



## AN ANALYSIS OF WOMEN EMANCIPATION IN OBAMA'S ERA AS REFLECTED IN NICOLA YOON'S *EVERYTHING* *EVERYTHING*

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### **Abstract**

*Penelitian ini berkonsentrasi pada emansipasi wanita yang terdapat dalam novel karya Nicola Yoon berjudul Everything Everything. Analisis penelitian difokuskan pada tokoh protagonist, seorang wanita bernama Madline. Tujuan dilakukannya penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan penyebab mengapa Madline menginginkan adanya emansipasi wanita dan usahanya untuk mewujudkan emansipasi wanita tersebut. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif, dapat diperoleh hasil penelitian bahwasanya emansipasi wanita disebabkan oleh pembatasan hak wanita di bidang ekonomi (pembedaan profesi antara pria dan wanita) yaitu wanita hanya boleh menekuni profesi tertentu saja. Wanita kedudukannya lebih rendah daripada pria karena dianggap lebih lemah, tidak mampu secara intelektual dan tidak bias hidup mandiri. Selain itu, wanita dibatasi aktifitasnya hanya berada di rumah saja. Berkaitan dengan sebab-sebab itu maka Madline berjuang untuk mewujudkan emansipasi wanita dengan cara menjadi pribadi yang kuat, tidak pernah menyerah menghadapi semua rintangan dan masalah, selalu belajar dan bekerja keras, memiliki cita-cita yang tinggi dan berteman dengan orang-orang yang dapat dipercaya dan mendukungnya.*

*Kata Kunci: Emansipasi Wanita, Madline, sebab, perjuangan*

### **Abstract**

*This research is concentrated on women emancipation reflected in Nicola Yoon's Everything Everything. The analysis is focused on a protagonist named Madline, a girl who searched for the equal right between men and women. Its objectives are to analyze the causes of women emancipation in Madline's life and her struggles for women emancipation. By using descriptive qualitative method, it can be found that the causes of women emancipation in Madline's life are women's economic marginalization (unequal opportunity in having profession between men and women), women's subordination (women are viewed weaker, intellectually incapable, dependent in life) and home confinement (stay at home only). Therefore, Madline struggled for women emancipation by being tough, never giving up in facing all obstacles and problems, always studying and working, having high ambition and by making friends with trusted and supporting people.*

**Keywords: Women Emancipation, Madeline, Causes, Struggles**



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Novel as one of literary works and life are two elements that cannot be separated. Both of them are connected and in similarity. Although novel is a fiction but it is a portrayal of a true life and reality in this world in which to read or to study it is useful for our knowledge. The story of the novel is the reflection of life in the world.

Every story in the novel consists of some events especially problems. The problem of the Yoon's novel "Everything Everything" analyzed in this research is about women emancipation. Women emancipation is a big problem faced by women in all over the world. It is caused by the unequal right and position between men and woman while every human has human rights where they can be free to choose what they like and to be treated and given the same opportunities as the men in all aspect of life such as in education, profession, politics, etc

The word *emancipation* literally means to become free from the restraint, control, or power of another (Steel. 2000:220). Emancipation can be about the colonized from the colonizer's rein, the children's freedom from their parent's control, the slaves from their masters, or black people from white people's rules. Emancipation is an important and necessary step towards liberation (Arat in Stivachtis and Georgakis. 2008: 2). Over all, it can be stated that emancipation does not depend on gender. However, whenever talking about emancipation, people associate this word with men's roles and women's roles in society, i.e. the domestic roles for women and the public roles for men. This places women as the subordinated.

This is triggered by society's stereotypes of gender. Problems related to gender become a crucial problem for American countries, including United State. This is because the countries have patriarchal society, a system in which males dominate females. Some of United State people who think that women have important roles and rights as those of men object the concept of patriarchal system. They voice their objection then. They think emancipation for women should exist and be fought. These people, who are known as feminists, lead the movement of women and pursue emancipation of women in the society. In many parts of the world, rapes are not considered crimes, go unpunished, and continue to be used as a tool of war. Female sexual slavery and forced prostitution are still terrible "facts of life" for poor, often very young women (Claros and Zahidi. 2005:2).

This is the reason why women emancipation is needed. That is to reduce discrimination. Yoon's novel "Everything Everything" (2015) discusses about a girl named Madeline who had discrimination that led her to struggle for women emancipation. Her struggles for women emancipation is the solution for the equal right between men and women. That is the reason this research discusses Madeline's life related to women emancipation that she struggled for. From the explanation above, there are some problems to be analysed they are:

1. What Women's Emancipation did Madline do ?
2. How did she realize the women's Emancipation ?

Then, the objectives of this research are to analyze:



1. The causes of women emancipation in Madline's life.
2. To analyze Madeline's struggles for women emancipation.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This research uses descriptive qualitative method to understand phenomena of women emancipation in Madeline's life. That is by interpreting the causes and Madeline's struggles for women emancipation in the novel. Therefore the description used is not number, statistic, or other quantitative matters but description using English words, phrases and sentences.

The data are collected by using information and description from main source that is the Nicola Yoon's novel *Everything Everything* and from the secondary source such as journals, articles and books related to the women emancipation in Obama's era. Then, the data are analyzed by following some steps:

- 1) Reading the novel
- 2) Identifying the novel related to women emancipation in Madeline's life
- 3) Analyzing the causes of women emancipation Madeline's life
- 4) Analyzing Madeline's struggles for women emancipation
- 5) Drawing conclusions and giving suggestions.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Findings

The findings of the analysis based on the research problems can be classified into two points, they are firstly the findings of the causes of women emancipation in Madeline's life and

secondly the findings of Madeline's struggles for women emancipation.

The causes of women emancipation in Madeline's life are:

- a. women's economic marginalization,
- b. women's subordination
- c. home confinement.

Then, Madeline's struggles for women emancipation are by:

- a. being tough,
- b. having education and high ambition
- c. making friends with trusted and supporting people.

### 3.1 Discussions

The causes of women emancipation in Madeline's life are women's economic marginalization, women's subordination and home confinement.

First is economic marginalization is one of women's problems appeared in the novel. Job discrimination emerges as an effect of women's economic marginalization where women are supposed to undertake only feminine profession and cannot take masculine profession. Women are restricted to take masculine job such as doctors, pilot, and entrepreneurs.

Secondly is women's subordination means that women are viewed as intellectually incapable, cannot do many things as men do, physically weak and easily sick, cannot be independent, always dependent on men and unable to run a dream. This is proved by the story of Madeline in the novel that her mother forbid her to work as seen in the quotation below:

*"Another year of mom doing nothing but working and take care of me maybe it's because I'm eighteen now. Technically*



*I'm an adult. I should be leaving home, going off to college and get a job."*

(Yoon, 2015:10)

Finally, the third is home confinement where a girl named Madeline can only be at home. She could not do outdoor activities and had no social life and could not make friends with many people. This is proved by Madeline's expressions below:

*"Dear Mom, I know staying in this house keeps alive, but this isn't living. I want experience everything.....everything! and I'm not a princess and I don't need rescuing."*

(Yoon, 2015:168)

In Madeline's words below, she showed that living one day is perfectly better than being locked in her home. She plans to do just that. At the end she left her home and said:

*"Actually mine is not blank at all, but I really cannot tell him how beautiful his eyes are. They are Atlantic Ocean blue just like he'd said. It's strange because of course I'd known that. But the difference between knowing it and seeing them in person is the difference between of flying and flight."*

(Yoon, 2015:73)

Based on the discussion above, women's economic marginalization, women's subordination and home confinement are the causes of women emancipation in Madeline's life.

Madeline's struggles for women emancipation are being tough, having education and high ambition and making friends with trusted and supporting

people. Madeline is a tough girl. She worked hard to achieve her dream, never gave up and always faced all obstacles and problems in her life bravely as seen in the quotation below:

*"They tried to stop me. They said it wasn't worth my life but I said that was my life and that is up to me to decide what it was worth. I said I was going to go and either I was going to die or I was going to get a better life."*

(Yoon, 2015:186)

*"It's time to be brave. Remember, life is a gift. Don't forget to live it. I'm not choosing death. It's that if I don't go, I won't really know what it's like to be alive."*

(Yoon, 2015:141)

Besides, she also studied hard to achieve her ambition to be an architect.

*"He says happily, clapping his hands together. He's my favorite of all my tutors. He never looks at me pityingly and he loves architecture like I love architecture. If I were going to be something when I grew up, an architect is what I would be."*

(Yoon, 2015:58)

In her life, she wanted to make friends with people especially the colleagues that had the same vision, can be trusted and supported her. In her friendship she would like to find her love in a man named Olly as seen in her words below:

*"Love opens you up to the world"*

*"I was happy before I met him. But I'm alive now and those are not the same thing"*



*"I loved you before I knew you."*

*"I don't know the answer to this question. The only thing I know for sure is that this – being here with Olly, being able to love him and be loved by him—is everything."*

(Yoon, 2015:181)

Based on the discussion above, Madeline's struggles for Women Emancipation is by being tough, having education and high ambition and making friends with trusted and supporting people.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions of this research are:

- 1) The causes of women emancipation in Madeline's life are:
  - a. women's economic marginalization
  - b. women's subordination
  - c. home confinement.
- 2) Madeline's struggles for women emancipation are:
  - a. being tough
  - b. having education and high ambition
  - c. making friends with trusted and supporting people.

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