

# **An Investigation and Analysis of Ghassan Kanfani's Novel *Rijal fi al-Shams* Based on Freud's Theory of Defense Mechanism**

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## **Abstract:**

The human psyche uses tools called defense mechanisms to resolve and reduce its inner worries and anxieties. These mechanisms function unconsciously and lead to the person being deprived of their true cognition. Examining defense mechanisms, in addition to providing the basis for inner self-awareness, is an opportunity to understand the reasons and sources of each person's behaviors and outward speech. *Rijal fi al-Shams*, a novel about the events of the occupation of Palestine by the Zionists and Nakba in 1948 and the resulting psychological pressures, can be examined from the perspective of Freud's psychoanalysis. The novel describes the tragic effects of Nakba Palestine and the characteristics of war and defense, such as fear, anxiety, and defense mechanisms against the enemy. In this article and in a descriptive-analytical method, in addition to introducing Freud's theory and proving the function of this approach on the analysis of the novel *Rijal fi Shams*, the psychological text is examined and Ghassan Kanfani's storytelling ability in shaping the narrative system and structure of the story measured.

**Keywords:** psyche, defense mechanism, novel, *Rijal fi al-Shams*, Ghassan Kanfani.

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