

Track I: Sound Styling in Film and Television Genres

"Vernacular Dialogue". The modification of the dialogue for local use of films.

Before the advent of recorded spoken dialogue it was easy to prepare national versions of films: the intertitles were simply inserted in the local language. When dialogue was recorded ("talkies") this became a problem, because now local actors were needed to perform dialogue to replace the original vocal track - doubling. Smaller language areas did not merit such costly initiatives, and lines of subtitles were provided. These countries had the advantage of hearing the original actors' voices and foreign languages.

Some of the technologies used were merely branched off from ordinary film production, others were more sophisticated and involved mixing with environmental sounds. Present-day video and television production uses the same fundamental structure but much more efficient tools.

Using a phenomenological approach the paper structures the problems that develop with the need to provide translations, performers, and correct timing. The semiotic problems of fitting what may appear as unlikely sounds to existing lip movements are discussed. How similar are the various versions? Will a Director's Cut ever be treated thus? Doubling is also used in international casts - how does this compare to vernacular doubling?

(197 words)

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