# The Application of Storyboard in Animation

**Jun Cheng**[*]

Zhejiang University of Finance & Economics Dongfang College, Haining 314408, China. E-mail: 360199131@qq.com

## ABSTRACT

The design of animation storyboard is not only literary, but also based on simple painting. In the design process, it needs a variety of expression methods, which are arranged and combined. As a creative and expressive script, storyboard can drive the characters to perform more vividly. Animation storyboard can drive the narrative section and enhance the literary effect of animation. In a word, the storyboard of animation can let painters and other staff understand the style and narrative trend of animation in the process of editing and production, which is an indispensable step in the early stage and can effectively shorten the time in the later stage of animation production.

*Keywords:* Storyboard; Literary Effect; Animation Production

## 1. The significance of animation storyboard

In a broad sense, the sub shots can control the structure of the story in animation creation, and even simplify the meaning of the picture, text and background music of the animation, that is to say, the sub shots can make a general outline of the animation and fix the style of the characters in the animation. In fact, the animation storyboard is free in time and space. When the painters get the storyboard, they can give full play to their imagination as long as they don't deviate from the theme. They can use their own ideas to make every frame of background, original painting and story's expression and narrative structure vivid and vivid, so that everything that can't happen in the real world is in the animation. It happens in animation world. For example, there are all kinds of magic in the world, and there are creatures like Pokemon in animation life. In the process of film shooting, many difficult shots can be easily realized in the animation through editing software or the painter's ability. The more the animation with high frames, the more restrictive it needs. Therefore, without the animation storyboard, the story may be in a disorderly layout, which will cause confusion to the audience. Therefore, we need a split to optimize this the whole story, like the 19th episode of UFO's latest animation "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba". Most of the settings are a powerful and unconstrained style. However, through the storyboard, the director can arrange how to insert memories in a short period of 24 minutes, insert the appropriate background music, give the important characters Kamado Tanjirou, Kamado Nezuko and even villain close-up, implicitly reflecting the three main characters in this episode. In order to portray Kamado Tanjirou's gentleness and villain's psychological distortion, the director uses a long shots to show the relationship between his brother and his sister, as well as the villain's strong jealousy after his distorted heart. In this way, the rendering of kinship is just right.

## 2. The design principle of animation storyboard

### 2.1 Theme of animation

Animation production needs to follow the principle of language, but there are many different classifications in the field of animation. For example, according to the

age of the audience, animation is divided into infant's animation, children's animation, teenagers' animation and adults' animation, etc. According to the different themes, animation can be divided into romantic, campus life, pure-comedy, realistic, logical animation, etc. The reason is that the staff (painters, tuners, etc.) can directly understand the director's ideas, save the cost of time, improve the quality of the work, and make the whole animation full of logic. If there aren't the concept of animation split shots, producers may make disorderly works, which may cause the staff to have disputes on understanding. In campus animation, producers often use slow shots, relational shots and rendering shots to show the rhythm in real life. If producers use fast shots or shots to describe the action to describe the lyric, the story of the movie will make the audience confused or even unable to produce the idea of watching. Therefore, the split mirror is to let the staff and the audience understand the meaning of the director according to the theme of the animation and make the whole animation connect naturally.

## 2.2 Animation needs for various shots
### 2.2.1 Long focal lengh shots

First of all, the tele shots is not only a shot with a long shooting time, it mainly contains two elements: as long as the shot with more than 6 seconds in the animation can be called a long shot. Secondly, the tele shots is mainly used to show the integrity of the content, and it needs to use a virtual camera for a long time to shoot, which may be used for the introduction at the beginning, or it may be used for the introduction of the transition of the location in the animation, such as"Koto no ha no niwa" introduces some thunders and clouds to cover the sky. If it rains, can you stay here. A little thunder and clouds covered the sky. I also keep this haiku Pavilion for you even though there is no rain in the sky. For example, long focal lengh shots is also used to look at Mitsuha and Taki at the end of "Your name". But the long shots is used to express delicate psychological activities. Because the long shots has the effect of being gentle, talk continuously and pleasantly, it is often used to express emotions, but if the long shots is used bad, it may make an animation dull, which is the reaction of the above effects.

### 2.2.2 Short shots

The short shots of course refers to the shots with very short duration. Generally, it is used in combination. The short shots is mainly used in dazzling scenes. For example, "My Hero Academia", Midoriya Izuku has used several short shotses in the battle between the long time and Todoroki Shoto, which fully expresses the passion and urgency of competition. However, the defect of the short shots is also obvious. Too many short shotses will Let the audience appear visual fatigue, let the audience have doubts about the order of time and space of animation. Although the cartoon has Caused public outrage, it is not the fault of the production company, so I quote this example.

### 2.2.3 Relation shots

Relational shots is also known as overall shots or scene shots. It is a shots focusing on large vision, prospect and panorama. At the same time, in order to make this kind of shots more attractive, it will add a lot of detailed explanation and design. It is possible to add a large number of side, similar to the side of Teacher Zongxiang Zhao of animal world in the real world, which can make such a picture look more attractive exquisite and beautiful.

# 3. The influence of script language on animation production
## 3.1 Life logic

When designing the script of animation storyboard, producers should conform to our daily life habits and not break the logic of life, which is reflected in the unity of time and space and the rationality of facts. For example, in the animation "Shirobako", the director made the animation of the workplace life, describing that the assembly of the animation from painting to storyboard to complete animation is within the scope of human beings. Such realistic description will create a sense of identity for the audience, which will give a strong understanding and resonance for the audience who is also making the animation in reality, thus generating substitution sense.

## 3.2 Art logic

First of all, the art of dividing shots is a kind of art of combining pictures. When creating animation, producers just combine these shots together, or they have

an idea to logically combine these pictures more aesthetically. That is to say, according to the logic of art, the art of dividing shots is to make the connection of pictures more logical in language and audio-visual, simply speaking, the same picture, Just like the animation of love theme, the switching of the two people's eye-to-eye pictures, if the color is pink, the audience will feel very sweet and exciting. If the color is gray or even the background of fire, the audience will feel that they are about to fight. So the artistic logic of sub shots is very novel. He can firmly grasp the ideas in the minds of the audience, and put their logic in the animation like language, so that the audience can cause a strong sense of identity, and let the story of the animation convey in place.

### 3.3 Psychological logic

Why do people like to watch animations or films and television works? Because when people watch an artwork they choose, they will have a strong sense of substitution. The same good animation works can enrich the audience's heart, such as an animation about love. The audience may have a lot of fantasies about the story of the leading men and women in it, such as the animation I recently watched "Hori-san to Miyamura-kun", a large number of sweet stories of male and female protagonists will make the audience call "eat lemons". At this time, the director will design many slow motion scenes according to the plot to make the story better. With long music, the audience will taste the beauty carefully. A large number of slow motion scenes here are to set off the romantic atmosphere, and the pink will appear on the screen to directly watch the effect of the hearts.

## 4. Summary

This article is about the sub shot script of animation and the meaning of script. The author analyzes the shot script through the theme of animation, the classification of shots and the logic of animation. The storyboard itself is a language. The director's intention is expressed in the form of pictures, which can be understood by the staff. Although the storyboard may be quite young, it needs a lot of ideas and words from the later staff to give examples and explanations. It is very similar to the four grid comics we saw in the early stage. Although there is not a large number of direct descriptions of the complete structure of the story, it can be understood by the later staff. The director's idea may produce more novel ideas in the production work and make the story more vivid. The storyboard is an indispensable step in today's animation industry.

## References

1. Cui YH. Application of split shot script in animation production. Computer Products and Circulation (in Chinese). 2019.
2. Li J. Research on the application of shot script design in animation creation (in Chinese). Kunming University of Science and Technology 2014.
3. Guo R. A study on the script design of animation split mirror in surreal design thinking (in Chinese). Zhejiang Normal University 2015. doi: 10.7666/d.Y2904299.
4. Wang JY. A comparative study of Chinese and Japanese animation shots creation methods (in Chinese). Northeast Normal University 2017.
5. Lai LX. Design of animation sub shots script (in Chinese). Art Science and Technology 2015.
6. Liu CH. Application and practice of shot script design in animation creation (in Chinese). Science & Technology Information 2018.
7. Qiao H. The practical application of "diversification" in the creation progress of 2D films. China Academy of Art 2014.
8. Gao Q. On the application of animation storyboard in film shooting creation (in Chinese). Jilin University of Arts 2015.
9. Ma D. Research on personalized design of mobile animation (in Chinese). Art and Literature for the Masses 2009. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1007-5828.2009.23.031.
10. Zhu BE. The design and exploration of junior high school animation curriculum based on the design of storyboard. Guangxi University for Nationalities 2017.