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Is Graphology a Scientific Discipline? A Neuro-Psychological Evaluation

ABSTRACT

Graphology is considered as non-invasive technique to study about a person's characteristics or personality type. Despite being widely criticized for its lack of scientific evidence, graphology still remains one of the most prominent fields in the educational industry due to its psychological, cultural, and sociological appeal. Most of the people believe that graphological analysis can reveal their personality type, behavioral traits etc. A concept that is often dramatized in the entertainment industry (television, films), and in psychology. This fascination fuels the public interest especially in the regions with the low psychological literacy and pseudoscience gains traction without any strong empirical evidence. From a neuro-psychological perspective, currently there is no such mechanism by which one can decode personality traits by analysing pressure, strokes, or baseline. Current research in neuroscience shows that handwriting is a learned motor skill, not a direct window to someone's personality, leaving no biological basis for graphological claims. Additionally, the embedded status of graphology in various industries such as human resource management, personality development, career counselling help to maintain its popularity in the industry and resists change. With the advancement in the technology and artificial intelligence it objectifies and quantifies the handwriting analysis giving a renewed hope to graphologists. Moreover, the subjective nature of graphological analysis can generate vague interpretation which can be accurate sometimes much like horoscope, which further reinforces to believe its credibility. The illusion of accuracy keeps the belief alive in graphology.

Keywords: Forensic Science, Handwriting Analysis, Graphology, Pseudo-Science

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