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**Analysis Of Calligraphy Skills of College Students  
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**ABSTRACT**

Learning calligraphy is an implementation of ability and potential and proficiency in writing Arabic. However, calligraphy writing does not only write about the art of beauty in Arabic, but there are other views, namely cognitive, affective and psychomotor. This study aims to describe the abilities and skills of students in writing calligraphy as well as the correct rules in writing Arabic khat. This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The subjects of this study were students of the North Sumatra State Islamic University (UINSU) Arabic language education-1 (stamp 2022), while the object of this research was in the form of material objects and objects from the results of their studies. The research focused on problems related to the level of difficulty and ease of writing Arabic khat (calligraphy). This data was obtained by means of structured interviews, namely literature studies and research documentation. Then the results of this study are: calligraphy writing in a psychomotor way, which means students' skills in writing calligraphy and calligraphy writing in a cognitive way is related to student intelligence and calligraphy writing ideas are based on affective, namely emotional, character and morals.

Keywords: Analysis, Ability, Student



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## Introduction

Arabic calligraphy, one of the beautiful writing arts in Islamic culture, developed since the caliphate after the death of the Prophet Muhammad. Arabic calligraphy was first written when the Qur'anic revelation was completed and no one recorded the Qur'an. Because, at the time of revelation, the Prophet Muhammad and his companions immediately remembered it, because many memorizers of the Qur'an died in war, at the suggestion of Umar bin Khattab during the caliphate of Abu Bakr Assiddiq, a Qur'an Council was held and the Qur'an was recorded during the time of Uthman bin Caliph Affan. Arabic calligraphy writing then experienced the development of writing forms that gave birth to standard forms from time to time (Mubarok, 2012).

Along with the development of the times at this time, calligraphy in Indonesia is well known by the community among pesantren students both modern and traditional and in Islamic universities, but it needs to be underlined that in this Islamic university not all faculties apply calligraphy learning. Only in certain faculties, such as Arabic language education and so on, which blend Islamic studies, but as the times develop, calligraphy writing, which was originally written using date palm fronds and on stones, is now written on paper, on the walls of mosques and mushollahs. This shows the relief of the progress of calligraphy along with the times.

This form of calligraphy learning innovation for PBA students attracts the attention of researchers. Therefore, the development of PBA students' calligraphy, interest and ability to learn Arabic is considered important and a solution to the challenges of learning Arabic in the digital era. one of them is by including it in a course that is devoted to discussing and training these students in writing Arabic, namely adding calligraphy (*khat*) courses to the teaching of each semester, not fixated on one semester. As the art of Arabic calligraphy (*khat*) is included in the subjects of Islamic boarding schools and Madrasah Ibtidaiyah. Therefore, through the author's analysis, interest is the only madrasah that maintains calligraphy (*khat*), where calligraphy is used as a local content ability in learning. (Humaini, 2021).

Learning Arabic is one of the compulsory courses for students majoring in PBA-1 (stambuk 2022) at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) Medan. According to the author's observation of some students who take this course, learning Arabic calligraphy or *khat* is still very routine. In a sense, the following is a habit of the past, and also short in learning curve. So that innovation in the development of materials and media related to calligraphy in the form of writing techniques is still limited to the delivery of material. Students and learners today still use *hard copy* media for calligraphy assignments, and some even use *soft copies* to learn how to write calligraphy. It has become an extracurricular activity, a student activity unit

and a subject in some schools, and a subject in universities. One of the problems of learning Arabic as a foreign language is writing. Writing Arabic is difficult due to several factors, namely Arabic is written from the right while Indonesian is written from the left, besides that the shape of Arabic letters is different from **Latin** letters. (Humaini, 2021).

Students argue at this time that calligraphy learning is less attractive to many people in pesantren and in universities. This is because the learning of calligraphy is very difficult and not easy to practice (do) it is a trigger that makes students and students less interested in learning this calligraphy. If this is done to a large audience, of course the next generation of Islam will not develop. Then, over time as Muslims can forget this calligraphy and consider it not important in the lives of Muslims. In fact, if it can take advantage of this momentum, the Islamic generation can channel their creative ideas in Arabic and can benefit many people. That is, participating in a competition in the art of calligraphy and getting the right in the competition and being useful in learning Arabic.

### **Research Methods**

This research uses qualitative methods and descriptive analysis. Qualitative research is research that has a descriptive nature and the results obtained from the research are non-quantitative or called not numbers. This type of research is *field* research, namely going directly to the field by searching and collecting the necessary data, because of the nature of the **research**. (Makleat, 2021).

This research method is also often called the naturalistic research method because this research is conducted by collecting real and specific data in natural conditions. Because this research method can find or produce new knowledge in a particular field. This type of descriptive analysis research is also defined as a method whose function is to describe or describe the object of research through data or samples collected as it is, as well as analyze and draw conclusions that apply to the public. In other words, descriptive analysis research focuses questions or attention on problems when research is conducted, then processes and analyzes the findings to draw conclusions. (Ni'ma, 2022)

The data collection technique carried out in this study is through interview techniques. The interview is a research method carried out as a news digger about the object of research through asking questions related to the research. At the interview stage, researchers interviewed PBA students at UINSU, besides that researchers also collected literature sources related to the object under study.

## **Result and Discussion**

### **A. Definition of Calligraphy**

*Calligraphy* comes from English etymology, namely "*calligraphy*" derived from two Greek words, namely *kallos*: *beautiful* (beautiful) and *graphein*: *to write*, meaning beautiful writing or the art of beautiful writing. In Arabic it is often called *khat* which means lines or strokes that form handwriting. In an artistic sense to smooth the writing or correct the scribbles is called *fann al-khath*. Sheikh Syamsuddin Afkani explains the definition of the term more fully in his book "Irsyad Al-Qasid", which means that calligraphy is a form that introduces individual letters, their position, and combines them into the science of the process of writing composition. or written on the line, how it is conveyed, written in proportion and harmony. which is visible and recognizable to the naked eye as a device created by a work of art. (Suarez, 2015).

With the above understanding, it can be understood that calligraphy basically refers to the skill or intelligence that produces beautiful writing. In Islamic art, these beautiful writings refer to the rules of writing and fine art without damaging the message or meaning of the writing (calligraphy). Arabic calligraphy as a form of Islamic art whose existence can evoke artistic imagination is guided by the values of Islamic teachings, which aims to remind humans of the majesty and greatness of God. In addition to its artistic form, it also has a noble meaning, which is the elaboration of the word of God contained in the holy book of the Qur'an.

Arabic calligraphy as a work of art is a combination of the content of the verses quoted in the Qur'an and its visual form, which must be displayed in such a way as to become a work of art, which behind its visual beauty (explicit meaning) also contains invisible beauty (implicit meaning) in other words beauty (form) is the relationship between humans and humans, or *hablun minannas*, but invisible beauty (meaning) is the relationship between humans and God, or *hablun minallah*. (Sidiq et al., 2019).

### **B. Purpose and Function of Calligraphy Learning**

Each learning has its own purpose and function, one of which is calligraphy learning. The goals and functions in calligraphy learning include: *first*, calligraphy is used as a dedication to *qiraah* learning, because calligraphy is also a refinement of reading, especially for a beginner; *second*, calligraphy can make a difference between one letter and another; *third*, training in hand movements to get used to writing skills through calligraphy; *fourth*, helping individuals achieve work and social success in terms of calligraphy; *fifth*, giving satisfaction to the reader in the beauty contained in each calligraphic writing; *sixth*, increasing creativity in creating forms of writing that are good to see. (Fauzi & Thohir, 2021).

Ali Akbar revealed the function of calligraphy in his book "Rules of Writing and Islamic Calligraphy Works" in 1994 calligraphy as a medium of worship and teaching calligraphy artworks intended to glorify the name of God. To make calligraphy an artistic product, the elements of worship and da'wah cannot be separated. Calligraphy as a means of channeling artistic creativity, some calligraphy artists (calligraphers) are able to combine Islamic calligraphy with elements of local art. Traditional decorative motifs are preserved, creating beautiful calligraphic works without losing the character of the text. Calligraphy as decoration the main role of calligraphy encountered is decoration to make it look more beautiful. Calligraphy is an expression of respect for human beings, the great interest of Muslim artists in expressing their artistic creativity goes hand in hand with high appreciation for human beings who are meritorious. (Sulaiman, 2021).

### **C. Research and Interview Results**

This research has an interview instrument structure as an effort to collect data to support the research. The informants in this research are students majoring in PBA-1 (Stambuk 2022) FITK at North Sumatra State Islamic University (UINSU). As the next stage, researchers analyzed the data through the responses given by informants and made an attachment structure in the form of interview data carried out in the field.

The research was conducted for a week on April 4, 2023 to April 11, 2023, researchers found data that had a relationship with the title of this research, namely "Analysis of calligraphy skills of students majoring in PBA-1 (Stambuk 2022) FITK at UINSU". This data was obtained by researchers through interview techniques to some PBA-1 students (Stambuk 2022). The interview was conducted by researchers outside of campus class hours, then researchers conducted interviews involving 5 students and 10 female students.

*The first* interview, researchers interviewed 5 students on April 4, 2023. When interviewed, the interviewees gave very good and polite responses, and provided answers to all questions. For the *second* interview, researchers conducted interviews with 5 female students on April 7, 2023. The interviews conducted had no difference between the first and second interviews because researchers felt closer to the interviewees when conducting interview sessions. Furthermore, the *third* interview, researchers interviewed 5 female students on April 11, 2023. In conducting the third interview, the researcher met directly with the interviewees after the lecture was over. The responses given were very enthusiastic because the answers given by the informants were so detailed.

The interviewees who have been interviewed, totaling 15 people, the researcher analyzes the data that has been collected. The data analysis in question is a qualitative data analysis related to the study and understanding

of the linkages and concepts of development and evaluation. Qualitative data analysis is an index which is an analysis based on the data that has been obtained, then the data is developed into an analysis. This qualitative data analysis is used as an effort by researchers to sort out the data that is managed so as to produce research results (Sirajuddin Saleh, 2017).

Based on the results of interviews with the parties involved on April 4, 2023 to April 11, 2023, the researcher analyzed the "Calligraphy analysis ability of PBA-1 students (Stambuk 2022) at the State Islamic University of North Sumatra (UINSU) which is discussed below regarding the calligraphy ability of PBA-1 students:

#### **D. Calligraphy Ability of PBA 1 Students (Stambuk 2022) Faculty of Tarbiyah and Keguruan Sciences**

Ability comes from the word mampu, which means the ability to do something (can), ability, proficiency, strength (Tim Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, 1989: 552-553). Ability refers to an individual's ability to complete various tasks in the workplace. From this understanding, it can be concluded that competence is a person's ability or ability to acquire a skill and use it to perform various tasks at work. According to Robbin and Stephen, competence is an individual's ability to perform various tasks in the workplace. Based on the points above, it can be concluded that ability is the ability or skill possessed by an individual to do something/various tasks in a particular job. In order to carry out their duties properly in accordance with their field of expertise (Stephen P. Robbins & Timonthy A. Judge, 2009: 57).

Based on research data obtained by researchers related to abilities at the first interview stage with 15 students, there is 1 person who has the ability in calligraphy, namely MAA who has participated in the simba calligraphy competition on March 07, 2023. MAA has a talent for calligraphy starting from a love of writing and starting to seriously take Arabic rules lessons using *khat pens* and also markers and blackboards in extracurricular learning and starting from MAZ's persistence has a spectacular talent interest in recreating calligraphic writings. Researchers traced 14 students who did not have a talent in calligraphy learning, but had an interest, however, did not have a talent at all, namely IS, FA, MAD, AIK, NA, MS, AY, AS, HS, JR, EE, IB, AM. This is because students really like calligraphy and its beauty, but are not talented in this calligraphy field.

Based on the analysis of researchers related to the data obtained in the results of interviews on April 04, 2023 to April 11, 2023, namely the lack of calligraphy skills of PBA-1 majors (stambuk 2022) Faculty of FITK at UINSU is not appropriate for PBA-1 students (stambuk 2022) in calligraphy writing skills, because calligraphy writing is a basic thing that PBA-1 students (stambuk 2022) should have.

Interest is a process of continuous attention and concentration on things that interest him and produce a sense of pleasure and quality (Hilgar & Slameto; 1988; 59). Interest is a psychological mechanism consisting of a mixture of feelings, hopes, beliefs, prejudices, fears, or other dispositions that can lead individuals to certain thoughts (Maprare and Slameto; 1988; 62). Expert John Holland, who has done a lot of research on interest, understands interest as an activity or task that arouses curiosity, a sense of attention, and provides pleasure or pleasure. According to KBBI, interest means; *first*, attract attention; *second*, have a desire to be noticed; *third*, willing to do something; *fourth*, interested; *fifth*, interested; *sixth*, like; *seventh*, have a desire; *eighth*, want (Aiken 1994). Calling interest a preference for one activity over another. This means that interest is related to the values that make people choose in life (Anastasia and Urbina, 1997).

Talent in English: "*apptitude*" or "*talent*". Talent is an ability that is already owned by everyone who is used to learn something quickly, even some of them in a short time and have very good results too. Talent is already owned by every human being when he was born into this world. In a broad sense, talent is a capacity that a person has to know and master a specific knowledge (with practice), skill or a series of organized responses. Thus, talent or aptitude can be interpreted as an innate ability of a person. This ability is still a potential that needs to be further developed and trained in order to achieve the dreams that want to be realized, for example, a person's ability in the field of music, in terms of mechanics or **language** skills. (Ni'ma, 2022).

After researchers conducted interviews with related sources, researchers concluded that among the 15 students who were interviewed carefully, 15 people had an interest in calligraphy, even though they had a great interest but students did not have any talent at all in writing calligraphic *khat* according to the rules applied, as for the reason why talent is not fulfilled due to the unfulfilled supporting factors for this calligraphy writing talent, for example, the influence in learning, one of which is facilities and infrastructure. The absence of proper facilities and teachers who guide sources to develop the talent of writing calligraphy *khat*.

In another view, talent is a person's condition that allows him to acquire certain skills, knowledge and skills through special training, for example: language skills, ability to play music, etc. In this case, musically gifted individuals, for example, who receive the same training as other non-musically gifted individuals, will acquire these musical skills more quickly (Wijaya 1988:66).

The material used to write calligraphy is ink. Calligraphy ink is made from natural materials such as limestone, charcoal and water. Surface for writing calligraphy. Calligraphy media can be paper, canvas, walls, metal and glass,

and the meaning of calligraphy is so profound that it can be read as a form of spiritual expression. This art can also be used to appreciate the beauty and majesty of the Quran. (Riadi, 2021)

The interviewees involved in the interview stated that the materials used in calligraphy learning use *khat* pens and reference books that have been given by the teacher (teacher) and use the *first* learning method, making outlines or sketches of hijaiyah letters in the form and placement of letters in general *second*, writing hijaiyah letters using stationery correctly *third*, use the correct sequence of movements in writing hijaiyah letters

## **Conclusion**

Calligraphy is basically a skill or intelligence that produces beautiful writing. In Islamic art, these beautiful writings refer to the rules of writing and fine art without damaging the message or meaning of calligraphic writing. Based on research conducted by the author, it can be concluded that there are PBA-1 students (Stambuk 2022) who have the ability to learn calligraphy, even among these sources explore talents and interests through participation in competitions related to calligraphy. The factors that influence UINSU students are supporting factors in calligraphy skills, for example, the influence in learning, one of which is facilities and infrastructure. However, there are still many students who have no talent and ability at all due to the absence of supporting facilities. As for the comparison that the researcher analyzes, there are very few students who have calligraphy skills in learning, especially in mahara al-kitabah, this is because the speakers used to study calligraphy at boarding schools or at UINSU.

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