

ADLAB PRO Multiplier Event
Poznan, 27 September 2017
Workshop
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Classifying ADs

- Dynamic AD (film, theatre, opera, live events,...)
- Static AD (museums, exhibitions, heritage sites, ...)

→ Dynamic AD = what I teach



Two preparatory exercises

- previous 2 classes: introductory PP about AD (learning through acquisition) and *viewing* and *analysis* of a described film clip (learning through inquiry)

Present exercises:

- *active* teasers/*awareness* raisers
- a few AD challenges/required competences made *concrete*
- useful for *theatre* and *film*



Exercise 1: Describing a room in words

INSTRUCTIONS

Describe a room from your house/flat or your student digs in writing.

Try to be as precise as possible and use simple but visual language.

The person listening to your description when you read it out loud must be able to draw a ground plan of the room, including the position of furniture and its dimensions.

Colours and materials do not have to be specified.

You have 15 minutes and a maximum of 250 words.



Exercise 1: Describing a room in words

TEACHING METHODS: learning through practice, inquiry

- The students write their description
- One student reads out her/his description while another student draws the plan on a white board

Confusion is the result in 99% of the cases.

Peer comments and identification of the challenges.

The exercise is repeated.



Exercise 1: Describing a room in words

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The students are aware of the need to position themselves in/with regard to the layout and dimensions of a room in order to describe it for a person who does not know it.



Meta comment: Why this is useful for theatre AD

Dit zijn de namen

(photo copyright

Boris Becker, 2016)





Exercise 2: Describing a static scene

INSTRUCTIONS

- Cape Cod Evening (1939) is a painting by Edward Hopper, an American painter (U.S.), mostly active between WW1 and WW2
- Genre: realism
- Important theme: loneliness

Describe the picture in writing. Treat it as the opening scene of a film. Use no more than 140 words (ignore brush strokes, art-historical context, ...). You have 20 minutes.

Keep the theme of the picture in mind when selecting information: loneliness.





Exercise 1: Describing a room in words

TEACHING METHODS: practice, inquiry, discussion/scaffolding

- The students write the descriptions and post them on the learning platform BB
- The teacher randomly selects 5 and pastes them into one document for projection
- The group is asked to
 - 1) Identify what all have described/what some have described (highlights)
 - 2) Identify challenges relating to the setting (e.g. specificity of the house/symbolism)
 - 3) Identify relationship characters-environment (e.g. placement in the space)
 - 4) Identify other challenges (e.g. description of characters, looks = a lead into subsequent exercises)
- The exercise is repeated + individual feedback (can be expanded to “how” to describe) and/or a group description is “constructed”



Exercise 1: Describing a static scene

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- The students can identify and name the challenges involved in selecting information for the description of a static scene involving a relatively simple well-structured (symbolic/suggestive) setting with immobile characters.
- The students can identify the missing contextual information they would require in order to write an effective description (for a film).
- The students are aware of the impact of subjectivity in their respective descriptions.



Group description 2016-2017

It is a sunny day. A sunburnt lawn with high, dry grass extends to a stately white house with a bay window that adjoins a dark forest to the left. A middle-aged man wearing a white shirt and black trousers is sitting on the doorstep. He is leaning forward, his eyes cast down, his right hand outstretched in the direction of a brown and white collie in the middle of the lawn, its legs hidden by the grass. A buxom woman wearing a green dress is standing a meter away to his right, leaning against the bay window. Her arms are crossed and she is looking at the dog. The dog is looking ahead into the distance. It is oblivious to the two people.

(my translation from Dutch)



Thank you for your attention.

Questions? Discussion?

