



# Audio describing different types of perspective

## The quest for meaning

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POLISH FILM INSTITUTE



Fundacja  
Siódmy Zmysł



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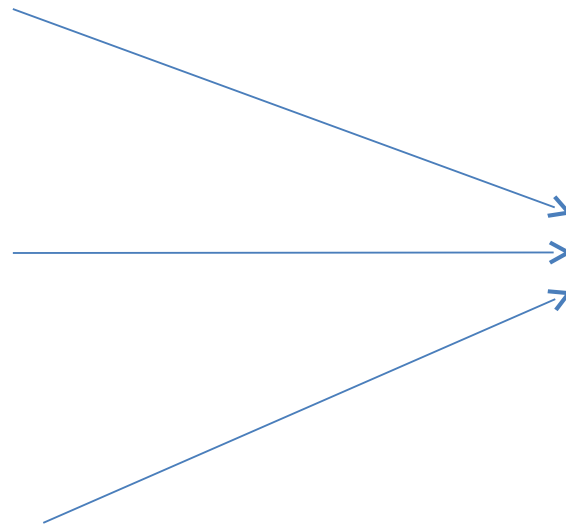


# Perspective: the neglected element

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**

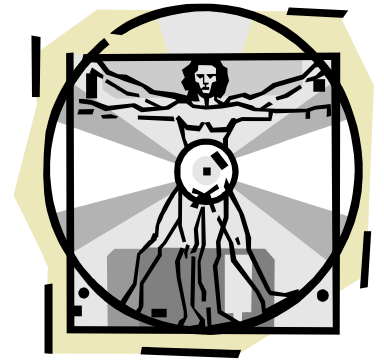
# Describing vs. narrating

telling vs. showing

- Two conflicting tendencies
- An artificial division, there is no continuum
- Style  $\neq$  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

# Angle



Example: The man is *towering above* the crowd.



# Open space



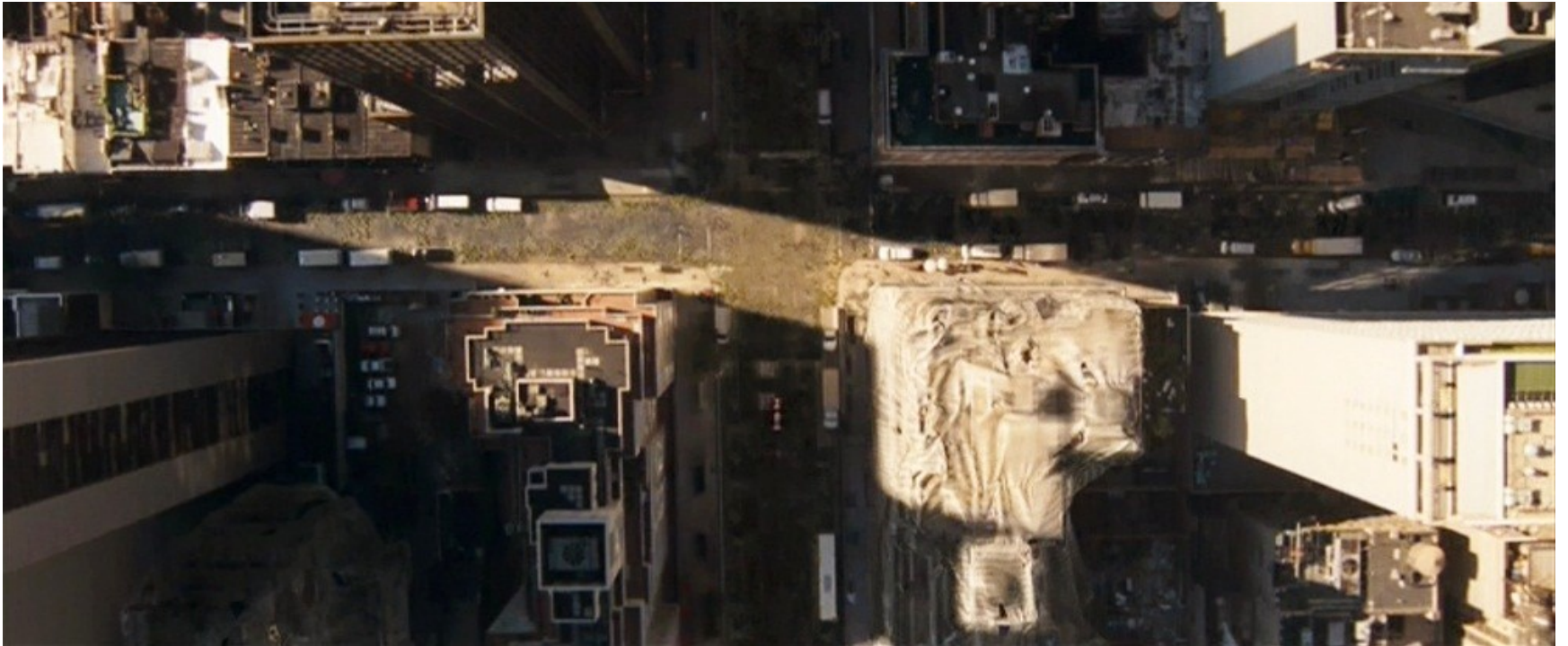
Example: A small silhouette of a rider is moving accross a mountainous landscape.

# Pattern



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.

# Detail



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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