

Terminology and Dance Transmission

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— Children dancing, Kluger Zoltan, 30-05-1947

Dance is a communicative act realized through movements and sounds, initiated by the personal motivation of a subject aiming to share with others experiences, ideas, emotions, and beliefs. During the process of dance transfer words are very important. They codify and synthesize the multimodal character of movement into a single representation.

When transmitting dance, words appear along the execution of movements as references to the action and its experience. They are only materialized when being verbalized. Naming movement has the function of framing the act of moving while capturing its experiential nature as an association. Generally, images and sounds are the main sources to create movements. Present acts mingle with derived inspiration from in situ observations, memories, physical responses of the body, ideas, and emotions.

Through the development of teaching praxis, a lexicon is generated and transmitted. This lexicon emerges from the movements that create the dance and reveal the teacher's personal perspective and experiences of the world. Names are given to concrete actions and are used to teach and to remember them. The teacher creates own meanings and metaphors, playing with the common use of language. The need to appropriate language within the dance praxis, does not emerge from a social desire to define identity. In this case it emerges from the physical and personal experience of a movement that needs concrete characterization. Then, after analyzing such process of appropriation, the role of identity comes into play. The sensations, the execution of a movement generates in a body are such that the verbalization of it needs a very subjective perspective. **Within dance, words have another function than naming.** Their linguistic category is neglected in order to invent new functions for words. Naming a physical experience tends to make use of images and associations where nouns may act as verbs and adverbs as nouns.

The use of words is as specific as the creation of movements, where choices on the realization of form and meaning are constantly made. Thus paying attention to the terminology one applies within the tacking and creating practice is essential to understand, transmit, and document one's own practice.