Audio describing different types of perspective

The quest for meaning

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Perspective: the neglected element

Spatial relations

Subjective perception

Levels of meaning

A fuzzy notion.
Need for varied input

Perceptual diversity

- There are many types of minds
- There are many types of intelligence
- Visual code is gaining importance

AD – a new form of communication

- Mixed audience, different needs
- Nothing is carved in stone
- Richness of the visual code

-> The describer should provide varied input
Describing vs. narrating

telling vs. showing

• Two conflicting tendencies
• An artificial division, there is no continuum
• Style ≠ responsibility & interpretation
• Both approaches seem limiting
• No decisions vs. imposing one’s vision
• Telling and showing = two different tools

There is no conflict!
Frames and proportions

BAD IDEA:

Systematic prioritising one frame over the others, irrespective of the type of a movie to be described
A describer’s role

• Analysis of the jigsaw
• Establishing frames & proportions
• Choosing the elements and putting them in order
• Choosing goals and translation techniques
• Adapting visibility to the movie’s style of narration
Action movies
Example: The man is *towering above* the crowd.
Example: A small silhouette of a rider is moving across a mountainous landscape.
Example:  Billy runs up the street that climbs between two rows of identical brick houses.
Pattern

English AD: Manhattan’s grid is lifeless. A single car, a red ford mustang speeds down the middle of a street. The driver is a handsome black guy.
English AD: A pair of thick-soled square-toed cowboy boots descends the bus steps.
Art films
Degrees of subjectivity

Example: The woman’s face glides away from Charles’ outstretched hands.
Distorted perception

Example: The man’s blurred face becomes smaller as the woman rapidly slides away from him; the ice walls of the crevasse close around her.
Distorted perception

Example: A bee flies unnaturally slowly before Charles’ face.
Visions

Example: The room is very bright. Anne-Marie, wearing a light pink dress, is watching Charles with a delicate smile.
Abstraction

No description needed!
Horror films
The predator and the prey

English AD: Behind her, the angel statue is no longer covering its face.
The predator and the prey

English AD: Toby pauses in a grim corridor as the lights flicker and he looks around frowning.
Threatened viewer

Example: She looks up.
   The moving blades of the drill are coming closer.
Threatened viewer

English AD: He leaps onto the rooftop of a car and aims.
Horrifying detail

English AD: Near them in the cage
a man wearing a black robe puts a finger to his lips.
Conclusions

• Films tend to be eclectic

• The role perspective plays and the way in which it is typically used appear to be style-dependent

• Perspective can transfer a great variety of information

• Describing perspective does not have to be difficult and time-consuming
Thank you!

If you have any questions/comments, feel free to contact me
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