

CHAPTER 12

RADIO PROGRAMME

12.1 QUALITIES OF A RADIO PRODUCER

You need certain qualities or skills to be a radio producer. The qualities you need include the following:-

(a) Ability to see and hear what is happening around you.

(i) Observing

(ii) Drawing from experiences

(iii) Read about the experiences of others

(b) Ability to conceptualize ideas

(c) Creativity

(d) A good user of words

12.2 ELEMENTS OF RADIO PRODUCTION

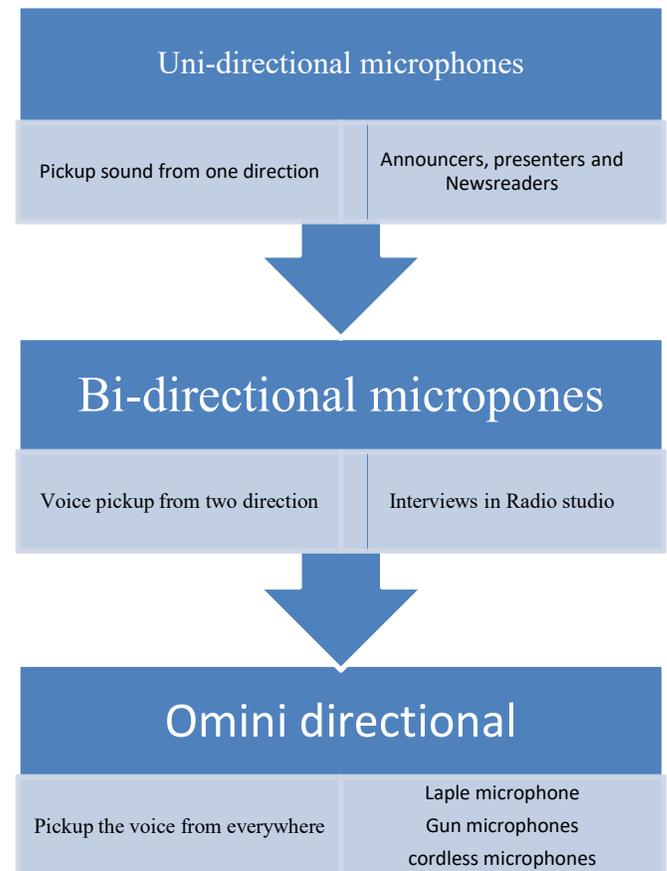
Basically there are two main elements of radio production. These two are as follows.

(i) Studio: The radio studio is a room where radio programmes are recorded.

(ii) Microphones: Recording a voice in studio, we use a microphone. They amplify or in other words, increase the volume of your voice. When you

speak normally it will be made louder if you use a loudspeaker.

There are basically three types of microphones and they are known by their directivity. All these microphones are as follow:



(iii) Sound effects: Sound effects in radio programme give meaning and sense of location. It adds realism to a programme and helps a listener to use imagination. Sound effects can be used in two ways:

- (a) Spot or effects that are created as we speak and
- (b) Recorded sound effects.

(iv) Music: Music is the soul of radio. Music is always used as signature tunes or theme music of various radio programmes.

Let us see what music does to any programme.

- a. Music adds colour and life to any spoken word programme.
- b. Music can break monotony.
- c. Music is used to give the desired effect of happy or unhappy situation fear or joy.
- d. Music can suggest scenes and locations

(v) Artificial echo: If you enter an empty building or fort and shout, your voice will come back to you. This is called on echo.

(vi) Filter or distort: If you listen to someone speaking to you on phone, the voice would not sound normal. This sort of effect called distort is produced using technology. Sometimes distort is used along with echo. Think of someone speaking from a mine 100 feet below the earth. To make it realistic, distort and echo is used.

(vii) Human voice: There are two aspects of the use of human voice in radio production. Firstly, there has to be a well written script to be spoken and then someone has to speak or read it before a microphone in a studio.

2.3 RADIO PROGRAMME PRODUCTION

In the case of radio programme production, there is a well accepted process of production which is carried out in three stages.

Let us list them out.

- a) Pre-production
- b) Production and
- c) Post-production

a) Pre-production- This is the first stage before the actual production.

i) **An idea is born:** This phase includes how a programme is born as an idea and its conceptualization. The topic or subject matter is decided.

ii) **Plan of action:** After the topic is decided, a plan of action is worked out. Here the format of the programme is determined i.e whether the programme is a talk, discussion, interview, drama, documentary etc.

iii) **The script** is examined to make it suitable for broadcast. It is examined according to the principles of writing for radio or in other words 'for the ear'.

iv) **Paper work:** If people who are not working in the radio station are involved for writing or providing voice for the programmes, they have to be invited with an agreement to accept the job or assignment. This type of agreement is referred to as a contract.

v) **Rehearsing** the voices of speakers is also part of this stage.

B.) Production: This is the actual process of recording and editing a radio programme. Proper studios, microphones and computers

are required to record and edit the programme.

c) Post production: Writing to inform people involved in the production is a major activity during this phase. The programme has to be given publicity both on radio and in other media. This is done to ensure that people know about the programmes and also listen to them.

12.4 WRITING FOR RADIO

Some important points of the radio script.

- **Script** is what makes sense of the sounds.
- It is the framework for your story.
- It brings together the most important elements, and helps your audience understand the significance of the points made by the people you have interviewed.
- It's not just about sounds; it's about words, too.
- **Let us list out the main characteristics of spoken words.**
 - i) Though it is written, it is spoken
 - ii) It is written for the ear not the eye.
 - iii) It is heard only once. The listener normally does not get a second chance to listen.
 - iv) It is conversational and should therefore sound like one and have the following qualities:
 - a) It should be simply worded without any difficult or unfamiliar words.
 - b) The sentences should be short and simple and not complex.

c) There should be only one idea in a sentence and not many ideas.

d) Though there are thousands of listeners, what is written should be meant for just one listener? At the listening end, there are generally only one or two persons and not a crowd. So it should be speaking to one person.

e) The words chosen should denote the exact meaning and not be vague or abstract.

f) The words should make pictures in the minds of the listeners.

g) Abbreviations or short forms should be avoided. If an abbreviation is used, then its full form should be given.

h) If the script consists of big numbers it can be rounded off to the nearest whole number.

i) While referring to more than one person, avoid using 'he' or 'she'. It can confuse the listeners.

DO YOU KNOW

- a.) The first radio broadcast ever in the world's history was made by Reginald Fessenden on Christmas Eve 1906.
- b.) In June 1923 the Radio club of Bombay made the first ever broadcast in the country.
- c.) The Indian Broadcasting company came into being on July 23, 1927.

MAXIMIZE YOU MARKS

Q1. Name the different types of microphones used for recording sound.

Q2. List out any three qualities or skills required to be a good producer of radio programmes.

Q3. Name the different stages of radio production. List one activity in each of the stages.