The Role of Arabic Calligraphy in Displaying the Aesthetics of Linear Configurations in the Kiswah of Kaaba

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The Role of Arabic Calligraphy in Displaying the Aesthetics of Linear Configurations in the Kiswah of Kaaba

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Abstract

The Kiswah of the Kaaba, in the Saudi era, is adorned with Arabic calligraphy, executed in the complex Thuluth calligraphy. These calligraphic formations are compatible with the aesthetic and spiritual function of the Kiswah of Kaaba. In addition, the contribution of these formations and Arabic calligraphy creates formative elements of a distinctive aesthetic nature that glorifies the kiswa with a special kind of spiritual beauty associated with the writing of Qur’anic verses. Arabic calligraphy, especially the Thuluth script, is one of the essential Arabic fonts that express the aesthetic values of Arabic calligraphy in the covering of the Kaaba. Therefore, this study aims to reveal the role of Arabic calligraphy and the characteristics of the Thuluth line, which have enhanced in highlighting the aesthetics of the linear formations of the Kiswah. The study also aims to discuss the aesthetic features and patterns that characterize the linear formations. The method used in this study is the content analysis method, bearing in mind that the primary tool used is inference based on observation. The study concluded that the Thuluth font possesses several aesthetic and technical characteristics compared to the rest of the other Arabic fonts. Moreover, these technical characteristics gave this line an evident prominence in decorating and beautifying the covering of the Kaaba with the appearance of the single letter in several bodies through the morphological diversity of the character drawing.

Keywords: Arabic calligraphy, aesthetics, Kiswah of Kaaba, linear configurations, Thuluth script.

Introduction

The art of Arabic calligraphy has been closely linked to the codification of Qur’anic texts; and the expressions of monotheism in linear formations and compositions decorated with the covering of the Holy Kaaba further adds an aesthetic and spiritual character to it. The main role played by the calligraphic formations in the Kiswah is to enhance the sense of Arabic calligraphy's aesthetic, artistic, plastic and spiritual values through the diversity of patterns and styles of the formations. In the covering of the Kaaba, the forms of linear formations and compositions carried out with the complex Thuluth line were varied.

The Thuluth calligraphy, in general, is considered one of the most beautiful Arabic calligraphies that have emerged in the field of creativity and artistic formation because of its characteristics and features that distinguish it from the rest of the other Arabic calligraphy. Yet on the other hand, it is considered one of the most attractive in terms of beauty and perfection in its linear structure formations. Its output bodies have multiplied and varied through distinctive design structures in the treatment of spaces within the bodies prepared for the covering of the Holy Kaaba. All these calligraphic formations executed in the complex Thuluth Al-Jali (الجلي) script are considered a prominent sign and symbol in the aesthetic and uniqueness of the Kaaba's covering; and considered

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as a qualitative shift in the development of the art of Arabic calligraphy throughout the Islamic ages.

**Thuluth** calligraphy is described as “the master of Arabic calligraphy,” as a calligrapher is not considered skilled unless he controls and masters this type. Moreover, it is the sole calligraphy book that calligraphers are held accountable far more than others. The *Thuluth* script was written in the ancient Qur'an and was derived from the *Kufic* script at the end of the Umayyad era and the beginning of the Abbasid era. However, the calligraphers of the Abbasid era excelled in this line and added some formations to it that gave it a kind of beauty.²

**Thuluth** calligraphy is known as one of the soft Arabic scripts, and it is called a *Thuluth* because the width of the pen with which it writes is equal to one-third of the width of the pen. Ahmed Benin says, “It is a line invented by the Abbasid calligrapher, Minister Ibn Al-Muqla (ابن المقلة). This line is characterized by flexibility, elasticity, durability, ingenuity in composition, and good distribution within the space of the linear composition structure.”³ The *Thuluth* pen has two types: the heavy third pen, which is estimated to have an area of eight hairs and is erect and spread to the extent of seven points, and the third light pen, which writes in half pieces and a shape that tends to the heavy third shape, but is more accurate and gentler than it, and is five points. The Abbasid calligrapher, Al-Wazir Ibn Muqla, set the rules for this calligraphy and was the first to engineer its letters and perfect their forms. Ibn Al-Bawab followed him, then Yaqut Al-Mustasimi, and they were the ones who actively contributed to the development and stability of the forms of its letters.⁴

The *Thuluth* calligraphy was widely used in the past, so the surahs of the Qur'an and the facades of mosques, *mihrabs* and domes were written with it. The *Thuluth* calligraphy went through several stages, including the *Muhaqqaq* and *Al-Rihani* (المحقق والريحاني) calligraphy, the clear third, the knitted third, the geometric third, and corresponding to the currently known *Thuluth* calligraphy.⁵ As Abd al-Jabbar Hamidi explained:

The length of the *Alif* (حرف الألف) varies in this type depending on the nature of the design needed for writing, which results in wonderful artistic formations that lie in the ways of installing its letters. There is a simple structure in which the length of the *Alif* is between six and seven points; as for the heavy installation, the length of the *Alif* (ا) ranges between nine and twelve points, and the purpose of that is to meet the design requirements of the linear painting.⁶

Arabic calligraphy has a rich vocabulary and can be enriched indefinitely because interlocking and elegant derivations provide new ancient roots. Furthermore, it is known as one of the fine arts of Arabic writing, whose alphabetical structure and its flexibility, voluntariness, rotation, parity, entanglement, overlap, and composition helped to flow gracefully and aesthetically, making its place among the fine arts. Hussein Iyad Hussein also described Arabic calligraphy as “an art of painting alphabets and expressing the form and content of decorative geometric origins and bases specific to its books.”⁷ The artistic features of Arabic calligraphy have enabled the calligraphers to form

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²Ibid., 13.  
⁶Abdul Jabbar Hamidi, *Arabic Calligraphy and Arabic Islamic Decoration*.  
decorative aesthetic compositions.⁸

The inherited aesthetic and artistic characteristics of Arabic calligraphy has virtuous basic proportions and rules that helped this art to obtain the highest aesthetic values; in addition to the obedience of Arabic letters and their ability to extend and rotate, these characteristics gave calligraphy vitality and gave it a great deal of beauty and elegance. The art of Arabic calligraphy defines as the art of drawing Arabic letters, whether complex or individual and re-installing them based on well-established foundations to show the aesthetic and artistic aspect of the Arabic character. Each Arabic letter possesses its length, shortness, capacity, narrowness, and space, which creates a sound law that regulates its forms and adjusts the style of its vocabulary. This contributes in adding elegance and charm to it in order to become a tall building with its splendor and moderation of letters, a breathtaking beauty to judge the composition and the consistency of the ratio of the measures adopted in Arabic calligraphy.⁹

The researcher believes that Arabic letters have artistic characteristics and aesthetic dimensions formed as formal systems to highlight Arabic calligraphy's intellectual and expressive aspects through texts employed within linear compositions of functional and aesthetic dimensions embodied in the Kaaba dress. The aesthetic qualities of Arabic letters lie in the consistency, proportionality, extensions, and erections manifested in the drawing of vertical letters; and rotation and agility in the picture of letters. Arabic lines of all types have a high ability to flat, wrought, tide, lie down, and curvature. In addition, they have an increased ability to overlap, entangle, and rotate. All these elements are unique to the art of Arabic calligraphy from the rest of the calligraphy lines.

The Arabic calligraphy used in the Kaaba dress is the Thuluth font. Fitouni says,

The importance of the Thuluth line in the history of calligraphy as it is the first clear image we received of these fonts, as it is technically the essence of the theory of the art form of the Arabic letters attributed, including the proportionality of their parts in terms of between them and their pen.¹⁰

From this point of view, the researcher explains that the manifestation of the Thuluth line on the Kiswah of the Kaaba as the most suitable Arabic lines, especially in terms, because it carries values and aesthetic, artistic and morphological dimensions with it. This line is characterized by the large letters and its ability to obey and overlap. The proportions of its letters located between large, medium and small, which occupy a space in the written tapes, linear formations and compositions. In addition, the areas within the vacant spaces were treated with expressive and decorative marks marked by the Thuluth line to give a dimension, and aesthetic touch manifested on the gown of the Kaaba.¹¹

Moreover, the Thuluth line is characterized by an aesthetic presence based on its structural elements and movements. In addition to its ability to create a literal momentum that reduces space and strengthens the weight of the letters and their control in the linear work and the combination of letters, they're creative. This study aims to reveal the aesthetic qualities of linear formations of Arabic calligraphy in the Kiswah of Kaaba.

⁸Farman Uday, “Technical Characteristics of Thuluth Calligraphy in Al-Baghdadi School of Calligrapher Hashem Al-Baghdadi,” Master's Thesis (Baghdad: Department of Arabic Calligraphy and Decoration, College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, 2004), 27.
⁹Thanoun Bassem, Creative Calligraphers (Baghdad: National Library, Baghdad, Iraq, 1986), 54.
¹¹Ibid
2. Materials and Methods

The analysis phase of the study is a major focus through which the applied aspect of the study is accomplished, and through it, the information required to analyze the Kaaba gown's virtual content is obtained. To reach the results that are interpreted in the light of the study literature related to the current research topic, and thus achieve the goals that the researcher seeks to achieve through the study. The content analysis method is used in this study to accurately describe the Arabic calligraphy and the characteristics of the Thuluth line, which enhanced in highlighting the aesthetic of the linear formations of the Kiswah. The researcher used the (virtual) content analysis approach because the results presented by this approach are related to the apparent form. This approach is based on accurate description, and one of its main objectives is to study and analyze from the perspective of form. Berlson defines it as "one of the research methods used to describe the apparent or explicit content in an objective, regular and ambush description." Al-Azzawi defines the content analysis approach as “a research method used by the researcher in various research fields to describe the material to be analyzed in terms of form and content.”

The researcher has relied on the observation tool as a key tool in her current study. The observation tool is one of the most important research tools used by the researcher to obtain information and facts related to the case of the study to be observed. Through this tool, the researcher could determine what is required to focus on, analyze and records it. For the accuracy of the observation, the information must be accurately recorded in addition to photographing it. For the observation to be done correctly, the researcher must specify what she wants to observe and write down the information accurately. One of the most important advantages of this tool is the accuracy of the data and the lack of cost and effort, but the accuracy of the observation requires attention to the minute details to convert the descriptive observations into information and facts about the phenomenon studied. Based on the aforementioned facts, the methodology adopted by the researcher to study the role of the art of Arabic calligraphy inherent in the Holy Kaaba dress can reveal the aesthetic, spiritual, cultural and historical values and dimensions of the Kiswah (fabric) of the Holy Kaaba.

3. Results and Discussion

The diversity of images of single letter forms in the Thuluth line and the flexibility of its rules led to the formation of its textual construction according to the language's grammar; and the role played by the expressive and formative movements in supporting this structure of linear formations. This role is considered to be of great importance. According to the researcher, the linear formations written in the Thuluth line in the Kiswah of the Kaaba were characterized by qualities built on symmetry, exchange, and balance. Through the manipulation of the linear mass and the repetition of letters, their interlacing, the intersection among them, and shorthand.

The Thuluth line is characterized by aesthetic characteristics unique to the other Arabic lines; its aesthetic rules and laws determine the possibility of formation, which has crystallized over hundreds of years. Furthermore, it represents a slow and sober accumulation simultaneously.
researcher notes that this line's aesthetic and artistic values manifest through the compound *Thuluth* line as an essential element in decorating the honorable *Kiswa* because it is characterized by high technical specifications and has unparalleled linear possibilities, as well as its acceptance of the appearance of the formation by its literal form.

### 4. The Characteristics of the *Thuluth* Line

The researcher will briefly review the cognitive and conceptual aspects of the essential characteristics of the *Thuluth* line. The elements are represented in several points, including flexibility and obedience, multiple character drawing form, intersection and overlay, and reductionism. The totality of these technical characteristics of the *Thuluth* line has manifested effectively in the design of the lines and linear formations embodied in the *Kiswa*.

#### 4.1. Flexibility and Obedience to *Thuluth* Font Characters

Flexibility means the ability of the letters to shorten, lengthen and bend at a different angle, with the preservation of the rules and proportions of the line and the aesthetic of the letters, the property of flexibility and obedience. The stretches of the letters of the *Thuluth* line are essential qualities that distinguish this line from the rest of the other Arabic.17 An example of this is evident from model no. (1) of the *Kaaba*, which includes a Qur'anic verse:18

م ذلك ومن يعظم شعارِ الله فانها من قوى القلوب

Through this linear configuration it is shown that flexibility have been employed in the stretches, pulls and curving of the *Thuluth* line letters. In particular, the plastic art qualities of the *Thuluth* calligraphy lie in flexibility and elasticity, and its ability to extend, return, rotate, intertwine, overlap, and its potential for separation and connection, which are called the plastic components of the Arabic calligraphy, which is specialized in and unique to its letters in Arabic calligraphy, especially the *Thuluth* line.19

![Figure 1 Image of a geometric linear composition of the Kaaba's livery showing the flexibility and obedience of the letters of the Thuluth line, modified by the researcher](http://www.emadphoto.com/#/makkah)

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17Farman Uday, “Technical Characteristics of Thuluth Calligraphy in Al-Baghdadi School of Calligrapher Hashem Al-Baghdadi,” Master's Thesis (Department of Arabic Calligraphy and Decoration, College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, 2004).


19Khalil Hatem Abdel Hamid, “Structural Values of Kufic Script and the Possibility of Employing it in Decorative Paintings,” Master's Thesis (Faculty of Art Education, Helwan University, Cairo, 1987).
4.2. Multiple One-letter Drawing Format for Thuluth Line Characters

One of the advantages of this characteristic is the appearance of the single letter in several bodies through the morphological diversity of the character drawing. Whether it is connected or alone within the structure of the linear composition with multiple aesthetic shapes. Moreover, this characteristic provides many alternatives to the shape of the single letter and facilitates the problem of the spatial organization of the letters. This characteristic has also allowed calligraphers freedom of action and given them many opportunities to choose the shape of the letter suitable for designs with distinct linear structures that accept overlap among them. An example of this can be seen from the form number (2) of the curtain of the door of the Kaaba, which includes a written composition in which a Koranic verse is written

الله تعالى
قد صدق الله رسوله الرؤيا بالحق لتنام في المسجد الحرام إن شاء الله أمين

Through this composition, the diversity of the output body of the letter ح (حروف ح وحرف خ) is evident in several different forms and bodies. Also, the calligrapher of the Kiswah mentioned in the interview conducted by the researcher that his opinions about Arabic calligraphy, especially the Thuluth calligraphy, means that

...this calligraphy is characterized by high aesthetic values and the possibility of adapting it in different places. One of the best Arabic fonts for making calligraphic compositions due to its special aesthetic. Because Thuluth calligraphy is one of the most beautiful Arabic fonts and has a high ability to adapt letters and words within the specified space, whether it is square, circular, oval, or free shapes; in addition to that, Thuluth calligraphy has many forms of letters, as the single letter of this line has more than six shapes, which gives a great opportunity to twist the line.

Figure 2 A picture of a geometric linear composition from the curtain of the door of the Kaaba showing the diversity of the output body of the letter ح and خ [http://www.madphoto.com/#/Makkah/ Photo edited by the researcher]

4.3. Intersection and Overlay of the Thuluth Line Letters

The intersection of letters and their overlap is one of the critical characteristics of the Thuluth line in particular; and added to this line a unique aesthetic character through which the aesthetic style of the linear structure is manifested. There are several types of overlay, including the whole overlay on the letter or the partial overlay of the letter, which is based on covering part of the letter at the expense of the other note, or the intersection in the same or opposite direction to draw the letter.
where horizontal letters intersect with vertical letters or vertical letters with oblique letters to create the kinetic tension. And at the same time to make sense of two-dimensional space depth in the structure of the linear formation.\(^{23}\) An example of this can be seen in the form number (3) of the curtain of the door of the *Kaaba*, which includes a Qur’anic verse\(^{24}\) لبَشَّرُوهُمَا بِرَبِّهِمَا وَيُذْكِرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مُّعَلُّومَةٍ عَلَى مَا رَزَقَهُم مِّن بَهِيمَةِ الأَنْعَامٍ فَكُلُوا مِنْهَا The extent to which the letters intersect in the same direction, and also shows the intersection of the letters. And that the superposition and intersection between the elements of the formation contributed to the events of compaction and unity and the generation of formal attraction within the formation to reach the expression of the intellectual content written within the linear formation. And that the property of reproduction and overlapping of the Arabic letters in the *Thuluth* script led to the abbreviation of the letters in words. The composition was organized in a state of overlapping, entanglement, and extension between the letters, despite the abundance of words. The words appeared balanced while preserving the rules of the *Thuluth* line.

through the linear composition, the aesthetic and semantic value was achieved through the clarity of the words and the aesthetics of the composition.

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\(^{23}\) Farman Uday, “Technical Characteristics of Thuluth Calligraphy in Al-Baghdadi School of Calligrapher Hashem Al-Baghdadi,” Master's Thesis (Baghdad: Department of Arabic Calligraphy and Decoration, College of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad, 2004).

\(^{24}\) Al-Haj 22:27.

\(^{25}\) Ibid.

\(^{26}\) Al-Fatah 48:27.

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**Figure 3** A picture of a geometric linear composition from the start of the *Kaaba* door showing the intersection and overlay of the letters of the *Thuluth* line. [http://www.emadphoto.com/#/makkah/](http://www.emadphoto.com/#/makkah/)

4.4. Reductionism (Breeding of Letters for the *Thuluth* Line)

The reduction property is also one of the critical characteristics of the *Thuluth* line. This property is done by interlacing some parts of the letters with the other and merging the letter with the other letter.\(^{25}\) By reducing the letter with characteristics similar to it in shape, such as the head of (ف) and (ق) provide. An example of this is evident from model no. (4) of the curtain of the door of the *Kaaba*, where this model includes a Qur’anic verse\(^{26}\) applied to it the property of shorthand to accommodate the entire Qur’anic text, written within the composition لَقَدْ صَدَقَ اللَّهُ رَسُولَهُ الرُّؤْيَا بِالْحَقِّ لَتَدْخُلُنَّه الْمَسْجِدَ الْحَرَامَ إِن شَاء اللَّهُ آمِنِينَ And about the similar linear formations in the body of the written strips (the belt) that surrounded the *Kaaba* from the four sides. Through the formal analysis, it became clear to the researcher that the reading sequence, intertwining, reproduction and reduction, and
inspired movement in different directions characterized the totality of these linear formations. In addition, these written tapes suggest the power of dignity, poise, richness, and diversity of lines superimposed on each other in an engineering manner to be a structural and architectural structure that extends over the horizon.\(^27\)

**Figure 4.** A picture of a geometric linear composition from the start of the *Kaaba* door showing the reductive property (the reproduction of letters of the *Thuluth* line) http://www.emadphoto.com/#/makkah/, the photo edited by the researcher

4.5. Decorative units for *Thuluth* Line Letters

A large number of letters of the *Thuluth* line, the many lengths obtained in the structure of its notes, and its flexibility gave a wide field to accept the decorative units and expressive movements within the design of the compositions and linear formations. This characteristic is considered as one of the unique traits of the *Thuluth* line. In addition to occupying the space surrounding the composition, it develops a state of equalization and balance between the textual structure; this, in turn, excites the mind of the viewer and generates an attraction based on the morphological diversity between the forms of Arabic letters and the expressive and decorative movements at the same time.\(^28\)

An example of this can be seen from the model number (5) of the *Kaaba*, which includes a Qur’ānic verse: 

\[ \text{وَإِنِّي لَغَفهَارٌ لِمَن تَابَ وَآمَنَ وَعَمِلَ صَالِحًا ثُمَّ اهْتَدَى} \]

This model shows the extent of the aesthetic role played by expressive and decorative movements within the structure of the linear composition. The Arabic calligraphy is described with quality and beauty; if its fringes, its limbs turn around, and it seems to you that it is moving while it is, in fact, static, but by its roundness, softness and curvature, it suggests movement. The researcher notes that the graceful formations accompanied the Arabic fonts within the structure of the formations. Which were written with a pen smaller than the width of the pen with which the Arabic fonts were written within the structure of the calligraphic formations, which added an aesthetic aspect in terms of the variation in the sizes of the fonts and formations.


\(^{29}\)Taha 20:82.
The importance of the Thuluth lies in the history of calligraphy, as it is the first clear image that reached us of these Arabic scripts, and it is also technically the essence of the theory of the art form of the attributed Arabic letters. Including the proportionality of its parts in terms of between it and the pen with which it is written; That is why it was the most important line, functionally and technically.  

From this point of view, the researcher explains that the calligraphy of Thuluth appears on the Kiswah of the Holy Kaaba as the most suitable Arabic calligraphy in that it carries with it aesthetic, artistic and formative values and dimensions. To be brief this calligraphy is characterized by the large letters and its ability to obey, overlap and intertwine, which is not acceptable in other Arabic calligraphy. This increases the aesthetics of the Kiswah and gives it a unique aesthetic appearance, and it is possible to notice the proportions of its letters that are between large, medium and small, which occupy space in the written tapes, calligraphic formations and various compositions. In addition, the voids within the vacant spaces have been treated with the Arabic and decorative signs that characterize the Thuluth line to add dimension and aesthetic touch reflected in the total linear formations in the garment of the Kaaba.

Uday Farman confirms what it means: that the formations of Thuluth calligraphy have several variables. In addition, what is unique to Thuluth calligraphy on its high ability to be ductile in periods and long withdrawals for some of its straight. And lying letters and the letters’ ability to curvature and bend according to design necessities while preserving. The aesthetics of the letter and its basic rules as the extended feature is one of the important artistic phenomena that characterize the letters of the Thuluth script. It is evident in the letter Alif (حرف الألف) because of its ability to be longer than its normal size. In addition to the transmission characteristic that characterizes the Thuluth letters, which is embodied through the oblique directional structure, which is represented in the letters "ذ", "ذ", "ظ" and "س". Moreover, to the characteristic of the formal closing of the letters of the Thuluth line, it is intended to link the fragmented details by establishing a perceptual and visual relationship between the vocabulary of the linear composition in a way that suggests a single mass. The circumference feature is also considered one of the important characteristics of the Thuluth letters, and the contour circumference is achieved through the convergence of the elements of the linear composition.


Daoud Abd al-Ridha Bahia, “Building Rules for Content Semantics in Linear Formations.”
composition and its distribution in filling the linear spaces between the elements of the formation. The Thuluth letters highlight the aesthetic aspect of the calligraphic formations embodied on the Kaaba cover.32

In the same interview conducted by the researcher with the calligrapher of the Kaaba Kiswah, Mukhtar Alam (مختار عالم) about the role of Arabic calligraphy in the aesthetics of the Kaaba Kiswah, he indicated that: the line embodied on the Kiswah of the Holy Kaaba is sophisticated and beautiful. It is the Thuluth line, which is characterized by elements and artistic characteristics. Artistic aesthetics, as well as decorative formation. These linear compositions embodied on the covering of the Holy Kaaba are beautiful compositions and selected verses, and they include some elements of plastic art. In terms of the quality of Thuluth calligraphy and its calligraphic formations, they were characterized by coherence, unity, and rhythm. Suhaila al-Jubouri confirmed that,

Fonts in our time, with the development and proficiency introduced into it. From this point of view, that is clear that Thuluth calligraphy was employed in all calligraphic formations and compositions without evading any letters. Through it, the textual meaning of the noble verses was evoked to reflect the extent of the aesthetic and spirituality of the calligraphic formations.33

Through the analysis process, the researcher believes that the calligrapher invested some letters, especially Alif (حرف الألف), and made the latest transformations in its design structure. We find it difficult to read the text in an analytical reading of some formations on the Kiswah of Kaaba. There is a diversity in drawing letters through the exchange of accuracy and thickness, as well as the curves, extensions and swaying of letters. It radiates a sense of stability, constancy, stillness, and movement at the same time; and defines the aesthetics of the covering of the Kaaba through the superimposed Arabic lines that were drawn with one type of calligraphy, which is the clear Thuluth line. Since it resulted in the transformations of not only the design structure formations but it also provides functional and aesthetic dimensions with deep meaning and sacredness. Employing the elongation and curvature feature led to the creation of formations with a cohesive and homogeneous texture, in addition to the decorating signs that permeates the space of the formations, which perform an inflectional and aesthetic function simultaneously. Thus, enhancing the structure of the linear formations and the cohesion of their parts until they appear as one block, which gave an aesthetic sense to the embodied Arabic calligraphy. On the Kiswah of the Kaaba, which is the realization of the golden ratio, that is, the virtuous ratio (نسبة القاطعة), "the ratio of one-third to two-thirds," between the syllables of a single letter, word, and line.

5. Conclusion

Based on the previous inferences, the researcher summarises that the Thuluth line has several aesthetic and artistic characteristics as compared to the rest of the other Arabic lines. These technical characteristics gave this line an evident prominence in the decoration and beautification of the Kiswah of the Kaaba with the appearance of the single letter in several bodies through the morphological diversity of the character drawing. In addition to the ability of high notes needs to be flexible, overlap; and intersection and acceptance of decorative units as well as the property of shorthand radiates sheer spirituality of the Qura’nic verses.

Arabic calligraphy is characterized by aesthetic characteristics that make it a decorative element, as it contains both spatial and aesthetic values, specifically in the complex Thuluth Al-Jali (الجلي) calligraphy. The Thuluth calligraphy was employed in all calligraphic formations and compositions

32Ibid.
without evading any letters. Through it, the textual meaning of the noble verses was interrogated to reflect the extent of the aesthetics and spirituality of the calligraphic formations. Based on those observations that has been previously mentioned, the researcher evaluates the totality of the Arabic calligraphy art drawn in the complex Thuluth calligraphy, as it produced decorative linear formations with a harmonious rhythm.

The complex Thuluth calligraphy is characterized by the aesthetic and creative values in the art of Arabic calligraphy, in general, and in the calligraphic composition in particular. In addition to the diversity of the forms of one letter of the Thuluth calligraphy in the total compositions and calligraphic structures in the Kiswah of the Holy Kaaba, which gave the Thuluth calligraphy a great presence compared to the rest of the other Arabic calligraphies.

Finally, this study has shown the importance of Arabic calligraphy in forming calligraphic formations in the Kiswah of the Holy Kaaba. The compound glaze gave the covering of the Holy Kaaba a special and unique imprint; thus, making it a piece of art with an unparalleled Islamic artistic style. The art of Arabic calligraphy, represented through calligraphic formations, had a distinct role in rooting Islamic art, aesthetics and spiritual values in the covering of the Holy Kaaba.

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