

Analysis of Sound Design and Recording in Variety Shows

Qingwei Wu

Communication University of China, Beijing, P.R.China, 100081, China

18310008571@163.com

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Abstract: Variety show is one of the most popular forms of film and television programs today, focusing on post-production sound effects processing and appropriate sound design to bring audiences a better audio-visual experience, through the integration of music and sound effects can further improve the viewing of variety shows. Because of its process and randomness, simultaneous recording and post-production sound design are equally important in the sound design of variety shows, and the degree to which the sound design matches the style of the variety show will directly affect its broadcast effect. Taking “Back to Field” and “Keep Running” as examples, this paper expounds the role of sound design in the production of variety shows through the analysis of examples of sound design in variety shows, analyzes its recording process, and explains the important role of sound in the effect of variety shows.

1. Introduction

Variety shows is one of the most popular forms of film and television programs today, and its diverse sound design methods and techniques provide a wider range of visual expression for variety shows and can highlight events and conflicts, making them more appealing to the public. Sound design is a very important part of variety shows production. Appropriate sound effects processing and sound design provide a better audio-visual experience for the audience, and the integration of music and sound effects can further enhance the viewing experience of variety shows. The quality of sound has a direct impact on the broadcast effect of TV variety shows. Therefore, the design and recording of sound is crucial to the quality of variety shows.

2. Classification of Sound Design in Film and Television Programs

The production of film and television programs is closely related to sound design, and here the author divides them into three categories: the first category is film and television drama. Both of them are to write the scene segmentation and sound effects in advance before filming, and then edited according to the timeline of story development after filming strip by strip, thus presenting a complete story. The feature is that the speech part of which can use both simultaneous sound and post-dubbing, the rest of the motion and other sound effects of the scene are recorded using live ambient sound or post-dubbing to complete. The second category is documentary. The documentary is characterized by truthfulness, its creation is based on the reality of life, the object of the record is people and events in reality, it focuses on the restoration of the objective world and realistic scenes. The essence of documentary is also an art form, so sound not only exists as an expressive element of authenticity, but also has the role of artistic expression[1]. Therefore, most of the language and sound effects used in documentaries are done with simultaneous sound, thus ensuring their authenticity and objectivity. The third category is variety shows. To some extent, the filming and production of variety shows can be seen as a combination of the first two categories, with the previously set-up process of film and television dramas, as well as the uncertainty and improvisation similar to that of documentaries. At the same time, variety shows, as documentary programs, focus on the reflection of the guests' on-the-spot reactions during the process, so the speech sounds are all simultaneous to ensure their authenticity. However, when there are highlights and advances in the process that need to be clarified to the audience, it is necessary to cooperate

with post-production sound and special effects to increase its sense of atmosphere and storytelling.

3. Sound Design in Variety Shows

3.1 Sound Design in “Back to Field”

Take “Back to Field “ as an example, as a large-scale life service documentary program, Its program mode is for the regular hosts to go to the countryside and return to the idyllic life as hosts in locally built mushroom houses, using environmental resources to be self-sufficient and entertain guests. The main theme of the program is to convey the attitude of slowing down in the busy life and the theme of ecological and natural conservation. The documentary-style variety show is similar to a documentary in that it focuses on documenting the daily lives of the guests in the countryside and introducing the viewers to the natural scenery. The use of sound is mostly used to set the mood and highlight the theme, while adding special kinetic effects to increase the fun and enhance the viewing experience. For example, in the fifth episode of the fourth season, recorded in Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture. The theme of the episode is the Dai Family Water Festival, in which a solo gourd silk version of “Deep in the Bamboo Forest” is used to introduce the morning scene with the ambient sound of birds chirping. Gourd silk is a minority instrument of Yunnan, and “Deep in the Bamboo Forest” is a folk music of Yunnan. The music with Dai characteristics fits the bird's song, and the beautiful natural environment of Dai Autonomous Prefecture and the theme of this episode are highlighted in the opening scene, allowing the audience to quickly enter the natural atmosphere created by the program. When the camera shifts to the whole village participating in the water festival and celebrating the Dai New Year together, the background music is “Dai Family Water Festival” by Dai singer-songwriter Zai Yi Wang and local gong and drum music, the joyful atmosphere can drive the audience's emotions under the background music. In the use of music, most of them choose passive music to fit the scene and express the theme, and in the cooperation between music and footage, they always follow the principle of switching footage during music reshoots, especially when switching footage from different guest angles and when switching music styles, they will make a fade out of the music first and then switch with ambient sound or special kinetic effects as a transition, so that the footage language and sound language are connected Natural and strong narrative. At the same time, each animal in the program has its own special kinetic effects, such as the light footsteps of a puppy walking, the sound of a snot bubble bursting when a representative wakes up, and the sound of a peacock changing its direction of vision. These sounds are expressed by using sound effects that do not occur in real life, thus making their movements iconic to achieve anthropomorphic effects. As a documentary lifestyle variety show, “Back to Field” focuses on creating a leisurely atmosphere and a sense of immersion for the audience. With the principle of conveying some life concepts in a natural environment, it is especially important that the music and the scenes fit together to bring the audience an immersive experience[2]. This mode of sound is similar to the real film mode of documentary sound creation, in that the creators either use a lot of simultaneous sound and audio for the interpretation of the scenes. The difference is that in documentaries created using the real film mode, the creators do not add any narration or commentary to the film, while in variety shows, although no narration is inserted, special subtitles are added later to explain certain scenarios and episodes in order to satisfy their entertainment.

3.2 Sound Design in “Keep Running”

Then take “Keep Running”, which is a variety show with different styles, as an outdoor competitive reality show, compared with “Back to Field”, which mainly records daily life, it is more inclined to the complete presentation of each theme and the competitiveness of the game. If the production style of “Back to Field” is similar to that of a documentary, then the production style of “Keep Running” is more similar to that of a film or TV drama. Both are based on a theme, and the use of sound elements is also based on passive music to support the plot and serve the story line itself. For example, the theme of the first issue of “Keep Running” is the journey of life, in which

the game session of the mock college entrance examination period uses energetic but also uplifting music as the background, so that the audience can immediately enter into the memories of the hard-working youth of that summer, presenting a sense of immersion. In the final part of life choice, reflecting the theme of one's own life is determined by oneself, soothing and warm music is chosen to bring out its warm atmosphere and meaningful intention.

4. Sound Design Effects for Variety Shows

When making variety shows, the main purpose of the sound design is to render the atmosphere consistent with the theme, so that the audience can be brought into the atmosphere that the variety shows itself wants to present. Since variety shows do not have a strong sense of storytelling or style like movies or TV dramas, but rather focus on the surprise points that arise from the guests' reactions and the production team's scripts, making sure that everyone can understand the points that the variety show wants to highlight in its editing, or what is known as “stems” in Internet buzzwords, is a key point in whether a variety show can drive viewers' emotions. Therefore, the design of the sound is particularly important. In fact, many viewers do not pay attention to what background music is laid out or what kinetic effects are added when watching a variety show, but if the post-designed sound is cut or eliminated, they will feel that there is a great lack of perception. Therefore, most of the music selections in variety shows are passive music that can enhance the narrative function, create atmosphere, and bring a sense of continuity in editing, along with ambient sound, so that the whole program can still have a logical and coherent sense after the editing and reconstruction. In addition, kinetic effects are also an integral part of variety shows. Post-production or synthesis of kinetic effects can create sounds that do not exist but make sense in the context of a scene. The addition of kinetic effects can amplify details in the lens to a degree that is closer to what people notice in everyday life, thus attracting the viewer's attention and thus highlighting a key point. At the same time, the addition of lively and interesting motion effects in variety shows can make the whole program more relaxed and enjoyable.

5. Sound Recording in Variety Shows

The biggest feature of the sound of variety shows is that the voices are synchronized, and there is basically no post-production dubbing of human voices, so the guests will wear wireless microphones. The difference between a variety show and a film or TV show recording is that there is no need to deliberately hide the recording equipment to avoid the problem of being removed from the immersion of the drama, and the variety shows will even sometimes directly film the interaction between the production team and the guests. Therefore, the microphones worn by the guests are basically pinned to their lapels, and because it is an outdoor variety show, the impact of spraying microphones and wind on the sound pickup needs to be avoided, so a windshield is added. The color of the windshield is generally similar to the color of the guest's costume, Wear white for light-colored clothes and black for dark-colored clothes. Although it does not need to be deliberately hidden, the pickup device is not the focus of the picture and cannot be made too prominent to avoid affecting the appearance of the picture.

A boom microphone is also used to record the contemporaneous sound, and guests generally move around a small courtyard built around a mushroom house during filming, Production crews and recording artists typically set up boom microphones at the edges and outer edges of the yard. and take the method of recording above. One of the reasons for recording this way is that the recording location is rural and there is not much ambient noise, so there is no need to take the recording below in order to avoid noise affecting the human voice. The second reason is that a certain degree of ambient sound is allowed in the recording of lifestyle variety shows, and a proper recording of ambient sound and speech sounds at the same time can make the sound effect more realistic. The third is the specific characteristics of variety shows, because there is no film or TV drama where only the upper body can be filmed, and the guests are sitting on stools while eating and chatting, and the distance from the ground is low, which does not facilitate the filming of low

boom microphones.

In short, there will be a set of its own sound design logic during variety shows recording, When shooting, we will pick up the sound and shooting with empty lens according to the previous sound design, but also need to pick up the unexpected “chemical reaction”, that is, the guest free play with people or interaction with the environment generated by the sound. Through the simultaneous speech sounds and post-production sound effects and audio editing to obtain better program effects.

6. Conclusion

The presentation of sound design in variety shows is mainly to set the scene and atmosphere, mainly as an element of editing and the main body of style expression. Around the program itself needs, fully consider the audiovisual needs of the audience, cleverly design sound effects, and ensure the quality of sound through high-quality recording methods. When the audience watches the program, the visual perception and sound perception are equally important. Only the organic and balanced combination of the two can make the variety shows bring the best sensory effect to the audience.

References

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