



Hearing Through Listening

We gestate in Sound, and are born into Sight, Cinema gestated in Sight, and was born into Sound.

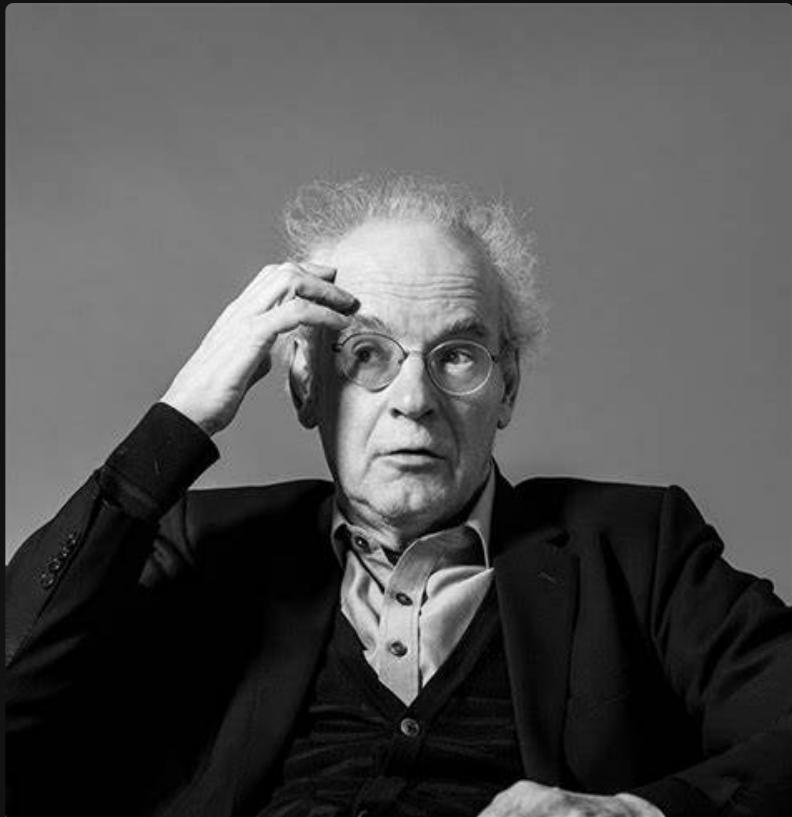
COD 412 - Week 04 Class →



Michel Chion

Born in Creil, France, Chion teaches at several institutions in France and currently holds the post of Associate Professor at the University of Paris III: Sorbonne Nouvelle where he is a theoretician and teacher of audio-visual relationships.

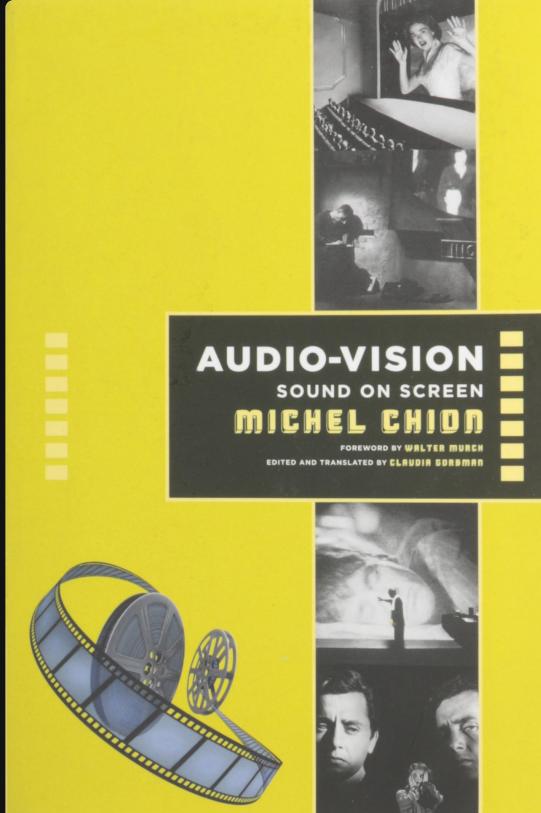
Worked with Pierre Schaeffer at the French Radio and Television Organisation (ORTF)



Audiovison

"The emotional, physical and aesthetic value of a sound is linked not only to the causal explanation we attribute to it but also to its own qualities of timbre and texture, to its own personal vibration. So just as directors and cinematographers (even those who will never make abstract films) have everything to gain by refining their knowledge of visual materials and textures, we can similarly benefit from disciplined attention to the inherent qualities of sounds."

Access The Book on Monoskop





Listening

When we ask someone to talk about what they have heard, their responses vary greatly depending on the type of listening they employed.

According to Chion there are three distinct types of listening:

1. Causal Listening
2. Semantic Listening
3. Reduced Listening



Causal Listening

- Causal Listening is one of the most common.
- Focuses on understanding the source of the sound.
- Listeners focus on the narrative, or the story behind the audio.
E.g: Shaking a gift-box.
- We must be careful not to overestimate the accuracy and potential of causal listening. It may not be able to provide sure and precise data solely by analyzing sound. In reality, causal listening is not only the most common but also the most easily influenced and deceptive mode of listening.



Identifying Causes: From the Unique to the General

There are various types of Causal Listening.

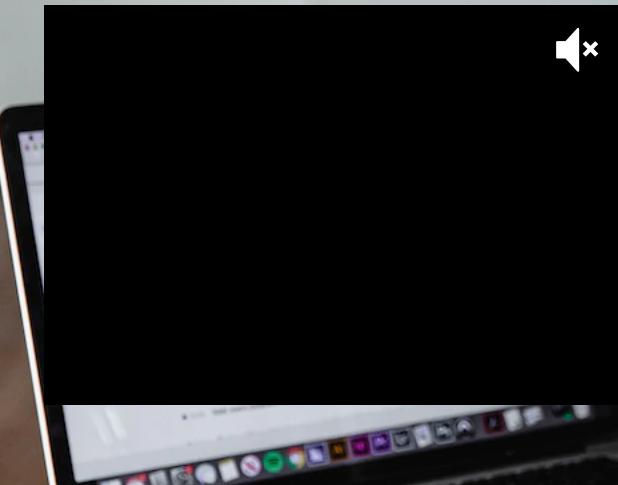
Sometimes we can identify a specific individual from his voice.

Or we can identify a particular object by hearing the sound of it.

→ A dog can identify its owner among hundreds of people but can the master do it?

Example Case: Radio Annoucer

We can listen to a radio speaker everyday without having any idea about his or her imagery. Nevertheless this does not stop us to link him or her in our memory. The physical traits of the announcer may remain blank in our mind but we can recall the individual without seeing its visual qualities like hair color, body type, or his/her name.





Semantic Listening

Semantic listening is when listeners pay attention to the meaning and context of the audio content, such as lyrics in a song or dialogues in a movie.

Learning a spoken language.

Morse code, for instance, is a great example of semantic listening because every beep, tone, and click contributes to convey a message.



Reduced Listening

Reduced listening is when the listener pays attention to the sound itself, independent of any contextual information.

Reduced listening is the term coined by *Pierre Schaeffer* to describe a mode of listening that concentrates on the *characteristics* of the sound itself, rather than its origin or significance.

Reduced listening is when the listener pays attention to the sound itself, independent of any contextual information.





BREAK

10 mins.

A close-up photograph of a small brown bird, possibly a wren, perched on a thin, textured branch. The bird is facing right, with its beak wide open as if it is singing. Its feathers are a mix of warm browns and tans. The background is blurred, showing more of the same branch and some green leaves, creating a soft, natural feel.

Requirements of Reduced Listening

- Sonic treats of sound.
- Pitch, timbre, frequency, amplitude, wave-length
- Not like a solfeggio practice.
- Creating a descriptive system for sounds
- Disciplined attention on the inherent attributes of audible things.

What Is Reduced Listening Good For?

In film and television, sounds are typically used for their ability to evoke images, convey meaning, or suggest particular associations with real or imaginary causes or texts, rather than as purely formal elements in their own right.

- In films, sounds evoke concrete and abstract emotions
- Film, video, art and design students can benefit from Reduced Listening
- Not like a solfeggio practice.





Reduced Listening



Paylaş

VAST



İzlemek için: YouTube

Assignment

- Compose a track using acousmatic practices
- Listen to the following music and watch the video track. Train your ears with using Michel Chion's Reduced Listening practices
- Choose a main theme.
- Produce sound samples based on this main theme, as in the video.
- Create a *Reduced Listening* experience by supporting the sounds you produce with visual stimuli.
- Concentrate and listen to the recordings that your classmate has made. Describe the sounds you hear in writing. Submit your answers to the LMS forum.



Aber wenn du hier lebst,
fragt dir alles Mögliche ins Ohr,