POWER RELATION IN *THE BEST OF ME* BY NICHOLAS SPARKS'S

THESIS

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IBRAHIM MALANG
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RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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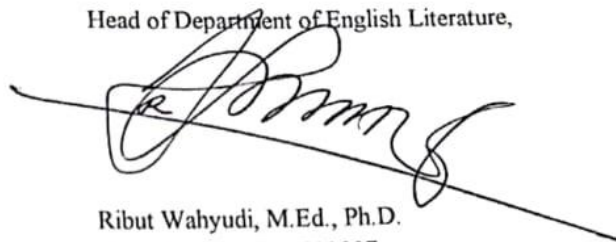The researcher

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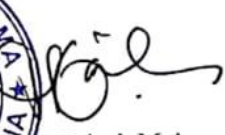
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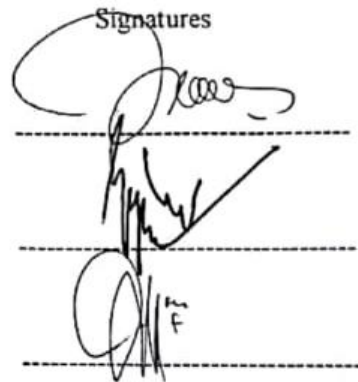
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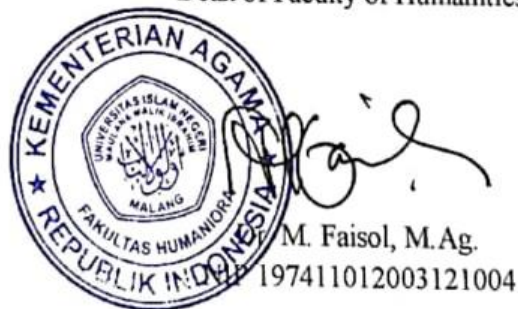Malang, 7 December 2022

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MOTTO

"Nothing that you have not given away will never be really yours" (C.S. Lewis)

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated for my beloved family: my fathers, Alm. Jasuli and Suwito Hermanto; my mothers, Suni Hartatik and Trisna Setiawati; my brother, Irfan Widiawan; my sister, Siti Munawwaroh; my younger brother, Bahtiar Prasetia Widiawan.

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the experiences and knowledge during my time together, and also, thank you for being my second family while in Malang. Thank you for accompanying me for five years in Malang.

I realize that this thesis may be far from perfect. Therefore, suggestions and constructive criticism are always expected from the readers. Finally, I hope this thesis can be helpful for readers, especially students of the Department of English Literature, in future generations.

Malang, 20 October 2022

Isrofatul Jannah

ABSTRACT

    This study aims to describe the power relations between the male main character, Dawson, and the female main character, Amanda. The power relationship that happened to Dawson was between Dawson and his father and his two cousins. At the same time, the power relationship that occurs over Amanda is between Amanda and her mother. This literary criticism research uses a sociology of literature approach using Michel Foucault's power relation theory. The theory of power relations used is the theory of power relations by Michel Foucault. This study's results indicate four important points in power relations: the forms of institutionalization, the system of differentiations, the types of objectives, and instrumental modes. The second result is the impact that occurs after the existence of power relations. The impact experienced by Dawson and Amanda is in the form of resistance. One of the power relations found in the novel The Best of Me is in the form of forms of institutionalization. According to Michel Foucault, the application in the simplest form of institutions can be found in a family with fathers and children, where the father is considered the holder of absolute power. For the child because the father is the head of the family. This happened between Dawson and his father. While the impact of power relations experienced by Amanda between Amanda and her mother. The data obtained are eight, and all are forms of institutionalization. One collaborative data between forms of institutionalization and the system of differentiations. Three collaborative data between forms of institutionalization and the types of objectives and three collaborative data between forms of institutionalization and instrumental mode. Meanwhile, the impact of power relations experienced by Dawson and Amanda is in the form of resistance.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan relasi kuasa yang terjadi kepada tokoh utama laki-laki, Dawson dan tokoh utama perempuan , Amanda . Relasi kuasa yang terjadi kepada Dawson yaitu antara Dawson dan Ayah dan kedua sepupunya. Sedangkan relasi kuasa yang terjadi atas Amanda yaitu antara Amanda dan Ibunya. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian Literary critism dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi sastra menggunakan teori Relasi kuasa Michel Foucault. Teori Relasi Kuasa yang digunakan yaitu teori relasi kuasa Michel Foucault. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat empat poin penting dalam relasi kuasa yaitu *forms of institutionalization, the system of differentiations, the types of objectives,* dan *instrumental modes.* Hasil yang kedua yaitu dampak yang terjadi setelah adanya relasi kuasa, dampak yang terjadi yang dialami oleh Dawson dan Amanda yaitu berupa sebuah perlawanan. Salah satu relasi kuasa yang ditemukan dalam novel *The Best of Me* salah satunya yaitu dalam bentuk *forms of institutionalization*, menurut Michel Foucault penerapan dalam bentuk institusi yang paling sederhana dapat ditemukan dalam keluarga yang didalamnya terdapat Ayah dan anak, dimana Ayah dianggap sebagai pemegang kekuasaan yang mutlak bagi sang anak karena Ayah merupakan seorang kepala keluarga. Hal ini terjadi antara Dawson dan Ayahnya. Sedangkan dampak relasi kuasa yang dialami oleh Amanda antara Amanda dan Ibunya. Data yang didapatkan yaitu ada delapan data, semua data berupa forms of institutionalization. Satu data gabungan antara *forms of institutionalization* dan *the system of differentiations*. Tiga data gabungan antara *forms of institutionalization* dan *the types of objectives* dan tiga data gabungan antara *forms of institutionalization* dan *instrumental mode*. Sedangkan dampak relasi kuasa yang dialami oleh Dawson dan Amanda adalah dalam bentuk perlawanan.

مستلخص البحث

الجنة، إشرافة. 2022. **علاقات القوة لميشيل فوكو في رواية** *The Best of* *Me* **لنيكولاس سباركس.** البحث الجامعي. قسم اللغة الإنجليسية وأدابها. كلية الإنسابة. جامعة مولانا مالك ابراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالنج.

مشريفة   : الدكتورة الحاجة إستعادة الماجستير
الكلمة المفتحية : القوة، علاقات القوة

تهدف هذا البحث لوصف علاقات القوة التي تحدث للشخصية الذكورية الرئيسية داوسون والشخصية الرئيسية الأنثوية أماندا. كانت علاقة القوة التي حدثت لداوسون بين داوسون والأب وأبناء عمومته. وفي نفس الوقت ، فإن علاقة القوة التي تحدث على أماندا هي بين أماندا والأمها. هذا البحث هو البحث الكيفي الذي يتطلب كلمات مكتوبة والبيانات اللفظية والسلوكا يمكن ملاحظتها. للحصول عليها ، تستخدم الباحثة طريقة وصفية. نظرية علاقات القوة المستخدمة هي نظرية ميشيل فوكو. تظهر نتائج البحث أن توجد أربع نقاط مهمة في علاقات القوة، وهي *forms of institutionalization, the system of* *differentiations, the types of objectives,* و*instrumental modes* . والنتيجة الثانية هي التأثير الذي يحدث بعد علاقة القوة ، والتأثير الذي يحدث من قبل داوسون وأماندا هو في شكل مقاومة. إحدى من علاقات القوة الموجودة في رواية *The Best of Me* هي بشكل *forms of institutionalization* ، وفقا لميشيل فوكو يمكن العثور على الطلب في شكل أبسط مؤسسة في الأسرة التي يوجد فيها أب وابن ، حيث يعتبر الأب المالك المطلق للسلطة للطفل لأن الأب هو رئيس الأسرة. هذا يحدث بين داوسون ووالده، حيث كان والده رئيس الأسرة الذي كان ملزما بالطاعة، حينما عاشته أماندا كان بين أماندا ووالدتها، حيث اعتقدت والدتها أن أماندا يجب أن تطيع جميع قواعدها لأن والدتها كانت والدا أماندا اللذان يتمتعان بمكانة عليا من أماندا. وفي نفس الوقت، فإن تأثير علاقة القوة التي عاشها داوسون وأماندا هو بشكل مقاومة. المقاومة التي قام بها داوسون هي من خلال تعليم درس لوالده واثنين من أبناء عمومته من خلال القتال. وفي نفس الوقت، ما فعلته أماندا هو المقاومة من خلال عدم إطاعة أوأمر والدتها من خلال الاستمرار في رؤية داوسون على الرغم من أن والدتها منعتها بذلك. وضعت أماندا وداوسون المعركة حتى لا يهيمن عليهما أسرتاهما بعد الآن والقضاء على ترهيب بينهما.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A.   Background of the Study

Humans are connected through the relationship between humans and humans. Human relations are social relations. The main types of human relationships are usually broken down into romantic relationships, friendships, professional relationships, and family relationships. Romantic relationships are characterized by passion, intimacy, trust, and respect; usually, individuals in romantic relationships are deeply attached and share a special bond. On the other hand, friendship is a relationship in which there are no formalities and individuals enjoy each other's presence. This kind of relationship can be between a man and a woman, a man and a man, or a woman and a woman.

Professional relationships enable individuals to work together to achieve their career goals and ambitions as they increase their chances of gaining promotion and accessing alternative career opportunities. The latter are family relationships in which individuals are related by blood or marriage. Family allows us to feel belonging and understand who we are. Each member has aspirations apart from being part of a collective family member within the family unit. Each member should be made to feel unique and special and encouraged to follow their goals and dreams. Of all our relationships, we sometimes think specific individuals have a strong character or are more prominent than others

that can influence us. For example, the way we act, speak and think. Besides being able to control us, they can realize their goals even if they are against the wishes of others.

Most people are familiar with the word power. We often hear about it in the news, especially on issues related to government and the nation. Foucault's quote above about power implies that power does exist among us. Some people have power over others. Many of our relationships can be characterized as power relationships; teacher and student, owner, worker, parent, and child, which go on indefinitely.

Power in society is the ability to influence or control people's behavior. Max Weber (1968, quoted in Domhoff, 2005) defined power as the opportunity for an individual in a social relationship to achieve his own will even against the resistance of others. This is an extensive definition and covers a comprehensive range of types of power. To make this definition more useful in the study of history and society.

According to Foucault (Foucault, 2007), power, in reality, is represented in two ways. This power operates unconsciously in the network of public awareness. Because power does not come from outside but determines the structure, rules, and relationships from within, for example, it can be mentioned that the normalization of family relationships is that the husband is the one who has to work to earn a living while the wife is only in charge of taking care of the household and taking care of the children. Alternatively, another example is employees who work disciplined according to their duties. That the employee's

obedience is not due to repression from the boss or leader but because of the regulations from within that normalizes it, they work hard not only because there is a threat or pressure but also because there is a kind of discursive structure that says there will be rewards for employees who excel at work. Every society knows the strategy of power regarding the truth. Some discourses are accepted and circulated as accurate, and some agencies guarantee the difference between true and false. There are various rules and procedures for acquiring and distributing power.

Foucault is one of the few writers on power who recognize that power is not just a negative, coercive or repressive thing that forces us to do things against our wishes, but can also be a necessary, productive, and positive force in society" (Foucault, 2007)

In this thesis, the author will apply Foucault's theory related to power relations because Foucault defines power in the broadest sense; covered a large area. Power can be found in politics, economy, society, family, religion, gender, and other aspects because it comes from everywhere. Although power inequality is mainly related to gender inequality between men and women, it also occurs in any relationship, especially within the family. An example is when parents hold more power than children because they have a higher position in the family structure, control money, and have more life experience and knowledge. Parents can decide their children's future and expect them to follow the path they want. In particular, parents can also decide about their children's choice of employment and education, where to live, and what religion their children should follow.

Power relations in a family sometimes lead to new behavior in children. This can be manifested in submission, rebellion, sabotage, bad behavior, or resistance with force when a child is determined to comply with his wishes and the parents insist on their wishes.

Sometimes we can see an individual's true character through the power he has because power can make us who we are. Besides being able to create violence, coercion, and other harmful forms, power is also productive because it makes us think critically about certain situations, not just accept them. It makes us fight against forces that are against our will or will. The scale at which resistance occurs is not always the same size. Resistance actions can be individual or collective, widespread or limited to local areas. Thus, the targets at which resistance is directed also differ. They vary from individual to the group, organization to social institutions and structures. Many literary works, especially those that raise the theme of power; one of them is the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks.

In addition to the many power relations, the novel *The Best of Me* also records many events full of power. The power in The Best of Me is not only owned by the state but also belongs to the characters. Every figure in this society has the power to fight other powers around him. In a family, power relations can be seen in parent-child relationships, where parents have the authority to control the lives of children, and children must agree to the parents' decisions. Not only parents, but a child may also have different goals that he wants to achieve. Here

both parties will usually try to continue to pursue their own goals. In other words, both parties will seek strategies to win their goals in the power relationship by acting in specific ways. Therefore, the strategy can be used to gain victory (Asmoro, 2015). This paper aims to analyze the power relations in a family in a work of fiction, namely the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks. To dismantle it, a power analysis knife will be used from the perspective of Michel Foucault, a sociologist, and philosopher from France. By studying internal power relations, it is hoped that the reader can understand that in society, the state or the ruling party does not always represent power in a repressive way but can also be done gently. Science will be eternal and can be recorded by a work of fiction.

The Best of Me novel by Nicholas Sparks discusses how the main female character experiences injustice caused by patriarchal culture. The women in this novel do not experience gender injustice caused by societal differences in views about the male and female gender, especially their mothers. This gender inequality causes the formation of people's minds who think that the main task of women as housewives who are at home every day serving their husbands and not working. As a result, if women want to participate in an activity mainly carried out by men, such as politics, business, and so on, it will be considered strange or contrary to the nature of women.

Her mother considers herself in charge of Amanda because her mother is Amanda's parent who has the right to govern Amanda's life. This made Amanda feel discriminated against, and this also made Amanda feel that she did not

deserve to be accepted. It was as if he lived risking his life to gain happiness for the sake of others, not for himself. It was as if he was fighting for someone else, not himself. Amanda feels that what she does must follow what other people want. Other people easily limit a person's right to freedom without seeing how tortured that person feels, and this can indirectly discriminate against Amanda's rights. From the injustices she received in her life, Amanda finally chose to fight the injustices she received, such as when she voiced her feelings for the man she loved even though her mother disapproved of it. She fought his mother when she was forbidden to see Dawson, and she went to see him even though she had to lie to her mother.

The Best of Me was chosen as the material object because this novel's story is exciting and closely related to everyday life. Power in this novel affects many aspects, especially the depiction of power in family relationships (mother and child). Living with a strict mother, Amanda's world, which her mother heavily influences, shows that parents are considered more powerful than children. This novel shows how the power possessed by one character can affect other characters that we can find in everyday life and every relationship.

Several researchers have used the novel *The Best of Me* as an object of study. So far, however, the researcher has been more dominant in exploring the romantic story between the main characters. When I read this novel, I was very touched by the love story between the two, which is very romantic and dramatic. One of the researchers who uncovered the romantic story of this novel was a researcher such as (Putri, 2018) with his research entitled "A Study of Love in

Nicholas Spark's The Best of Me". Putri uses the novel The Best of Me as an object of study and chooses to deepen the romance in the novel. This study aims to determine the types of love in the main character and to find out how love is depicted in the novel.

Some of them also choose to analyze each of the main characters in the novel, such as (Etami, 2016) with the research title "Different Class Reflected in Nicholas Spark's The Best of Me Novel (1976): A Marxist Approach" The analysis uses a Marxist approach. The results showed that the structural analysis of the novel The Best of (Aprilia, 2015), with his research entitled "A Study of A Love Affair on the Main Character in Nicholas Spark's The Best of Me." Sigmund's psychoanalysis theory. The result of this research is to find that Amanda's characterization includes physical, verbal, behavioural, and other character opinions about her, also in research (Djakaya, 2017) from Gorontalo State University entitled "Psychological Analysis of The Main Character in The Novel The Best of Me by Nicholas Sparks" The data of this research were collected from novels and analyzed using qualitative research with a psychoanalytic approach. This study found 5 data that explain Dawson's father's characterization and 6 data that illustrates the effect of the characterization of Dawson's father on Dawson Cole's personality.

Several studies found by the author also discussed power relations with different objects of study, such as the work of Swadesta Aria Wasesa from Yogyakarta State University (Wasesa, 2013) with the title "Power Relation in Okky Madasari's Entrok Novel." This study's results showed that the form of

power relations in the novel Entrok is over the mind and body. The form of power relations over thinking is objectification, manipulation, domination, stigmatization, and control. The form of power relations over the body is in the form of objectification, manipulation, and control, and there is resistance to the representation of power relations to the body and thoughts carried out by the figures of Marni, Rahayu, Kyai Hasbi, Mali, and by the Singlet community.

Research using the theory of power relations by Gilang Nur Alfi Jauhari (Jauhari, 2017) with the title "Power Relations Among Factions in Veronica Roth's Divergent." society, such as the construction of power relations between political factions and resistance groups. Two things found in this research are how Divergent and Factionless are a result of power relations against the factional system. The second is how power relations are built between the five factions in the novel. The third is the work of Gartika Rahmasari and Iis Kurnia Nur Hayati with the title "Strategies in Power Relations in a Fictional Work: A Foucauldian Analysis" this study discusses the power relations carried out between fathers and sons. It is stated that the father has the authority to control the child's life, and the child is obliged to obey it. Here, the power relation is mentioned when his son asks for approval to marry a Catholic woman, while his father believes his son should marry a Parsi. The findings show that each character employs a different strategy in imposing power, the son's strategy is to persuade the father, and when it does not work, he starts to show clear defiance every time.

The Best of Me is a romance-drama novel by Nicholas Charles Sparks (Sparks, 2011), an American novelist, writer, and producer. The author chose

Nicolas Sparks' novel, The Best of Me, as the object of his research. This novel was first published in October 2011. The author chose this novel because of the power relations that appear in *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks. Another reason, this novel tells about the main characters who fight hard and fight for their lives with the strength they have. Of the seven previous studies I mentioned earlier, four studies discussed the same object with different theoretical studies, while the last three studies I mentioned have similarities, using the same theoretical study but with different objects.

The writer also finds that no research discusses power relations as in the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks that previous researchers have done, so he chose a topic to fill this gap.

B.   Problems of the Study

In light of the discussion above, this research aims to answer the following questions.

1. What are the forms of power relations in the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks?

2. What is the impact of the power relations in the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks?

C.   Objectives of the Study

This research attempts to focus on the following objectives concerning the previous research questions.

1) describe the form of power relations in the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks

2) explain the impact of power relations in the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks

D.   Significance of the Study

Based on the research objectives that I have written above, there are two benefits that we can get from this research. The first is to describe the form of power relations in the novel. The second is to describe the impact of power relations in the novel. Meanwhile, for literary connoisseurs, the results of this study can be used to provide an understanding of Michel Foucault's power relations because, in a literary work, various kinds of power relations are described by society. Meanwhile, researchers can be used as reference material or for researchers who conduct further similar research in studying, analyzing, and understanding literary works, namely the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks and the application of Michel Foucault's theory of power relations.

E.   Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is to describe power relations and the impact of power relations in Nicholas Sparks' novel *The Best of Me*. While the shortcomings of this study only discuss the theory of resistance relations from Michel Foucault.

F.   Definition of Key Terms

The terms employed within this research are defined as follows to prevent misunderstandings.

Power: the ability of a person or group to control another person or group based on authority, authority, charisma, or physical strength; the function of creating and establishing peace (justice) as well as preventing and taking action against injustice or injustice.

Power relations: The theory put forward by Michel Foucault. Power is not centered on one subject or institution, but is spread everywhere in every social relationship. Power relations are relationships between certain actors interested in different power levels.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses the explanation of theories relevant to this research. Theories regarding the main topic of research and to answer existing research problems. First, we will discuss the sociology of literature. Next, we will discuss the theory that we use, namely Power Relation , biography of Michel Foucault, followed by a discussion of open Power Relation By Michel Foucault. Finally, a synopsis of the novel we are using, *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks.

A. Sociology of Literature

Sociology of literature is an objective and scientific study of humans in society and social and social processes. Sociology examines how a community grows and develops. By studying social institutions and economic, religious, political, and other issues (Semi, 1988), the sociology of literature is a scientific and objective study of humans in society, social institutions, and processes. Furthermore, it is argued that sociology seeks to answer questions about how a community is possible, how it works, and why it persists.

In Wolf's view, the sociology of literature is a formless, poorly defined discipline consisting of studies, empirical studies, and experiments on somewhat more general theories, each of which has only one thing in common: it deals with the relationship of literature to society. The theory of sociology of literature is not solely used to explain social realities transferred or copied by the author into a

literary work (Rohani, 2020). This theory has also been developed to analyze the relationship between the author's cultural area and his work, the relationship between a literary work and a social group, and the relationship between social phenomena around the author and his work. Therefore, the sociological theories used to analyze a literary creation cannot ignore the author's existence, the world, and his inner experience, as well as the culture in which the literary work was born. So the sociology of literature is a study that connects literature with sociology. Literary works as a picture of society, although not wholly like when the literary work was done (Laurenson & Swingew, 2011).

The focus of attention on the sociology of literature is on the content of the literary work, the purpose, and other things implied in the literary work itself and related to social problems (Wellek & Warren, 1989) .Sociology of literary works is a sociological study of literature that examines literary works concerning social issues that live in society. This sociology of literature departs from Plato's theory of mimesis, which considers literature to imitate reality. Literary works can be viewed from a sociological perspective by considering social aspects. The social aspects concern humans with their environment, community structures, institutions, and social processes. It was further disclosed that in literature. If literature is associated with social systems, family relationships, class conflicts, etc., sociology of literature can be used (Damono, 2002). In the sociology of literature, literature is understood by considering its social aspects. In addition, the relationship between literary works and the society behind them was also sought, and a direct link was found between literary works and society (Ratna, 2003).This

is because literary works cannot be separated from the author's social environment, affecting the literary work itself.

Sociology of literary works is concerned with the literary work itself, which is the subject of its study or what is implied in the literary work and its purpose (Ahmadi, 2021). The content of literary works related to social problems, in this case, is often seen as a social document or as a portrait of social reality (Wellek and Warren, 1994). According to Watt, (in Damono, 1979) sociology of literature examines literature as a mirror of society. What is implied in literary works is considered to reflect or redefine the reality contained in society.

B.   Power Relation

Power relations are relationships between certain actors interested in different power levels. In power relations, there is an element of the strength of social relations. Namely, an actor can change the behavior of other actors. In other words, the element of power influences forming of a program or activity according to one's interests, even against the resistance of other actors. Power relations are the concept of power relations, namely the practice of power from subjects to objects through various media and forms of power that are intended not to be obtained from repressive ways but manipulatively and hegemonically. Power is a matter of concrete practices that create realities and behavior patterns, producing specific domains of objects of knowledge and rituals of truth (Wasesa, 2013).

Power is the ability of a person or group of people to influence the behavior of another person or group in such a way that the behavior follows the wishes and goals of the person with power. Political power is the ability to influence public/government policies, both formed and consequences, according to the goals of the power holder itself. To use political power, there must be a ruler, the actor who holds power, and tools/means of power. Rulers need legitimacy/legitimacy, and legitimacy is the concept that the position of a person or group of rulers is considered good by the community according to applicable principles and procedures. According to the experts who define power, namely Harold D Laswell and Abraham Kaplan, "Power is a relationship in which a person or group people can determine the actions of another person or group towards the goals of the first party". From the definition of power above, we can conclude that power is the ability to influence a person or group of people to obtain something desired and the will achieved by using the power of the ruler.

To understand the thesis of the relation between power and knowledge, which is the substance of Michel Foucault's thought, it is necessary to first look at the background of Michel Foucault's life. Not much is known about the history of Foucault's personal life, as Foucault himself never and even was reluctant to write and publish his biography. Foucault's cynical statement about people who pry for information about themselves: "Do not ask who I am and do not ask me to remain the same." (Syafiuddin, 2020). Foucault was born on October 15, 1926, in Poitiers, a city located in France. Foucault's father was a surgeon at Pointier and a

professor of anatomy at the College. His name is Paul Foucault. So Foucault is a surname.

Foucault's childhood was when Germany was occupying France. At Pointer, German airplanes hovered low from time to time, flying around the city looking for targets for train stations. *Pointier* is a city that is always under the supervision and official control of the German troops. Periodically German soldiers patrolled Pointier to arrest Jews and send them to concentration barracks for torture. As a member of a family of surgeons, Foucault's father wanted Foucault to follow in his footsteps to become a doctor. However, his mother, who was well aware of her son's interest in history, defended Foucault when he clashed with his father.

In 1955 Foucault worked as a French instructor in Upsalla, Sweden. He immersed himself in the library to research medical works from the 16th to the 20th centuries. This led to his first work, Folie et deraison (Madness and Civilization). In 1984 Foucault died of AIDS, although he did not know what the cause of death was AIDS.

Undeniably, Michel Foucault is a great thinker in history. He contributed many things to the intellectual world, especially philosophy, culture, society, politics and the arts. Foucault's significant contributions to philosophy and politics were his concept of power. Foucault was very interested in investigating the relationship between power and knowledge. There is no practice of exercising power that does not generate knowledge, and there is no knowledge that does not look at power relations. Foucault shows how the modern individual is born as the

object and subject of the distribution and provision of power webs. Michel Foucault is one of the most extraordinary thinkers. His thinking knows no boundaries. The results of his thoughts include history, philosophy, social and political science, to the medical field that his family is involved. Foucault is often dubbed as a post-modernist, post-structuralist, and even a philosopher because the results of his thoughts oppose the modernist thoughts already established at that time. However, he rejected all the nicknames given to him.

One cannot live alone without interaction with other people. People build relationships through interactions, and they create vibrant communities. Society is sometimes dominated by a few people who have control over others. The nature of this control is closely related to power which is an important part of society. Many scholars adopt the definition developed by German sociologist Max Weber (Weber, 1922)who says that "power is the ability to exercise one's will over others." This means that a person uses power to influence others to help him achieve his goals even though those goals are against the will of others or contrary to his interests, needs, and desires. So power affects more than personal relationships; it shapes more significant dynamics, such as social groups, professional organizations, and governments. People with high authority, knowledge, wealth and social class also have power.

Unfortunately, sometimes people abuse power. People use various power tactics in everyday life to encourage or propel people into specific actions. Many examples of power tactics are pretty common and used in everyday life. These tactics include bullying, complaining, criticizing, demanding, disengaging,

avoiding, and manipulating. People will also choose tactics based on the group situation and whom they are trying to influence.

Michel Foucault, the French postmodernist, has been a very influential figure in shaping the understanding of power. For Foucault, he does not provide a definitive explanation of power because "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" (Foucault M. , 2003). So, from Foucault's point of view, this means that we cannot give a clear definition of what power is because power is not a thing but a relation that spreads throughout the social body.

Foucault's way of looking at power is concentrated not only on a particular group of people, such as the rich or politicians, but also on how power is spread or spread. Power is not an institution, nor is it a structure; nor is it a specific power that we have. It manifests itself in anyone. He also added

Foucault's theory of power is seen as a negative form, such as coercive or repressive things that force us to do things against our will, but also as a necessary, productive, and positive force in society. Productive and positive power here means that power can lead to new behavior through resistance.

Foucault's theory in seeing power lies in every part of the social body. It works through various social, economic, family, gender, and many more relationships to form strong power relations that cover all elements and access people's behavior. Foucault's famous quote from his book, The History of

Sexuality, which says, "where there is power, there is resistance" (Foucault M. , The Subject and Power, 1982), also emphasizes that power is not always acceptable in society. Sometimes what makes a revolutionary may come from resistance in which a specific group of people rejects certain situations against their will. It also means that there is no intelligible power relationship: where there is power, there is a possibility when one rejects it. In short, power is closely related to influencing others to help one achieve one's goals, like Max Weber's theory, but what makes Foucault's theory different from other theories is that power is not something but a relationship and works in every social element. Body. Power is found everywhere, in every relationship, and comes from anywhere.

Another strength of Foucault's thinking lies in his interest in issues of humanity, marginality, abnormality, and his view of truth. Foucault wants to show that we are part of that power mechanism. From this awareness will be born the ability to use power well, meaning for the benefit of others. Direction to others is only born of the awareness of one's place in the constellation of power. The problem in life is that many people do not realize their role in the power map. If people are aware of this, then people will accept and appreciate the plurality of roles in power relations. From this unconsciousness will be born various actions and systems that are oppressive and uniform.

According to Foucault (Sulistya & Prima dkk, 2011), defining power relations is the concept of power relations in the form of power practices from subjects to objects through various media and forms of power that are intended

not to be obtained from repressive ways, but manipulatively and hegemonic, as well as something that can make someone obey. Power, for Foucault, is a matter of concrete practices that create realistically and patterns of behaviour, producing a distinctive domain of objects of knowledge and rituals of truth. These practices create norms reproduced and legitimized through teachers, social workers, doctors, judges, police and administrators; for example, power manifests itself in knowledge, but knowledge then gives birth to power. Power is channelled through social relations, produces forms of behaviour such as good and evil, and creates procedures and rules that can subjugate society.

In other words, power relations are reactions from one party to actions taken by other parties to form an action-reaction process, as written by Foucault (Foucault M. , Power/Knowledge: Wacana Kuasa/Pengetahuan., 2002). Regarding power relations which constitute "a set of actions upon other actions." In "The Subject and Power" (2002), Foucault writes that the application of power is not as simple as the relationship between "partners" but rather the way one person acts towards another. Furthermore, concerning the application of power, Foucault (2002) mentions freedom as an essential element. Freedom is a crucial element in the exercise of power. Power can only be applied to a free subject or as long as the subject is free.

In "The Subject and Power" (Foucault M. , The Subject and Power, 1982), Foucault writes about the points used in analyzing power relations. Some points include forms of institutionalization, the system of differentiations, the types of objectives, and instrumental modes.

a.   Form of Institutionalization

This form of institutionalization indicates the existence of a hierarchical structure which is a marker of differences in position. This difference in position can lead to differences in interests and levels of power ownership, as can be seen from the position of a president in the state government system who has higher power to make decisions compared to the power possessed by a minister. There are many examples of power relations that exist in an institution. A small example is a family where there is a father and son, and here there can be a power relationship between father and son where the father is more powerful than the child because the father has the power, namely as the head family within a family so that the father is more powerful than the son. The example that occurs in everyday life between a boss and an employee is that the boss has more power than the employee because employees who work for the boss inevitably have to obey all orders their superiors give.

b.   System of Differentiations

Furthermore, regarding the system of differentiations, Foucault (Foucault M. , Society Must be Defended, 2003) writes that this system "permits one to act upon the actions of others: juridical and traditional differences of status or privilege; economic differences in the appropriation of wealth and good, etc." This system allows for different points of view held by the parties involved in power relations, which can lead to differences in the interests of each party. This

difference in interests can also cause differences in the reactions of each party in dealing with actions taken by one party against another.

c.   Types of Objectives

Another point Foucault used in analyzing power relations is the types of objectives with the maintenance of privileges as an example. Maintenance of privileges here can be interpreted as a person's effort to maintain the power that has been previously owned from the actions of other parties which are considered to threaten his position as the owner of power, for example, a parent who punishes a child who violates the rules set by the parent as the owner of power, in the family institution. Giving this punishment can be seen as an attempt by parents to maintain their position as power holders with more rights than the child to determine the standard definition of good or bad the child must follow. Efforts to maintain power as an example of maintenance of privileges can be carried out in various ways that more or less involve a process, such as the action-reaction process that the author mentioned earlier. This process can be done either in a short time or in a relatively long period.

d.   Instrumental Modes

Then, the last point seen in the analysis of power relations is described by Foucault by mentioning several examples of instrumental modes, such as the use of violence. Violence allows the object of power to feel stronger intimidation by physical contact made by the more dominant party. Violence becomes a tool of unchecked power: violence has an effect, both visible and hidden wounds that

cause trauma. Furthermore, Foucault asserts that "no doubt, the exercise of power can never do without one violence or the other consent, often both at the same time" .

Power is oppressive. However, in "Body/Power" (Foucault M. , Sejarah Seksualitas: Seks dan Kekuasaan. , 1997), Foucault said that power would be fragile if it were only suppressive, that "powerwould be a fragile thing if its only function were to repress, it worked only through the mode of censorship, exclusion, blockage. and repression, in the manner of a great Superego, exercising itself only in a negative way" (Foucault,1997). The application of power in the simplest form of institutions can be found in the family in which there are "mix tradition conditions, legal structures, matters of habit or fashion" (Foucault, 2002), where the father is considered the absolute power holder for the child. The phallic symbol indicates the position of the father as the holder of power. In addition, phalus "symbolizes the truth that is sure and identical with the self and should not be challenged" (Rahmasari & Nurhayati, 2019).

After the existence of power relations, several impacts occur on the victims of power relations, one of which is resistance. *Resistance* is a behavior that is quite often encountered in society or a scientific matter. According to dictionary.cambridge.org, resistance is resisting something that attacks or refuses to accept something. Resistance can occur in the social and scientific world. In the scientific world, resistance is a force that stops the progress of something or makes it slower or the degree to which a substance prevents the flow of electric current through it.

So basically, resistance is resistance or refusal to protest the changes that occur and are not appropriate. This is the most common form of resistance in social society. Resistance is a phenomenon that refers to a social situation where the disadvantaged parties in the social structure of society then fight against the parties who harm them. This is following the notion of resistance according to Barnard and Jonathan in the Paradigm Journal, which says that resistance is resistance or refusal to protest changes that occur and are not appropriate.

Resistance is an action taken by weak people in the lower structure against strong parties in the upper structure or rulers and entrepreneurs. The relationship between a weak party and another strong party is an unequal power relationship, so the weak party in the lower structure tries to balance their relationship through resistance so as not to be oppressed (Suriadi 2008: 52).

Resistance has a comprehensive concept. However, resistance is a word that seeks to explain the phenomenon of resistance by subalterns or those who are oppressed because of injustice and so on. Resistance can also be seen as the materialization or the most actual manifestation of the desire to resist the domination of knowledge or power. The form of resistance is very diverse and can be seen as disobedience and rejection of undesirable conditions. Various efforts will be made to survive and find a decent living.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

There are several points in this section. First of all, the research design explains the method and methodology used in this study. The second is data and data source, explain how the researcher collects data. Finally, the last is data anlysis that explains the analyzing steps.

A.   Research Design

This literary criticism research uses a sociology of literature approach using Michel Foucault's power relation theory. The theory of power relations used is the theory of power relations by Michel Foucault. The case study of this research is the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks. Meanwhile, the source of the data that the writer takes comes from the novel The Best of Me itself, which later the writer will read while analyzing the character in the novel. After that, the author will make material for further analysis using the Michel Foucault theory.

B.   Data Source

In this research, I get the data entirely from the novel *"The Best of Me"* by Nicholas Sparks. Novels By Nicholas Sparks include works of fiction consisting of 297 pages. Published in October 2011 by Grand Central Publishing, this novel is a romance novel genre. The data used is obtained from the text in the novel in dialogue.

C.   Data Collection

The procedures carried out in data collection techniques in this study are as follows. The first is reading the novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks repeatedly to get the overall phenomenon about the novel. Second, formulate research problems based on the phenomena contained in the novel The Best of Me. Third, read and understand the theory related Michel Foucault power relation which is contained in literary works to discussing problems in the novel by Nicholas Sparks. Fourth, conduct an inventory of data by recording data by marking aspects of the content that show the powe relation in the novel using marker paper. This is done by repeatedly reading *The Best of Me* novel while marking things that fall into the category of power relation. Finally, create a data corpus containing quotes from the Novel *The Best of Me*, which is analyzed in this study.

D.   Data Analysis

The following explains the stages of data analysis in this study. Analysis by using the power relation theory of Michel Foucault and secondary data sources in the form of scientific journals and articles related to the power relation of Michel Foucault. The first thing to do is collect the data that has been obtained. Suppose the characteristics of the problem in the data contain the characteristics of power relations mentioned. After that, we will analyze the impact of power relations on the characters in the novel by analyzing the data that has been

collected. Finally, concluding the results of the data analysis of power relations,

Michel Foucault found in the Novel The Best of Me by Nicholas Sparks.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Power relations occur in almost every relationship experienced by humans in everyday life. *Power* can be defined as control over others. Another definition of power is that power is a control that refers to the system of government of the state. However, the power relations that occur are not only seen as relations between the government and the people. According to Foucault (2002) in The Subject and Power, the government here is not only defined as a political structure or state management; however, the system of government here denotes an institution that allows leading an individual or a group of people. So, in general, power relations can be seen in everyday life and experienced by anyone who interacts with the people around him. The practice of power in a relationship or relationship can occur in everyday life, wherever or with whomever a person relates. The practice of power can be carried out if several conditions have been met, such as the loss of freedom and the occurrence of resistance.

In the novel The Best of Me, the discussion focuses on the power relations between Dawson and Amanda. The power relations between Dawson and Amanda are within the scope of the family institution. It was the power relationship experienced by Dawsonia between him and his family, namely his stepbrother, and father. At the same time, Amanda is between her and her mother. Dawson's father, Dawson's sister, and Amanda's mother have a more dominant position than Dawson and Amanda. Dawson's father, Dawson's brother, and

Amanda's mother look more dominant because they have a higher position than Dawson and Amanda's position, namely as a father, brother, and mother who are older, so Amanda and Dawson still have to respect them.

A.   Power Relations in the Novel *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks.

According to the explanation in the theoretical study, Foucault uses the points in analyzing power relations. Some topics include forms of institutionalization, the system of differentiations, the types of objectives, and instrumental modes. Dalam novel ini data yang didapatkan mempunyai 1 sampai dua point ciri-ciri dari power relation.

a.   Forms of Institutionalization

the first data is in the form of forms of institutionalization, where the power relation occurs between Amanda and her mother. Here her mother disagrees with her relationship with Dawson, and she forbids Amanda to have a relationship with Dawson. Not only does she prohibit meeting with Dawson, but Amanda's mother also forbids her from meeting Tuck. Tuck is an old widower with Dawson employed in his home repair shop. Because his mother knows how close Tuck and Dawson are, when Amanda is still seeing Tuck, it means Amanda will still be seeing Dawson too. Remember that Tuck was the one person who approved of Dawson and Amanda's relationship. Her mother also forbade Amanda to see Dawson, whatever the reason, no longer.

Data 1:

"Stop seeing Tuck, Amanda. Stop seeing anyone related to Dawson."

Amanda quietly listens

"stop being childish, and they are not good for your life." (p.171)

It can be seen from the conversation above that there is a power relationship between Amanda and her mother, where her mother has more power over Amanda by forbidding Amanda to no longer see Dawson. Here Amanda's mother has the power because she is more mature than Amanda and is Amanda's mother, so Amanda is required to follow everything her mother tells her to do.

b.   Form of Institutionalization and System of Differentiations

In the second data, two points occur in power relations in this novel. That is the power relationship that arises between Amanda and her mother. Amanda's mother was so domineering towards Amanda, even though she finally managed to choose her soul mate. Amanda thought that when she got married, her mother would no longer interfere in her life, but what her mother did was still dominate Amanda by forbidding Amanda to work. Once after the birth of Jared's first son, his mother loudly told Amanda not to work anymore. Her mother believed that if she already had a child, a mother should only focus on her children and husband, so her mother told Amanda to stay home to take care of her family well. Her mother also thought that women should not work outside the home. Amanda flatly refused her mother's orders, and she thought that even though she already had children, she could still divide her time between her family and work, especially Amanda's work which did not take up much time in her daily life. For the reason that women should stay at home, Amanda strongly disagrees. Amanda thinks that whether

women or men have the same right to continue pursuing their careers. There is also no rule in her city that requires women to work at home and husbands to work outside the home, so Amanda still wants to work even though she already has her first son Jared.

Data 2:

> *"Stop working and start focusing on Jared." Her mom said*
> *"What's wrong with working while taking care of the family? I can mom."*
> *"Remember, Amanda, a woman's job is to work at home and focus on the family."*
> *"That is an old thought, mother, and now many women work outside the home"(p.257)*

From here, it can be seen that the power relation occurs between Amanda as a child and her mother. Where Fuco, this power relation is a feature of the Form of Institutionalization. Meanwhile, here there is also another characteristic of power relations, namely the System of Differentiation, where in this case, Fuco explains the existence of differences of opinion on a problem. In the dialogue above, the difference of opinion between Amanda and her mother is that her mother thinks that if she already has children, she no longer needs to work. She should focus more on her children. While Amanda believes work will not bother her, she can divide her time to work and care for the children. As long as Amanda could be in charge of both, Amanda felt it was okay. Because her mother is Amanda's parent, who has more power, Amanda only answers modestly. It can be seen that a mother still has more power over her child.

c.   Form of Institutionalization and Types of Objectives

As explained above, the power relationship that occurs in Dawson is between Dawson and his family. The Dawson family is more dominant due to the age factor of Dawson, who is still below them, and also, the Dawson family is known to be the most powerful person in the place where he lives, namely Oriental.

Data 3:

> *"The Coles were moonshiners and drug dealers, alcoholics, wife beaters, abusive fathers and mothers, thieves and pimps, and above all, pathologically violent. According to an article that had been published in a now defunct magazine, they were at one point regarded as the most vicious, revenge-driven family east of Raleigh. Dawson's father was no exception. He'd spent most of his twenties and early thirties in prison for various offenses that included stabbing a man with an ice pick after the man had cut him off in traffic."(p.10)*

From this, we know that the collier families, in maintaining their power, usually use violence, which is included in Foucault's power relation points, namely types of objectives, which according to Foucault, is an attempt by someone to maintain their previously held power with violence so that those who are controlled feel intimidated. Give punishment to people who dare to violate the provisions, as evidenced by the conversation above conveys that the Collier family is the most avoided and feared by everyone because the Coll family is known as a ruthless and vengeful family. Not only dominating Dawson, but his family also dominates the surrounding environment. The surrounding community chose not to approach the Collier family because they realized they still wanted to live in the world. Dawson is different from his family and cousins and does not have traits like the rest of the Cole family. Maybe that is why he also s eems to be dominated by his family.

According to the explanation in the theoretical study, Foucault uses the points in analyzing power relations. Some topics include forms of institutionalization, the system of differentiations, the types of objectives, and instrumental modes. In this novel, the power relationship experienced by Amanda between Amanda and her mother, In applying her power to Amanda, her mother often yells at Amanda and prohibits her from seeing Dawson again as one of her power tools. The mother is more domineering because she thinks the child must obey her parents' orders.

Data 4:

> *"At first, they clung to the hope that Amanda was simply going through a rebellious phase, and they tried to ignore it. When that didn't work, things got harder for Amanda. They took away her driver's license and prohibited her from using the phone. In the fall, she was grounded for weeks at a time and forbidden to go out on weekends. Never once was Dawson allowed into their home, and the only time her father ever spoke to him he called Dawson "a worthless piece of white trash." Her mother begged Amanda to end it, and by December her father had stopped speaking to her altogether."(p.18)*

An example of the use of violence by her mother can be seen when Amanda heeded her mother's prohibition by continuing to meet with Dawson. When she found out about this, Amanda's mother became so angry that she locked Amanda in her room so that Amanda would no longer see Dawson. Her mother forbids Amanda because she thinks that Dawson is not compatible with Amanda, plus the fact that Dawson is from a Cole family. At the age of a teenager, her mother assumed that Amanda still could not choose a partner correctly because she was still very thinking of children who could not distinguish between what was good and what was bad for his life. In this case, the power relations between Amanda and her mother are types of objectives. According to Foucault, types of objectives are someone's efforts to maintain their previously possessed power, one

of the efforts to preserve their power is to punish objects that violate to maintain their power against violators. As happened to Amanda, her mother punished Amanda because she violated her prohibition to meet Dawson. The punishment given to Amanda was aimed at making Amanda's mother remain dominant over Amanda so that she obeyed her mother's orders.

The statement was made by her mother, who was disturbed by Amanda's actions which violated her mother's orders not to see Dawson again. Amanda, who is still fourteen years old, is considered not mature enough for her mother to have power over herself, so her mother feels responsible for determining everything for Amanda. Her mother did not give Amanda a chance to defend herself, so when Amanda fought back by looking for excuses, her mother did not listen and considered Amanda's self-defense as a form of resistance to her power, so she punished Amanda by locking her in her room.

When Amanda was eighteen years old, her parents always discussed the same thing about her relationship with Dawson, which was getting closer and closer by the day. There were fights every time Amanda came home after seeing Dawson at Tuck's workshop. Usually, Amanda chooses to be silent so that her parents stop babbling because when Amanda replies with her words, her parents will still be stubborn with their stance. Finally, Amanda chose silence even though, later at midnight, she would sneak out through her bedroom window to meet Dawson at Tuck's workshop.

Data 5:

She told Amanda that if she continued to see Dawson, she would have to move out of the house in September and start paying her own bills, and they wouldn't pay for her to attend college, either.

Amanda Mothers's : "Why should we waste money on college when you're throwing your life away?"

"He'll drag you down, Amanda, but right now you're too young to understand that. So if you want the freedom of being an adult, you'll also have to assume the responsbilities. Ruin your life by staying with Dawnson-we're not going to stop you. But we're not going to help you, either."

"Amanda didn't care what they thought – or at least that was what she always told Dawson. Sometimes, after yet another bitter argument with her parents, she would sneak out her bedroom window in the middle of the night and strike out for the garage" (p.19)

Amanda's parents disagree if their child has to be with Dawson. If Amanda wants to see Dawson continuously, then Amanda's parents have to move house, Amanda has to pay for her living expenses, and Amanda's parents will not pay for her college. Amanda has to obey her parents' orders if she wants to live a much better life, but if Amanda wants to be with her parents, on the other hand, Amanda has to give up Dawson, Amanda's lover. This is a form of limiting freedom experienced by Amanda. Parents gave Amanda a choice that she should be able to make one decision for her life. Amanda feels pressured about how her parents poorly treated her and why as a fellow woman, she has limitations in determining her life and with whom she will live the person she loves. From here, the power relations between Amanda and her mother fall into the system of differentiations.

According to Foucault, in the system of differentiations, there are different points of view held by the parties involved in power relations that lead to differences of opinion. Her mother thinks that her mother is wasting her money to send Amanda to school if she is still with Dawson because Dawson will hinder Amanda's future. This is what her mother says to Amanda to immediately separate

from Dawson, while Amanda believes that Dawson is not something that can hinder her future.

From this dialogue, we can conclude that Amanda's mother is willing to struggle to spend money for Amanda's education, but Amanda ignores and does not obey her parents' orders. Parents want Amanda not to be with Dawson because he is a person who can be said to have no bright future and is a criminal. Amanda had to do what her mother ordered, even though Amanda just wanted to live with the person she loved. We can see more deeply that Amanda's parents want a reciprocal relationship. If she wants to go to college, she must obey her orders. Amanda's parents did not think about how their child would feel.

We can see how the treatment of someone who is the closest person makes a person's rights limit in making decisions. We can see many other things in common with cases like this, especially in a family. Parents who want their child to be able to live better than him by limiting the child's rights by not being allowed to live with the person he loves. In some people's view, this is the best choice of a mother to educate her child so that he can get more goodness. However, on the other hand, this is discrimination against the freedom of a child where the main character sees how women do not get equal rights between women and men. In the story, the character wants to fight for his happiness without giving up what he wants.

Amanda is an adult, but she is treated like a child and does not feel happy. He is still ruled by his life as if in iron bars, has no right to control his own life,

and still feels compelled. He only makes other people happy but cannot follow his heart to make himself happy. This is very disturbing to Amanda. On the other hand, Amanda does not want to obey her parents' orders, but this decision is the best decision for them in the future. Amanda only wants to be with the person she loves. Like any other woman, she does not want her life to be ruled by someone else. Even though Amanda is a good person, she still wants to fight for her rights, just as she wants to fight more so that she can live the way she wants.

Not only has power in determining what Amanda should do, but her mother also intervenes in Amanda's matchmaking affairs. At first, when Amanda was deemed old enough to get married, she determined who was worthy of being Amanda's companion candidate. Her mother also looked for some men and offered her choice to Amanda to choose whom she would marry. However, after being in her mother's shadow for a long time, Dina Dalal decided not to let her mother interfere in her personal affairs, especially regarding finding a mate. In other words, Amanda is trying to gain the freedom to make her life choices. It was proven that Amanda was finally able to escape from her mother's shadow when she decided to study abroad. That is where she met her husband, Alan.

d.   Form of Institutionalization and Instrumental Modes

Dawson knew it for the first time when he was eighteen and realized it again at twenty-three when in the end, he was gone forever, and it was not easy being a Cole anywhere in the Pamlico area, especially the Oriental. As far as he knew, everything he knew, every Cole in the family tree had the fate of his great-

grandfather, who spent time in prison. No one dared to set foot in the Cole family's yard. The Cole family uses violence as a tool of power.

Not only getting domination from his father, but Dawson is also often dominated by his two cousins, Abe and Ted. They show their power by employing violence in the form of blows.

Data 6 :

> *"Abee and Crazy Ted, his older cousins, jumped him more than once, beating him as bad as his father-Abee because he thought Dawson had it coming, Crazy Ted just for the hell of it. Abee, tall and broad with fists the size of ham bones, was violent and short-tempered but smarter than he let on. Crazy Ted, on the other hand, was born mean."(p.12)*

In the quote above, violence is one of the tools of power used by his two cousins. Abbe did it because he thought Dawson deserved it, while Ted did it just for fun. Ted was crazy, and he was born cruel. He once stabbed a classmate with a pencil in kindergarten while fighting over a Twinkie biscuit. Before being expelled in fifth grade, he sent another classmate to the hospital and reportedly killed an addict as a teenager. From here, we can analyze the power relations that occur to Dawson are instrumental modes. Foucault explains that someone will use an instrument which in this case is in the form of violence, so that the object is intimidated by the more dominant party. The two cousins did include instrumental modes where the instrument used was violence, which aimed to make Dawson obey the orders of his two brothers.

One night Dawson ran away from his house because he could not stand the treatment of his father and two cousins. That night, not knowing where else to go, Dawson took refuge in Tuck's workshop. When Tuck finds him the following day,

Dawson asks him for a job. There is no reason for Tuck to help Dawson, who is not only a stranger but a Cole. Dawson shows up and does his best to show his skills to make him worthy of Tuck's acceptance. Do not think that after Dawson manages to get out of his father's house, his father will let Dawson go free, no. That morning his father came suddenly into Tuck's workshop with Abbe and Ted with him, both with baseball bats, and Dawson could see the knife's shadow in Ted's pocket.

Data 7:

> *His father showed up une xpectedly at the garage. He'd brought Crazy Ted and Abeewith him. Both of them carried baseball bats, and he could see the outline of a knife in Ted's pocked.*
>
> *"Gimme the money you been earning. " his father said without preamble.*
>
> *"No," Dawson answered.*
>
> *"I knew you'd say that, boy. That's why I got Ted and Abee here. They can beat it out of you and I'll take it anyway, or you can gimme what you owe for runnning off."(p.15)*

In the dialogue above, Dawson's father wants to ask Dawson for money, threatening that his two cousins will teach him a lesson if Dawson does not give him. Dawson knew his father was not bluffing. Keeping an expressionless face, Dawson took the money from his wallet and gave it to his father. Dawson flinched. He saved some of his income to continue the car repairs he was working on. Again, in this case, the form of power is shown by his father by threatening Dawson with his two cousins. This is the same as the previous case where the power relations that occur to Dawson are instrumental modes. Foucault explains that someone will use an instrument which in this case is in the form of violence, so that the object is intimidated by the more dominant party. Here his father and

his two brothers threatened Dawson that if he didn't give his money, his two brothers would beat him. Dawson was intimidated, and he finally obeyed his father and gave all the money to them.

Dissatisfied with the threats from his two cousins, his father once threatened him with the name Amanda. After his father learned about Dawson and Amanda's relationship, his father began to dare to use Amanda's name as a threat when his father came to ask Dawson for money weekly. Even though his father did not say it openly, Dawson knew the implied meaning of his father.

Data 8:

> *"When his father found out about Amanda, he would ask about her when he came by to collect Dawson's wages. Though there was nothing overtly menacing in his tone, simply hearing him say her name left Dawson feeling sick to his stomach."(p.19)*

The dialogue above proves that the tool of power used by his father is a threat in the form of someone very dear to Dawson, so Dawson will do what his father asks in return for Dawson's father not touching Amanda's life. Although only implied by his words, Dawson understood the meaning of his father's words, and his father would never play with what he said. After that, Dawson's dad would use Amanda to get Dawson to give her money every week.

B.   The Impact of Power Relations in *The Best of Me* by Nicholas Sparks

From the power relations that have been described above, there is an impact experienced by the characters. Most of the impacts carried out are resistance by victims of power relations. From both Dawson and Amanda, the impact that occurs from the power relations experienced by both is in the

Her mother never agreed on anything about Tuck and Dawson, even though she is married to Frank and has three children. Amanda always thought, what is wrong with visiting Tuck? After Tuck's death, Amanda wants to grant Tuck's last wish, a will he left with his lawyer for Amanda and Dawson to do for Tuck. However, her mother could not agree to it because she thought Amanda was weird. That is why Amanda constantly lies to her mother when she visits Tuck because her mother never agrees on anything about Tuck.

The impact from data : 1

> *"Mom..."*
>
> *"Don't," she said, raising a perfectly a manicured hand.*
>
> *"I know exactly why you came. I might be older, but that doesn't mean I'm senile. Why lese would you be here for the funural? It's obvious you came here to see him. And that's were you went all those times you told me that you were going shopping, am I correct? Or when you said you were visisting your friend at the beach? You've been lying to me all long."*
>
> *Amanda dropped her gaze and said nothing. There was really nothing she could say. In the silence, she heard a sigh. When her mom finally went on, her voice had lost its edge.(p.100)*

Amanda knew he was lying. However, that was all he could do at that time, he went against his mother's words, but his mother did not listen to him. Amanda once explained who Tuck was in her life, but her mother still never agreed. Ultimately, he chooses to keep visiting Tuck a secret so that his mother would stop bullying him. Amanda disapproved when her mother forbade her to visit Tuck. Instead, she fought back by visiting Tuck by lying that she was visiting her friend so her mother would not know she was visiting Tuck's workshop. Quarrels and debates are common when it comes to Tuck and Dawson. Amanda

did not know what to say to her mother anymore so that she could understand more about her feelings. However, her mother could not understand that.

Once after the birth of Jared's first son, his mother loudly told Amanda not to work anymore. Her mother believed that if she already had a child, a mother should only focus on her children and husband, so her mother told Amanda to stay at home so that she could take care of her family well. Her mother also thought that women should not work outside the home. Amanda flatly refused her mother's orders, and she thought that even though she already had children, she could still divide her time between her family and work, especially Amanda's work which did not take up much time in her daily life. For the reason that women should stay at home, Amanda strongly disagrees. Amanda thinks that whether women or men have the same right to continue pursuing their careers. There is also no rule in her city that requires women to work at home and husbands to work outside the home, so Amanda still wants to work even though she already has her first son Jared.

The impact from data 2:

> *"Stop working and start focusing on Jared." His mother said*
> *"What's wrong with working while taking care of the family? I can mother."*
> *"Remember, Amanda, a woman's job is to work at home and focus on the family."*
> *"That is an old thought, mother, and now many women work outside the home. I decided I would keep working after my maternity leave ended. And I think I can take care of my household while working, mom."*
> *"Amanda..."*
> *"Never mind, mother, I know what is best for my family and life."(p.257)*

After that heated conversation, Amanda still decided to keep working. She will feel bored if she stays at home every day. That is not Amanda's character. She bluntly rejected her mother's words that women should stay at home. Amanda's

resistance includes her resistance to telling her mother directly about her opinion. It is rational because what she said to her mother is, "a woman may work outside the home as long as she is able" as long as a woman can work without leaving her obligations as a wife and mother, Amanda thinks that is enough.

Amanda's parents forbade Amanda to meet her lover Dawson because they considered Dawson to be a bad influence on Amanda's character, so her parents began to take Amanda's driver's license hoping that Amanda could no longer meet and date Dawson. It did not just stop there. Even Amanda's parents also forbade Amanda from leaving the house on holidays so that Amanda did not date Dawson. Instead of being silent when Amanda was banned by her parents, she even rebelled. Because she still wants to be with the person she loves, her parents have no right to his life and who she will be with in the future. Because again, Amanda is the one who will live her life, not her parents. This is where she started to rebel openly by showing their affection in public, showing that they deserve to live together. This is a snippet of his dialogue on page 19:

The impact of data 4:

> *"The hostility surrounding them only drew Amanda and Dawson closer together, and when Dawson began to take her hand in public, Amanda held tight, daring anyone to tell her to let go"(p.19)*

The dialogue above proves that Amanda fought against the domination of her parents by openly staying with Dawson and even holding hands in public. This aims to eliminate her mother's power over her.

In addition, as seen from the previous quote, the quote above also shows Amanda's resistance to her mother even though she often gets punished for her

actions that are considered to be against her mother by deliberately holding Dawson's hand in public to provoke her mother's anger. According to Foucault's theory, Amanda's disobedience can be seen as a form of Amanda's resistance against her mother in line with Foucault's concept that "every power relationship implies, at least in potential, a strategy of struggle."

Amanda's family is increasingly looking for ways to get Amanda to leave Dawson. Finally, Amanda's mother threatened that if Amanda still met Dawson, she had to get out of the house and start paying for her own life, including Amanda's college fees. Amanda's mother thinks that if Amanda is still with Dawson, she is wasting money on Amanda's college, while Amanda is wasting her life by still choosing to be with Dawson. In this case, what happened between Amanda and her mother was the point type of objectives power relation, which according to Foucault, is a form of someone's attempt to maintain the power previously owned. Usually, the owner of the power will give punishment the object that violates it to keep his power over the object. Here it can be seen how her mother punishes Amanda for breaking the rules by still meeting Dawson, and this is what her mother does so that Amanda is obedient to her mother. And the impact that Amanda experienced after the power relation occurred was that Amanda fought back. Amanda's resistance in the dialogue above was by continuing to meet Dawson and even spending more time with Dawson.

The Impact of data 5 :

> *"Why should we waste money on college when you're throwing your life away?"*
> *When Amanda started to protest, her mother talked right over her.*

Amanda ran straight out of the house, her only thought to find Dawson.(p.21)

From this, it can be concluded that Amanda has fought back by protesting against her mother. However, her mother remained stubborn about what she thought was right, so Amanda chose to run away from her house to find Dawson.

Amanda has a frontal nature and will spontaneously fight if she feels oppressed or dominated by others. Dawson admits his always frontal and outspoken nature in his dialogue with Amanda.

The impact of power relations experienced by Dawson is that Dawson is more likely to practice self-restraint and learn to become stronger when beaten by his fath er and two cousins. Because he was tired of being a victim of his father's madness and his two cousins who kept beating him when they were upset.

The impact from data 6 :

> *"he did his best to hasten the process. He tied a sack filled with rags to atree and punched it for hours a day. He hefted rocks and engine parts as often as he could. He did pull-ups, push-ups, and sit-ups throughout the day. He put on ten pounds of muscle before turning thirteen, and another twenty by fourteen. He was growing taller as well. By fifteen, he was nearly as tall as his father. One night, a month after he turned sixteen, his father came at him with a belt after a night of drinking, and Dawson reared up and ripped it from his father's grasp. He told his father that if he ever touched him again, he'd kill him."(p.13)*

The dialogue above shows the impact of power relations in the form of resistance to the domination of the father and his two cousins. Dawson was as tough as his father, Dawson was also a bully, and his instincts were that bullies only retaliated when they knew they could win. He knew there would come a time when he would be strong enough to fight back when he would no longer be afraid

of his father. As the blows rained down on him, he tried to imagine the courage his mother had shown in breaking ties with the family.

Once, one day when his father and his two cousins returned for the umpteenth time to ask Dawson for money, Dawson began not to stand his father's domination. He finally got up the courage to fight his father and two cousins.

The impact from data 7 :

> *"When his father came to the garage to start collecting Dawson's money again, he brought Ted whit him. His father had a shotgun, ted had a baseball bat, but it was a mistake to have come without abee. When dawson told them to get off the property, ted moved quickly but not quick enough: four years of working in the sun-packed fields had hardened dawson, and he was ready for them. He broke ted's nose and jaw with a crowbar and disarmed his father before cracking the old man's ribs. While they were lying on the ground, dawson aimed the shotgun at them, warning them not to come back. Ted wailed that he was going to kill him; Dawson's father simply scowled "(p.45)*

From then on, Dawson slept with his rifle by his side and rarely left the premises. He knew his brother could look for him at any moment. However, fate said. Otherwise, his brother ted ended up in jail for stabbing a guy in a bar, and Dawson's father never returned for some reason. Dawson did not question it. Instead, he counted the days until he was finally able to leave the Oriental. When his parole ended, he wrapped the rifle in rags, put it in a box, and buried it in the tree corner of the tuck house. After that, he packed up his car, said goodbye to Tuck, drove onto the highway, and ended his trip to Charlotte. Just like the previous example, what Dawson did was a form of resistance, resistance to domination by his father and two cousins. He did this so that Dawson would no longer be dominated by his father and two cousins.

After receiving news that Tuck had died, Dawson had to return to Oriental for Tuck's funeral, as Tuck was the only family that Dawson had. As long as

Dawson's absence at the Oriental did not mean they would give up on Dawson, they both waited until the day Tuck died, and it was inevitable that Dawson would return to the Oriental. His two cousins still wanted to dominate Dawson and wanted revenge against Dawson. On the other hand, Dawson no longer wants to be dominated by his two cousins, and he will fight against them when they bother him again.

The impact from data 8:

> *"dawson swung the tire iron, feeling the vibration in his arm as it crushed Ted's nose. Even as ted straggered backward, blood spurting in a hot red gush, Dawson was already in pursuit. Ted hit the floor and Dawson brought the tire iron down hard on Ted's outstretched arm. Sending the gun skittering away. At the sound of his bones breaking, Ted finally began to scream.*
>
> *As ted writhed on the floor, dawon reached for the gun, leveling it at Ted.*
>
> *"I told you not to come back."*
>
> *Those the last words Ted heard before his eyes rolled up, the blinding pain causing him to pass out"(p.153)*

In the dialogue above, when one day Ted again wants to dominate Dawson, he goes to Tuck's house, where it is believed that Dawson must be there at that time. Sure enough, Dawson was there, but fate said otherwise. It was not Dawson whom Ted harmed, but Dawson managed to attack first. Dawson fights his cousin violently because Ted uses violence as a tool for his power. Since the events that happened to Dawson, he is no longer afraid of being dominated by his family again. He has been able to fight back by proving to make his brother Ted helpless when trying to attack him at the Tuck residence. From the dialogue above, we find that Dawson is fighting against the domination of his two cousins. The two cousins use instrumental modes in realizing their power relations in the form of violence, while the impact experienced from these power relations is in

the form of resistance. This Dawson did eliminate the dominance over him from his two cousins.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter expounds the conclusion of the findings and discussions elaborated in the previous sections, which are the answers to the problem formulations of this study. Furthermore, suggestions are provided for the readers and the upcoming researchers who are willing to investigate further studies on a similar framework.

A. CONCLUSION

The Best of Me novel by Nicholas Sparks contains power relations. The power relations in The Best of Me novel are carried out by the male main character, Dawson, and the female main character Amanda. Some of the power relations experienced by Dawson are with his father and two cousins, his father and two cousins used violence as a tool of their power, and they were reluctant to beat Dawson if he did not obey their orders. One day Dawson was hit when Dawson suddenly fought his father. He was beaten indiscriminately by his father, Abee, and Ted. His two cousins beat him often because they sometimes thought Dawson deserved it. It kept happening. Dawson continued to be dominated by his father and two cousins until finally, he tried to fight against his family's domination by practicing self-defense because he realized that was the only thing he could do. Finally, one day he managed to beat his father and his two cousins and eliminate the dominance of the two over him.

While the power relation that happened to Amanda was not much different from Dawson, Some of the power relations experienced by Amanda are with her mother, where her mother is more powerful than Amanda because her mother is Amanda's parent. Where in essence, ordinary children must always obey their parents' orders because they are more mature in terms of age, and they are the ones who take care of Amanda. Here her mother forbids Amanda to date Dawson, and her mother feels that Amanda is not mature enough to make choices in her life and is still unable to determine which is good and bad for her next life. Therefore her mother forbids Amanda from dating Dawson. Dawson comes from a family of Cole, considered a ruthless family in the Oriental where they live. Here her mother uses the parent position as a means of power so that Amanda obeys her orders. The impact of Amanda's power relations made her fight against her mother's power. She thought her mother had no right to interfere in her life, but she still regularly met with Dawson even though her mother was forbidden. This she did to eliminate her mother's power over her.

B.   SUGGESTION

The limitation of this research lies in the scope of the research, which focuses on the experiences of Amanda and Dawson, represented in the novel. This study does not pay attention to the external things surrounding this novel, such as the author's life and the novel's social background. Moreover, this research only focuses on two characters, Dawson and Amanda. The other characters in the novel are not examined. Further researchers can research the same aspect through

different objects, such as power relations carried out by other characters in the novel.

Finally, I fully realize that this study may not be perfect in its writings and elaborations. Therefore, critiques and suggestions are always welcome for the sake of better research.

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