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“Exploring Personality Traits In Offenders Through Graphological Assessment”

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Abstract

Personality is a highly individualized aspect of a person's identity, marked by distinct variations from one individual to another. As individuals age, their personality traits evolve gradually, influenced by an amalgamation of experiences and encounters throughout their developmental stages. Crucially, the challenges and obstacles faced by an individual during pivotal phases of growth can significantly impact their personality, potentially leading to the development of criminal behavior. To draw inferences about a person's character, particularly with regard to traits like extroversion and introversion, numerous methodologies are employed. Among these approaches, one notable method is Graphology, which involves the examination of handwriting patterns. In this article, we undertake an examination of the handwriting samples of individuals with criminal backgrounds using Graphology as our analytical tool.

Keywords: Personality traits, Graphology, Criminal behavior.

1.INTRODUCTION:

The term "Crime" encompasses various meanings, including "an unlawful act that constitutes an offense and is subject to legal punishment." Numerous research studies have endeavored to unravel the reasons behind why individuals consciously engage in heinous crimes or develop criminal behaviors. Researchers have explored multiple perspectives and drawn their respective conclusions. They contend that a person's upbringing and environment, encompassing their family, neighborhood, peers, values, habits, and even role models, during their formative years, significantly influence their behavior and personality.

Moreover, there have been inquiries into the potential biological underpinnings of criminal behavior. For example, research has indicated that individuals with an additional "Y" chromosome alongside the typical "XY" sex chromosomes are occasionally referred to as "super males." However, it is crucial to emphasize that super males may not necessarily exhibit violent tendencies; instead, they may have a heightened predisposition toward

criminal behavior when compared to individuals with the standard set of sex chromosomes (Sarnoff A. Mednick, 1983).

1.1 Approaches

When it comes to analyzing handwriting using graphological methods, there are two primary approaches: the Trait method and the Gestalt method.

1. Trait Method: The Trait method was originally developed by Michon during the period from 1806 to 1881. This approach involves a meticulous dissection and evaluation of various components present in the entirety of a person's handwriting. Essentially, it breaks down the handwriting into distinct traits or characteristics and assesses each one individually. In France, Michon's Trait method is alternatively known as the "Atomistic" approach, emphasizing its detailed, atom-by-atom analysis of the handwriting's elements.

2. Gestalt Method: In contrast, the Gestalt method focuses on the initial impression conveyed by a person's handwriting and the visual effects it creates as a whole. This method takes a more holistic perspective, considering the handwriting as a complete entity rather than isolating individual traits. Within the Gestalt method, the analysis is structured around three fundamental components:

a. **Depiction of Space:** This aspect pertains to how the handwriting occupies and interacts with the available space on the page. It takes into account factors like spacing between words, lines, and letters.

b. **Portrayal of Movement:** The analysis here revolves around the flow and rhythm of the handwriting. It considers the speed, fluidity, and dynamic qualities of the pen strokes.

c. **Picture of Shape of Words:** This component delves into the visual appearance of the written words, including the overall shape and form of the letters and words themselves. It's important to note that these three elements within the Gestalt method are interconnected and influence one another. The Gestalt approach emphasizes the holistic nature of handwriting analysis, considering how these components blend together to form a cohesive whole.

1.3 Aim

To analyze the personality traits among offenders (under sec.302 IPC) in sabarmati jail, Ahmedabad by Graphological assessment.

1.4 Objective

1. To determine personality dimensions of offenders charged under section 302 of IPC.
2. Screen the personality from the handwriting of offenders & normal people.
3. To compare the results obtained in the study of offenders & normal people

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

As a result, there are a multitude of interpretations and theories surrounding the concept of crime and criminal conduct. An individual's conduct, cognitive processes, and overall comprehension collectively shape their personality. Personality, in essence, encompasses the distinct and enduring patterns of thought, action, and emotion displayed by an individual. Notable psychologists such as Gordon Allport were pioneers in the exploration of personality traits. Allport introduced a theory that categorized traits into three classes: cardinal, central, and secondary traits (psychestudy, 2018). Eysenck, on the other hand, identified two primary personality traits, namely introversion and extroversion, and later introduced a third trait known as psychotism (psychestudy, 2018). Raymond Cattell proposed the concept of surface and source traits (psychestudy, 2018), while in 1985, Costa and McCrae formulated the "Big Five Factor theory," which delineates five distinct trait categories: openness, agreeableness, extraversion, conscientiousness, and neuroticism (psychestudy, 2018).

This article centers its attention on two key personality traits: extraversion-introversion and neuroticism-emotional stability. Extraversion characterizes individuals who are highly sociable and outgoing, often referred to as extroverts. They embrace change, seek adventure, and thrive in bustling social environments. Typically, extroverts tend to cultivate a wide circle of friends and dislike solitude. In contrast, introverts prefer smaller social circles, resist major life changes, and find contentment in solitude (extraversion, 2018).

The second personality trait, neuroticism, manifests as heightened anxiety levels. Individuals with high neuroticism tendencies may exhibit obsessions related to cleanliness and orderliness, potentially increasing their vulnerability to conditions like Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Conversely, individuals with low neuroticism are described as emotionally stable. They do not experience significant anxiety and can handle minor setbacks with composure. They do not fixate on issues related to cleanliness or germophobia (extraversion, 2018).

Handwriting, as elucidated in the book "Research Methodology and Psychology of Graphology," is essentially a manifestation of brain activity. Initially, the primary focus of handwriting development was on cultivating legibility and neatness. Initially, individuals may engage in conscious writing, but with practice, it becomes an automatic process. Writing serves as a means to convey one's ideas and thoughts onto a surface using a writing instrument (M., 2017). Consequently, it is posited that one can deduce a person's personality traits through an analysis of their handwriting. In the article titled "Research Methodology and Psychology of Graphology," the focus is on the application of graphological techniques to gain insights into an individual's personality traits. Graphology can be defined as the systematic study of a person's character, personality, and even their health by analyzing the strokes, movements, and formations found in their handwriting.

3.METHODOLOGY:

Samples-

Experimental group: a sum total of 25 male offenders within the age group of 20-50 yrs charged under section 302 of IPC from Sabarmati Central Jail of Ahmadabad.

Control group: 25 male common people were chosen for the study within the age group 20-50.

All the participants in this study were provided with an informed consent and were explained the sincerity and confidentiality of the study.

Assessment methods-

For the analysis of handwritings of the all the willing participants Trait-stroke method in Graphology was put into use.

For comparing the results obtained from Grapho-analysis, MPI inventory was used. MPI was developed by **H. J. Eysenck**, which is standard questionnaire to determine extraversion-introversion and neuroticism-emotional stability.\

Maudsley's Personality Inventory (MPI)-

Eysenck's MPI questionnaire has a total number of 48 questions. Each question consists of three options for answer- yes, ?, no. in all the question which are answerable as " yes" are given 2 points (except question numbers 14,16,18,24,22,30,36 and 40 are given 2 points for answer "no"). All the other answers 0 point is provided for the answer "no" and for answer "?"

1 point is given. Now, these 48 questions are divided into two parts each for determining the dimension of extraversion-introversion and neuroticism-emotional stability.

For neuroticism, the scores obtained from the statement no. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46 and 47 are calculated. Similarly, for extroversion, the scores obtained from the statement no. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 35, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 and 48 are calculated. Trait-stroke Method-

Data collection- According to Graphology principles, writing should be taken on an A4 size blank sheet. The writing content should be at least 1page of essay and the person is required to put his/her signature on the blank part of the paper.

The participant should be allowed to be comfortable while writing as such to be provided with a comfortable chair. He/she should be provided with blue ball pointed pen as a writing instrument. The person should be told to write anything from mind (by own) and not to copy. The writing should be of essay type and it should be written only on one side of paper. The person

is to put his/her signature after completing the essay.

Various tools such as measuring grid for size and slant are used over the writing while analyzing.

4. ANALYSIS:

MPI questionnaire has to be filled by the willing participants only. They are firstly informed regarding the sincerity and confidentiality of the work. They are to be informed that their details and the questionnaire filled by them will not be used for any other purpose than for this study and will be kept a secret. They are made to read a consent application so that they are able to take a decision. After they sign the consent willfully, they are informed about the test as in what all questions are there in the inventory and how they have to answer. They are told to answer their immediate response to the questions. They are provided with a pencil to fill the inventory. Any kind of confusion regarding filling the inventory should be invited.

For grapho-analysis, Trait-stroke method is applied on this study. In which the whole writing is split into several parts such as margins, pressure, slant, shape, size, base line, self identity etc. The greater the number of appearances of the same type of departure the stronger would be the behavior. It is said that a minimum three time of repetition is considered valid to conclude particular behavior. While measuring the pressure of writing, hands can be used to feel the pressure of writing from both side of the paper.

Margin- A margin is the edge from where or up till where the writer prefers to write. There can be many types of margins, reasonably straight, ascending, descending, uncontrollably wavy, concave, convex etc. all these types gives different information about the person.

Pressure- it is the impressions created by the writing instrument when respective amount of force is applied to it on a paper. This can be felt by palms while analyzing. Pressure can be divided into- heavy pressure, medium, light, very heavy, very light, varying and extremely light pressure.

Slant- It is the degree at which the writings are inclined at. In the measuring grid of slant each degree is allotted with an Initial such A, B, C, D, E etc. the grid is placed over the writing and tried to match with the degrees in the grid.

Size of the letters- It is the dimensions of a letter in the writing. This may vary from very tiny letters to extra large letters. The measurement of the size can be done with the help of a Graphological measuring grid for size.

Base line- It is a line on which the letters align. This can be many types such as, wavy, straight, ascending, descending etc.

Results:

Table1- shows the mean, percentage and standard deviation of neuroticism and emotional stability of experimental and control group by MPI										
Scale	Experimental Group					Control group				
	No.	Mean	SD	%	Remark	No.	Mean	SD	%	Remark
0-24	11	16.75	6.7	44	Emo. St.	20	16.6	5.2	80	Emo. St.
25-48	14	30.5	5.0	56	Neurotic	5	33.5	6.3	20	Neurotic

Table 1

As the sample number is very low i.e., 25, the study gives a suggestive information. The above table reveals the results about neuroticism and emotional stability analyzed by using MPI. As shown in the table 44% of experimental group is found to be emotionally stable while 56% of the experimental group is neuroticism. Whereas in control group, it is determined that 80% of the group is found to be emotionally stable while only 20% is neurotic.

Table 2- shows the mean, standard deviation and percentage of extraversion- introversion of experimental and control group by MPI										
Scale	Experimental group					Control group				
	No.	Mean	SD	%	Remark	No.	Mean	SD	%	Remark
0-24	13	21.6	3.7	52	Introvert	9	20.3	4.7	36	Introvert
25-48	12	31.9	4.4	48	Extrovert	16	29.7	3.1	64	extrovert

Table 2

The above table shows that 52% experimental group is analyzed as an introvert while 48% of control group is determined as an extrovert. Whereas only 36% of the control group is introvert and 64% is extrovert.

Table 3- shows the extraversion-introversion percentage among experimental and control group by graphology					
Experimental group			Control group		
No.	Percentage	Remark	No.	Percentage	Remark
15	60%	Introversion	11	44%	Introversion
10	40%	Extroversion	14	56%	Extroversion

Table 3

As shown in the above table, by analyzing handwriting, it is determined that 60% of experimental group is introvert while 40% is extrovert. And in control group only 44% of introversion is found while the other extroversion is 56%. Now if we compare the results of extraversion-introversion between the experimental and control group analyzed by MPI and Graphology following results are found:

Table 4- shows the comparative results of MPI and Graphology for extroversion-introversion.

	MPI		Graphology	
	Extroversion	Introversion	Extroversion	Introversion
Experimental Group	48%	52%	40%	60%
Control Group	64%	36%	56%	44%

Table 4

As shown in the above table, the results when compared with each other, it is found that there is no significant difference. As in both MPI as well as Graphology, it is clearly found that the percentage of extroversion in the experimental group is comparatively lower than that of control group. Whereas the percentage of introversion in experimental group is found to be higher in both MPI and Graphology and lower than that of control group.

5. Conclusion:

After the overall study, no significant difference is seen in the results of extroversion- introversion between MPI and Graphology. This study also determines the significant difference of personality dimensions between experimental and control group. As the sample size was less for this study, it can be called as an indicative study which shows that the criminals have high percentage of neuroticism and introversion while normal group of people have a high percentage of emotional-stability and extroversion.

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