Module 2

Unit 4

Tasks

Module 2

Unit 4: Characters

Task 1: Multiple choice[1]

Question 1

The most attention in AD should be devoted to:

  a) background characters.

  b) supporting characters.

  c) focal characters.

  d) none of the above.

Question 2

Persons with sight loss normally conjure up the image of a character:

  a) in a holistic manner.

  b) in a linear manner.

  c) both in a holistic and a linear manner.

  d) they do not conjure up images at all.

Question 3

Details about a character's appearance in an AD should be:

  a) given all at once, at the beginning of the film.

  b) given all at once, later in the film.

  c) not given at all.

  d) presented gradually.

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[1] The responses are based on the ADLAB PRO core videos. Only one answer is correct.

Question 4

"She raises her thumb in an 'OK' gesture" is a way of:

    a) naming the gesture.

    b) describing the gesture.

    c) naming and describing the gesture.

    d) explaining the gesture.

Question 5

When a character's identity needs to be kept secret in a film, it is best to:

    a) name them right away at the beginning of the film.

    b) both name them and describe their looks at the beginning of the film.

    c) first describe their looks and then wait until their name appears in the film.

    d) neither name nor describe them at all.

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Project number: 2016-1-IT02-KA203-024311 | www.adlabproject.eu
Contact: Elisa Perego | eperego@units.it | +39 040 5587620

Module 2

Unit 4: Characters

Task 2

Aim(s):

- Learners can list strategies for audio describing characters (appearance, body language, etc.).

- Learners can apply the strategies for audio describing characters.

- Learners can prioritise information when describing characters.

- Learners understand time constraints in describing characters in a film.

Grouping: individual, pairs.

Approximate timing: 90 minutes.

Material and preparation needed:

- Photos depicting people, for example:

- https://www.pexels.com/photo/adult-chill-computer-connection-450271/

- https://www.pexels.com/photo/man-in-red-crew-neck-sweatshirt-photography-941693/

- https://www.pexels.com/photo/adult-alone-black-and-white-blur-568021/

Development:

1. Preparation: Based on their knowledge from this Unit, each learner prepares a list of strategies for describing characters (their appearance, body language, etc.). This may be given as homework.

2. Description: Each learner selects a photo and prepares a description of the image with a word limit of 50.

3. Editing: Learners are then asked to reduce their description by 50% so that they are left with a 25-word description only.

4. Final reduction: Learners reduce and edit their descriptions so that they are left with a 5-10 word description.

5. Analysis: Learners work in pairs and discuss in what ways they have reduced their descriptions and prioritised information.

6. Discussion: Pairs report their findings and their final short descriptions to the whole class. The whole group draws conclusions based on their findings.

Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

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Module 2

Unit 4: Characters

Task 3

Aim(s):

- Learners can identify functions of characters in a film narrative.
- Learners can determine the level of detail in AD according to a character's function.
- Learners know how characters can be introduced in an AD according to their function in the narrative.
- Learners can distinguish between more important and less important information in AD as regards characters.

Grouping: individual.

Approximate timing: 90 minutes.

Material and preparation needed:

- None, learners choose their own AD clips.
- Alternatively, should learners find it difficult to access films with AD, the trainer may make a selection of such films available to them so that they can choose their own clips.

Development:

1. Selection of material: At home each learner selects a movie clip with AD (approx. 3-4 minutes long) that presents at least one type of characters (according to their function): focal, supportive and/or background.

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2. AD analysis: Learners analyse the AD of the characters, paying attention to the level of detail, how they have been introduced, etc. (This can be done either in class or at home.)

3. Presentation: Learners present the results of their analyses. Before the presentation, they brief the group about the film and the context of the scene. After the presentation, they discuss the AD especially as regards the description of characters according to their function in the film. Attention should be paid to how many details have been provided, how the characters have been introduced/named, how the features of a given character manifested themselves most in the film and how this has been rendered in the AD, etc.

Additional comments:

1. It is recommended that before this exercise learners watch the additional video on character naming in this Unit.
2. For a more advanced version of this exercise, learners could be asked to find information on Phelan's classification of literary characters into mimetic, thematic and synthetic (1989), apply it to film characters and look for types of such characters in films and propose their description.

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Creation of these training materials was supported by

ADLAB PRO (Audio Description: A Laboratory

for the Development of a New Professional Profile),

financed by the European Union under the Erasmus+ Programme,

Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships,

Project number: 2016-1-IT02-KA203-024311.

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