

PARENTING STYLES IN NICOLA YOON'S NOVEL *EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING*

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Abstract

This study is entitled "Parenting Style in Nicola Yoon's Novel Everything, Everything". This study focuses on the type of parenting style applied by Pauline Whittier to her daughter, Madeline Whittier, who suffers from SCID (Severe Combined Immuno-Deficiency). There are two objectives of this research, namely to find out the types of parenting styles and to describe how the parenting styles are implemented in Nicola Yoon's novel Everything, Everything. The researchers use the Parenting style theory proposed by Diana Baumrind. The data were collected through literature study and the researchers found twelve data that could be used as data analysis. The researchers used qualitative research method to analyze the data. Based on the results of the analysis, the researchers came to two conclusions. First, the type of parenting style in the novel Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon is Authoritarian Parenting style. This style is applied by Pauline to her daughter Madeline. Secondly, Based on the analysis, Pauline's parenting style has four characteristics, namely strict discipline, one-way communication, order without negotiation and giving punishment.

Keywords: Authoritarian, giving punishment, one-way communication, order without negotiation, strict discipline.

1. Introduction

Everything, Everything is a young adult novel written in 2015 by Nicola Yoon. Nicola Yoon is the 1st New York Times bestselling author of Instructions for Dancing, Everything, Everything, The Sun Is Also a Star, and a co-author of Blackout. She is a National Book Award finalist, a Michael L. Printz Honor Book recipient, a Coretta Scott King New Talent Award winner and the first Black woman to hit 1st on the New York Times Young Adult bestseller list.

Everything, Everything is Madeline Whittier's story of a girl with a rare disease called Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). Because of the illness, Madeline's body becomes easily infected with disease, Madeline is allergic to everything including perfume, cleaning fluids or food seasonings. In outline, Madeline is allergic to the world. This disease makes Madeline's mother very protective of her. In 17 years of her

life, Madeline never leaves the house. She only knows her mother and Carla, her nanny. Madeline's health is checked regularly, everything that is touched and consumed must be sterilized, and they even have a device to sterilize the air in their home.

Problems arise when the arrival of a new family who moves next door to his house. Madeline, who is getting bored because she never has friends, is happy with their presence. From here, Madeline's mother becomes more protective.

The statements of the problem of the analysis are two. They are: the types of parenting styles found in Nicola Yoon's novel *Everything, Everything* and how the parenting styles are implemented in Nicola Yoon's novel..

2. Literature Review

Doinita and Nijloveanu (2015: 199) defines parenting styles reflect how a parent disciplines and socializes a child, whereas attachment is an early biological survival drive between an infant and the primary caregiver (mother). Attachment experiences directly influence the formation of a sense of self and the behavioral responses that operate within significant relationships. Parenting styles, on the other hand, describe the emotional climate created as parents attempt to socialize their children.

According to Baumrind (1971), there are three types of parenting styles. They are authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting and permissive parenting. Baumrind states that authoritative parenting is identified by high responsiveness to the child as well as high demandingness regarding discipline and socialization. Children raised by authoritative parents develop self-confidence. They trust that their needs will be met.

Rackmawati in Fletcher (2008) states that authoritarian parenting is interpreted as nurturing in a way that is compelling, regulating, and violent. Parents require their children to follow all their wishes and orders. If the child violates the order, the consequences will be the consequences of punishment or sanction. Authoritarian parenting can have a negative impact on a child's psychological development. Children then tend to not be able to control themselves and emotions when interacting with others. Even they are not creative, confident, and independent. This style of nurturing will cause children to become stressed, depressed, and traumatized (Hurlock, 1980).

According to Baumrind (1991), the characteristics of permissive parenting style is the opposite of authoritarian style. Permissive parents give unlimited rules and mostly let children solve their own problems where communication between parents and children is open. Then Doinita and Nijloveanu (2015). states that children are left to make their own decisions without being given direction. The children tend to rank low in happiness and self-regulation, and are more likely to have problems with authority.

3. Research Method

The writers apply qualitative research method. Moleong (2007: 04) states that qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written words. In conducting the research, the writers use the theory of Parenting Style by Diana Baumrind to find out what types of parenting style is portrayed in the novel *Everything, Everything*.

The data collection in this study is conducted with some steps, like identifying the data collected to find out what type of parenting style is most dominant, taking and marking quotations related to parenting style theory proposed by Diana Baumrind, and classifying the data (Creswell, 2009).

4. Result and Discussion

The protagonist, Madeline Whittier, is diagnosed with RSV (Respiratory Syntial Virus), an allergy-related illness when she was six months old. Madeline's mother,

Pauline Whittier, is told by doctors that there is a long list of things Madeline should avoid. Because of that, Pauline begins to carry out a series of rules to prevent Madeline from recurrence of the disease. Pauline had lost her husband and son in an accident, so she does not want to lose Madeline again. She wants to protect her daughter. Then, Pauline senses that there is much more for Madeline to avoid and concludes that her daughter has SCID (Severe Combined Immunodeficiency). Then she begins to apply a strict parenting style and forbade all Madeline activities. The writer verifies that the parenting style carried out by Pauline is relates to the characteristics of the Authoritarian Style by Baumrind. They are strict-discipline, one-way communication, orders without negotiation and giving punishment.

4. 4.1 Strict Discipline

Authoritarian parents use a strict discipline style (Baumrind, 1991). This statement shows that parents provide rules and supervise all children's activities. This attitude is intended to protect and direct children not to behave negatively. Strict discipline can also be interpreted as a very strict control of children's behavior. In the novel, Pauline always gives orders and limits Madeline's behavior. Pauline's strict discipline is forbidding her daughter to interact with other people. This attitude can be proven through the data below.

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 (Yoon, 2015: 1).

There is a conversation between Pauline and Olly. Olly is a teenage boy who has just moves next door to Madeline's. He knows Madeline because their rooms are across from each other and he often catch Madeline watching him from her bedroom window. Olly, with his mother's Bunt cake, goes to Madeline's house to try to interact with her new neighbor. He asks about Madeline and wants to take her on a tour. However, Pauline refuses Olly's invitation to her daughter without asking Madeline's opinion. She is afraid that her daughter will be infected with the disease because of interacting with Olly. So, she thinks whatever decisions she makes, it will be the best for Madeline.

Is your daughter home?" Olly asks quite loudly, before she can close the door. "We're hoping she could show us around."

"I'm so sorry, but she can't. Welcome to the neighborhood, and thank you again."

The front door closes and I step back to wait for my mom. She has to remain in the air lock until the filters have a chance to purify the foreign air. A minute later she steps back into the house. She doesn't notice me right away. Instead, she stands still, eyes closed with her head slightly bowed (Yoon, 2015: 23).

4.2. One-way Communication

Pauline applies one-way communication to her parenting style. This one-way communication causes Madeline to be a closed person. Actually, Madeline wants to share and talks about whatever she is feeling. How does it feel to be in love? How do

you feel when you think about the person you like? How do mom and dad fall in love? She wants to know and share everything. However, her mother would forbid her to fall in love. Falling in love means she will interact with other people. So, once again these feelings are just stuck in her mind without being able to express.

I wish again that I could talk to my mom about this. I want to ask her why I get breathless when I think of him. I want to share my giddiness with her. I want to tell her all the funny things Olly says. I want to tell her how I can't make myself stop thinking about him even though I try. I want to ask her if this is the way she felt about Dad at the beginning (Yoon, 2015: 67).

One-way communication also can be seen in conversation between Pauline and Madeline. Pauline insists that she is right and Dr. Fancis is wrong because she does not know Madeline's full medical history. She also forces Madeline to believe that her actions are to protect her daughter. Although, Pauline knows best that her daughter is not that sick, Madeline can still interact with other people. However, her protective attitude makes her forbid Madeline's activities.

She frowns down at the pages in her hand. "And this Dr. Francis doesn't know your full medical history. She's just seeing a tiny fraction of it. She hasn't been with you this whole time."

Her frown deepens. This mistake is upsetting her more than it did me.

"Mom, it's OK," I say. "I didn't really believe it anyway."

I don't think she hears me. "I had to protect you," she says.

"I know, Mom." I don't really want to talk about this anymore. I move back into her arms.

"I had to protect you," she says into my hair.

And it's that last "I had to protect you" that makes a part of me go quiet (Yoon, 2015: 185).

4.3 Order without Negotiation

Order without negotiation can be seen from Pauline's upbringing. She always gives orders that she feels best for her daughter. Pauline, who does not want her daughter to interact with anyone, tells Madeline to stay in a sterile room. This order is also shown by Clara's stance holding Medeline's shoulders to stay seated. No matter how curious Madeline is, she feels that she could not go against her mother's orders. So these data clearly show that Pauline gives orders to Madeline and the orders are not to be refused.

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 (Yoon, 2015: 22).

On one occasion, Pauline feels fearful and panic because Madeline tries to leave the house. Madeline, who already knows that her illness is not serious, begins to feel

sick of her mother's restraints. She tries to get out and wants a normal life. However, once again her mother gives orders on behalf of Madeline's disease. Pauline knows Madeline would not refuse her orders when it comes to her illness. So the data once again describe Pauline's order without negotiation.

My mom catches up to me. Her face is a ruin of fear. "What are you doing? What are you doing? You have to get inside." My vision tunnels and I hold her in my sights. "Why, Mom? Why do I have to go inside?" "Because you're sick. Bad things could happen to you out here"
(Yoon, 2015: 192).

4.4 Giving Punishment

In the novel *Everything, Everything*, Pauline provides several punishments that she feels will stop Madeline's bad behavior.

She turns back to Carla. "You're fired." "No, please, Mom. It wasn't her fault." She cuts me off with a hand. "Not only her fault, you mean. It was your fault, too." "I'm sorry," I say, but it has no effect on her. "So am I. Carla, pack your things and go." I'm desperate now. I can't imagine my life without Carla in it. "Please, Mom, please. It won't happen again." (Yoon, 2015: 100).

Pauline punishes Madeline for trying to meet Olly. Pauline knows about it and does not hesitate to fire Carla because she gives Madeline and Olly permission to meet and it automatically violates the rules she has made. Despite Madeline's reaction, Pauline persists in her decision. This data show that Pauline gives Madeline a penalty for breaking the rules for interacting with other people. It is hoped that the punishment would have a deterrent effect on Madeline so that she would not see anyone again, including Olly.

Another evidence that shows that Madeline applies an authoritarian parenting style by giving punishment is shown below.

She straightens the already perfectly straight stack of drawings. "You understand why I have to do the things I'm doing?" Besides firing Carla, she's also revoked my Internet privileges and canceled my in-person architecture lesson with Mr. Waterman (Yoon, 2015: 105).

The data above shows that, not only does Pauline fire Carla and cut off the internet, Pauline also cancels Madeline's face-to-face architecture lessons with Mr. Waterman. Pauline knows that Madeline loves and has a talent for architecture. However, because of the fear and panic caused by meeting Olly and Madeline, Pauline decides not to allow anyone else to meet her daughter. So, it is clear that the data contain the punishment by Pauline to Madeline for the mistakes she has made.

5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis, the writers find that the parenting style in this novel is an Authoritarian style. It is found that Pauline's Authoritarian style has four characteristics. They are strict discipline, one-way communication, order without negotiation and giving punishment. Strict discipline can be seen from Pauline's attitude which does not

allow Madeline to interact with anyone, she cannot leave the house and cannot be visited by anyone except Carla. One-way communication can be seen from the attitude of Pauline's upbringing which always gives orders and makes unilateral decisions without listening to Madeline's opinion. Orders without negotiation can be seen from the many rules and prohibitions given by Pauline. Madeline must carry out the prohibition without any objection. And giving punishment can be proven through the various punishments that Pauline gives to her daughter for violating the agreed rules.

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