

## **Revolutionizing the Art of Calligraphy with Kelk Software: Embracing a New Digital Age in Calligraphic Writing**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Proficiency in Arabic calligraphy was once confined to a select few blessed with innate talent or those who underwent formal or informal education. Mastery of this art was achieved through either inherent abilities and rigorous training or persistent self-learning and dedication. However, in today's technological landscape, the challenges associated with learning calligraphy can be surmounted through the aid of software applications that streamline and enhance the learning process. One such solution is the utilization of the "Kelk" application, facilitating the creation of Arabic calligraphy in strict adherence to the principles of khat writing. This software offers users the convenience of typing Arabic text and subsequently engaging in a creative editing process utilizing its available features.

**Keywords:** kelk software, calligraphy, media

### **INTRODUCTION**

The art of Arabic calligraphy has always been considered a limited skill, accessible only to a small number of individuals who naturally possessed special talents or received formal and informal education focused on this beautiful art of writing. Some people have reached the pinnacle of their expertise in calligraphy thanks to a strong innate talent and intensive training, while others struggle to hone their skills through perseverance, dedication, and self-study effort. However, in the current era of technological revolution,

there are significant breakthroughs that change the face of Arabic calligraphy learning. The challenges that once hindered the development of learning the art of writing, can now be overcome with the help of innovative software applications, bringing pleasure and ease to the teaching and learning process.

One of the leading solutions that attracts attention is the application "Kelk". This software opens wide doors for Arabic calligraphy lovers to explore and improve their writing skills with the right rules of khat writing. Users can type text in Arabic, then go through the creative process with the various editing features available, giving them the opportunity to produce beautiful and meaningful works.

The application "Kelk" played an important role in the transformation of calligraphy learning. Previously, the main challenge in learning this art was limited access to skilled teachers or limited learning environments. However, with the presence of this application, this is no longer an obstacle. Anyone, from any background or geographical location, can explore the world of calligraphy more easily and more interestingly.

Now, through the "Kelk" app, students and calligraphy enthusiasts are not only learning about the beautiful art of writing, but also experiencing a transformation in the learning experience. They can understand the basic theories and principles of calligraphy better, and have the freedom to hone their skills in producing unique and interesting written works.

Today's technology has not only become an aid in the learning of calligraphy, but also opens doors for thousands of individuals who previously may not have had the opportunity to develop their talents in this beautiful art of writing. In this article, we will explore more deeply the revolutionary role of the "Kelk" application in the learning of Arabic calligraphy in this digital age. From how these apps influence the way we understand and approach the art of writing, to how they encourage and inspire individual growth within the vast world of calligraphy.

## **PURPOSE OF WRITING ARTICLES**

This article aims to uncover the revolution in Arabic calligraphy learning brought about by the "Kelk" application of technology. In earlier eras, Arabic calligraphy writing proficiency was only accessible to a small number of individuals who had a natural talent or access to formal or informal education focused on this beautiful art of writing. However, this article will underline how the application of "Kelk" has changed the paradigm of learning by opening wide doors for calligraphy lovers to explore and improve their writing skills according to the rules of proper khat writing.

By introducing the key features possessed by this application as well as its ease of use, this article aims to motivate readers to explore the world of calligraphy with more confidence and enthusiasm. In addition, this article will explore the transformational impact of using technology in calligraphy learning, illustrating the innovative role of the "Kelk" app in shaping inspiring and immersive learning experiences for fans of the art of Arabic writing. The ultimate goal of this article is to encourage readers to engage in further conversation about the potential and role of technology in improving skills in the art of Arabic calligraphy as well as to delve deeper into the potential for exploration and development within this field.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY**

Calligraphy is the art of beautiful writing, it comes from a foreign language, namely: English: Caligraphy is (art) beautiful hand writing. Latin: Calios: beautiful; Graph: writing, so the meaning is beautiful writing. Calligraphy in Arabic is called al-khoth, which means: lines or writing.

Arabic calligraphy is an artistic art of handwriting that developed in countries that generally have Islamic cultural heritage. This art form is based on Arabic script, which for a long time was used by many Muslims to write in their own languages. Like Islam in Java with Arabic letters called pegon writing.

Arabic calligraphy is a revered art among various Islamic fine arts, as it is the main tool for preserving the Qur'an in written form. The rejection of figurative depictions as they could lead to idolatry, led to calligraphy and abstract depictions becoming the main forms of artistic expression in various Islamic cultures. For example, calligraphy of God's name is permitted while figurative depictions of God are not permitted.

## **TYPES OF ARABIC KHAT**

In its development, many types of calligraphy khat appeared, not all of these khaths have survived to this day. There are 8 (eight) types of popular calligraphy khat known by calligraphy lovers in Indonesia, namely;

1. Naskhi Style - Naskhi style calligraphy is most often used by Muslims, both for writing religious texts and everyday writing. The Naskhi style belongs to the oldest calligraphy writing styles. Since the rules of writing were formulated systematically by Ibn Muqlah in the 10th century, this style of calligraphy is very popularly used to write Qur'anic mushaf until now. The letter characters are simple, almost without any additional decoration, so they are easy to write and read.
2. Gaya Tsuluts - This calligrapher was an Arabic minister (vizier) during the Abbasid Caliphate. Tsuluts-style calligraphy writing is very ornamental, with many additional embellishments and is easily shaped in certain compositions to fill the available writing space. Calligraphy works that use the Tsuluts style can be written in the form of curves, with tapered heads and sometimes written in a strong splicing and intersectional style. Because of this beauty and flexibility, Tsuluts style is widely used as mosque architectural ornaments, book covers, and interior decorations, and so on.
3. Pharisaic Style - As the name suggests, Pharisaic style calligraphy was developed by the Persians and became the official letter of the nation from the time of the Safavid Dynasty until now. Pharisaical calligraphy placed great importance on the element of line, written without letters, and the author's skill was determined by his agility in playing with the thin of letters in the right 'dose'. This style is widely used as an exterior decoration of mosques in Iran, which is usually combined with colorful Arabes.
4. Riq'ah Style - This calligraphy is the result of the development of Naskhi and Tsuluts style calligraphy. Such is the case with Naskhi style writing used in everyday writing. The Riq'ah was developed by Ottoman calligraphers, commonly used for ordinary

handwriting or for other practical purposes. The letter characters are very simple, without vowels, making it possible to write quickly.

5. Diploma Style (Raihani) - Ijazah style calligraphy writing (Raihani) is a blend of Tsuluts and Naskhi styles, developed by Ottoman calligraphers. This style is commonly used for writing diplomas from a calligraphy teacher to his students. The letter characters are like Tsuluts, but simpler, a little extra embellishment, and not usually written in stacks (murakkab).
6. Diwani Style - This calligraphy was developed by calligrapher Ibrahim Munif. Later, it was perfected by Sheikh Hamdullah and calligraphers of the Ottoman State in Turkey in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. This style was used to write official royal letterheads. The character of this style is round and hopeless. The beauty of his writing depends on his line play which sometimes on certain letters rises or descends, far exceeding the horizontal line benchmark. Diwani calligraphy models are widely used for architectural ornaments and book covers.
7. Diwani Jali Style - This calligraphy is a development of Diwani style. This calligraphy writing style was introduced by Hafiz Usman, a prominent calligrapher of the Ottoman State in Turkey. The anatomy of the letters Diwani Jali is basically similar to Diwani, but much more ornamental, dense, and sometimes stacked. Unlike Diwani who does not hope, Diwani Jali on the contrary is very abundant. This abundant harakat is intended more for decorative purposes and does not entirely function as punctuation. Therefore, this style is difficult to read at a glance. Typically, this model is used for non-functional applications, such as decorating the interior of mosques or decorative objects.
8. Kufic Style - Kufi style calligraphy, its writing is widely used for copying the Qur'an of the early period. Therefore, this Kufic style is the oldest writing model among all calligraphy styles. This style first developed in the city of Kufa, Iraq, which is one of the most important cities in the history of Islamic civilization since the 7th century AD.

## **CAMTASIA SOFTWARE AND ITS USE**

In an era dominated by electronic media, the art of Arabic calligraphy writing has become increasingly rare. As part of the beautiful art of writing, Arabic calligraphy faces the challenges of modernization progress. The complicated and time-consuming

process of making calligraphy has made this profession less desirable by many people. Even to learn calligraphy professionally, it takes a very long time and very diverse equipment.

In the course of time that is accelerating and filled with advanced technology, the need to carve wood, dip pens in ink, and scratch them on paper or canvas has shifted. Now, we only need a personal computer or laptop to create interesting Arabic calligraphy.

One application that facilitates the creation of Arabic calligraphy is Kelk, a software program that has been circulating widely on the internet since 2000. Kelk simplifies the process of making Arabic calligraphy according to the right rules and with attractive designs. Since its inception, Kelk has released 3 versions, namely the 2000, 2010, and the last version is the 2013 version. Very few computer applications were specifically designed to aid the development of Arabic calligraphy because Arabic khat has unique characteristics compared to writing in Latin script.

This software is developed by SinaSoft which is basically an Arabic calligraphy software for structuring Arabic words with different calligraphy styles. Kelk supported almost all types of Arabic khat, such as khat naskhi, tsuluts, diwani khafi, diwani jali, kufi, lahuri, and mualla. This application continues to grow by providing other fonts to increase the sophistication of the application. Today, almost all popular types of khat that are widely used by many people or institutions are already supported by this software. An example is khat which is very popular for writing mushaf or official texts such as khat tsulut and naskhi.

This software application has a variety of complete and stable menus, allowing us to express ourselves in writing Arabic calligraphy. The advantage of this application is the ability to export your work into Adobe Illustrator, JPG images, Photoshop, and PDF. This provides flexibility in storage that can be developed according to needs and creativity.

Good knowledge and understanding are needed to compile Arabic calligraphy writing in accordance with the rules of correct writing, so as to produce beautiful calligraphy that

has meaning. Similarly, in choosing the appropriate decorative ornaments, it is not too excessive or lacking in decoration.

## **HOW TO USE KELK**

Here are the steps to use the Kelk app that are quite easy and simple, even for those who have limited knowledge in the field of calligraphy. All it takes is a basic knowledge of Arabic text reading and the computer device that supports this application.

The steps to use this software are as follows:

1. Create the Arabic text to be designed: Start by writing the Arabic word text on the layer provided. To make wording easier at a later stage, avoid using letters or periods. Then, shape and arrange the text according to the desired design with the help of the available button menu.
2. Choose the font you want: Once you've written down the Arabic text, the next step is to choose the type of font you want to use and its size. Adjust the font size to the length of the word or sentence. The longer the word, the smaller the customized font size.
3. Beautify with available menus: There are various menus that beautify the appearance of Arabic characters in this software. For example, you can use the buttons on the right to modify the length of certain letters in a word or sentence.
4. Arrange the letters as you wish: Use creativity as optimally as possible at this stage. A good arrangement of letters is one that is easy to read and in accordance with the rules of Arabic writing.
5. Harokat and accessories giving: The final stage involves the use of additional features such as fathah, kasroh, dhumma, breadfruit, tasydid, as well as other accessories such as dots, flowers, long harokat, or other types of accessories in Arabic calligraphy.

After going through all these stages, the last step is to save the work in image formats such as PNG, JPG, GIF, PDF, Adobe Photoshop, or other formats. You can also edit files that have been saved with the built-in Kelk extension (.klk) for advanced purposes.

The process of creating Arabic calligraphy can end here, but from the saved design, you can develop it further using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, CorelDRAW, or other favorite software to make it even more interesting.

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