not explicitly say "knowledge is power", his work is associated with this concept because it summarizes his main idea that knowledge and power are deeply interconnected. The second conclusion of this research is the dynamic and developing power relations between Pauline and Madeline in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon makes it clear that basically power cannot be separated from resistance. This is in accordance with Michel Foucault's statement "If there is power, then there is also resistance".

## 2. Suggestion

This research is searching the representation of power relation that happened in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015) by using the power relation theory by Michel Foucault. The research method of this research is Descriptive qualitative method. This research applies descriptive qualitative research method because it is aimed at describing the power relations among the characters in the novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon (2015). Therefore, future researchers who are interested in analyzing literary works are welcome using the theory of power relations with different objects. I also provides suggestions for future researchers to analyze one of the following best novels in 2023, namely the novel *A Living Remedy: A Memoir* written by Nicole Chung or the novel *King: A Life* written by Jonathan Eig.

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