

# *The Application of Clip in Short Videos*

## *- Take 5 Short Videos as an Example*

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**Abstract:** The article describes five different short films and their editing techniques. Film 1 focuses on appearance anxiety of young women caused by external influences. The authors use black and white filming and sound montage to add a humorous effect. Film 2 shows the shadow of desire through a transfer student who turns to the dark side and uses flashbacks and j-cuts to add depth and intrigue to the story. Film 3 tells the story of a college student who receives an “F” on her transcript and uses flashbacks and internal monologues to reveal the cause and effect of the story. Film 4 is about a little girl’s day in high school and uses long shots, jump cuts, montage, and empty scenes to tell a story of loneliness and the importance of facing life. Film 5 is a story about family affection and uses continuous editing and montage to create an immersive cinematic narrative.

**Keywords:** film, editing technique, flashbacks, montage, cinematic narrative

## **1. Introduction**

As an independent exist of art, film is an attractive language to convey the beauty and emotion from director to the audience. Film is an omnibus art. The shot technique is a course people need to learn, while the editing technique is another important course [1]. Editing technique occupies most parts of the film, and it puts the several scenes together to show the different feeling to the audience. Editing technique brings together a wide range of film researchers to trail how the arts of editing works [2]. They demonstrated the essential role it has played in film [3]. Clips allow editors to break down a video into smaller, more manageable pieces, and to make precise cuts and edits. As several scholars have noted, clips are essential for creating a coherent and engaging video narrative. For example, in their book “Producing Videos: A Complete Guide,” authors Martha Mollison and Karen Pearlman emphasize the importance of clips for shaping a video’s structure and pacing [4]. Similarly, in their article “Narrative Techniques in Video Production,” authors Gary Bishop and Erik Bakke discuss

how clips can be used to create a clear and compelling story [5]. Overall, clips are a crucial component of video editing that help to create powerful, effective videos. Clips simplify the organisation and management of huge video projects by dividing them into smaller, more manageable segments. They enable editors to easily navigate between various video segments, enabling them to make exact cuts and alterations. In addition, video production relies heavily on snippets for storytelling. By picking the appropriate footage, editors can construct a narrative that captivates and interests' viewers. Clips can be utilised to emphasise significant moments, accentuate emotions, and convey meaning. Clips are an indispensable component of video editing that enables the creation of captivating and engaging video content. They let editors to organise and manage enormous projects, make accurate changes, and compose compelling narratives.

This paper uses 5 short films as examples to analyze the application of editing in these films. There are several editing techniques in these films: sound montage, flashback, j-cut, jump cut.

## **2. Film 1: Film Focuses on the Appearance Anxiety**

### **2.1. Introduction of the Film**

This short film focuses on the appearance anxiety of contemporary young women caused by external influences. When they are being judged or compared to the Internet, they can't accept it. They lose confidence, resulting in anxiety. In fact, at the end of the short film, the girls did not dispel their own anxiety. The mirror was broken in the ground, but it was still hanging on the wall, intact, when the camera turned around.

The authors changed the short film to black and white, partly to make it feel more like a silent film, and partly to give it the drama of a black comedy. Coupled with a relatively jumpy German music, the whole can bring some humorous feelings to the audience. The authors shot the whole thing with a mobile phone, even without a camera. At the beginning, they simply used the editing to switch the shots, from close-up to long shot and back again. However, after the audience watched it, many people said that such editing seemed a little boring. Later they plan to speed up some of the more important actions and change the music between each character, which should be better.

### **2.2. Editing Technique**

Sound montage is one of the important techniques of film and television montage. The application of picture montage promotes the relevance of scattered picture shots, while sound montage enables the application of various kinds of colorful sounds in the sound world in the film [6]. In the film, the authors tried to use the technique of sound montage at the last part of my work, which is the time period that the girl smashing her lipstick on the mirror. When the transition is combined with the sound of the mirror breaking, the audience can well absorb the impact of the action. Sound montage plays a key role in the narration of the plot, the expression of the meaning of the concept, the expression of the sense of rhythm and mood of the film, and the shaping of the overall style of the film [6]. In the film, the authors used three different styles of music. What they have in common is some absurd comedy effect. With the palette of black and white and the switch of close-ups and long shots, the audience can feel the comedy effect of black humor.

## **3. Film 2: Film Shows the Shadow of the Concrete Form of Desire**

### **3.1. Introduction of the Film**

This video describes a story that shows the shadow of the concrete form of desire and the transaction made by the repressed transfer student, which makes her turn to the dark side step by step and finally

be punished. The original inspiration for this story came from one of the authors' experience of transferring to another school. She wants to express the deeply depressed feelings in her heart in a suspenseful tone. In the process of the play, she came into contact with a lot of surrealistic film and television works, so she added the unrealistic character form of "shadow" to show the contradiction between the individual and the dark side of the self.

### **3.2. Editing Technique**

The dark memory of the girl and the dialogue with the doctor in the film are intertwined with time and space, so there is a lot of processing about time in the clip. Among them, the most flashback is mainly used to deal with the girl's dark memories. The audience follows the doctor's doubts about the girl and constantly digs into the secrets of the past. Compared with the linear chronological narrative of the two space story lines, flashback can show the story more It is intriguing and more smoothly.

Secondly, the process of the protagonist's narrative also uses j-cut to integrate the narrative sound of the current stage with the plot of the past time and space, bringing the inner emotions of the character into the plot, making the plot narrative more coherent. In addition, it is the montage part, such as the part of the girl eating apples in the plot, in which the apple has a special metaphorical meaning.

Behind this scene is a description of the girl's final desire. Then, a short owl scene appears in the plot, which is a third perspective. The behavior that degenerates against morality is being watched and observed, and it also renders more tension and suspense for the story.

## **4. Film 3: Video about a Transcript of "F" from the School**

### **4.1. Introduction of the Film**

The video the authors produced tells of a college student who suddenly received a transcript of "F" from the school on a Friday. She got this score because she ignored the review before the exam and chose to waste time, which led to her bad grades. She was very unbelievable and confused. She wanted to know what had led to such a result. So, she recalled in her dream why this happened. At the end of the video, the authors chose an open ending. When the protagonist recalled all the facts, the knock on the door rang again in the morning. At this time, a letter was placed at the door. The film ended when she opened the letter. The authors chose this outcome because they want to leave more room for the audience to think. This letter may be a warning letter from the school, a transcript from another exam, etc. The authors left the story's ending blank-leaving and gave it to the audience to imagine.

### **4.2. Editing Technique**

#### **4.2.1. Flashbacks**

The video uses flashbacks to narrate the story, and the video type uses black-and-white processing to highlight the oppression of the environment. The authors will add inner monologues about the characters in the video to help the audience get more practical information and understand the main character's various practices. The authors also inserted the lens of the clock in the video. In the real world, the clock turns forward, but in the memory world, the clock turns backwards, which helps the audience distinguish reality from memory.

The authors also use flashbacks as a cinematic narrative technique several times in the work "F". A flashback is a narrative technique used in films to describe events that occurred before the main

story's timeline. They provide filmmakers with a powerful narrative device to enhance plot development, deepen characters, and create emotional resonance for the audience [7]. From 1:04 to 2:41 in the video, the main part of the work is narrated using a flashback narrative technique. On the one hand, the author uses themes and symbolism, as flashbacks can be employed to explore and reinforce the film's central theme or motifs. The audience can fully understand the meaning of the title "F" through the flashback section. By linking past events to the present narrative, the filmmaker can clarify the cause and effect of the story to support the message of the story's ending. On the other hand, flashbacks disrupt the chronological order of events in the work "F" and weave together different timelines. This narrative technique can add complexity and depth to the story, challenging the viewer to piece together the chronology and the relationship between events, potentially confusing them in unexpected places and offering them a novel experience.

#### **4.2.2. Internal Monologue**

The internal monologue is a unique cinematic technique developed as a concept by the Soviet master dramatist Stanislavski [8]. This technique is used in the author's video to help make the entire work more complete and engaging for the audience because the inner monologue plays a crucial role in storytelling, character development, and audience participation. In the work "F", between 2:30-2:40, the author uses the inner monologue as a foreshadowing tool, suggesting that the future protagonist will receive an F for not studying hard enough before the exam. Here, the monologue also helps the audience build up expectations and keeps them curious about the story's ending.

### **5. Film 4: Film about a Little Girl's Day in High School**

#### **5.1. Introduction of the Film**

The film talks about a little girl's day in high school. At the beginning, she dreamed that she was running in the night, and seemed to chase something. Then the alarm clock rang. She wakes up, it is time to go to school. She makes breakfast and cleans the dishes by herself. After that, she walks a long way to school and has class. In the afternoon, she buys vegetable in the market after class, goes back home, makes dinner and does homework. Finally, she goes to bed and falls asleep.

In the night, she is running again. Then, she stumbles and falls down. Her mother comes up in front of her. The little girl stands up, and they look at each other for a long time.

The authors want to make an ambiguous ending to let the audience think whether it is in a dream. It will make the audience to think about whether the girl in the reality or dream. So that this can convey the girl's lonely by using this ending.

The authors want to constitute the girl's figure that she lost their parents when she was young, so she is very lonely and she needs to live alone. She doesn't have friends, she is weak, but the life needs to continue. The authors want to convey that although sometimes life is hard, but it has positive aspect. Life is meaningful, and we should be staunch to face our life.

#### **5.2. Editing Technique**

Talking about the editing technique, the authors put several long shots and empty scene together in this film. Long shots can control the pacing of the film, and it can make convey the relaxing sense to the audience. It can also give the girl plenty time to make the action, and the lock camera provides a stable situation to have a shot. The empty scene links up the image between the main plots, such as the point of view shot, and it also convey the lonely emotion to the audience. The jump cut and montage are also used in the film. Jump cuts can make the scene looks like discontinuity as well as delete the unimportant scene and tell the audience key plots. The authors use the jump cut when the

girl goes out door, because the time is too long to put on the shoes, wear the clothes, take the backpack, open the door, go out and close the door. So the authors only save the first and the last alternative to convey the process of the girl going outdoor. Montage can give the parallel space and time to tell the audience two timeline is going on.

## **6. Film 5: Story of a Student Who Is Going to Take IELTS Test**

### **6.1. Introduction of the Film**

This is a story about family affection. Although the boy's word is not that respectable at first, his parents still trust him and see his effort. That's why the father didn't blame the boy when he call at beach. Both the boy and the father have changed at the end of the video. After having difficulties in study, the boy finally finds his father is right and become more respectable. The father urges the boy study at first but comfort the boy to relax at the end, just because he knows the boy have taken efforts to study hard in past 2 months.

### **6.2. Editing Technique**

Many critical editing techniques have been used in this video. Two main method is continuous editing and the montage.

#### **6.2.1. Continuous Editing**

Continuous editing is a widely used method in editing. The essential thing about continuous editing is to make it imperceptible to the audience. The basic thing about continuous editing is to make sure character's movement in two cuts are continuous and the shots are progressive [9]. For example in the video the boy use his phone on the beach, the first shot is medium shot, the boy takes out his phone from pocket and going to hang it up towards his ear, the next shot is close-up, the boy put his phone beside his ear and start to talk. From medium shot to close-up, the shots are progressive, which can make the cut invisible to audience. In this way, audience can immersed in the cinematic narrative and have a better watching feel.

#### **6.2.2. Montage**

Another editing method, montage, is a widely used technique in many films. Two same shot cut in different order can make different appearance to audience. There are two montages in this video, first montage shows the boy study in two months and time goes fast, the second montage in the end shows an emotional situation that the boy has gain his confident back. With the background music, this cut of montage create an exciting emotion to audience. Not only montage can show audience time past fast, but there are also many other effects can create by montage. Montage can not only divide main story and minor story clearly, but also guide the audience's emotions and psychology and inspire the audience to think [10].

## **7. Conclusions**

Film is a tricky art, involving sensitivity to color, dynamic capture and awareness of the details of life. Editing is crucial to a good film, as it reconnects scattered scenes from the script, retells the story without forgetting to make the images attractive. Before people create a film, they need to form the consciousness of editing and communicate with the staff of various departments in advance what kind of shots are needed to cooperate with editing. A good film must be closely related to editing. Perhaps the audience will not care about the importance of editing when watching a film. In fact, the

audience's mood is also affected by the editor's techniques. The editors cut the shots, use the relationship of landscape and sound, and consider the emotions and feelings of the audience, so that they follow the emotions of the characters in the film. Editing, though rarely noticed, is the soul of a film.

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