Radio Production Planning

Module Number: 03

Understanding Sound Bites

What is a sound bite?

A brief snippet of recorded speech or sound usually cut from a larger file.

What is a sound bite?

- They are used to break the monotony of the program.
- A program is filled with facts so the sound bite supports fact with motion.
- It brings out the true emotion of the story.
- Sound bytes should be SHORT! (Not more than 20sec.)

Types of programs which use sound bites

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO INTERVIEWS

Sound bytes are taken from interviews

RADIO TALK/SPEECH

RADIO DISCUSSIONS

Types of programs which use sound bites

RADIO DOCUMENTARIES/FEATURES

RADIO COMMENTARIES

RADIO DRAMA

MAGAZINE PROGRAMS

Types of programs which use sound bites

Using sound bites

- Commonly used in news programs/new reports.
- Also used in documentaries/features, magazine programs.
- Can be used in studio discussions too.

  (An archive file can be played back as a reference in a discussion.)
- In commercials. (A sound bite of a celebrity can be used to sell/promote something).

Types of sound bites

- A clip from an exclusive interview.
- A recording from a press conference or public gathering.
- Audio extracted from a video.

  (if the video is copyright protected then can still be done for non-commercial use.)
- Live recorded material from a location. (voices, sounds, noises, music etc.)

Types of sound bites

Sound bites in a news bulletin….

Listen and name 2 types of sound bites.

How to pick a good sound bite

- Clean sound: Pick a clip that is noise-free.
- Relevance: Is the clip relevant to your program?
- Ethical editing: Don’t edit the file in such a way that it misrepresents what the person is saying.

CLEAN SOUND

- NOISE: Any unwanted sound that gets picked up in a recording.

  Eg: Live recordings from events and outdoor locations tend to have noise.

- Every recording device has its own noise. Varies for each recording device.
- **Signal to noise ratio (SNR or S/N)** is the ratio between the actual sound that is desires and the unwanted noise in a recording.

CLEAN SOUND

- **White noise:** Any continuous unchanging sound that is present in the recording but has to relevance to the story.

  - Eg: The sound of the fan, AC etc.

- **HISS sound** in the background of your recording.

  - Most audio editing software have HISS reduction options.

CLEAN SOUND

- **Wind:** Another big issue in recording is wind noise which can potentially destroy a recording.
- In most cases, the sound of the wind is accentuated (sounds amplified) when it is recorded.
- Best practice to avoid wind interference is to ensure the mic is not against the wind or that there is a windscreen.

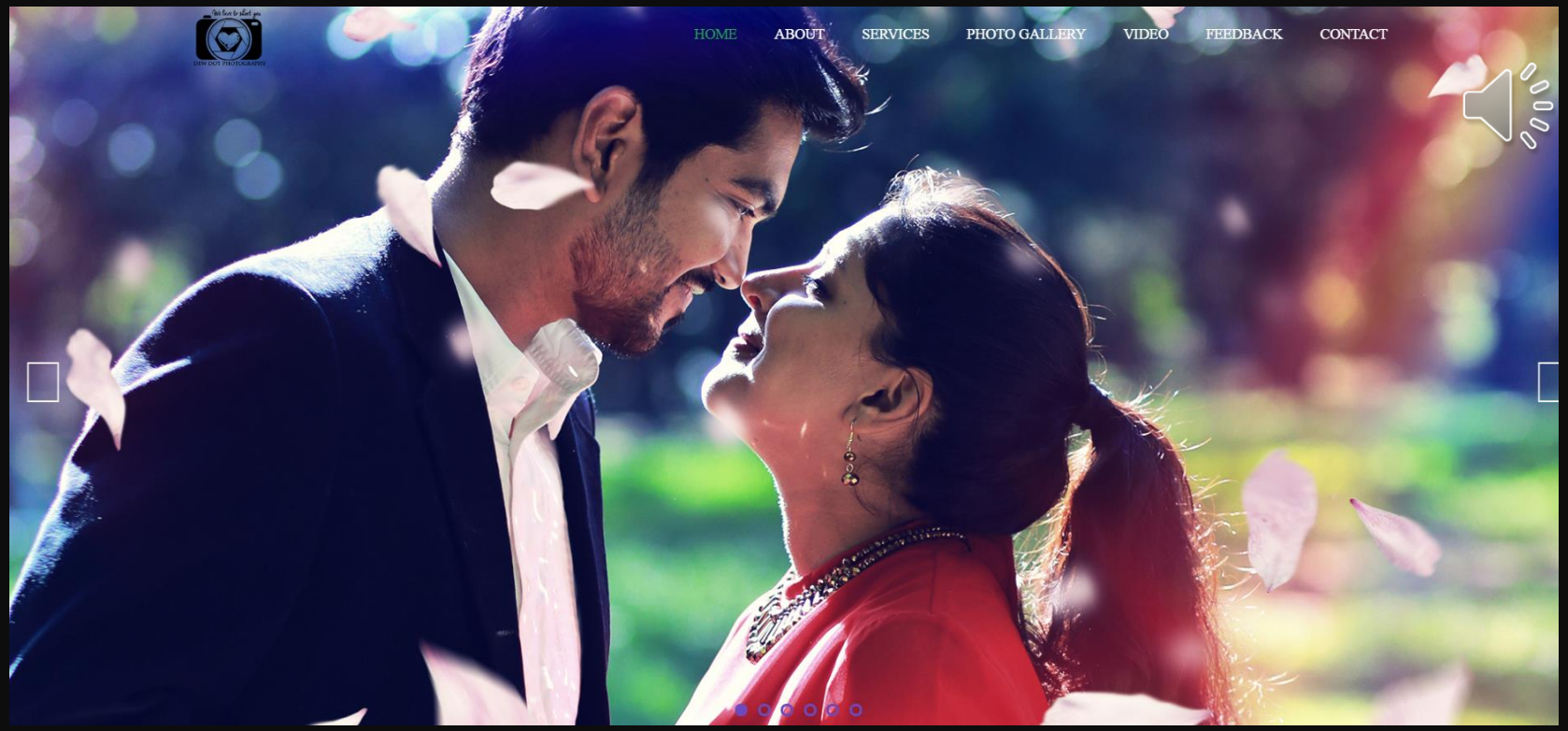
CLEAN SOUND

- *Clipping* occurs when sound is recorded at a level that’s too high, or too "hot."
- When sound clips, the result is noticeable distortion.
- Always make sure sound is recorded in a safe range.

CLEAN SOUND

- Let’s listen to an interview with clean sound:

Interviewer: Aswin Manikandan| Interviewee: Jinu Joseph| Show: The Talk



CLEAN SOUND

- One more interview with clean sound barring few clipping noises:

Interviewer: John Johnson | Interviewee: Jacob Peter | Show: Humans of SH

Remember: This is a raw file. No edits. Post edit all the brushing sounds can be cleaned up too!

MONITOR SOUND LEVELS

LISTEN WHILE RECORDING:

It's crucial to check audio while recording using headphones to track how things sound.

PLAYBACK: If possible break recording to review sound quality.

MONITOR SOUND LEVELS

- It's hard to catch every problem even if you are monitoring. So playback helps you focus on the recording quality.

- Proper monitoring will reveal most audio problems listed above and offers a chance to fix things before it’s too late in the studio, when the best that can be hoped for is usually a patch.

RELEVENCE & ETHICAL EDITING

- Relevance: Using a sound bite when and where it makes sense and not for the sake of having a sound bite.
- Ethical editing is cutting a sound bite without changing its meaning…

Interviewer: Tom Shibu

Interviewee: Muhammad Adil

Interview Topic: Power of Punctuality: Coming to class on time

RELEVENCE & ETHICAL EDITING

- Was this file cut ethically?

Interviewer: Tom Shibu

Interviewee: Muhammad Adil

Interview Topic: Adil's Journey with Cricket

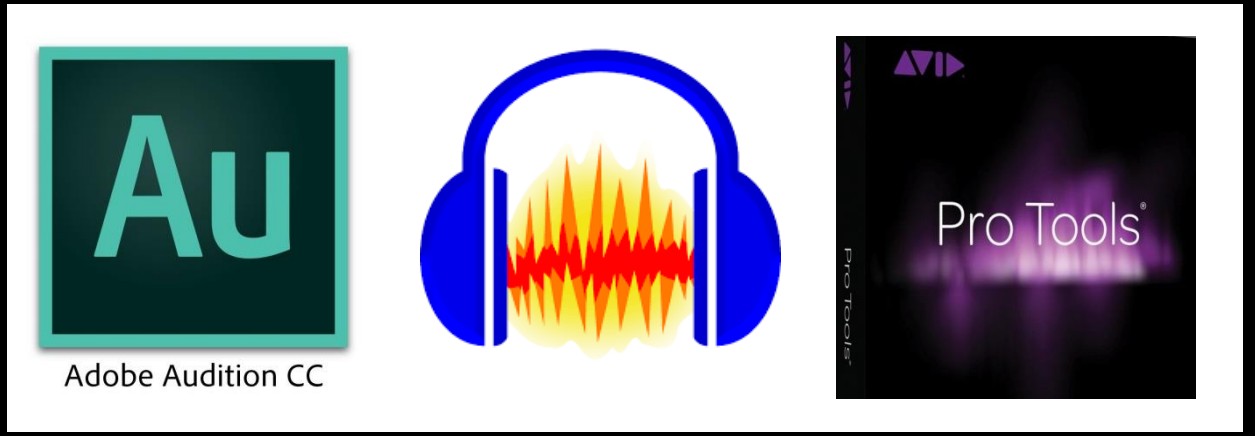
RELEVENCE & ETHICAL EDITING

- Edit out certain words or sentences to change the meaning.
- Use a clip out of context to emphasize a point which the person did not intend to make.

- Cut out unnecessary detail.
- Rearrange the order of the answers without changing the meaning.
- Get a patch work done for live sound that you couldn’t pick up correctly.

EDITING TOOLS

- Adobe Audition: Paid
- Pro Tools: Paid
- Audacity: Free



› › › ANY QUESTIONS? › › ›