

**PRENTISSTOWN'S INSTITUTION LIFE DESCRIBED  
IN PATRICK NESS'S NOVEL  
"THE KNIFE OF NEVER LETTING GO"**

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***Abstract:** This thesis entitled Prentisstown's institution life described in Patrick Ness's Novel "THE KNIFE OF NEVER LETTING Go". This study is aimed to observing Prentisstown's insitution life truogh the general description and conflict of Todd as the main character and also the setting, and the institution life of Prentisstown. The researcher used decriptive qualitative method during this research since the aim of this study is to observed Prentisstown's institution life. The main character in this novel experiences some conflicts such as; as he was worried, frustrated, confused, and anxious with himself, and against Ben, Aaron, Mayor Prentiss, Mr. Prentiss Jr, Viola, Matthew, Prentisstown men's noises, and his knife. The setting of time that related to conflict are in the morning and at the night. Then, the setting of place that related to conflicts are Prentisstown, Todd's house, Swamp, Spackle buildings, Bridge, Farbranch, Brockle Falls, Woods, Carbonel Down, Ledge, and Haven. The setting of social of Todd Hewitt was a low class. Finally, The institution life in Prentisstiown has social structures such as mayor, advisor, the right hand of mayor, horseback armies and prentisstown armies. Those people has a norms such as Restriction against the books and teaching, men should kill the women, the tradition of boy become a man, and the symbol of the last boy in Prentisstown.*

***Keywords:** Institution life, Norms, Social stuctures, Sociology*

Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. The definitions, therefore, usually include additional adjectives such as "aesthetic" or "artistic" to distinguish literary works from texts of everyday use such as telephone books, newspapers, legal documents, and scholarly writings. (Klarer, 1999:1).

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Based on Emile Durkheim theory (Durkheim, 1964) that Sociology is "Here, then, is a category of facts with very distinctive characteristics, it consists of ways acting, thinking, and feeling, external to the individual, and endowed with a power of coercion, by reason of which they control him ... These ways of thinking and acting ... constitute the proper domain of sociology.

As mentioned by Jonathan Turner, Institution life in human life is the most important part of how someone can interacted and make a good relation between each other. Institution life in society has a complex position that included in social structures that has roles, norms (The informal rules that govern behavior in groups and societies) and values to organise the stable patterns of human activity to produce life-sustaining resource and reproducing individuals in the society. Then, human in that included to social structures should follows those things to be a good individuals and also can give benefits to others like what the social environment wants.

"Institution life is a complex of positions, roles, norms and values lodged in particular types of social structures and organising relatively stable patterns of human activity with respect to fundamental problems in producing life-sustaining resources, in reproducing individuals, and in sustaining viable societal structures within a given environment." Or the more enduring features of social life." (Turner 1997: 6).

Patrick Ness's Novel *The Knife of Never Letting Go*, published by Walker Books on 5 May 2008. This novel is a part of "Chaos Walking" series, a young adult science fiction series. This series consist of trilogy and three short stories. The next books are *The Ask* and *The Answer* and *Monster of Men*. According to Wikipedia, this book got 3 awards in 2008, that is Booktrust Teenage Prize, Guardian Award, and James Tiptree, Jr. Award.

The story tell about a 12 years old boy called Todd Hewitt, who lives in Prentisstown, a small settlement on the "New World" or an alien planet only recently colonized by human. Only a men live in that settlement, and everyone can hear anyone else's thought called Noise germ. In Prentisstown all boys become a "men

“ when they 13 years old, and Todd is going to become a men in 30 days left. However, Ben and Chillian as Todd’s adoptive parents forced Todd to run away from Prentisstown without any a clear reason. Todd escape from Prentistown with his dog Manchee and a girl from another planet who has a silence named Viola. He met with her in the swamp when he ran away from Prentisstown armies. They move to some saved places that called Haven or the biggest settlement in the “New World” but they were refused by the communities, because they know that Todd was came from Prentisstown or a place that has a dark history in the past. Then, Tood realized the truth about the history of Prentisstown, in the past time when Prentisstown men war with spackles, killed the women, and also there is a tradition that the boys become a man should kill person in their thirteen birthday.

This paper discusses about institution life in the Prentisstown city that has some norms for his people such as a boy must be killing someone else in their thirteenth birthday to be a man and to be a Prentisstown armies. This tradition can make someone become a monster and full of hates in theirselves. Someone who is being killed in the thirteen birthday of Prentisstown boys came from a men that run away from those city.

Patrick Ness’s Novel “The Knife of Never Letting Go” gives the readers an example relates to the object of the study about institution life in the real life. In real life there is white supremacist and Neo-Nazi prison gang from United States called Aryan Brotherhood. This gang has 15.000 until 20.000 members in and out of the prison and also has a rules to forces their new members to kill someone else when they want to join in their gang, but if there is someone else wants to quit from their gang, he will be killed by other members.

According to the explanation above, this paper discuss about the sociology of Prentisstown which force Todd Hewitt as the Main Character to join in the army of Prentisstown’s people. That’s why, the writer chooses “Prentisstown institution life described in Patrick Ness’s Novel The Knife of Never Letting Go” as the title of the paper.

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## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Character**

Characterization are elements which is building the character to show how the form of the characters. Characterization is divided into dynamic or static and round or flat. A dynamic character is one of character who changes his traits during the story, play or film. A static character is a character that does not change his traits during the story, play or film. A flat character is a character that only has one specific trait in the story, play, or film. A round is a character that has more than one of trait during the story, play, or film (Klarer 1999:19).

### **Setting**

Setting is the other most important aspect in literary works that it is traditionally included in analysis of film or prose fiction. The term of setting can be denoted to place, historical period, social situations and surroundings in which of the scene develops.

According to Klarer (1999:25), The term "setting" denotes the location, historical period, and social surroundings in which the action of the text develops.

Setting is the time and place (or when and where) of the story. It is a literary element of literature used in novels, short stories, plays, films, etc., and usually introduced during the exposition (beginning) of the story, along with the characters. The setting may also include the environment of the story, which can be made up of the physical location, climate, weather, or social and cultural surroundings. (<https://literaryterms.net>)

### **Conflict**

According to Perrine Conflict divided into two categories, internal conflict which is experienced by the main character against itself and external which is

experienced by the main character against another character or nature around the character. “conflict may exist between the main character and some destructive elements in his own nature, or man against himself” (Perrine, 1988: 1408).

### **Sociology in Literature**

Sociology is the scientific study of society, including patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and culture. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about social order.

The sociology of literature is a specialized area of study which focuses its attention upon the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created. It reveals that the existence of a literary creation has the determined social situations. As there is a reciprocal relationship between a literary phenomena and social structure, sociological study of literature proves very useful to understand the socioeconomic situations, political issues, the world view and creativity of the writers, the system of the social and political organizations, the relations between certain thoughts and cultural configurations in which they occur and determinants of a literary work.

Based on Emile Durkheim theory that Sociology is “Here, then, is a category of facts with very distinctive characteristics: it consists of ways acting, thinking, and feeling, external to the individual, and endowed with a power of coercion, by reason of which they control him ... These ways of thinking and acting ... constitute the proper domain of sociology” (Durkheim, 1964:3-4).

### **Institutions Life**

Institution life is a complex of positions, roles, norms and values lodged in particular types of social structures and organising relatively stable patterns of human activity with respect to fundamental problems in producing life-sustaining resources, in reproducing individuals, and in sustaining viable societal structures within a given

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environment." Or the more enduring features of social life." (Turner, 1997). Using this approach, the researcher analyses the main topic on the condition of the institution life in the story of the novel by described the positions, roles, traditions, and norms.

## **METHODS**

### **Data and Unit of Analysis**

The data of this study is Patrick Ness's Novel "*The Knife of Never Letting Go*"., the unit of analysis is divided into two types, intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic element is used to analyze main character's traits, conflicts, and settings. The extrinsic elements includes sociology aspect, like Prentisstown institution life

### **Technique of Data Collection**

The technique of data collection is divided in three stages, as follows :

- 1) Reading the novel to clearly understand the main issue of the story.
- 2) Shorting the data dealing with general descriptions, settings, conflicts, and the institution lifes of the object
- 3) Classifying the data based on the structural elements and the topic.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Todd's Traits as the Main Character**

#### **a. Stubborn**

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, *stubborn* means *refusing to change your ideas to stop doing something : difficult to deal with, remove, etc.* Todd does not know that Ben and Chillian wants to save him from Mayor Prentiss and Prentisstown institution life, but they can not tell him the truth because of all people can hear anyone thought. When Mr Prentiss Jr come to meet him and asked him to meet with Mayor Prentiss. Then, Ben and Cillian forced Todd to run away from Prentisstown, but he would not do that without any reason. It indicates that he is

stubborn when he refusing to run away from his Prentisstown and going to somewhere safe. The following excerpt bellow shows Todd is Stubborn.

Excerpt no 1

“Well, since I don’t know nothing, that ain’t hard,” I say. “I ain’t going nowhere till someone tells me what’s going on!”. “Todd–” Ben starts. “They’ll be coming back, Todd.”. Cillian says. “Davy Prentiss will come back and he won’t be alone and we won’t be able to protect you from all of them at once.”. “But–”. “No arguing!” Cillian says.” (Ness, 2008:46)

**b. Confused**

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, *confused* means *unable to understand or think clearly : difficult to understand : not clearly organized, expressed, etc.* This character shown up when Mr Prentiss Jr as the “Right Hand” of Prentisstown was fought with Chillian in Todd’s house. He forced Todd to came out and met his father or Mayor Prentiss. While Chillian hold Mr Prentiss Jr in his house using his riffle, he asked him and Ben to ran away from Prentisstown. Todd was confused when Ben asked him to leave Prentisstown to the river lonely, because he did not know what should he do without them. It indicates that Todd was confused when he leave Prentisstown without Ben and Chillian, he does not know what should he do at the river. The following excerpt bellow will shows Todd was Confused.

Excerpt no 2

“I’ll get you to the river,” Ben says as we hurry across our fields for the second time this morning. “You can follow it down to where it meets the swamp.” “There ain’t no path that way, Ben,” I say, “and there’s crocs everywhere. You trying to get me killed?” (Ness, 2008:48)

**c. Doubt**

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, **doubt** means to be uncertain about something : to believe that something may not be true or is unlikely : to have no confidence in someone or something. This character shown up when Aaron as an “Advisor” of Prentisstown chased and provoked Todd to killed him because Aaron want to enforced the norms of Prentisstown. Todd met Aaron in the swamp when he run away from Prentisstown. Aaron tried to bring him back to Prentisstown, he fight with him and punch him when he realized that in his noise thinking about the knife.

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It indicates Todd was doubtful when he has a knife and had a chance to stab Aaron with his knife, but he did not do that. The following excerpt shows that Todd was doubtful.

Excerpt no 3

"I never let go of the knife. A whole buncha things happen at once. Aaron hears knife in my Noise and realizes his mistake. He pulls back his free fist to make another punch. I pull back my knife hand and I wonder if I can actually stab him." (Ness, 2008:62)

#### **d. Care**

According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, *care* means things that are done to keep someone healthy, safe, etc. The following excerpt below shows Todd belongs to care. Mr Prentiss Jr wants Todd to meet with Mayor Prentiss and accomplish his mission from his father. When Todd was forced by Ben and Chillian to leave from Prentisstown lonely and Chillian faced Mr Prentiss Jr in their house. In that condition Ben tried to back in his house to help Chillian. Todd was care about his stepparents Ben and Chillian, because he promised to himself to back and help them to find some place safe. The following excerpt shows that Todd was care.

Excerpt no 4

"I'll come back. That's what I'll do. I'll come back. They said I'd know what to do and now I do know. I'll go to the swamp and kill the Spackle if I can and then I'll come back and help Chillian and Ben and then we can all get away to this somewhere else Ben was talking about." (Ness, 2008:57)

#### **e. Frustrated**

According to Oxford dictionary, *frustrated* means make somebody feel annoyed because they cannot achieve what they want, prevent for somebody doing something. This character shown up when Mayor Prentiss as the "Mayor" of Prentisstown asked his army to chase Todd because he wants to avoid about the norms of Prentisstown of "The tradition boys becoming a man". Todd was frustrated when Mayor Prentiss lead the Prentisstown army tried to catch him and Viola in the bridge. He can not think clearly and he felt frustrated because he can not cut the rope with his knife. This situation makes Todd was frustrated because Mayor Prentiss and Prentisstown army come closer to the bridge and catch him easily. Todd blamed it to



Viola, because she did not talk anything and it is indicates that Todd was frustrated. The following except bellow shows Todd is frustated.

Excerpt no 5

“You’re NOTHING!” I scream, stepping forward some more.  
“NOTHING! You’re nothing but EMPTINESS! There’s nothing in you!”  
(Ness, 2008:123)

**f. Grumpy**

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, **grumpy** means *easily annoyed or anggered ; having a bad temper or complaining often*. This condition happened in some conditions. The condition bellow shows when Aaron as the “Advisor” of Prentisstown punched Todd in the swamp, and asked him to back in his settlement to do his work. In the beginning of the story when Todd talked to Ben about his bruise. Ben tried to asked Todd why he met Aaron in the swamp, but suddenly Todd was mad with Ben because he does not know that he can met with Aaron in the swamp. Todd also does not know why Aaron Punched him, that’s made his feeling bad. He can mad easily when Ben talked to him. That indicated Todd was grumpy about something that can makes him mad. The following excerpt shows that Todd was grumpy.

Excerpt no 6

“Oh, like I went running to the swamp hoping to run into him?”. “He ain’t right.”. “Well, holy crap, thanks for that bit of info, Ben,” I say and then catch a bit of his Noise that says **One month** and it’s a new thing, a whole new bit of something that he quickly covers up with other Noise. (Ness, 2008:37)

**g. Worried**

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, **worried** means to think about problems or fears, feel or showing fear and concern because you think that something bad has happened or could happen. This condition happened when Mr Prentiss Jr or the “Right Hand” of Prentisstown chased Todd lonely, he want brought Todd to his father or Mayor Prentiss. Todd worried when he and Viola arrived in Brockley falls then there was someone who rode the horse and approaching them. He can not hear the thought because of the rain, and he hope that is not someone from Prentisstown’s

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armies or Mr Prentiss Jr. It indicates that Todd was worried when he met someone who was approaching him. The following excerpt below shows Todd was worried.

Excerpt no 7

"Thump budda-thump budda-thump we hear. Thru the trees we can see the dot of him approaching. He's coming full out down the road, even tho it's raining and night's falling. No one'd ride like that with good news, would they?." (Ness, 2008:251)

#### **h. Anxious**

According to Merriam-webster dictionary, *anxious* means *afraid or nervous especially about what may happen; feeling anxiety*. Todd and Viola can escape from Mayor Prentiss, Aaron and Prentisstown army in the bridge. After that they met with Hildy or a woman who has built the bridge and she asked them to her house. Todd refused it, because he knew that Hildy still clear and she does not have suffered from noise germ yet. He thought that he can spread his noise germ when he is near from them. It indicates that Todd was anxious about his noise germ can spread to Viola and Hildy. The following excerpt shows that Todd was anxious.

Excerpt no 8

"I can't go, Viola," I say, low, thru clenched teeth, hating myself a little as I say it, my face turning hot, which weirdly makes a bandage fall off. "I carry the germ. I'm dangerous." (Ness, 2008:148)

#### **i. Brave**

According to Merriam-webster dictionary, *brave* means *feeling no fear or showing no fear*. This character happened when Aaron as the "Advisor" of Prentisstown still chased Todd and Viola until to the ledge. Then, he made them can not run anymore. Aaron still provoked Todd to kill him and told him the truth about when Todd killed him, then the army was perfect and they can be reborn without get a cursed noise germ. Haven is the place that Todd and Viola want to come because the rumour said that those settlements have medicines to cure the noise germ, and also they want to find a help from Prentisstown armies. Those settlement is the biggest settlement in the "New World" that means they have a lot of people who lived there and a lot of guns that can be used to protect them from Prentisstown Armies. Nevertheless, after moving from one settlement to another settlement and finally they

almost arrived to Haven. They moved near the waterfall, but Todd saw Aaron from his telescope. Todd and Viola tried to hide as soon as possible in the ledge underneath the waterfall, but Todd noise made Aaron found him quickly. Todd do not have any choices and he decided to face Aaron in the ledge. His action indicates that he was brave to face Aaron in the ledge. The following excerpt below shows Todd was brave.

Excerpt no 9

“I’m gonna greet him like a man,” I say And even tho it’s too loud for her to hear my Noise, even tho she can’t read my thoughts, she looks back at me. And I see her understand.....And I shout, as loud as I can–. “AARON!!!!!!”. And I open my eyes and I wait for him to come.” (Ness, 2008:444-445)

## **2. Conflicts Experienced by Todd as the main character**

### **a. Internal Conflict**

#### ***Todd was worried***

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, **worry** means to think about problems or fears, feel or showing fear and concern because you think that something bad has happened or could happen. Todd is the last boy in Prentisstown, and he becoming a man in one month left. In the beginning of the story, Todd and his dog tried to find an apples near the swamp, but he met with Aaron or Prentisstown’s preacher. Suddenly, he was punched by him. After that, he back to his house and he met with Ben. Ben tried to asked Todd about her bruised in his face, but Todd was mad. In that situation Todd cacthed a new thing from Ben noise that is “One Month”, and Ben tried to cover it quickly. It made Todd worried what will happend in one month or in his thirteen birthday like what Ben said in his noise. The following excerpt shows that there is secret in his thirteen birthday.

Excerpt no 10

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"Oh, like I went running to the swamp hoping to run into him?". "He ain't right.". "Well, holy crap, thanks for that bit of info, Ben," I say and then catch a bit of his Noise that says **One month** and it's a new thing, a whole new bit of something that he quickly covers up with other Noise. (Ness, 2008:37)

***Todd was frustrated***

According to Oxford dictionary, *frustrated* means *make somebody feel annoyed because they cannot achieve what they want, prevent for somebody doing something*. Todd leave Prentisstown without know what should he do. He thought that was not fair for him to run away without any reason and information. When he met the girl for the first time that made him fell so sad, sad that made him fell an empstiness. That was made him can not think straight and made him frustrated. The following excerpt shows that Todd was frustrated when he met with a girl in the swamp.

Excerpt no 11

"What do I do? It ain't fair. Ben told me I'd get to the swamp and I'd know what to do but I don't know what to do. They didn't say nothing about a girl, they didn't say nothing about why the quiet makes me ache so much I can barely stop from ruddy weeping, like I'm missing something so bad I can't even think straight, like the emptiness ain't in her, it's in me and there ain't nothing that's ever gonna fix it." (Ness, 2008:70-71)

***Todd was confused***

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, *confused* means *unable to understand or think clearly : difficult to understand : not clearly organized, expressed, etc*. Todd was confused when he trough the swamp and he met with a girl for the first time. He thought that should not in that condition or run away from his hometown or Prentisstown without any reason. The following excerpt shows that Todd was confused on the swamp.

Excerpt no 12

"It's starting to get dark now, the sun really setting, the already dark swamp getting even darker, and I still don't have no answer. Time keeps passing

and I ain't sposed to wait here and I ain't sposed to go back and there ain't sposed to be a girl." (Ness, 2008:73)

### ***Todd was anxious***

According to Merriam-webstern dictionary, ***anxious*** means *afraid or nervous especially about what may happen; feeling anxiety*. After Viola saved Todd from his fight with Mr Prentiss Jr, Todd and Viola moving trough the woods, but they met with Spackle or an allien from "New World". Suddenly, Todd was mad because he can not killed Mr Prentiss Jr with his knife, he blame that feeling to Spackle, and he killed it. After that his body was shaking, he can not stand up by himself and he feel afraid. He feel anxious about what he did before, that is the first time he used his knife to killed a creature. The following exceptr shows that Todd was anxious in the woods.

#### Excerpt no 13

"I start to shake. I start to shake so bad I can't stand up. I find I'm saying "No" over and over again and the fear in his Noise keeps echoing around mine and there's nowhere to run from it, it's just there and there and there and I'm shaking so bad I can't even stay on my hands and knees and I fall into the mud and I can still see the blood everywhere and the rain's not washing it off." (Ness, 2008:277)

### **b. External Conflict**

#### ***Todd against Ben***

Ben and Chillian are the stepparents of Todd, they take care of him sinced his mother died. They teach him how to be a farmer until he become a man. Nevertheless, Ben and Chillian forced Todd to leave Prentisstown without any reason when the Mr Prentiss Jr. Come to their house. They asked Todd to leave from Prentisstown because they love him and they want to save him, but Todd still won't to leave Prentisstown without them. The following exceptr shows that Ben and Chillian asked Todd to leave Prentisstown.

#### Excerpt no 14

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"Cillian looks at Ben. "We're gonna have to do it now.". "I know," Ben says. "What's going on?" I say again, all loud like. "Do what now?" I twist away from Ben and stand looking at them both." (Ness, 2008:40)

### *Todd against Aaron*

Aaron is a preacher in Prentisstown, he always in Mayor Prentiss side. He is the one who spread the bad preaching about women is an evil because men can not know their thought and should be killed because they are hiding. In the beginning of the story, Todd was moved in the swamp. He found someone that made him feel sad, feel empty and that was a girl. Unfortunately his noise can hear by Aaron who want to catch him. Todd faced him in the swamp, he fought with him and he can won in that fight and can stabbed Aaron easily using his knife. In that situation Aaron provoked Todd to kill him using his knife, but Todd can not do that because he never using a knife and he was not mature yet. The following excerpt shows that Aaron Provoked Todd to kill him.

Excerpt no 15

"The Mayor will be disappointed to hear about your untimely departure from the earthly plain, boy," Aaron says, taking another step. I take another step, too, the knife in the air like it's of no use at all. "But God has no use for a coward,". Aaron says, "does he, boy?." (Ness, 2008:82)

### *Todd against Mayor Prentiss*

Mayor Prentiss is a mayor in Prentisstown and he is a leader of Prentisstown Armies. He is the man who change the whole institutions life in that place. Todd was chased by Mayor Prentiss when he run away with Viola. Mayor Prentiss, Aaron, and Prentisstown army chased them until the bridge, but they can escape from Mayor Prentiss with burning the bridge. The following excerpt shows that Todd and Viola can escaped from Mayor Prentiss, but Mayor Prentiss promised that he can catch them. The following excerpt shows that Todd was chased by Mayor Prentiss.

Excerpt no 16

"TODD HEWITT!" I hear from across the canyon. I look up. It's the Mayor, shouting his first words ever to me in person, thru sheets of smoke and

heat that make him look all wavy. “We’re not finished, young Todd,” he calls, over the crackle of the burning bridge and the roar of the water below. “Not by a long way.” (Ness, 2008:126)

### ***Todd against Viola***

Viola is a girl from another planet that still monitoring Todd’s planet to stayed for her people. She monitor the planet with her mother and her father but they were crashed and her parents died. Todd was met with Viola when he moved in the swamp with his dog, Manchee. He has a noise germ that can hear anyone thought, but when he move to the swamp he fell something different, he fell sadness, and darkness in hisself. Then, he saw a girl inside of the spackle buildings. It is weird for him because she is not talk any words with him, but she has a sadness, and dark that made him almost cry. This following excerpt shows that Todd has a conflicts with Viola.

Excerpt no 17

“I swallow, trying to get rid of the pressure in my throat, the unbelievable sadness that comes and comes as I look at it looking back at me. Knowledge is dangerous and men lie and the world keeps changing, whether I want it to or not. Cuz it ain’t a Spackle. “It’s a girl,” I say. It’s a girl.” (Ness, 2008: 64)

### ***Todd against Mr Prentiss Jr***

Mr Prentiss Jr is a son of Mayor Prentiss, he is 2 years older than Todd. Mayor Prentiss always asked his son to chased Todd in the front position, he always rides horse like his father. Todd was chased by the whole Prentisstown people, but he should face Mr Prentiss Jr in the Brockley falls because when he run away from Prentisstown armies he always follows the road. It is made Mr Prentiss Jr easier to track Todd because he can move faster using his horse and can find him as soon as possible. When Todd and Viola arrived at Brockley Falls they met with Mr Prentiss Jr, Todd and Mr Prentiss Jr was fight. Mr Prentiss Jr won in that fight but Viola help Todd using an electricity to make Mr Prentiss Jr fainted. The following exceptrt shows that Mr Prentiss Jr met Todd and Viola at Brockley Falls.

Excerpt no 18

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"Oh, shit," I hear Viola say and I know what she means. "Well, HOOO-EEE!" Mr Prentiss Jr yells and we're close enough to see the smile on his face and hear amazement in his voice. "Yer taking the ROAD?!. You ain't even going OFF TRAIL?!" (Ness, 2008:283)

***Todd against Matthew***

Matthew is a man who lived in Farbranch, his mother is Mayor Elizabeth or the ex-Mayor of Prentisstown and was killed by Prentisstown men in the past time. In the past time, He live in New Elizabeth or Prentisstown before Mayor Prentiss and Aaron take over the settlement and killed women. When Hildy asked Todd in Farbranch, they met with Matthew in the farm. Suddenly, Matthew knew that Hildy with Prentisstown man, he also bring a huge machete in his hand. In that condition Matthew was mad, and he said that Prentisstown man was not welcome in Farbranch while he looking straight to Todd. He intimidate Todd to leave Farbranch, but Hildy explained to him that Todd still innocent and different from Prentisstown men. However, Matthew still forced Todd to leave Farbranch because he does not like Prentisstown man lived in that settlement. The following excerpt shows that Matthew doesn't like Todd, because he knew that Todd was came from Prentisstown.

Excerpt no 19

"Prentisstown?" he says, his Noise getting uncomfortably red, uncomfortably fast. "Morning, Matthew," Hildy says, "I was just a-bringing—". "Prentisstown," the man says again, no longer an asking, and he's not looking at Hildy. He's looking straight at me. "Yer not welcome here," he says. "Not welcome at all." And he's got the biggest machete in his hand you ever seen." (Ness, 2008:172)

***Todd against Prentisstown Men's Noise***

Noise germ was exist in the "New World" before human come to colonized that planet. This germ made someone and animals can hear anyone else's thought except the women. Human does not know about the noise germ, it also happened to Prentisstown men. The conflict between Todd and Prentisstown men's Noise, Todd was annoying with that. Todd think that Prentisstown men's noise was annoying, and



full of lies. The lies can covered the truth that hidden by men. The following except shows that Todd was annoying with Prentisstown men's noise.

Excerpt no 20

“Men's minds are messy places and Noise is like the active, breathing face of that mess. It's what's true and what's believed and what's imagined and what's fantasized and it says one thing and a completely opposite thing at the same time and even tho the truth is definitely in there, how can you tell what's true and what's not when yer getting everything?. The Noise is a man unfiltered, and without a filter, a man is just chaos walking.” (Ness, 2008:42)

### ***Todd against his knife***

Todd has a hunting knife that given by Ben and Chillian when he was forced by them to leave Prentisstown. Todd really want it when as a gift for his twelfth birthday, but he got it when he was forced to leave Prentisstown by Ben and Chillian. He is really happy. Todd always bring it when he runs away from Prentisstown. The conflict happened when he was met with Aaron in the swamp, he was provoked and fight with Aaron. In that fight he actually can win in that fight using his knife, he can stab Aaron and escaped from him. In that condition he can not used his knife because he never use the knife and also he is too young to get a hunting knife. The folowing excerpt shows that Todd was conflict with his knife.

Excerpt no 21

“Aaron turns, not even fast like, just turns like someone's called his name. He sees me standing there, knife in the air, not moving like the goddam coward idiot I am, and he smiles and boy I just can't say how awful a smile looks on that tornup face.” (Ness, 2008:81)

## **3. Settings in Patrick Ness's Novel *The Knife of Never Letting Go***

### **a. Setting of Place**

#### ***Prentisstown***

Prentisstown is the place where Todd growed, the place that lived 146 men and 1 boy. The place that full of the noise from Prentisstown men. The first story

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begin when Todd moving through to his town. In the following excerpt shows that the details of Prentisstown.

Excerpt no 22

"So you've gone thru the town with yer dog and you got all this Noise behind you, Mr Phelps and Mr Hammar and Dr Baldwin and Mr Fox and the extra extra Noise from the pub and Mr Prentiss Jr's Noise and Mr Turner's moaning Noise and yer still not done with the Noise of the town cuz here comes the Church." (Ness, 2008:26)

***Todd 's house***

House is the place that the conflicts happen between Todd and his stepparents, Ben and Chillian. His stepparents know that Mr Prentiss Jr come to their house is an indication that what they predicted was happen. Then, they asked Todd to leave Prentisstown without telling the main reason. The following excerpt shows that Mr.Prentiss Jr. Come to the Todd's house and Todd's stepparents asked him to leave Prentisstown.

Excerpt no 23

"But there's no one there. The house, our house, is just as it was, quiet and farm-like. Cillian busts in the back door, goes into the prayer room which we never use, and starts pulling boards up from the floor. Ben goes to the pantry and starts throwing dried foods and fruit into a cloth sack, then he goes to the toilet and takes out a small medipak and throws that in, too." (Ness, 2008:41)

***Swamp***

Swamp is the place that always commond in this novel, But this place where Todd met with Aaron and fight with him. This place also he fell sadness and made him wonder what happen to him about his feeling. The following excerpt shows that Swamp is the place where he met with Aaron.

Excerpt no 24

"Just what in the name of God's bounteous, glorified Eden are you doing down here in the swamp, Todd Hewitt?" (Ness, 2008:60)

### ***Spackle Buildings***

Spackle Buildings was located in the swamp, this is an old building that in the past there are a lot of spackle or a creatures like human live in that buildings. When Todd and his dog through the swamp, his noise fell some weird feeling that made him almost crying. He fell sadness, dark, and empty. It made Todd and his dog interested to find out, and then he met with a girl named Viola that do not talk with him for that time. It is the first experienced for Todd met with a girl because in Prentisstown all of the people is a men. The following excerpt shows that Todd met with a girl from the first time.

Excerpt no 25

“We get out of the marshes and run along the bottom of the fields to the start of the swamp path and we run into the swamp along it and when we get to the log that Manchee always needs help over he just sails right over it without even stopping and I’m right behind him and we’re running our way to the Spackle buildings just like we were this morning.” (Ness, 2008:62)

### ***Bridge***

The bridge is the place when Todd and Viola run away from Mayor Prentiss and Prentisstown armies after they where chased in Farbranch. They runs away and follow the path trough the bridge. In that place Todd was frustrated because Mayor Prentiss and his armies get closer, and he had one idea to destroyed the bridge using his knife, but he can not cut the rope with his knife. The rope was covered by oil. Fortunately, Viola has a great idea, she using her campfire box and spilled out the oil from it to burned the bridge. Her idea was succesful, the fire spread and burned the entire bridge. Some of Prentisstown armies who rode the horse in the bridge was fell in the river. The Following excerpt show that Todd tried to cut the rope using his knife.

Excerpt no 26

“I look over where this end of the bridge is tied to the stakes in the rock. The knife has a fearsome serrated edge on part of the blade, so I choose the likeliest looking knot and start sawing on it” (Ness, 2008:121)

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### ***Farbranch***

Farbranch is the place where Todd and Viola stayed for runs away from Mayor Prentiss and his armies. It was located near the bridge, Todd and Viola come to find a new life, they got some work and foods in that settlement. Nevertheless, after somedays the stayed in Farbranch the Mayor Prentiss comes with their armies, they attacked the wole town and killed all Farbranch's people. Before Mayor Prentiss and his armies attacked the settlement, Todd and Viola can escaped from them. The following exceptrt shows that Todd saw the Prentisstown armies that include all of Prentisstown men attacked Farbranch.

Excerpt no 27

"There's so many askings that come with us as we run outta Farbranch, askings that we'll never know the answers to: Why would the Mayor and a few men go miles outta their way to attack a whole ruddy town on their own? Why are they still after us? Why are we so important? And what happened to Hildy?." (Ness, 2008:209)

### ***Brockley Falls***

Brockley Falls is a place when Todd and Viola visited. They was hitchhiked by Wilf using his cart. After that, they met with Mr Prentiss Jr. In that place Todd was fight with Mr Prentiss Jr, Mr Prentiss Jr want to catch Todd and bring him to his father and make his father proud of him. When Mr Prentiss Jr was fight with Todd, he won the battle but Viola help Todd using electricity to beat Mr Prentiss Jr. The following excerpt shows that the place in Brockley Falls.

Excerpt no 28

"When the sun is low in the sky, the cart finally creaks to a halt. "Brockley Falls," Wilf says, nodding his head to where we can see in the distance the river tumbling off a low cliff." When the sun is low in the sky, the cart finally creaks to a halt. "Brockley Falls," Wilf says, nodding his head to where we can see in the distance the river tumbling off a low cliff. There's fifteen or twenty buildings gathered round the pond at the bottom of the falls before the river starts up again. A smaller road turns off from this one and leads down to it." (Ness, 2008:247)

### ***Woods***

Woods is the place when Todd and Viola met with spackle and Todd killed it. Then, Todd was anxious because that is the first time he use his knife to killed someone or a creature. When he fell anxious, suddenly Aaron came out and want to kidnapped Viola. Todd tried to help her but Aaron was stronger and stabbed him on his back. This Following excerpt shows that Aaron come out from the woods.

Excerpt no 29

“And she turns in time to see Aaron coming outta the woods behind her. And he’s grabbing her by the neck with one hand and smashing a cloth over her nose and mouth with the other and as I call out and take a step forward I hear her scream from beneath it.” (Ness, 2008:279)

### ***Carbonel Down***

Carbonel Down is a place when Viola brought Todd after he save her from Aaron. They floated down to the river using boat and Viola met with Doctor Snow, he was treated Todd when he fainted in 5 days. In Carbonel Down the plays the music so loud to made a men have a privacy or to reduce the noise from a men, and the women was spread in another buildings. The following excerpt shows that the place in Carbonel Down.

Excerpt no 30

“Who’s Doctor Snow?” I ask, looking round the little room. “Where are we? Are we in Haven? And what’s that music?” “We’re in a settlement called Carbonel Downs,” she says. “We floated down the river and–” (Ness, 2008:354)

### ***Ledge***

Ledge is the place when Todd and Viola move to Haven and almost arrived. When they almost arrive to Haven, they met with Aaron. Then Aaron realised that Todd and Viola near of him. Aaron cashed them using a riffle, he have shot Viola but he missed it. Todd and Viola hide inside of the ledge underneath waterfall, in that ledge Todd tried to be brave and faced Aaron. Todd was provoked by Aaron to killed

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him, and Asron also reveal the reason why the whole Prentisstown's people or Prentisstown armies try to catch Todd. Finally after long arguments and they was fight too, Aaron was killed by Viola. The following excerpt shows that the place in Ledge.

Excerpt no 31

"The ledge is more than just a little ledge. It carries on till it's back, way back under the waterfall. We're standing at the beginning of a tunnel with one wall made of rock and another made of pure falling water, roaring past white and clean and so fast it looks almost solid." (Ness, 2008:437)

### ***Haven***

Haven is the biggest settlement on the planet that has a rumours that has a medicine to cure the noise germ. It is made Todd want to runs away from Prentisstown to Haven, he think that Haven's people can protect him and Viola from Prentisstown armies, but in fact when they arrived to Haven, that place was conquered by Mayor Prentiss and Prentisstown armies. Then, Mayor Prentiss declared himself as a president of the whole planet. The following excerpt shows that the place in Haven.

Excerpt no 32

"And Haven is empty. I reach the middle of the square. I don't see nor hear a soul. I spin around again. "HELP!" I cry" (Ness, 2008:476)

### **b. Setting of Time**

#### ***Morning***

Morning is common time and in this situation tell about the time when Mr.Prentiss Jr. Come to Todd's house, and made Ben and Chillian forced Todd to leave Prentisstown lonely. The following excerpt show that the time when Ben asked Todd to leave Prentisstown.

Excerpt no 57

"I'll get you to the river," Ben says as we hurry across our fields for the second time this morning. "You can follow it down to where it meets the

swamp.” “There ain’t no path that way, Ben,” I say, “and there’s cross everywhere. You trying to get me killed?” (Ness, 2008:48)

### *Night*

Night is common time and in this situation tell about the time when Todd frustated in the swamp, he do not know what should he do in the swamp. and the following excerpt show that Todd was frutated in the swamp at the night.

Excerpt no 33

“It’s starting to get dark now, the sun really setting, the already dark swamp getting even darker, and I still don’t have no answer. Time keeps passing and I ain’t sposed to wait here and I ain’t sposed to go back and there ain’t sposed to be a girl.” (Ness, 2008:73)

### **c. Setting of Social**

#### *Low Class*

Todd belongs to low class. His father and his mother is a farmer and also his adoptive parents Ben and Chillian is the farmer too. His parents was died when he still baby and the chaos happened in Prentisstown. His stepparent Ben and Chillian are the best friend of his mother, the took care of Todd until his almost be a man. He does not have any position in Prentisstown because he still a boy, started from young he was taught about how to survived and handle every activity in his farm. Everyday he feeds, shears, and breed his sheeps because he is one of three provider meats and wool in that settlements. The following excerpt show that Todd is a farmer.

Excerpt no 34

“Feeding and watering and shearing and lambing and even castrating and even butchering, I do all these things.” (Ness, 2008:32)

### **4. Prentisstown Institution Life in Patrick Ness’s Novel The Knife of Never Letting Go**

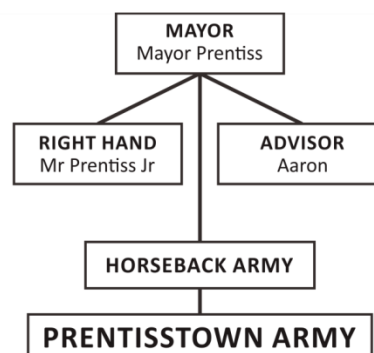
Institution life is a complex of positions, roles, norms and values lodged in particular types of social structures and organising relatively stable patterns of human activity with respect to fundamental problems in producing life-sustaining resources,

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in reproducing individuals, and in sustaining viable societal structures within a given environment." Or the more enduring features of social life." (Turner, 1997).

#### a. Positions and roles of social structure in Prentisstown institution life

In Prentisstown there are some important positions that included in their social structure. The first one is Mayor or the leader of that settlement, the name is Mayor Prentiss. The second one is an Advisor, this position was taken by Aaron. The third one is a right hand of the Mayor, this position was taken by Mr Prentiss Jr. The next one is the Horseback army. And the last one is the Prentisstown army. That position in social structure of Prentisstown has their own roles or function. That position also can categorize in the social structure below.



#### 1. Mayor

Prentisstown is a small settlement in "New Wold" with a population of 146 men. This position is the top of the social structure that connect to another position. Prentisstown is lead by Mayor Prentisstown, he is a man who has a responsibilities to control their people. He can make any of important decision for their people. He made a lot of the norms or rules in that settlement with Aaron or his advisor. He created an army that included of all of his people for long time, because the army should be a men or someone with thirteen years old. That army was created to attacked and conquered another settlement in the "New Woldr". His first decision when he take over "New Elizabeth" or the old name of Prentisstown and made a chaos for killed the spackles or an alliens creatures and the women that lived in that



settlement in the past. He thought that women was an evil, because men can not hear their noise but women can hear the noise's men. Then, he lead his people to killed all the women. The following excerpt shows that Mayor Prentiss asked the men to killed all the women.

Excerpt no 35

“After they killed the Spackle,” “the men of Prentisstown killed the women of Prentisstown.”. Viola gasps even tho she's got to have guessed it, too. “Not all the men,” Ben says. “But many. Allowing themselves to be swayed by Mayor Prentiss and the preachings of Aaron, who used to say that what was hidden must be evil.” (Ness, 2008:393)

## **2. Advisor**

Advisor is someone who gives an advices for Mayor, this position was hold by Aaron. Aaron is a preacher in Prentisstown, he is the important person with Mayor Prentiss that makes any norms or rules and traditions for Prentisstown. He always in Mayor Prentiss side when Mayor Prentiss excecutes his decision. The roles or the function of Aaron can see when he provoked Todd to killed him when Todd runs away from Prentisstown. He met Todd so many times, he always find away how to provoked Todd to killed him. Then, when he knew that Todd was accompanied by a girl, he also interested to present her to God. The following exceprt shows that Aaron kidnapped Viola from Todd and brought her to the woods. He drugs her and he put her infront of him. Then, he prayed and ready to present her to his God.

Excerpt no 36

“So I know it's not a shimmer and in the shakiness I can just about catch him still kneeling, praying some prayer, and Viola laid out on the ground in front of him” (Ness, 2008:331)

## **3. Right hand**

Right hand is the position that equal with an advisor, but a right hand also an Prentisstown army. This position is special, because it is hold by Mr Prentiss Jr or a son of Mayor Prentiss. He always got a special mission from his father, he have responsibilities for bring Todd to his father. He is also included in “Horseback Army”, but he is special because he is not moving with Prentisstown army and his father's

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group, but he always moving lonely as "lone wolf" to find Todd as soon as possible. It can be seen when he tried to track Todd with ride on horse. Finally, he met with Todd and Viola in Brockley falls. He said that he want to bring him to his father, and abandoned Viola. He want to made his father proud of him, because the mission from his father was succeed. The following excerpt shows that Mr Prentiss Jr want to bring Todd for his father, and completed his mission from his father.

Excerpt no 37

"My father wants you," he finally says. "Why?" I say. "Why does he want us?". "Us?" His eyes go wide. "There's no effing us. He wants you, Todd. Just you." (Ness, 2008:258).

#### 4. Horseback Army

This army included of the men who has the best skill of riding a horse, fighting, and using a gun. This army has a function to take care a horse for Mayor Prentiss and theirselves and also they are Mayor Prentiss's guard that always keep Mayor Prentiss safe when they attacked another settlement. This army always singing about "I AM THE CIRCLE AND THE CIRCLE IS ME", it is mean that they always accompanies Mayor Prentiss. This army also can called as an elite army, because they are the toughest army with the best skill that chosen to protect Mayor Prentiss from danger. The Following excerpt shows that the Horseback Army accompanied Mayor Prentiss using a gun in their hand when they chased Todd in the bridge.

Excerpt no 63

"**I AM THE CIRCLE AND THE CIRCLE IS ME**, that kinda thing. There's Mr Collins, Mr MacInerny, Mr O'Hare, and Mr Morgan, all on horses, too, itself a rare sight cuz horses are hard to keep alive on New World and the Mayor guards his personal herd with a whole raft of men with guns.." (Ness, 2008:114)

#### 5. Prentisstown Army

Prentisstown people become a men when they grew up in thirteen years old, then they automatically become a Prentisstown army too. This army was prepared by Mayor Prentiss and Aaron to attacked and conquered another settlements in "New World". There was some tradition when someone become an army. They have to

killed someone in their thirteen birthday, If they does not brave enough to do that they can join in that army and they will prison and killed by someone else's birthday. It can be seen in the novel when Todd realized someone that he knew was disappeared for long time, then he knew about the truth that they was prepared for someone's thirteen birthday to killed. The following excerpt shows that Todd realized the truth about someone from Prentisstown who disappeared.

Excerpt no 38

“The reason that boys who've become men are complicit in the crimes of Prentisstown. is-. It's-. And I make myself say it-. It's by killing another man. All by theirselves. All those men who disappeared, who tried to disappear. (Ness, 2008:448).

#### **b. Norms in Prentisstown institution life**

##### **1. Restriction against the books and teaching**

Mayor Prentiss as a leader in Prentisstown made the rules that for his communities was to burn all the books and teaching. This rules was made because Mayor Prentiss saw the conditions the useless of teaching activity in the school. The students always cheats each other in any subjects because of the noise germ. Noise germ made the students can hear anyone else's thought and the teaching activity was useless for them. Mayor Prentiss also think that the books are detrimental for boys and he decided to burn all the books in his settlement. That rules was made Mr Royal or a teacher in Prentisstown killed himself using pistol in the classroom. The following excerpt show that Mayor Prentiss decided to burn all the books.

Excerpt no 39

“And then one day Mayor Prentiss decided to burn all the books, every single one of them, even the ones in men's homes, cuz apparently books were detrimental as well and Mr Royal, a soft man who made himself a hard man by drinking whisky in the classroom, gave up and took a gun and put an end to himself and that was it for my classroom teaching.” (Ness, 2008:18)

##### **2. Men should kill the women**

In Prentisstown, The rules about the men should killing women was created by Mayor Prentiss in the past because of Aaron's preaching. In the past time the communities name was New Elizabeth, the whole people blame the spackles about

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noise germ, this germ caused everyone and animals can hear anyone else's thought except the women. The communities especially men was worried about the noise germ. In that condition Aaron as the preacher in Prentisstown told Mayor Prentiss and all the communities that they should killing the Spackles to cure the noise germ. Because of that, the war happened between Prentisstown and the Spackles. All the Spackles was killed in that war but the noise germ still exist. Men was jealous with the women because they can not hear the women's thought. After that Aaron tried to spread the preachings about the evil who lived in women self. Then, the ex-Mayor named Elizabeth organized and helped the women and a men who do not lost their mind to escape from Prentisstown. After the chaos happened, and All woman was killed by the men, Mayor Prentiss declared himself as Mayor and change the settlement as Prentisstown. The following excerpt shows that Aaron spread preaching to kill the women and Mayor Prentiss conquered the New Elizabeth.

Excerpt no 40

"After they killed the Spackle," I say, "the men of Prentisstown killed the women of Prentisstown." Viola gasps even tho she's got to have guessed it, too. "Not all the men," Ben says. "But many. Allowing themselves to be swayed by Mayor Prentiss and the preachings of Aaron, who used to say that what was hidden must be evil. They killed all the women and all the men who tried to protect them." (Ness, 2008:393)

**3. The tradition of boy becoming a man**

In Prentisstown, all of the people who lived in there are the men. The age of the boys that can categorized as men in thirteen years old, because in that age they believed that someone can get their own responsibilities to do their work. That rule was created by Mayor Prentiss and Aaron as an elite person on that social structure or the governments that managed the settlement. That rule was described by Todd when he remember about what Ben said in the past. The following excerpt shows that the boys becoming a man in the thirteen years old.

Excerpt no 41

"Ben said that the real reason was cuz a small group of people on an isolated planet need all the adults they can get so thirteen is the day you start getting real responsibilities." (Ness, 2008:229)

**4. The symbol of the last boy in Prentisstown**

When Mayor Prentiss and Prentisstown armies attacked Carbonel Down, Todd, Viola, and Ben can escaped before they arrived. Then, they take a rest for a while in the grave. In that place Ben reveal and telling the truth Todd that the reason why Mayor Prentiss and their armies try to get him is to make his armies perfect. When the last boys become a man Mayor Prentiss and Aaron telling the truth of his version and Todd is a symbol of innocent to make all of the Prentisstown people fall and can be reborn without infected the cursed of the noise germ.

Excerpt no 42

“For the last boy to become a man,”. Ben says. “When boys became men, they were told the truth. Or a version of it, anyway. And then they were made complicit themselves..... “If one of us falls,” I say. “We all fall,” Ben finishes. “That’s why he wants you. Yer a symbol. Yer the last innocent boy of Prentisstown. If he can make you fall, then his army is complete and of his own perfect making.” (Ness, 2008:396-397)

## CONCLUSION

The main character in Patrick Ness’s Novel *The Knife of Never Letting Go* is Todd Hewitt. Todd belongs to the round static character. The general descriptions of Todd are stubborn, confused, doubt, care, frustrated, grumpy, worried, anxious and brave.

The conflicts experienced by Todd Hewitt as the main character in Patrick Ness’s Novel *The Knife of Never Letting Go* are the internal conflict and external conflict. The internal conflict is againts himself, he was worried, frustrated, confused, and anxious with himself. The external conflict are Todd against Ben, Todd against Aaron, Todd against Mayor Prentiss, Todd against Viola, Todd against Matthew, Todd against Mr. Prentiss Jr, Todd against Prentisstown men’s noises, and Todd Todd against his knife.

The settings experienced in Patrick Ness’s Novel *The Knife of Never Letting Go* are setting of places, setting of time and setting of social. The setting of places are Prentisstown, Todd’s house, Swamp, Spackle buildings, Bridge, Farbranch, Brockle Falls, Woods, Carbonel Down, Ledge, and Haven. The setting of the times are in the

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morning and at the night. The setting of social is low class because Todd just a provider meats and wool in that settlement, he does not have any position in that settlement because he still a boy.

This novel contains the institutions life in Prentisstown, there are some positions and roles in that settlement. The first one is Mayor or the leader of that settlement, the name is Mayor Prentiss. He is the one who responsibilities to control their people and make an important decision for his people. He have asked his people to kill all the women in the past, and conquered that settlement as Prentisstown. The second one is an Advisor, this position was taken by Aaron. He always advises Mayor Prentiss to make an important decision. The third one is a right hand of the Mayor, this position was taken by Mr Prentiss Jr. This position was higher from horseback armies and Prentisstown armies, because it can called as a "lone wolf" because he take the mission from his father by himself. The next one is the Horseback army, this is also a Prentisstown armies but they are have the special skill and they should moving around the Mayor Prentiss and protect him. And the last one is the Prentisstown army is the armies that made by Mayor Prentiss and Aaron to conquered "New World". Then, in Prentisstown institution life also has a norms, that are Restriction against the books and teaching, men should kill the women, the tradition of boy become a man, and the symbol of the last boy in Prentisstown.

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