The “Listening Shot” as a Collaborative Practice for Categorizing Studio Participants in a Live TV-Production

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Abstract

Analyzing a videorecording produced in a TV-control room during the live broadcast of a multi-party discussion on the Road Map for peace in the Middle East, the ways in which the TV-crew exploits close-up shots of the listener, “listening shots”, are described as a resource for visually categorizing participants in the studio. After establishing the listening shot as a members- phenomenon, he shows how such shots are oriented to as accountable in the emergent sequence of broadcast shots. At the level of the broadcast programme, listening shots are exploited to produce both confrontation and balance between the Israeli and the Palestinians present in the studio.