



Module 2

Unit 3: Software

Core video transcript

Module 2

Unit 3: Software

Transcript

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Hello. I'm Agnieszka Chmiel from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. In this ADLAB PRO video I will present the basic information related to audio description software. This is Unit 3 (Software) in Module 2 (Screen AD).

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You can buy professional software to create audio description. The two most popular suites include the one by Starfish Technologies and Miranda Softel Swift ADePT.

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The software usually works like this:

You import the video to be audio described. You can view it in one window.

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Another window is used to enter AD text. The software creates timecodes for you by finding places without dialogues.

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You can also set the in-time and out-time manually by pressing a predefined key.

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The software automatically flags descriptions that are too long to fit a particular interval between the in-time and the out-time by calculating the number of words and comparing it to the preset reading rate.

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The software automatically mixes the film soundtrack with the recorded audio description by lowering the volume of the original soundtrack when the script is read out.

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There is also free software available: YouDescribe and LiveDescribe.

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YouDescribe is a free web-based project offered by the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute where you can create audio description to YouTube videos.

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The interface is very simple and you just record the audio description. You don't create any written script here.

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You can choose inline or extended AD. Inline AD is integrated with the video playback while extended AD means that the frame is frozen while the description is played.

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LiveDescribe is a free stand-alone application offered by Canada's Ryerson University.

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Its interface includes a video preview window, an AD script window and a recording option.

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LiveDescribe also offers a web-based service to audio describe YouTube videos. You can both write and record the script here.

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Some audio describers use subtitling software (such as Subtitle Workshop) to quickly generate timecodes for AD script.

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Timecodes in AD are the reverse of timecodes in subtitling. AD text fits where there are no dialogues and subtitles.

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If you want to find out more, I recommend reading "An Introduction to Audio Description. A practical guide" by Louise Fryer.

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I hope you have learned some interesting things about audio description software from this video. Bye!

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