Study the Invention of Hand Writing and Calligraphy by Approach of the Relationship between Hand Writing and Literature

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ABSTRACT

The researchers believe that the primitive human being began calligraphy by drawings on the caves walls. These simple lines gained different forms during progress of civilization and human culture established deep and unbreakable relationship with culture and literature by literary philosophers and scholars’ works. Hand writing has had progressive trend in Iran and by acceptance of Islam from ancient to Sassanid period, the Kofi writing entered from Arabia to Iran and gained attention of the scholars and scientists and during fundamental revolution, Ibne Mogleh as the literary and elite minister of Abbasid dynasty in third century, invented Persian hand writing from Kofi writing and a new hand writing was invented and in the progress of writing, Mir Ali Tabrizi, the calligrapher and literary man of Teymuri period made revolution in calligraphy. Then by effort of other great scholars, the calligraphy was perfected and culminated and the poets and writers works were decorated by calligraphy and it led to eternity of these works and foundation of this great realm culture.

Key words: advent of hand writing, calligraphy, literature, effect and being affected of literature and calligraphy, calligrapher literary men, Iran.

1. INTRODUCTION

Hand writing is human talent and visual arts aspect. The oldest version dates to more than six thousand years ago and compared to other cultural and civilization manifestations, it is new. While compared to language, hand writing is young and it involves broad scope. In general hand writing history is history of human being life and manifestation of his behavior and activities from past to present.

The ancient Iranians were familiar with cuneiform, Arami, Saghdi, Ilami, Sami and Pahlavi hand writings in Achaemenian and Sassanid periods. After advent of Islam Kofi hand writing entered to Iran and the Pahlavi hand writing -common in Sassanid period- was replaced by Kofi writing. By this conversion and acceptance of it by the writers and historians, Quran and other books were written by this hand writing. Ibne Mogleh famous minister and poet of Abbasid dynasty in the third century adopted special rules in this handwriting, so he was called inventor of Persian hand writing. Then calligraphy was invented as depicter of speech and meaning.

After attack of Mongol and in spite of significant ruination and massacre and took possession of Iran in Teymuri period as the era of culmination of Persian art and literature, the works were written in Persian and the calligraphers decorated and culminated the works of the scholars.

Mir Ali Tabrizi lived in Teymuri period invented Persian hand writing by combination of typography and Taaligh involving all characteristics of Iranian art from architecture to music and it was called Nastaalig as “bride of Islamic handwritings”.

By passing of time, the relationship in writing, calligraphy and literature becomes deepen and the hearts of the lovers filled with love and they struggled for funding of wealthy culture in this realm.

In addition to investigation of the advent of hand writing and also Persian handwriting and the role and relationship between hand writing and literature as the foundation of Iranian culminated culture, this article studies the role of hand writing as the factor of registration, composition and stability of the great scholars works and calligraphy and its status in Islamic society and literature and the role of calligraphy as the factor of elegant composition of the literary works that cause to its survival in the minds and physics of human beings as empowered and attachment between calligraphers and literary men.

Hand Writing: “Hand Writing means: 1-mark and sign of pen on paper and etc. written 2- sum of symbols and letters used for writing in a language” [1].

According to scientific view point handwriting is composed of unlimited dots without depth and width and it has only length but it shows direction and situation and defines surface boundary and limits it. Hand writing is the main visual element that depicts images in the best way.

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Indeed, handwriting involves set of symbols used for writing of speech and the oldest handwriting dates to six thousand years ago as those lines and drawings curved on caves walls, devices and dishes for expressing of human mind complex concepts that it has been changed gradually.

Advent of handwriting: there are no hand writings and tools with drawings from pre-writing or prehistory periods. Hieroglyph of the Egyptians is the first pictorial hand writing registered in the history dates to five thousand years ago. The stonemasons and craftsmen used this handwriting and the main goal of invention of this handwriting was transaction and economic calculations that were done during exchange of goods among nations for estimation of transactions.

The Sumerian invented the cuneiform and it was similar to nail. Cuneiform was culminated in Babel and Saurian civilizations and most literary and scientific works were written by this handwriting and it was transferred to other old civilizations. Gradually sounds entered to writings and used instead of symbols. In cuneiform the aim was to transfer sound. So transliteration was invented and subjective concepts were expressed directly without visualization and as a result the alphabets were invented.

Phoenicians invented alphabets. They were Sami and they lived in some parts of present Lebanon and they established a government in Mesopotamia three thousand years before B.C and since they were merchants invented alphabets for acceleration of transactions. The historians believe that all hand writings have alphabets except Chinese, Japanese and Korean that originated from Phoenicians alphabet. In contrary to hieroglyph that belonged to the priests and cuneiform that belonged to writers this handwritten was used by people, since it was simple and it was progressed easily. In general, the researchers suggest three stages for iconography; apprehension and transliteration. Arami handwriting borrowed from Phoenicians played an important role in culmination of nation’s cultures.

“Aramiyans established Chaldean government in 625 B.C. This government was abolished by great Cyrus in 539 B.C and added Babel as province of Achaemenian emperor” [2].

Invention of Persian handwriting: Persian handwriting involves three periods: 

1-Ancient period: from ancient to Achaemenian kingship:

Cuneiform was common in this period that rooted in apprehension and it was used in all west Asia countries. The researchers suggest Mesopotamia and Sumerian as its origin. Concurrent to progress of cuneiform, the Phoenicians created hand writing that entered to today European Greek and India. It was said that Indian Behrman handwriting originated from this writing. This handwriting was used in Arami hand writing that it progressed in Middle East and it was origin of Parti, Pahlavi, Saghdi and Kharazmi hand writings in the ancient period in Iran.

2-Middle age: called middle Persian involves Ashkanid and Sassanid dynasties:

Except Balkh version, all hand writings used for writing of middle age Iranian languages were originated directly from Emperor Arami [2].

After murder of the third Dariush by the great Alexander and end of Achaemenid dynasty, the Greek formed Solukiyan dynasty and Greek language, culture and handwriting were employed in Iran. After domination of Ashkaniyan, this culture was glorified until the first Balash. He used Pahlavi language and handwriting instead of Greek hand writing and language. “Basically Ashkaniyan agreed to different nations’ customs and languages and even the princesses and princes and governmental officers spoke Greek and played Greek drama” [3]. “There is no evidence about time and governor changing of Arami handwriting to Pahlavi handwriting”. [4].

Middle Persian was followed by Ancient Persian and four different handwritings have been reminded. The common hand writings in this period are: 1-Pahlavi writing 2- Avesta writing 3-Manavi writing 4-Saghdi writing, and 5-Berhman writing.

- It was an official language during long history of Iran that it had dominated on different local dialects; in other hand there was an ancient language (courtier, Diwan) that it had been progressed in pre-Islam period. This language and other Iranian dialects were recognized official and spoken besides other Iranian dialects in administrative and literary areas.

3-Pre Islam period: Islamic period begun by attack of Arabs and advent of Islam

After mission of the prophet (peace be upon him) he sent ambassadors to different areas especially to Iran according to his mission and invited them to Islam. But KhosroParviz the dictator king of Iran not only rejected Islam but also torn out the letter since his name did not mention there. So there was no way except to attack and conquer and issue of new religion for Arabs and Iran was attacked during caliphs of Omar and kingship of the fifth Yazgerd of Sassanid.

After decline of Sassanid dynasty and acceptance of Islam in Iran, Arab handwriting entered to Iranian culture and civilization because of religious and political needs. Iranian Muslims required to Quran as a new book and Quran was written in Kofi hand writing. Reading of this writing was difficult but it was replaced by Pahlavi handwriting as a national Iran handwriting. But Pahlavi handwriting was not forgotten completely, but also it survived several centuries later in some parts of Iran especially around Mazandaran Sea. “There are many theories about Arabic handwriting origin. But the theory of Nabati origin of Arabic handwriting have many advocates” [5].
Nabati (s) was residence in south of Marveh sea in Nabtiyeh. This tribe considered the importance of writing because of trading. They wrote in Arami language and by progress in social and economic scopes they changed Arami hand writing and created new handwriting. There was no full stop in this hand writing and it was not important in pre Islam period but after Islam, application of full stop gained attention, since Quran should be pronounced accurately.

“It is said that Abolasvad Doeli (death 69H.A) as followers of Hazrat Ali was the first one who used sings in Arabic” [6].

In the prophet period divine speech was registered and preserved and Islam religion was expanded by hand writing. So hand writing was important in Islamic period.

THE ROLE OF HAND WRITING IN LITERATURE

A-definition of literature: literature means knowledge about literary sciences” (Dictionary of Dehkhoda) [7].

The literature of each nation involves poem, prose, fiction and etc. that form society cultural foundation. In our society literature involves prose and verse that form the main part of the culture and different verse and prose styles are composed and written by scholars.

The literature is human being artifact that could be combined with imagination and emotion and scientific and social facts and custom and create artistic work. While a story (especially novel) narrates incidents occurred in mind of the writer but also it could indicate spaces, cultures, customs, historical events and in total special society image considered by the writer in the best way and the reader could obtain different information about nations while involving the passage accompanied by the hero. Sometimes a poem draws beautiful and real image of a society in mind of the reader. The transfer of inner feeling is accompanied by the emotions and it is the concept of the literature art and the created works are valuable and their creators are important in the society.

B- Relationship between hand writing and literature as factor of stability of literary works: literature is rooted in language, since it can enter to art and visual realm like speech in addition to transfer of thoughts and feelings in one hand and have old relationship with hand writing since language artistic and aesthetics characteristics is the reason of advent of an art called literature and advent of handwriting caused to writing of valuable works. It can be referred to Gats as some part of Avesta and old literary works by the oldness of three thousand years in Iran.

Thoughts and knowledge are transferred by attractive and unique speech in poetic speech of most of the literary men and this attractiveness is evident in their feelings and spiritual pleasure. Molavi in his unique work of Masnavi uplifts the soul of the reader towed eternality and opens epistemology doors to his readers. In works of literary men like Firdusi, Saadi, Hafez, Khayam, Jami, Saeb, Parvin, Shahriyar and others, it can find unique creation that empowers national culture. The elegancy of the writer mind is manifested by writing and if these inner beauties do not registered they will be forgotten.

C-The role of the writers of literary works: there were individuals in the history responsible for writing. They were basically literate, experienced, confident, calligrapher, exact and smart in kings courts worked at the writer. They wrote the great literary works and sometimes they were scholars. “The writer should be generous, noble, experienced and possess knowledge about literature and being affected by experiences” [8]. “Hazrate Ali says: knowledge is like haunt and hunting place that writing is its necessity” [9]. If this knowledge is literature, its necessity causes to progress and strengthening of the society culture.

“The prophet (peace upon him) says the person who makes pen and writes about knowledge and science, God will offers him a tree in heaven better than in this world and when he dies releases pens and paper and goes to heaven” [9]. So a phenomenon was established called calligraphy resulted from handwriting and literature to compose the prose and verse works. The device of calligrapher indicates the work in beautiful way and culminates the soul of the reader and this is the effect of the pure artistic work that God offers his respect and love to his creator.

THE ART OF CALLIGRAPHY AND ITS ROLE IN PERSIAN LITERATURE

Art is an old Avesta word and it has been composed of prefix of (Hu) means good and (Nar) means man and capability and (HuNar) means capability. This word has been used in Persian language and poem since one thousand years ago” [9].

Art is a divine talent and it is originated from human soul and emotion. Art is elegance of precision and thoughtfulness being affected by inner and external factors of the nature and religious beliefs and knowledge and it causes to creation of supernatural works.

Hafez says. [10]

"The quest wandering dervishes do not pay attention to "The silken garment of those who has not anyart".
The artist is who being affected by nature, climate, and religious believe and other affairs and his thoughtful mind leads him to pure feelings and his rational thoughts are combined with his artistic taste. Gradually, this wisdom is shown to the followers and they being affected and this insights is manifested in the artist work. Thus, art is sanctified and converted to a holy and universal phenomenon and the affairs that cannot be expressed by a common person are manifested by the artist and praise, pleasure and wonder are excited in his soul.

A- Calligraphy: calligraphy is harmonic movement of fingers and the holy pen quoted by God in divine speech and the sound of each word is written like melodies of music that affect the writer soul and physic and his fingers are accompanied by pen in this musical dancing in order to create eternal work like heaven wine. “For creation of real calligraphy comprehension of writing, skill and identification of hand writing, writing material and tools are effective factors. Calligraphy is beyond simple skill and individuality that should be manifested by defined rules” [11].

B- the role of calligraphy and calligraphers in Iran literature: “It can be said that calligraphy dates to advent of hand writing. calligraphy obtained other form by Islam and gained attention of scholars. It can be said that calligraphy is a pure art that there is no way for inclination and Iran is pioneer of this art” [12]. “Everything is accompanied by an art in Iran so handwriting is fine art” [13]

Like other arts and handcrafts calligraphy is reflection of exalted culture of this artistic realm and it has been passed its perfection trend in different shapes.

In Abbasid period involving Samanid, Omavid, Gaznavid and Saljugi dynasties the great poets and writers like Rodaki, NaserKhosro, Onsori, Firdusi, Khayam, Nezami and other scholars and calligraphers lived. Kofi handwriting was modified by IbenMogaleh in order to satisfy Iranian taste.

IbneMogleh: In late third and early fourth centuries in Abbasid period a Kurdish man changed literature and calligraphy era. He was born in Iranian family from Fars in Bagdad. After studying higher levels he entered to politics because of his time conditions and obtained experiences in different sciences like eloquence, jurisprudence poem, interpretation, hand writing and composition. AhvalSagzi was his calligraphy master and called him IbneMogleh as the “Emam of calligraphers”. IbneMogleh composed unique and beautiful poems. He was chosen as an ad minister of Mogtaderbellah at first and in this period because of difficulty in writing and reading of Kofi hand writing and familiarity with principles of Persian hand writing and other sciences proposed basics of writing of Quran by help of his brother Hassan IbneAli. Then he was selected as minister of Gaheballah and then as AlrazibellabuRazi imprisoned him and the enemies cut his right hand but used his left hand and then they cut his tongue and finally he died in 328H.A.

“IbneMogleh invented Mohagegh hand writing from Kofi and then invented Ryhan and added Solth that Islamic places were decorated by this hand writing and finally by advent of Naskh the handwriting was exalted that all scholars thoughts were expressed by this handwriting” [14].

Mohagegh, Reyhan, Solth, toghi, Ragah and Naskh were invented by IbneMogleh. He believed in “a” as the basic of letters and he used them for writing of special subjects.

IbneBavvah: “after death of IbneMogleh his brother and daughter followed his way. Ali ben Halal was trainee of his daughter and wrote beautiful handwriting of Naskh” [15]

YagutMotaasemi: “after IbneBavvah in seventh century anew school was invented by JameleddinYagutMotaasemi that he is considered as turning point in calligraphy especially in Naskh” [5].

He was servant of MotaasemBellah of Abbasid caliph. He was literate, poet and scholar and limited different types of hand writings into six, Naskh, Mohagegh, Ryhan, Solth, toghi, Ragah.

Mir Ali Tabrizi: Calligraphy was culminated in Tymuri period and famous calligraphers attended in the court of Amir Tymur. It can be referred to Mir Ali Tabrizi that added other type into previous handwritings. He was pious, artist and poet and invented Naskhtauligh by combination of Naskh and tauligh called the bride of Islamic handwritings by manifestation in architecture and music.

Sultan Ali Mashhadi: He was skilled in calligraphy and poet and he composed his poems at once. He composed verse by all Nastaalig rules and he has many poems in the biographies. He was familiar with Amir AliShirNavaei the artist and scholar minster and he was also familiar with great calligrapher and poet AbdollRahman Jami and he wrote significant works.

Mir Ali Heravi: He was one of the great calligraphers in court of Sultan Hussein Baygera and he was famous to “writer of sultan”. He was powerful poet and he was friend of Jami.

Mir EmadGazvini: He was one of the great calligraphers of Safavid period that culminated Nastaalg. He was born in Gazvin and went to Shah Abbas court and trained many followers. He was poet and composed verse in praise of Shah Abbass in elegant hand writing. He was religious, handsome and artist and he could not release from enemies traps like Ali Reza Abassi as a great calligrapher. He was accused of being Sunni and by order of Shah Abbass he was killed unpleasantly.

Since Mir Emad to twelfth century many masters were trained especially in Nastalg. But since thirteen century there was inclination. Since early thirteen century concurrent to literary return period that poets imitated past Khorasni and Iraqi styles and the literature entered to imitation era calligraphy was gained attention and Nastaalg, Noskh and Broken styles revitalized and in Gajarid period it passed the past trend beside Persian literature and famous artists were trained.
MirzaMohamad Reza Kalhor: He was skilled in *Nastaalg* in Gajarid period and used printing industry and preserved calligraphy by entering to new rout like Mir Emad in traditional era he was trained in industrial period.

MirzaMohammad Hussein Khan Emaddoll Ketab: He was contemporary calligrapher and follower of Kalhor. He was artist and poet and painter and composed the first alphabet of learning calligraphy.

Dervish Abdoll Majid Talegani: he was skilled calligrapher of twelfth century that culminated broken*Nastaalg* handwriting. He was poet and he adopted *Khamush* and *Majid*.

In recent period by domination of computer in human lives it can be obtained all hand writings easily with a simple program. But a machine work cannot transfer spirituality. So the artists try to use pen and paper and write about narratives and miracles and valuable speech of the literary men and scholars.

**ACCOMPANYING OF LITERATURE AND CALLIGRAPHY**

From verse view point *Kofi* handwriting and from oldness, sustainability and dependence on kings courts *Solth* handwriting are similar. Slow speed of writing and difficulty of reading of Kofi handwriting caused to replacement of *Nasgh*. Some elegies were replaced by sonnet and couplets because of difficulty in composition and limitation of subject, rhythm and meter.

*Nasgh* handwriting is soft and the letters are uniform and readable and used broadly in writing and composition of tales and stories. The stories, legends and elegies have been written since thousands years ago. *Nasgh* and couplet form are similar from easy usage and mental view point. Sonnet has love and Gnostic content and the poet has many tools like rhythm, meter, meaning and sounds for expressing his thoughts. So from sonnet perspective there is significant similarities between broken*Nastaalg* and *Nastalg*. These handwritings offer possibilities like composition of words and letters, diversity in writing style for expression of eager and interest broken*Nastalg* is the best handwriting for sonnets and this conformity seems fantastic.

This topic is considered in prose. Since artificial prose and old texts are not interesting with broken handwriting. Especially texts require to skill in reading so the calligrapher should select readable handwriting. The best handwritings for these texts are *Nastaalg* and *Nasgh*. Simple and short sentences can be written by broken style.

**CALLIGRAPHY FROM ISLAM AND QURAN VIEW POINT**

Handwriting and calligraphy have important position in Islam so that Hazrat e Ali says: “the good words enter to people mind and good handwriting causes to pleasure and brightness of eyes”. The prophet (peace is upon him) says: who writes God name enters to the heaven”.

“Calligraphy in the first three centuries had Arabic roots and Kofi handwriting culminated during three hundred years is rooted from simple handwriting that the prophet letters were written by this handwriting. Thus it is completed in the text that has Arabic root and secondly it is progressed in its old frame” [16].

**CONCLUSION**

Handwriting was employed by human being in order to transfer his thoughts. In this trend its aesthetic aspect was considered in great literary scholars works for eternity of these works.

It can be said that handwriting has progressed accompanied by literature and in its services. The calligraphers and calligrapher literary men played an important role in offering significant works. The miracles and narratives written by these handwritings have had considerable effects. So our society literate requires to showing greatness of the great scholars and calligraphy has been employed for conduction of this mission. The holiness of calligraphy is originated from writing of divine speech and the calligrapher seeking the best words being inspired by miracles, narratives and speech of the greats.

Calligraphy, literature and handwriting are dependent phenomena since literature by the help of handwriting places words in especial form and calligraphy indicted them in aesthetic scope. Calligraphy and literature are affected by feelings, emotions and imagination that are common point of these exalted arts.

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