



Graphology- A Way To Improve Analytical Skills

Shareya* and DD Sharma**

*PG Scholar (Agricultural Extension and Communication) and **Prof. (Agricultural Extension and Communication), MS Swaminathan School of Agriculture, Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences, Solan (HP)-173229

Abstract

Graphology is the study of handwriting to draw inference of an individual's character, disposition and attitude. The graphology studies three dominant sections viz; General Signs, Particular Signs and Resultant. The study of various aspects of graphology is needed before drawing any inferences such as size of handwriting, shapes of alphabets, spacing in writing, strokes, width of handwriting, etc. Further, it varies in different situations, age groups, and mental condition of oneself. Hence, a thorough study is required to draw accurate inferences. Graphology can be used in institutes to know students as well as teachers' personality and accordingly take/give suggestive measures to help them improve their overall personality and behaviour.

Keywords: Graphology, Size of handwriting, Attitude, Shapes of alphabets, Personality

In the present scenario, our personality and overall behaviour are very important in our professional as well as personal life. People judge us based on our personality along with our communication skills and treat us accordingly. We can improve our personality by changing some parts of it through different methods. However, our personality is not shown only through oral verbal and non-verbal communication, but it can also be interpreted through our handwriting. Handwriting refers to a person's unique style of writing characters created with a writing tool such as a pen or pencil. Since, each person's handwriting is unique, it can be used to verify a writer's document. The study of handwriting to draw inference of an individual's character, disposition and attitude is known as graphology. Graphology is one of the essential subjects of interest for the psychologists. The spread of this art is not only because of inherent curiosity of man, but it is also due to the confidence graphology inspires, especially among close observers. Most of us are to some extent natural graphologists before even knowing the existence of the art as we involuntarily form opinions upon the letters we receive and form a judgement of the person

who has written it. We recognize a feminine hand (though not always necessarily a woman's hand) in writing which is slender and much inclined. We read the written characters adorned with pen-scrolls and excessive flourishes; and the letters which are agitated, and unequal tell us of the nervous and unsettled temperament of the person. Although an individual's emotions are reflected through handwriting, still it changes under different circumstances because deterioration of a person's handwriting may also be due to certain disease or old age. The graphology studies three dominant sections viz; **General Signs**, **Particular Signs** and **Resultant**.

- **General Signs** are gathered from the handwriting as a whole by considering the height, the width, the inclination or slope, the regularity etc. These require less observation than particular signs. For example, while **regular handwriting** is linked to calm and reflective minds, **eccentric handwriting** is related to eccentric persons whereas confused handwriting related to those who are lacking clearness in their thoughts and expression.
- **The Particular Signs** require more detailed work which are given by the words, the letters, the punctuation etc. The various studies have shown that the small-shaped letters like the small 'u' denotes kindness of disposition, the capital letters which are unduly large, denote imagination; and the letters with very low height show hypocrisy. However, it is necessary to possess a certain amount of judgment in order to apply it.
- **Concerning resultants:-** Their acquisition depends upon the wisdom of the graphologist and they form a distinct class of observation of a higher order than the analysis of handwriting.

The various aspects of handwriting which are analysed to draw inferences are given as under:-

A. Size of Handwriting:-

The size of a person's handwriting is an obvious feature to analyse the handwriting but is often altered when documents are forged by fraudsters. Size may also depend upon other factors such as poor eyesight, age or disease. If the middle zone of a writing (example- a, m, n, e) exceeds 3mm by more than 10 percent, we say it is large handwriting. If they are less than 2.5mm in size, the handwriting is described as small. The upper and lower lengths are not taken into consideration here. Large writing denotes generosity, greatness of soul, high aspirations whereas small handwriting denotes minuteness and delicacy that shows people finding their pleasures in little thing, trifling ideas but the narrow-minded person also have this small characteristic handwriting. The size of a person's handwriting may be basically interpreted in relation to two aspects i.e. the development of will and personality.

	BIG	SMALL
●		
1		
2		
3	Sustainability securing resources for current use with an eye for the future	Sustainability securing resources for current use with an eye for the future
4		

Size of middle zone as an expression of will/desire

	Large Handwriting	Small Handwriting
Positive point	Enthusiasm, drive towards expansion, willingness to act	Objective concentration, sense of reality
Negative point	Impulsivity, naivete	Lack of dynamism, passivity

Size of middle zone as an expression of personality

	Large Handwriting	Small Handwriting
Positive point	Self-confidence, emotional demands, need for attention	Modesty, not demanding, no wish to be the centre of attention
Negative point	Superiority, arrogance, self-presentation	Insecurity, feeling of inferiority, depression

Special elements:

- **Ends of words decreasing in size-** waning effort, impatience, diplomatic adaptation
- **Ends of words increasing in size-** greater self-assertion, urge for influence.
- **Irregular size in middle zone-** fluctuating feelings of self-esteem.
- **Extremely small handwriting-** fear of reality.

B. Width of Handwriting:-

In graphology, the width of a person's handwriting is referred to the distance between the individual letters. If it is more or less the same size as the height of the letters, then it is considered normal letter spacing. There are interpretations related to wide and narrow handwriting as given under:-

Widen gap between letters	Shows relaxation and expansion of drives.
Widen gap with curvy letters	Shows ability to empathize
Narrow gap between letters	Shows restrictions on free movement, inhibition of drives and increased tension
Width+ right angle slant	Indicates determination

It is, therefore, necessary to consider whole number of elements in conjunction with each other before making an interpretation.

Width of handwriting

	Wide	Narrow
Positive point	Ambition, determination, openness, interest in outside world	Self-control, caution, concentration
Negative point	Impatience, unwillingness, excessive demands	Inhibition, lack of directness

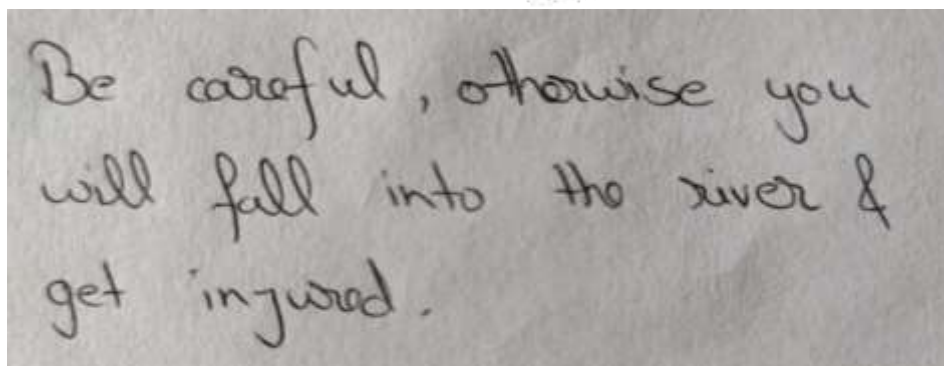
Special elements:

- **Alteration between width and narrowness-** Unbalanced relationship to outer world; With variation in size and slant of letters, it shows inner uncertainty.
- **Ends of words becoming wider-** Lack of stamina and consistency.
- **Ends of words becoming narrower-** Caution and restraint acquired through experience.
- **Narrow letters and wide letters spacing (secondary width)-** Indicate correctness and striving for order, forced concentration, possible tendency toward formalistic thinking.
- **Very narrow spaces between the words-** Depicts someone who will crowd others for attention, craving constant contact and closeness. Such a writer can be selfish in his demands and unwilling to give of his own time and energies to others.
- **Very wide spaces between words indicate** the writer's need to maintain his distance from social contact, either due to an inner need for privacy or to a tendency toward isolation, sometimes reinforced by difficulty in communicating with others.
- **The combination of narrow letters with cramped spacing between the words shows** a person who is fearful and dependent, who cannot give himself or others enough space in life. This writer will impose his/her wish blindly on others.
- **The combination of wide letters with wide spaces between the words denotes** a person who demands attention in an extravagant or exaggerated manner, stemming from a need to be noticed.

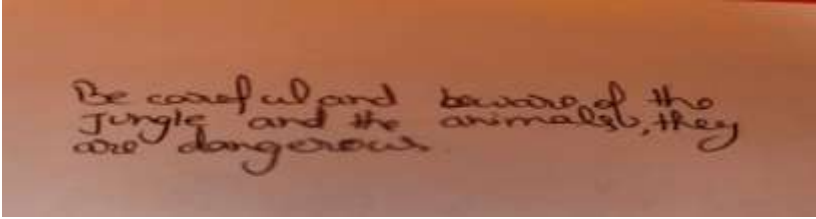
However, we should remember that well-balanced spacing always gives evidence of the writer's social maturity, intelligence and inner organization. He/she will be able to deal flexibly and objectively with himself and with other people.

C. Spacing Between Lines:-

The amount of space that the writer leaves between lines on the page gives clues to the orderliness and clarity of his thinking and to the amount of interaction that he wishes to have with his environment. Normal spacing has its own personal harmony and flexibility.

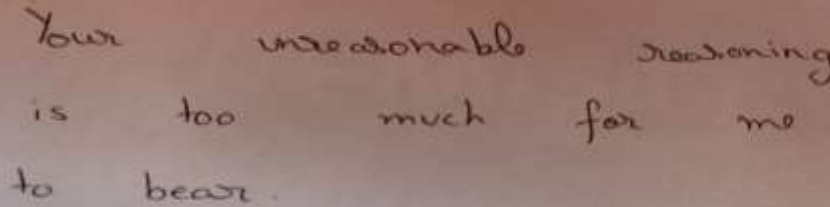


- The more crowded and tangled a line is within itself or with those above and below, the more confused are the writer's thought and feelings. Such writers are lively, forceful and often creative, but can suffer from a lack of clarity of purpose or from jumbled ideas and poor concentration.



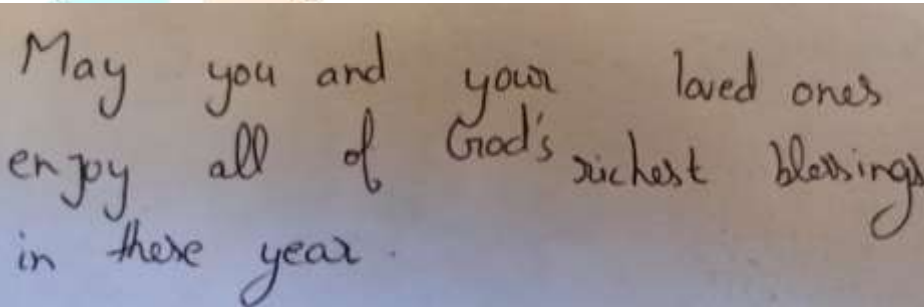
Be careful and beware of the
jungle and the animals, they
are dangerous.

- The writer who sets his lines far apart from each other on the page is isolating himself from his environment, socially, psychologically or both. He fears contact and closeness or may harbour suspicions and hostilities that keep him separate and untrusting.



Your unreasonable reasoning
is too much for me
to bear.

- Irregular or uneven spacing that leads to tangled words and lines shows lack of organization, emphasis upon fantasy, inner confusion and self-centeredness.



May you and your loved ones
enjoy all of God's richest blessings
in these year.

D. Slant: The Horizontal Dimension of Movement:-

The slant of a writing refers to the direction of letter slope and is determined by the angle formed between the down stroke and the baseline. The straight lines at 90 degree are vertical slants while the slants which are bend towards left at 90 degree angle are called reclined and those who are tilted to the right of same angle called inclined slants.

Some key events/meaning associated with various slants:-

Reclined slant	Vertical slant	Inclined slant
Past	Present	Future
Influence of mother	Independence	Goals/Influence of father
Fear	Inner strength	Courage
Defiance	Self-reliance	Compliance
Introversion	Self-control	Extroversion
Lack of involvement	Judgement	Compassion
Repression	Suppression	Expansion
Self-absorption	Independence	Drawn to others
Caution	Action	Reaction

In the right-hand side figure/handwriting, 3a shows **vertical slant** while 3b and 3c shows **inclined slant** and 3d and 3e shows **reclined slant**. The second picture shows a mix of slants. Physically, the angle of slant reflects body positioning. The pen to the fingers, the hand to the writing surface and the angle of that surface to the writer's body-all are important factors. But body position is only the means of achieving the slant on life which has been dictated by the emotions. We could assume that when a writer is allowed to adjust his body position to the pen and writing surface, he will, regardless of hand position, produce the slant that correctly describes his ability to express himself socially.

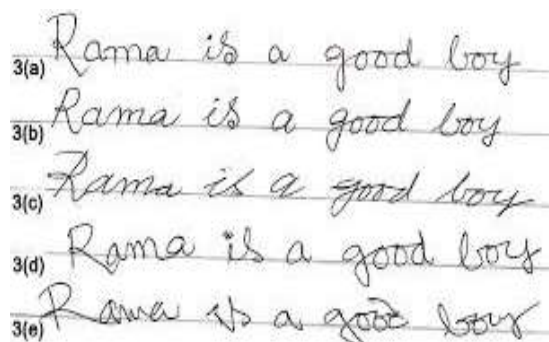
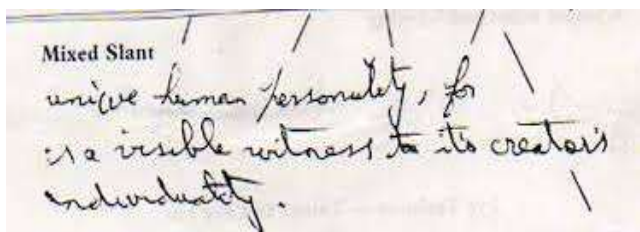
E. Strokes and Shapes:-

There are two basic graphic movements namely curved and straight movements which includes the following types of shapes:-

- **Garland formation**- It is concave in shape, like a cup or an open hand which indicates an open, receptive and responsive nature of a person. Garland writers are passive and non-competitive. In desire to avoid conflict, they can compromise themselves by taking the easy way out. They want communication with and acceptance by other people.
- **Angular formation**- Those who write a basically angular hand are analytical and logical. They don't merely believe in words but must be presented with all the facts. It is necessary to convince them, to prove "how" and "why." Once their minds are made up, they rarely get sidetracked from the intended goal.
- **Thread formation**- Threaded writers are sensitive and highly impressionable. They take a broad view of the world and want to see and know everything. They have a love for all the arts and want freedom to follow their own talents. On the negative side, the threaded writers are undisciplined and unpredictable. They won't give themselves to a particular course of action, won't be pinned down and also would not even stand up for their own convictions i.e. they are master of their own will- Unsure about the world and unsure about themselves.

Conclusion:-

Therefore, it can be concluded that graphology is one of the quick ways to judge someone's personality, their state of mind and emotions. But a thorough study and practical experience is needed to draw efficient inferences through graphology.



Hence, for accurate interpretation, some of other main elements/aspects like width of letters, spacing, curves, slants, angle of letters etc. need to be kept in mind.

References:-

- Amend, Karen Kristin and Ruiz, Mary Stansbury. 1980. Handwriting Analysis: The complete basic book. The Career Press, Inc., Franklin Lakes.
- Schooling, John Holt. Handwriting and expression. Yale Medical Library.
- Ploog, Helmut. 2013. Handwriting Psychology: Personality Reflected in Handwriting. Iuniverse, Inc., Bloomington.
- Moore, Julian. 2010. Speed Learning Graphology: The Art of Handwriting Analysis eBook edition.

