

# Watching and Listening to Dance

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**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.



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

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



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



**28 Participants**  
(14 S, 14 BPS)

**4 dance clips**,  
without and with AD

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

## Top 5 key words\*

Dancer | Circle | Pointe |  
Perform | Movement

## 5 most frequent verbs

Be | Turn | Spin |  
Lift | Hold

## 5 most frequent nouns

Arm | Hand | Leg |  
Side | Dancer

*Takademe, Robert Battle*



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

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

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

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

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