Pedagogical Evaluation: A Catalogue of errors

Louise Fryer
Utopian Voices Ltd.

ADLAB PRO

March 2019

Stakeholders in AD Quality

- Users.
- Providers (venue, company, AD agency).
- Describers.
- Students of AD.

Evaluation Criteria for AD

AD of Film (Marzà Ibañez, 2010), (Fryer, 2019).

AD of live events - ?

Live Events AD - Embedded Quality Control

- Dry run.

- Live performance.

- Non public-facing.

Dry Run

- First test of an AD script.
- At a live performance.
- Non public-facing.
- Listening in: Co-describer, PSL, Technician, "3rd" describer.

Who listens?

- The 2 describers.
- A 3rd describer?
- Sound technician.
- Occasionally a staff director.

Dry run = formative evaluation

- Aim: to improve the final AD.

VocalEyes

- annual summative assessment of describers:
- peer evaluation.
- evaluation by a PSL.

Feedback Notes

- Avoid the same mistakes.
- To know what to look/listen out for when evaluating their own or other people's work.

Feedback Notes

- For 15 AD performances/dry runs of 14 productions in London, UK.
- Feb, 2011 –Sept. 2016.

The Corpus

Classic Plays	20th Century Classics	West End Shows	New Plays
Comedy of Errors	Anna Christie	Jesus Christ Superstar	Collaborators
Hamlet		Top Hat	Haunted Child
Ivanov	Deep Blue Sea	War Horse (x2)	James III
King Lear		Woman in Black	Pomona

Error types

Delivery	Accuracy	Language	Synchrony	Technical
Pronunciation	Re/Action	Word choice	Timing	Sound
Microphone technique	Omission	Word order		
	Character ID	Ambiguity		
	Facial expression	Excess		

methodology

- One mark per error type.
- Aim: which types of error were most frequent amongst professional describers.
- Lessons for students of Live events AD.

Results

- Error type with lowest frequency: **microphone technique** (m = 1).

- Most common error type was **omission** (m = 4.47).

Total Error Score

- (TES) = sum of scores for all error types.

Surprise!

- Duration did not correlate with any particular error type.

- Duration did not correlate with TES.

TES by duration

- The longest *Hamlet* (215 mins) = 13 errors.

- The shortest *Pomona*, (100 mins) = 16 errors.

- *Anna Christie* (150 mins) = 44 (highest TES).

Now I'm going to eat my words

- At ARSAD, 2017, Tófol proposed an evaluation system with one mark per error.

- "The longer the duration, the higher the error count."

- No evidence to support that.

Total Error Score

Linked to:

- The clarity of the video.

- Darkness of the show.

- Complexity of the show (e.g. number of characters).

- Not duration.

Top 10 Most Frequent Errors

Error Type	rank
Omission	4.47
Action	4.42
inaccuracy	4.22
Reaction	4
Facial expression	3.4
Vocal Delivery	3
Word choice	2.6
Excess	2
Timing	1.75
Character ID	1.67

10 Least Frequent Error Types

Reaction	4
Facial expression	3.4
Vocal Delivery	3
Excess	2
Timing	1.75
Sound (technical)	1.5
Ambiguity	1.36
Pronunciation	1.33
Terminology	1.2
Microphone technique	1

Limitations

- Opportunity sample – diverse productions, different describers.

- One evaluator – consistent but subjective.

- Categorising error types.

In Favour

- Ecologically valid.

- Based on real data (not lab based simulations).

Conclusions

- Study is indicative only.
- Making mistakes is inherent to making AD.
- Data supports the subjectivity of sight.
- Describers need better quality tools i.e. better videos produce better results.

So What?

- When creating/evaluating scripts for live AD, students should particularly look out for errors of Omission; Inaccuracy; and describing Character actions/Reactions.

-

Significance for ADLABPRO

- Students should be trained in spotting errors.
- To improve the quality of the product.
- To improve their own performance.

Module 3 AD of Live Events

- Unit 7: Evaluation.

My Favourite Error: Word Order

- "She extinguishes the candles. Followed by her husband."

- "Followed by her husband, she extinguishes the candles."

- That way only the candles are extinguished.

• Thanks for listening!