

## Watching and Listening to Dance



Study Aim: Investigate the current state of dance audio description (AD); explore similarities and differences between the experience of watching dance and listening to its AD.

Dance scenes in films Online clips Scripts from past live performances

147,078 words

Linguistic analysis of a purpose-built, multimodal dance AD corpus to identify recurring patterns and features of the current language of dance AD

STRATEGY	TAG	EXAMPLE FROM THE DANCE AD C
Technical terms	<tech></tech>	She moves in a <tech>pas de bour taking small, quick steps <tech>en</tech></tech>
Figurative language	<fig></fig>	She floats <fig>like a feather.</fig>
Repetition	<rep></rep>	Little bounce as foot taps, <rep>he toe.</rep>
Camera angles	<cam></cam>	<cam>Close-up</cam> of the back
Direct speech	<dir></dir>	She holds up her hands – <dir>stay</dir>
Alliteration	<all></all>	The dancers and children do the same madly. <all>Wiggle. Waggle. Wave.</all>



Dancer | Circle | Pointe | Perform | Movement

\*Ref corpus: AD Tagged 1902

5 most frequent verbs

Be | Turn | Spin | Lift | Hold

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**RQs:** What are the main strategies used to describe dance? To what extent can their effectiveness be empirically demonstrated?



## CORPUS

rée</tech>, pointe.</tech>

eel, toe, heel,

k of their necks.

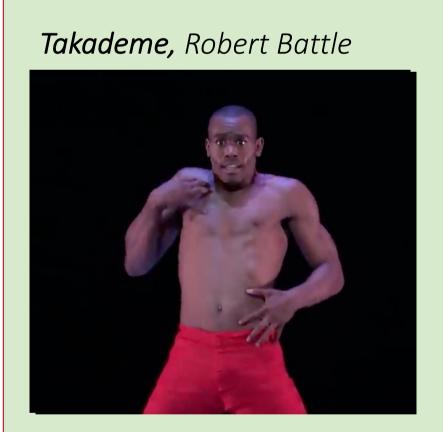
y back!</dir>

same, arms waving e. Whirl.</all>

5 most frequent nouns

Arm | Hand | Leg | Side | Dancer

**Reception study** with sighted (S) & blind and partially sighted (BPS) participants to investigate reactions and feelings elicited by dance clips and their AD



AD: Turning in place, he feels around his body <fig> as if being attacked by insects </fig>. He stares ahead.

What meaning did you derive from this clip, if any?

(S P2)

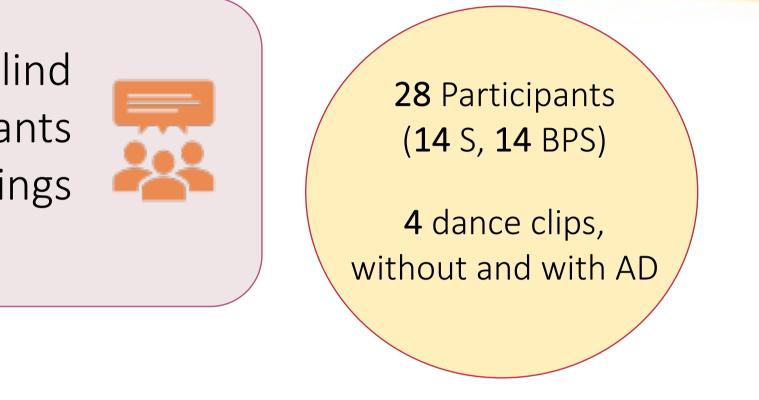
Yeah to me that almost seems like he's possessed, and he's trying to understand where this thing kind of... something is moving inside his body and he is trying to either locate it or make sense of it. (S P11)

I wouldn't have thought that he was attacked by insects, no. That was an opinion that was planted. (BPS P3)

I kind of like what she said. If you're being attacked by insects, I think she's got that right. You know, that movement with the hands and stuff. (BPS P12)

Can you think of 3 words or feelings to sum up the clip?





Like he is being bitten by insects or something! [laughs]

Were there any specific moments or movements that stood out to you?