

# On the Importance of Lines in the Creation of Characters in Performance Creation

Xingyu Chen

Yunnan Arts University, Kunming, Yunnan, China, 650000

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**Abstract:** Lines are one of the important means for actors to interpret roles, and they are also the main way to show the characteristics of characters. A good play cannot do without the support of excellent scripts, and an important part of a script is the lines, which is also an important means of presenting the script. Lines can express changes in the plot, show the central idea, and bring in the audience's emotions, thereby completing the characterization. It can be seen that lines are the foundation of shaping.

**Keywords:** Lines; Performance creation; Character creation; Importance

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## 1. Introduction

The presentation of the script is the lines, which can be said to be the main body of the script. In drama performances, the volume of lines is very large, and these lines become the elements of the drama. Lines are the basis of learning performing. Through the expression of lines, the emotions of the audience can be driven and resonance can be achieved. Therefore, it is very necessary for an actor to have a deeper foundation in lines when performing on stage.

## 2. The characteristics of lines

### 2.1 Activism and character image

It can be more expressive if there is a drama conflict in the script, so there will be a certain conflict between the plot and the setting of the characters in the script. The characters express emotions through language and communicate with other people, so language becomes the main way to express conflicts for the words spoken by people can express thoughts. Take Cao Yu's "Sunrise" as an example. At the beginning, Fang Dasheng wanted Chen Bailu to follow him, so his lines have a certain purpose. For example: "It's about half past five, it's going to dawn. I'm in that dance hall and I always look at the watch every five minutes." His actions are expressed by actors, mainly in lines. Therefore, the lines have some activism. The activism of language has a certain logic. It is a behavior that has a certain motivation and is continuous. There will be an obvious logical relationship between these activities. This is activism. The activism of the lines refers to that it can express the purpose of the characters, play a role and influence, and can communicate with other actors. From this aspect, the audience can understand the actions or thoughts of the characters through the lines, and they can also understand the full picture of the characters<sup>[1]</sup>.

### 2.2 Typicality and Personalization

In drama performances, the shaping of the character's image is mainly achieved through lines and actions, so it needs to be expressed in a prescribed time and space. Various characters in the play are deliberately selected by the author. Different social backgrounds and different growth experiences will have obvious differences in the personalities of the characters. In the creation, the typification and personalization of the characters are expressed through lines. We must start from the aspects of age, occupation, cultural level, experience, and time of the characters, and have a personalized display. Each character is different, so that the script will be more exciting.

### 2.3 Life and reality

To make the audience understand the characters in the play, and accept the views and thoughts, the lines must be life-like, so that the audience can understand after hearing the lines, and it will also make the audience feel that the scenes in the play are in their lives. It is real, not a script created completely departing from life; the audience accepts what someone says in life, so the actors have a full understanding of the essence of life, and can be truly expressed through repeated exercises; the lines must also conform to the logic of life, and it is logical to put the lines of the play in any life area, the audience can understand and accept, and they have a deeper understanding of life. For example, in "Ming Dynasty", the lines are very close to life and easy for the audience to understand. Because it completely different from the ancients, especially the royals, a compromised approach can be adopted when writing lines. Such life-oriented lines allow people to have a better sense of appreciation and enter the world of the play. For example, Mr. Wang Xueqi, the role-player of Zhu Di, said: "Give Laozi (the Chinese characters Laozi means me) an idea." This is obviously a modern interpretation, showing the emperor's martial character through rude language, as well as the decisive and moody character of the

emperor. And there are many such words in life, especially when the elders speak to the youths, it makes the audience have a strong sense of intimacy and is more receptive, and it will also make the palace opera domestic, which is important to the thinking in the performance<sup>[2]</sup>.

But lines cannot just be copied. Sometimes the lengthy lines should be simplified and conform to the logic of life. Each sentence will play its due role and make the lines more meaningful.

### **3. The importance of lines in shaping the image of characters**

#### **3.1 Lines truly reflect the character of the characters in the drama**

When actors create characters, they need to go through the following two processes: one is to understand the role, and the other is to show the role. Understanding the role is to internalize the script, while performance is the process of showing the role, which is achieved under the basis of understanding the role. Lines are the main way of contact between actors and characters. The fixed line text in the script allows actors to have good contact with the characters, and at the same time, they can express the content of the story through the lines, so that they can better understand the characteristics of the characters. In the expression of lines, the main purpose is to make the audience understand, so actors should pay attention to the expression and interpretation of lines. Actors should fully study the lines, dig deeply into the character characteristics, feelings, psychology, and physical aspects of the characters. Through repeated practice, the actors enter the characters' hearts, express the characters' thoughts and personality through lines, and tell the story of the play. If an actor wants to act as a character alive, he or she must exchange the soul with the role through lines. This is also where the real value of lines lies. The best performance allows the audience to understand the character of the characters through the lines spoken by the actors, understand the development trend of the story, predict what may happen in the future, and pave the way for the evolution and development of the story<sup>[3]</sup>.

#### **3.2 Lines can deeply analyze the inner heart of the characters in the drama**

Each person's personality and heart are different, but each person's personality is not fixed, and it is often due to the influence of different situations that lead to diversification of personality performance. And everyone's heart is often affected by the situation, and the psychological response will be different in different situations. Actors need to dig deeper into the connotation of the lines, make the audience better understand the characters' hearts, make the story structure more perfect, show the conflict of the story to grasp the audience's hearts deeply, and make the audience follow them to enter the play. Actors create roles not only through words, but lines are just a way to reflect the psychological state of the characters at the moment, which can help shape the story and promote the development of the storyline. In some cases, the psychological thoughts or subtexts of the characters are not spoken. The actors can interpret them through actions and expressions, such as facial micro-expressions. Using close-up shots can make the performance of the characters clearer and the inner depiction of the characters will be more vivid. The lines must have the characteristics of connection to make the image of the characters more clear, then the development and evolution of the story becomes possible. Therefore, lines can deeply analyze the inner heart of the characters in the play, so that the audience can better understand the story.

#### **3.3 Lines can use different sounds to shape character behavior**

In our daily life, we also use different sounds to communicate with others. For the same sentence, if the stressed position is different, then the content of the expression may be the opposite. Chinese is an ancient and excellent language with a profound cultural background, so it is one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn. The artistry of language shows its unique charm. In the process of interpreting lines, actors should not only reflect the characteristics of the characters, but also pay more attention to the integration of lines and characters. If the actor puts the image of the character deeply in the new, even if he is separated from the script, he can still see the shadow of the character in the actor, and his daily speech will also show the feeling of the character. The lines are an important tool for fusion with the characters. If the lines are kept in mind, it will be more natural when speaking, and each stressed sound will fall in the right position. This kind of performance will be more excellent and more powerful to bring the audience into the story. Some clever applications of lines with stressed sounds can give people a feeling of aftertaste and bring the whole story to mind, and a deeper understanding of the story.

### **4. Conclusion**

Lines are one of the important tools when actors shape the image of characters. Therefore, actors must have a certain degree of line skills, and a deep understanding of lines, find out the external characteristics of the characters through the lines, and grasp the emotional ups and downs and psychological activities of the characters. Only by integrating the lines into the characters can the image of the characters be better displayed.

The lines are the important content of the performance and the key to shaping the character's image. The characters in the drama can be performed vividly through lines, and the actors need to carefully figure out lines, show the characters' heart and spirit, and combine emotions and body movements to effectively display the information of the characters in the drama, and form emotional resonance with the audience.

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