

Analysis of the Authenticity of Virtual Reality News Documentary

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Abstract: As a significant means of the scientific and technological vehicle in the area of journalism, immersive technologies have influenced the whole process of production and communication effect of news documentaries with its unique interactivity and immersion. Authenticity has always been the source of life of news reports. This essay seeks to critically point out that the construction of authenticity of news documentaries, which based on immersive technology not only needs the intervention of traditional construction theory, but also the dialogue authenticity characterized by the participation of multiple subjects as the basis of production and communication purpose. Then it expounds that the exclusive way to realize the real dialogue is to improve the level of technologies, then reshaping the theory of documentary aesthetics to realize the adequate integration of technology and aesthetics. [CHEN Yuehong, YANG Yinong. **Analysis of the Authenticity of Virtual Reality News Documentary**. *World Rural Observ* 2019;11(2):48-50]. ISSN: 1944-6543 (Print); ISSN: 1944-6551 (Online). <http://www.sciencepub.net/rural>. 8. doi:[10.7537/marswro110219.08](https://doi.org/10.7537/marswro110219.08).

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Introduction

Virtual reality (VR) uses computer fusion of multi-source information to generate interactive 3D dynamic vision and user-oriented system engineering simulation. Experience users can enter the virtual reality world through this computer simulation system, and interact with the system through their reactions, extending their behaviors to the virtual world. Virtual reality for production of journalism is the colossal power of disruptive technology, it has changed the traditional narrative way in thinking of the press and the news production process, realize the audience to the scene of the 3D rendering, not only breaks through the existing mature 2D news presentation, also the traditional platform to spread the entrance to the monopoly, built the new avenue of network news and interactive environment. ^[1] As a digital avatar, interactive journalism becomes a form in which people can gain first-person experiences of the events. ^[2]

News documentary belongs to the category of news, and also has some characteristics of film and television art. News documentaries are characterized by a wide range of materials, the tendency to current social events, and focus on social hot spots. Also, there is a conceptual approach to examining VR journalism with sociological theories. ^[2] News documentaries that make use of virtual reality technology can reproduce and render relevant story details in a more realistic way, allowing users to have a more intuitional experience of the narrative content of the film and

achieve an immersive effect that cannot be experienced in ordinary news documentaries. However, if the immersive experience brought by VR film and television is completely "virtual", is there any conflict between the virtuality and the authenticity pursued by traditional news? Is the improvement of news authenticity an opportunity or a challenge?

Analysis of the authenticity of virtual reality news documentaries

Because authenticity is also the source of life of news documentaries, news documentaries belong to the category of news. Based on the general scope of discussion, there are two main ways of presenting news authenticity. Second, the real dialogue in the age of media convergence. ^[4] According to Newman (1992), the overall conclusion for the construction of media theory and method of principle can be concluded that the news authenticity is not solely to reproduce or reflect the facts, but spread subject according to their subjective intention (formed) as the subjective position and market demand for construction. As a result, is based on transcendental value cognition to shape the news fact. ^[5] The core idea of dialogue authenticity is that news authenticity is not only the reproduction and reflection of the objective facts by the communication subject but also the result of the dialogue game between the communication subject, the audience, the disintermediation, and other related subjects. Therefore, dialogue journalism has led to significant changes in the composition of the

subject of news production and communication. It presents the truth behind the news through dialogues between different subjects, and it is a way of participation of multiple subjects.

News documentary is a kind of news report based on film and television. Compared with the ordinary news report, it has unique characteristics of authenticity. For traditional news documentaries, people pay more attention to the authenticity of the production process or the electronic content of the film. Even nowadays when digital technology is wide-ranging used, the shooting scenes of news documentaries are mostly from real life scenes to achieve the effect of real people, real things, real moment and on the spot. These are conceptually the categories of constructing reality. However, as an art form, the purpose of news documentary is to focus on the audience's experience: how to let the audience feel empathy and immersive, this is the ultimate purpose of news documentary. Therefore, it can be further explained that the authenticity of news documentaries is more based on the real dialogue rather than the construction of the real, and the application of virtual reality technology is a positive attempt and innovation made by news documentaries to achieve this goal. Exploring VR documentary to depict the real are not contained by the apparatus and aesthetics of the traditional documentary. ^[6]If only from the literal meaning of the understanding, Virtuality is an important feature of the cinematic VR. However, the purpose of "virtual" is to achieve the "immersive" effect in the multi-sensory experience. For users to actively participate in and experience adequately, then become a part of the news gathering: from the perspective of participants to the immersed viewer, from the state of completely and passively forming a fixed impression to directly "construct" the overall situation of the event according to the news scene. Is this not the best commentary on the statement that immersion is the ideal choice for almost all classical art as a means of suspending the physical world and entering different worlds?

Millions of people marched in New York, to protest the police shootings of Eric Garner and Mike Brown combined with the grand jury decision in two cases. Millions of people took part in the massive demonstration in New York at that time. Then Vice News used virtual reality technologies to report this event. In this eight-minute 360-degree video, it reported that the chanting demonstrators on the street during the daytime, several black demonstrators having speeches on the street, the onlookers and citizens who took photos by smart phones in succession, and the live reports of journalists at night focusing on the interview of a female protester, etc. The ultimate scene was a parade that ending with the

sound of marching and chanting in the background of the street. Thus, this kind of reporting is similar to the traditional way of thinking of real-time reporting. But 360-degree video allows the audience to be completely "immersed" in the parade, so they can truly feel the scene of the parade combined with the posture, movement, expression and emotion of the marchers. It is said that some participants of that day's march later saw the video. They all agreed that the protest on that day was very powerful and inspired. Even they were very excited they did not cry. However, when the content of the virtual reality scene was shown, they burst into tears and could not control themselves. This is the power of VR journalism! A first-person perspective created not only a "sense of being" but also an "immersive" atmosphere. Therefore, the participants can feel all the changes of experience and feeling in this period and pay attention to every detail. This authenticity can only be achieved through the "dialogue" between the producer and the audience.

It can be seen that virtual reality news documentaries and traditional documentaries are the same pursuit of "reality" in essence. The realistic restoration of news scenes by virtual reality technology will help highlight the ontological properties and artistic effects of news documentaries. It can improve the immersive, interactive and imaginative experience of audience experience, and make news documentaries arouse more shocking spiritual feelings among audiences, like creating empathy. ^[7]

The development trend of virtual reality news documentaries

However, it must be noted that the news documentary based on virtual reality is still in its infancy. To give the audience a better experience, it will be further developed from two aspects:

First of all, further improvement is needed in technology to provide users with a more comfortable and natural experience, which is an important basis for creating the authenticity of news documentaries. Nowadays' virtual reality headsets tend to be bulky, heavy and prone to heat. Some users complained of dizziness and fatigue after watching virtual reality news or live streaming, and couldn't stick to it for long. At present, the mainstream of virtual reality equipment technological enterprises is actively starting from both hardware and software, aiming to reduce vertigo problems, and accelerate the research and design process for users to obtain a more comfortable experience.

As we are talking about the artistry of film and television, we must not lose sight of their technical features. Film and television media is undoubtedly the product of the development of modern technology. From silence to sound, from black-and-white to color,

movies and television have absorbed all the achievements of human scientific and technological civilization. The visual and audio wonders they displayed greatly stimulated people's imagination and created productive power and determination. In the same way, the VR film and television that we are talking about today is also the best embodiment of the latest VR technology applied in film and television media. VR has a strong tendency to be the next medium of entertainment, which means it can replace our television, theatre or almost any medium that uses a flat screen. With this in mind, William Gibson's assertion that our real lives in cyberspace seem appropriate.^[8] Therefore, from the perspective of technology, it can be predicted that VR is an important direction for the future development of news documentaries.

Additionally, the reality construction of news documentaries based on VR technology needs the reconstruction of documentary aesthetics theory. Compared with the technical problems of VR news documentaries, exploring VR news documentaries from an aesthetic perspective has more prominent theoretical and practical significance. A series of complete audio-visual language systems of traditional images, which both in content and form, have unique aesthetic analysis significance. However, since VR news documentaries are different from traditional film and television technologies in terms of technology, their audio-visual language system also needs to be reconstructed and remolded. At present, the aesthetic value of VR news documentaries has not been given full play, especially the uncertainty of narrative mode hindering its artistic aesthetic development. But the development of VR news documentaries is unstoppable, and the rise from technological tools to artistic aesthetics will be fully realized shortly. When technology and aesthetics are fully integrated, and when the aesthetic value of virtual reality and real reality are no longer distinct, the real spring of VR news documentaries will come.

Conclusion

Based on the above discussion and analysis, the author believes that virtual reality news documentaries and traditional documentaries are in essence consistent in the pursuit of "truth". The verisimilitude and restoration of the news scene can improve the immersive, interactive and imaginative experience of

the audience, to arouse more shocking spiritual feelings among the audience.

At the same time, the only way to realize the real dialogue is to improve the technology of electronic content production, reshape the theory of documentary aesthetics, and realize the full integration of technology and aesthetics.

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