

## **Psychoanalysis of the Character “*Muhammad Ali Akbar*” from the Narrator’s Perspective in Ghassan Kanafani’s Story “*Death Bed No. 12*” Based on Alfred Adler’s Inferiority Complex Approach**

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### **Abstract**

Despite methodological differences, literature and psychology are closely connected due to their shared focus on human complexity. Their integration—particularly through the psychological analysis of literary characters by theorists such as Freud and Adler—enables deeper insight into the characters’ inner worlds. Using a descriptive-analytical method, this study investigates the roots of the inferiority complex in the character Muhammad Ali Akbar from Ghassan Kanafani’s short story *Death Bed No. 12*. The analysis also explores the psychological symptoms of this complex and the character’s coping mechanisms. The findings reveal that Muhammad Ali Akbar’s inferiority complex stems from emotional neglect and economic deprivation, resulting in anxiety and external dependence for self-worth. His complex manifests through anger toward material success, generalized resentment, and projected pessimism. To cope, he employs Adlerian aggressive compensation (e.g., wealth accumulation, marrying a powerful woman), comforting fantasies of success, and Freudian regression through his fixation on a symbolic box.

**Keywords:** Alfred Adler, Inferiority Complex, Ghassan Kanafani, Short Story *Death Bed No. 12*.

(Received: 05 May. 2025, Accepted: 10 Jul. 2025)