

Introduction to handwriting.

- Certain visual signs or marks which are accepted by two or fellow-men or groups or persons or individuals of a town, city or country as a means of communication of informing one's ideas to others for particular matter or understanding, or sending message to others is in a broad sense known as "handwriting".
- The handwriting may also include painting, drawing or embossing.
- Writing can also be said as the visual speech or in other way the talking paper.
- The writing is very much like a personal detail of a person because it includes all those slight moves, actions etc. which he or she makes during the process of writing and since every person cannot follow the same pattern of moves and actions, so it forms the basis that handwriting can be included in the group of personal details of a person.
- Handwriting is a very sensitive element of a person's personality.
- Each and every word a writer uses is very much influenced by what he experiences at the time of writing that particular line, phrase or a speech, the topic on which he is writing and the time he has to complete his work, whether he is excited at the time of writing the text or he is sad or he is weak etc.
- The influence of these things and the country and city to which he or she belongs to, forms the basis of handwriting characteristics he or she will develop with time.
- The changes in the handwriting is always gradual and not sudden; well it may be a sudden change if the person becomes too ill to be able to write.
- As the oral speech of a person has some peculiarities similarly the written form of the oral speech will have some peculiarities which are very much specific to the person who is writing it.
- Man developed this skill of using handwriting to convey message to each other from very ancient time, previously they used some engravings on the walls of the cave then they started to use paintings and later they started using certain symbols for conveying the message to the next generation and with time the muscles of the hand became that much co-ordinate that they started to write a legible form of writing which they used for communication with each other. This is how the handwriting got developed but the features which make them so much personal had a different story.
- The students in the **initial stages** of learning were taught to follow a copy book style but, in the **later stages** the students handwriting begin to deviate from the copy book style taught to them at the initial level and started to include their personal features in the handwriting with the specific movements of hands and specific actions they possess while designing a letter during the process of handwriting.

. Handwriting principles.

How handwriting got developed.

- It has already been mentioned in the introduction part and its identification requires the evaluation of all the physical facts found in the writing not only in the light of the following basic rules but it also needs common sense and intelligence.
- The principles on which the handwriting is based upon are given as follows: -
- The handwriting of every individual is personal and belongs to him only.
- Man is not a machine so; he or she is unable to produce the same thing in the same manner as it has been produced earlier. There will be natural variations in the writing which is an absolute sign of an authenticated document since in cases of forgery by tracing there is

exact superimposition of the original sign and the forged sign which cannot be the case in an authenticated sign since it contains natural variation so, they cannot be super-imposed on the one another.

- So, the above mentioned principle proves that no two signatures can be absolutely alike and if they are, then it shows that there is a case of forgery.
- There is always a gradual change in the handwriting of a person but the extent of change is that much slow that it generally remains unrecognized by the writer himself.
- The style, the design of letter, the type of slant all cannot be copied by a person at the same time.
- The increase in the ability of writer to write in a more sophisticated and précised manner can only be developed if he or she put some serious efforts in that way otherwise it is not possible to copy the handwriting of a person who has more skills of handwriting than the forger.
- A person is also unable to write with different styles at different times. Since it's not at all easy to change once normal style of handwriting at different times.
- An attempt to disguise leads to an inferior quality of writing and the disguise is always superficial. The writer, however, skilled he may be, can never be able to effectively disguise his writing in respect of all the characteristic features of writing.
- The disguise that is attempted by the perpetrator is usually of a simpler nature that is the quality of writing is lower than that he actually possessed.
- Handwriting is not only dependent on the writing instrument being in use or the physical co-ordination of muscles of hand but it also depends on the psychological condition of the writer.
- In spite of all the external factors such as nature of writing surface, writing instrument, position of the writer, nature of the writing support, lighting conditions, influence of external conditions etc., it is a proved fact that handwriting is brain writing controlled by the signals sent by the nervous system through hand.
- A writer is also unable to stop showing the influence of his or her penmanship in the writing during the process of disguise.

Principles on which the identification of handwriting is based upon are given below:

- The handwriting is not just the drawing of the letters so, merely copying the letter design does not makes a person eligible to be able to succeed in copying all the features of some one`s handwriting. Because handwriting is a combination of all elements and qualities specific to a writer.
- There are always some specific features in the handwriting of a person which forms the basis of a positive identification although there are other class and individual features too but these specific features are very much personal to the writer so, they alone can prove the fact in the court.
- The movement of handwriting is a function of various elements like speed, rhythm, writing pressure, pen position, shading, skill possessed by the writer and the line quality of writing etc.
- The sample for the comparison of the questioned documents are also of very much importance and the samples collected should have been written in the same conditions as the conditions in which the questioned document has been written and should be preferably of the same time period as of the questioned one.

- The variation in the handwriting both the questioned document and the specimen collected are analyzed and a range is determined for both if the variations analyzed fall in the same range for both then they are said to be of the same writer.
- The questioned document analysis needs patience and intelligence with experience since it is a subjective process the way a person analyses a document varies. Therefore the variations, the master pattern and all other writing characteristics should be included and recorded during analysis of a questioned document for concluding a fruitful result.

Influencing factors for handwriting.

- The training of handwriting is more or less related to the initial stages of handwriting development in which the person starts to build his or her handwriting by following a specific pattern given in books.
- At this stage the difference between the writing of the students is quite less and they cannot be recognized at once since they follow the same pattern given in the book as the other students do.
- But as this training advances and the student goes to the higher classes after building a basic pattern of how to write and developing a specific line quality they tend to deviate from the so called copy book style.
- This deviation from the copy book style of the students forms the basis of the development of the handwriting which is highly individualistic.
- The main reason is that the writing habit derives its individuality and development from operation of the influences of mental motion and muscular formation of the hands and fingers.
- The way the students starts to hold the pen also changes gradually and with time it acquires different approach to hold the pen and different students will hold the pen in different ways at different angles and thus may produce different slants and different letter design which forms the basis of the handwriting peculiarities with maturity of the student as a writer.

Influence of race and nationality:

The distinguishing personality of handwriting is not limited to individuals. The writing of different races and nationalities in the world is marked and varied in its idiosyncrasies as are the physiognomies and other peculiar race characteristics. It is seen that writing of every country or province is found to have similar style and may be distinguished as to which particular province or country it belongs.

Influence of heredity:

There is some evidence from the studies that the handwriting of family members may match to some extent. The match or mismatch is very much dependent on the extent of heredity and the factors like environmental or the interaction between both. But there have been some researches which suggest that there is a strong influence of heredity on handwriting as any other heredity factor likes speaking, walking etc.

Influence of sex on handwriting:

The sex of a person is also an important factor in formation of handwriting. Due to different approaches of man and woman towards life and due to different characteristics in life they build different habits in handwriting. As the women are more effected by decoration and ornaments they produce handwriting which have decorated letters. Similarly men being rough and busy shows his characteristics by not giving much importance to letter decoration and focuses on the completion of writing with reasonable legibility.

The muscular functioning and the habit of writing: -

There is not any special rule for distinguishing individuals hand writing. It is well known that the nature and man cannot produce two different things with same features that is also one of the basic laws of forensic science known as the law of individuality.

There may be the appearance of general features of handwriting in everyone`s handwriting but as individuals are recognized by different faces and different speaking approach. Similarly the writing can be distinguished from each other by studying the individual features of the generalized form of handwriting.

The peculiar qualities of the writings which give individual characteristics to it are in their shape and design indicative of the muscular coordination that produces them.

The extent to which a person can use the muscles in a coordinated manner differs from person to person due to this reason only it produces a wide range of variations in the writing of the individual.

The movement of the forearm, fingers and the wrist differs in different persons and thus the writing produced will be different and since these movements becomes a habit for the person, therefore, it is an important factor in developing the handwriting of a person.

The muscles of different parts of the body combine when writing proceeds, not only the muscles of fingers work but it extends to the forearm and whole arm also. The muscles of the hand not just help the person for writing but it also helps to hold the pen in the manner the writer wants and this manner of holding the pen by the action of different muscles then becomes a habit.

While moving a pen in making curves and strokes we do the process of fluctuating muscular coordination.

Handwriting as reflex action: -

In the beginning when a writer or to say a student starts writing he usually not thinks about the line quality, speed rhythm etc. what he or she thinks about is giving an exact pictorial approach to the writing produced by as it has been drawn in the book.

In this practice they draw a mental state in which they draw letters and then this mental state or to say the pictorial view of the letter is drawn first in mind and then on the paper. After this picture is drawn in mind the picture is produced in the form of letter with the movement of hand which includes the movement of many muscles in a coordinated manner to produce that picture. The picture thus produced is same as that given as the model in the book. After practicing that letter a number of times consciously the students become that much used to it that their muscles starts to coordinate automatically. By the term automatically in the above point we indicate towards the nonconscious movement of the hand by the student. And once this unconscious movement of hand comes in action it is what known as the reflex action of hand the hand automatically becomes used

that where it is going what it will produce in what manner it will produce even to some extent it decides the time for production of every word.

The formation of letters by this action becomes the basis of inclusion of individual characteristics to the writing and hence helps in recognizing the writing of a person.

The identification of handwriting is based on some established scientific principles which are listed below:

- 1) The handwriting of every mature writer is personal and individual to him alone.
- 2) It is impossible for a person to produce exactly same that has been written first. There must be a natural variation in the writing of the same person.
- 3) From the above principle, it is a fact that one cannot write two signatures precisely alike.
- 4) If two of signatures are alike then one of them is forged.
- 5) Every person's writing undergoes gradual changes in the course of life, however, in most of the cases the changes are very slow and they may not be discernible.
- 6) Two different persons cannot write in similar style.
- 7) A writer cannot exceed his writing skill and ability unless he makes serious efforts and practice.
- 8) A person cannot adopt different styles of writing at different times, as to change one's normal style of writing is an exceedingly difficult task.
- 9) A disguise is always superficial. Disguise leads to an inferior quality of writing.
- 10) The attempt of disguise in most of the cases is simple in nature.