

# Discussion on Live Coverage of TV News Reporter

Wang Fei

School of Journalism and Communication,  
China West Normal University,  
Sichuan, Nanchong, China 637009

## Abstract

*With the development of TV news industry, live coverage of TV news reporter has gradually become an important part of television news reports. It is well acknowledged that the news report can be used to measure the actual strength of television media, while live coverage for major news and issues especially emergencies is an important indicator to measure the professional quality of a news team, however, it is the TV news reporter who takes responsibility for the live coverage, thus, the reportorial skills of one news reporter to carry out live coverage largely determines the strength of the TV media.*

**Key words:** TV News Reporter; Live Coverage; Reportorial Skills

## I. What Is “Live Coverage”

With the development of TV news industry, and the use of high-tech equipment, live coverage in our country is moving toward normalization. Audiences pay much more attention to “timely report the news as soon as it happens” rather than “report the news of the day”, thus live coverage comes into being against such background.

During the live coverage, news reporter describes the news to the audience, and comments on the news as the interviewer, the witnesses and the participants when reporting on the scene of the news, and the constituent elements of such kind of “Seeing is believing” report can be divided into four aspects, including news report, background index, estimate and look forward to the future development of the news report and news commentary.

## II. Problems Should Be Paid Attention to in Doing on-the-Spot Report

How to accurately, very nicely and Logically clear express the effective information collected in the preliminary preparation work in doing on-the-spot report, the following issues need to be paid attention to in doing on-the-spot report.

### **1. Choice of exposure position**

It is important to emphasize scene feeling in doing on-the-spot report, thus it is a big thing to choose the exposure position for news reporter. The exposure position for an excellent live coverage must be out of careful consideration, and must be typical and representative. Television as audio-visual media, can make it possible for television viewer to obtain more information by watching the scene behind the reporter, what's more, they can also listen to the report of the news reporter while watching live coverage. Therefore, a typical exposure position can serve as a foil to enrich the role of live coverage.

### **2. Pay attention to the objectivity of live coverage**

News is the information which is formed by reporting and spreading on the objective facts, and live coverage is subordinate to news report, thus we should ensure the objectivity of the news in doing on-the-spot report. The fact of the news can not be replaced by a reporter's personal feelings, even though it is inevitable for news reporters to use some vocabularies which show their personal feelings, it is determined by the special status of news reporters, and news reporters must deliver the field information to the audience by what they have seen and heard in news scene. So news reporters shall try their best to describe the news in an onlooker's capacity, so as to ensure the objectivity of the news in doing on-the-spot report.

### **3. Try to use colloquial expression**

Generally speaking, it will not be long for news reporters to do on-the-spot report, however, they should ensure the optimal quantity of transmitting information within a short period of time, and the actual transmission quantity is equal to the information receive quantity of the television viewers, therefore, television viewers can receive large quantity of information transmitted by news reporters through their colloquial expression, so as to know about the news.

### **4. Fully mobilize various sensory functions**

News reporters can transmit information not only through language, but also use other sensory functions, such as touch, smell, and taste to refine the field related information and combine their sensory functions with their language and their exposure pictures in doing on-the-spot report.

It is difficult to achieve the desired effect of dissemination effect by just using relevant information on site and the exposure pictures. The reason is that it is impossible for television viewers to "feel" the situation of the scene of the news by only using their sight and hearing to receive information, under such condition, it is necessary for our news reporters to "feel" the situation of the scene of the news, and use the most intuitive way, such as touch, taste, smell and body measurement to help television viewers to know about all the things happened there, so as to enhance the sense of the scene and the sense of participation.

## **III. Problems Should be Overcome in Doing on-the-Spot Report**

The specialization of news reporter's training has not come into being in China because of the late emergence and development of live coverage by news reporters in our country. At present, most news reporters in China's television news industry come from editing reporters, who are different from news reporters, because the latter should feel really good in front of the camera, and should have strong

communication skills, as well as superb language expression techniques even though editing reporters have a strong sensitivity to the news, rich experience in reporting and unique perspective. However, some of the news reporters aren't as good as they should be, and they should overcome the following questions in doing on-the-spot report.

### **1. Overcome the problem of camera shy**

The first problem of news reporters they often encounter in doing on-the-spot report is camera shy. Some may dare not look directly into the camera, while some may gaze at the camera with the utmost concentration. So how to be telegenic? As a matter of fact, just regard the camera as a person, and talk with your interviewer as one of your friend; try not to stare at one thing, and not move your eyes too fast, because television media would amplify even the smallest flaw, all the news reporters need to do is try to behave naturally.

### **2. Overcome nervousness or excitement in front of the camera**

The nervousness in front of the camera refers to that the non-fluency, the logical confusion, the unorganized and highly arbitrary approach because of too much tension in front of the camera. The excitement in front of the camera refers to that too deliberately to show excitement, surprise, outrage and other exaggerated behaviors in order to obtain positive expression of sound language, which can also be called "line performance type", "facial expression".

The occurrence of nervousness or excitement in front of the camera is mainly caused by the poor psychological quality and inaccurate positioning of the news reporter. Most news reporters may feel nervous when they are in front of the camera for the first time, and their nervousness can be diffused after the adjustment and adaptation in their work. In fact, a little bit of nerves is good for reflecting the sense of live news, and news reporters should try to control their nervousness on the premise of ensuring safety.

### **3. Try not to recite all the content of news release in doing on-the-spot report**

In order to facilitate the reporting, in general, news reporters will make an outline, some may even prepare presentation content, and report the news according to their presentation content when they collect and sort information before they do on-the-spot report, which can ensure the integrity and consistency of the live coverage, while ignore the three words-"on the spot" for on-the-spot report. This is because that news reporters should report not only the static things, but also the dynamic information. And it is difficult to reflect the sense of participation, and the intonation and tone of news reporters are not natural if they report the news according to presentation content they have prepared before the on-the-spot report. What's more, it may also cause the failed-connection if they say the wrong thing, and their expressions when they scratch their heads and wonder what they should say next will also be showed to the viewers, which eventually may lead to the result that the report can not be carried out normally.

## Conclusion

With a series of live show for major events, live coverage of news reporters is gradually becoming popular, and is recognized and loved by more and more audience, which not only enhances the timeliness of the news and the sense of the scene, at the same time, it also increases the amount of news information. Some report techniques discussed in this paper aim to throw some light on this field, and they are just general and simple understanding. These techniques are not enough to be a qualified and excellent news reporter, and in order to gain a place in the television news industry, it is necessary for news reporters to seriously study in practice, summarize the experience and lessons positively and learn from the excellent predecessors.

## References

- Bob Edwards. Zhou Peiqin translated. *Edward R Murrow and the Birth of the American Radio and Television News*. Fudan University Press, 2005, 8
- Song Xiaoyang. *Guide of Live Coverage for News Reporter*. Beijing: China Radio and Television Press, 2008, 1
- Lu Zhan. *Reporting Skills of News Reporters in Live Connection*.  
<http://www.doc88.com/p-381770138950.html>
- Chen Shuangshuang. *News Reporters' Presentation Skills of Live Coverage*  
<http://www.xichu.net/gdzt/ztkx/2012/12/2012-12-04265353.html>
- Luo Li. *Practical Broadcasting Tutorial*. Beijing: Beijing Broadcasting Institute Press, 2003, 9
- Bai Yansong. *Pain and Happiness*. Changjiang literature and Art Publishing House, 2010, 12