

Postprint: Innovative Applications of Techniques in News Videography

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Abstract

Images and video footage constitute important components of news content. Such content not only enables people to keep abreast of relevant news events, but also fully demonstrates the important role of television in human development and daily life, representing essential content for television programs in China. Driven and enhanced by technology, Chinese residents' demands for the visual and overall quality of television news content have increased. Therefore, how to combine existing cinematography techniques to achieve the goal of improving news cinematography quality through innovation has recently become a key focus of attention in the news industry. Consequently, this paper discusses the importance of cinematography skills and their innovative applications.

Full Text

Innovative Application of Camera Techniques in News Filming

Abstract: Images and video constitute essential components of news content, enabling audiences to stay informed while demonstrating television's vital role in human development and daily life. As a cornerstone of Chinese television programming, news content quality has become increasingly important as technological advances raise audience expectations for visual presentation. Consequently, how to leverage existing camera techniques through innovation to improve news filming quality has emerged as a critical concern for the journalism industry. This paper examines the importance of camera techniques and their innovative applications.

Keywords: news; camera techniques; innovative application

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1. The Role of Camera Techniques in News Filming

As the news industry continues to evolve, demands on news photography have grown increasingly complex. News reporting must satisfy five fundamental elements: when, where, what, why, and who, while news photography must meet five essential requirements: novelty, authenticity, vividness, emotional resonance, and conceptual depth. News filming primarily uses images and video to reveal and disseminate factual information, requiring content that is both concentrated and rich—meaning the information conveyed must be concise yet substantive, while the visual language presented must be abundant and dynamic. Only under these conditions can powerful visual impact be created, leaving audiences with lasting impressions of the news content.

2. Composition of Television News Images

From a cinematographic perspective, television news can be divided into two major categories: video reports and live reports. Video reports combine footage with narration, with the reporter remaining off-camera. Information is transmitted primarily through visuals and voice-over, with the visual component consisting of a series of shots varying in content, angle, scale, and duration. These shots can be further categorized into introductory shots and central shots. Introductory shots guide viewers into the news subject, establishing key journalistic elements such as time, location, characters, and scale. Central shots capture the main content of the news story.

During filming, camera operators should observe several principles. First, they must possess adequate news filming skills and experience to accurately and rapidly identify and capture key subjects, objects, and focal points within the frame. Second, they should strive to ensure completeness of coverage to avoid omissions or errors that would necessitate time-consuming reshoots. Third, they must skillfully capture distinctive details of characters or scenes that enhance news value.

3.1 Proper Camera Posture

Stable footage represents the foremost requirement for ensuring news filming quality. Therefore, camera operators must maintain stability throughout the filming process, whether executing push, move, tilt, follow, or zoom movements. This demands technical proficiency and proper technique to keep the image steady. For news filming, operators typically employ standing positions.

When shooting from a standing position, operators should grip the camera firmly with both hands, keeping shoulders relaxed and elbows close to the body while positioning the camera above chest level. The left hand supports the camera while the right hand operates the controls. The feet should stand naturally at shoulder width with toes turned slightly outward to maintain balance and stability. Traditional news cameras were often bulky and heavy, challenging operators' stability and endurance. Although technological advances have reduced

camera size, operators must still use both hands to maintain stability and avoid complacency that could compromise news content.

The tripod stands as the most crucial stabilization tool in news filming. A tripod with a pan-tilt head minimizes hand-held camera shake, enhancing stability and ensuring image quality. When using a tripod, operators must still monitor the camera closely from behind, maintaining tripod stability while controlling shooting angles. Additional stabilization tools include monopods and chest braces.

3.2 Manual Shooting Techniques

First, operators must adjust camera brightness during manual filming. Using automatic mode in backlit conditions often renders subjects completely dark while backgrounds become excessively bright. Therefore, operators should use function keys to compensate for backlighting. If the camera lacks this feature, switching from automatic to manual mode allows appropriate brightness adjustment to ensure clear presentation of subjects and content.

Second, since primary subjects in news footage are typically anchors or other news content, operators must manually adjust focus according to shooting distance, ensuring the focal point remains on the anchor to maintain overall image clarity.

4.1 Enhancing Directionality in Field Shooting

The most critical aspect of news filming involves establishing and maintaining consistent orientation between camera and subject. By properly understanding the axis rule, operators can ensure correct spatial relationships between shots, creating unified, comprehensive footage that enables audiences to form coherent perceptions. The axis refers to an imaginary line between camera and subject during filming. By controlling axis movement, operators ensure the camera maintains consistent orientation with the axis, guaranteeing that no shooting technique disrupts this alignment and thereby enhancing directional stability.

4.2 Innovative Application in Simultaneous Sound Recording

When consuming news content, audiences require both visual and audio information to quickly grasp main ideas and enhance television's journalistic impact. Beyond field filming and recording, capturing high-quality audio improves the coordination between sound and image, elevating overall news quality. During simultaneous recording, filming staff should: first, promptly check microphones, cables, batteries, and camera recording functions to ensure all equipment is operational; second, keep microphones active throughout shooting, as audio can be edited later—closing microphones risks technical failures that may prevent reactivation; third, use headphones to monitor recording in real-time, enabling immediate control over filming and audio capture to improve recording quality.

4.3 Shooting According to Post-Production Requirements

Completed news footage cannot be broadcast directly but must undergo post-production processing, editing, and compositing. The effectiveness of post-production editing depends entirely on shooting methods and content. Therefore, operators must not only refine their filming skills but also develop innovative thinking and heightened awareness, giving due consideration to post-production requirements during filming. Specifically, they should: first, record additional content before and after primary shots to provide more options for editors; second, use transition shots to capture comprehensive news scenes, with the most flexible being neutral-direction movement shots of people or objects—neutral direction refers to subjects moving directly toward or away from the camera, creating minimal sense of motion compared to lateral movement; third, maintain comprehensive shot logs to the greatest extent possible.

5.1 Rational Combination of Fixed and Mobile Shooting

Given time constraints for each news story, camera journalists should minimize excessive panning, tilting, and zooming when capturing footage. Instead, they should prioritize fixed shots, using both fixed and mobile techniques to capture more information efficiently while avoiding blurred images and maximizing news content. Since fixed and mobile shooting each offer distinct advantages, over-reliance on one at the expense of the other compromises news filming quality. Therefore, operators should combine these techniques according to content characteristics to maximize expressive power.

5.2 Capturing Unique Angles

News events are finite, and when multiple journalists identify a story's high broadcast value, they compete to film and report it as quickly as possible from novel perspectives to maintain industry competitiveness. Consequently, news photographers actively seek unique angles relative to their subjects to achieve distinctive results. Different angles on the same subject reveal different focal points and varying degrees of expressive power. When seeking shooting angles, operators must ensure their shots possess distinctive characteristics that make content more expressive and personalized, highlighting the advantages conferred by superior technique.

5.3 Utilizing Subtle Techniques to Capture News

First, employ selective shooting. Since news events often contain unnecessary elements and 后期剪辑 requires reordering all captured footage, operators should analyze content for usability during filming, selecting only significant shots to enhance visual impact and simplify editing.

Second, learn to seize decisive moments. As filming often requires extended waiting periods to capture the most valuable content, operators must be pre-

pared to 抢夺镜头 (competitively capture) fleeting, spectacular moments as they occur.

Conclusion

Through proper control of the news filming process and application of rational, effective camera techniques, journalists can enhance both the quality and stability of news images while ensuring overall unity and completeness. This analysis demonstrates that the proper use and innovative application of filming techniques constitute essential prerequisites for the stable development of China's news industry. Driven by continuous technological advancement, news filming techniques will continue to improve, providing a foundation for further enhancement of news quality in China.

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Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.

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