Understanding Affordances in Short-Form Videos: A Performative Perspective

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Introduction

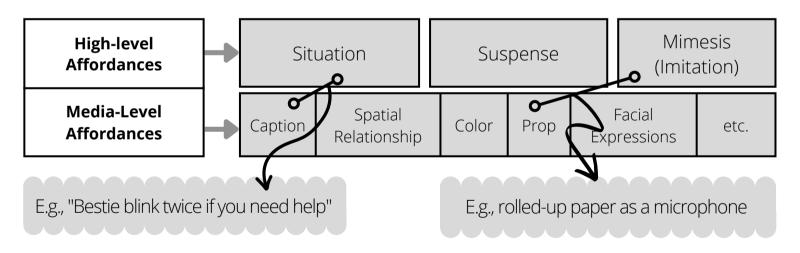
This paper applies theoretical ideas from theater to demonstrate how exactly affordances are multilayered. Illuminated by previous discourse about affordances in multimodal analysis, we propose our own theory of multilayered affordances, illustrated by media-level affordances and high-level affordances.

Methodology

Multimodal analysis follows five steps. The key is to identify functioning modes, e.g.,

- on-screen captions
- color
- facial expressions

and explore what they do, or mean.



Takeaways

- Affordances are layered.
- The layering fashion could be explained by a performative frame of reference.
- Theater terms can satisfactorily explain shortform videos (situation, suspense, and mimesis).
- Modes are the media-level multimodal affordances.
- Theater ones are the high-level affordances.

References

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- Y.T. Wang, "Multimodal Analysis: Researching Short-form Videos and the Theatrical Practices," Proceedings of The 104th Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2021

Results