

Analysis of Filmmaking Projects for the Mirrorliar Competition at Nihon Go Gakko

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Abstract

This article results from a fieldwork practice conducted at Nihon Go Gakko located at 999-2 Kamata, Ito, Shizuoka, 414-0054, Japan. The fieldwork practice was conducted online for four months, from January 2021 to April 2021. This article aims to explain the process of making short films involving various parties from several countries during the pandemic era in Nihon Go Gakko, who will be entered in the Mirrorliar. The methods of observation, literature study and interviews were used to analyse. The process of making films as a result of this research is the development, production process, post-production and distribution. Meanwhile, the obstacles faced during the process of making short films are weather, time, cost, etc
Keywords: *Mirrorliar; apprenticeship; pandemic; film; competition*

1. Introduction

The film is a literary work produced from audio and video visuals. The film is also a part of mass communication media where film serves as messages that can be searched for, used, understood, and influenced by the audience. Films can reflect a civilization or dynasty, character and the role of all living things in the background of culture and culture itself. In the modern era, films have developed and been divided into many types and genres. The types of films are divided from series and short films to films omnibus. While the variety of the film itself until now has been divided into eighteen varieties, including action, documentation, adventure, etc. The film is very popular in various circles ranging from toddlers to the elderly. Almost everyone watches movies daily through various devices like smartphones, televisions, and laptops. Due to the proliferation of films, it is not uncommon for us to come across a competition at that film festival. Starting from a small scale with the scope of an educational institution such as schools, and universities, to a large scale with a national scope, even internationally. Various film competitions

are stealing public attention, such as Oscar to Mirrorliar.

The Mirrorliar Competition is a competition where short films made by the community will be released nationwide in Japan as omnibus films, together with works produced by leading film directors and actors. The film omnibus itself is a compilation of short films that still have one link to the same story or common thread. Nine selected films are planned to be broadcast in more than 50 theatres in Japan. The Mirrorliar Competition is held four times a year in each season, starts in August 2021, is planned to be screened at the film festival in Japan, and disseminated to foreign countries. Nihon Go Gakko, a Japanese company, engaged in education and entertainment, where this company focuses on learning Japanese around the world, created a special project for the production of a short film that will be included in the 2021 Mirror Wild Competition, involving actors and setting from several different countries, such as Japan, China, Indonesia and other countries. It is because members of Nihon Go Gakko themselves come from various countries, including Indonesia, Brazil, America,

China and many other countries. Nihon Go Gakko aims to reach Japanese learners around the world. Therefore, this short film project for the Mirrorliar Competition was created to reach more members who will join Nihon Go Gakko from other countries that have not been reached before and unite Japanese language learners around the world. Based on the background description, we conducted an in-depth analysis of the filming project for the Mirrorliar Competition at Nihon Go Gakko and the obstacles faced in the course of the project.

2. Method

The implementation of the fieldwork practice started from January 2021 to March 2021. Coordination meetings with the team were held every day. Meanwhile, coordination meetings with superiors were held twice a week on Thursday and Saturday mornings. The fieldwork practice was at Nihon Go Gakko, located in Japan, and was held online at their respective homes via Zoom Meeting.

The method applied was Observation. Observations were carried out by direct Observation of matters related to filmmaking involving various parties from several countries during the pandemic era at Nihon Go Gakko. In addition, a literature study was also carried out. This step is taken to find information about the types of films, the filmmaking process, and the techniques used in making films through journals and websites as a reference. In addition, interviews were also conducted with film directors, film directors, scriptwriters, and staff involved in making the film, especially the staff in charge of the short film project for the Mirrorliar Competition, in order to obtain information needed in making the film project, along with the obstacles faced. Encountered in the making of a short film project for the Mirrorliar Competition.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Nihon Go Gakko

Nihon Go Gakko was originally a joint project between Japanese teachers, actors, TV personalities, directors, publication publishers, and translators active in Japan; the United States and China support beginner Japanese learners. As technology develops, Nihon Go Gakko strives to expand the reach of Japanese learners worldwide with an online-based school called Multinational Japanese Language Exchange Meetings. This exchange meeting is held monthly using themes familiar to everyday life, such as favorite movies, hobbies, or daily activities. This exchange meeting also involved collaboration between Japanese language teachers in various countries and Nihon Go Gakko in realizing exchange meetings as a place for learning or a place to hone Japanese language skills for language learners in Japan all over the world. The reach of Nihon Go Gakko has expanded to several countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Panama, Paraguay, and France.

By using interesting learning concepts and themes, many Japanese learners are interested in participating in exchange meetings. In addition to exchange meeting activities, Nihon Go Gakko also holds a month's Japanese Language contest. The contest theme is usually related to the theme at the exchange meeting, so much Interested learners test their Japanese language skills by entering the contest. In addition to the two projects mentioned above, Nihon Go Gakko also plans to expand its reach by preparing several new projects with interesting breakthrough ideas and updates in each project so that In the future, Nihon Go Gakko can become an educational company entertainment that reaches all Japanese learners around the world world.

As a Japanese company engaged in education and entertainment and focuses on all Japanese language learners worldwide,

Nihon Go Gakko uses various types of promotional media that can reach Japanese language learners worldwide. The promotions carried out by Nihon Go Gakko are very diverse, ranging from online classes connected to Japanese language teachers worldwide to promotions on various social media such as Facebook, Youtube, and Instagram. The promotion went well but was deemed insufficient to reach Japanese language learners worldwide. Hence, Nihon Go Gakko made several projects as promotional media, including the Film Project, Freepaper Project, Ichigo Society Project, and Workshop Project. As one of the projects of Nihon Go Gakko, the making of this short film aims to promote and describe the entertainment itself. In this project, two interactive short films will be made independently. Starting from preparing the storyline, the script, editing the film, making posters, and subtitles, to making the soundtrack for the film. After this short film was finished, it was submitted to several contests and film festivals, both national and international, such as the Mirror Wild Competition and the Festival de Cannes.

3.2. Development

At this stage, producers, directors, and scriptwriters hold a meeting or discuss the development of ideas and ideas about the concept of the film that will be in production. Film producers, directors, and scriptwriters are usually called the Triangle System. The Triangle System plans various things in this process, from looking for story ideas and film genres and making the premise, synopsis, and script. After everything has been prepared, the producer and the director will think of the right strategy to find investors who will fund all costs incurred during the filming process until the promotion period. After getting investors, the film production process will be implemented.

The short film, entitled “The One Word”, tells the story of a secret organization called MMM, whose goal is to eliminate Japanese from the face of the earth. This deletion is done by killing Japanese speakers around the world. MMM organization recruits members via a special email sent randomly to people. In addition to the main short film, there is a sequel to the short film with the title “The One Word of Rebellion.” The sequel to the short film “The One Word” entitled “The One Word of Rebellion” tells the story of the close friendship between five people from Indonesians who like Japanese things. The time that became the setting of the sequel happened before the five people entered the MMM, until after they were all trapped in the secret organization. In this sequel, the story of the five is very much tested because the MMM members killed them.

In January 2021, the idea of making two short films was sparked in a weekend routine meeting. Furthermore, the ideas and ideas regarding the concept were conveyed to the production manager and the apprentice team from Indonesia to be further developed to determine the storyline, type of film, to the film script. At this stage, Nihon Go Gakko appointed staff responsible for the process of making films entitled "The One Word" and "The One Word of Rebellion".

3.3. Preparation

In the preparation stage, the producer and team will plan and prepare the film production process before starting from the timeline, hunting and setting the location, recruiting film crews, and casting to prepare high costs removed during the filming process. In the early era of film emergence, preparations were made to make a film. Films are not as complicated as in today's era. Previous films tend to be using a simple timeline. The location chosen as the place for filmmaking is also not well thought out

now. Film crew recruitment and casting are not as complicated as it is now because in the past, for actors or actresses, the crew involved in filming was not as much as it is now, so casting and crew selection was not as difficult as now. For expenses incurred during the filming process then and now are also very different.

In the preparatory stage, the executive producer and the team plan and prepare the film production process. Starting from setting the timeline, location, recruiting film crews, and costs. For the casting, because the cast of this short film is members of Nihon Go Gakko, the character determination is adjusted to the character of each individual. Therefore, it does not take long to cast the cast. The location chosen as the setting for the filming is also very diverse, most of which are set in several places in Semarang City, and the rest are in Japan and China.

3.4. Production process

The production stage is where the film is made. The production stage of a film is also known as shooting. The production process itself is very different between ancient times and now. In the early era of the emergence of film, the techniques in the production process included shooting or cinematography techniques, and Green Screen techniques or Blue Screen had not received much attention. While adults, In this case, all films are made using shooting techniques or good and very diverse cinematography, using the Green technique Screen or Blue Screen to produce a more realistic film. Cinematography is a science that deals with shooting techniques, pictures, and a series of story ideas in the form of videos. People who work in the field of Cinematography are called a Cinematographer or, in the world of cinema, the DOP (Director of Photography).

The production process starts in early February to mid-February 2021. In its

implementation, the scene shooting process is divided into several sections according to the background. In Indonesia, the background is used in Lawang Sewu, the house of one of the Nihon Go Gakko members, West Flood Canal, Kobe Garden, Zee Coffee, and Hotel A. While in Japan, the setting used is the residence of the executive producer and the executive producer. In China, the background is used quite simply, namely the garden near the residence of one of the Nihon Go Gakko members. The shooting of the scene was done independently because the actors were in different countries and could not meet in person because of a pandemic that made it difficult for the cast to be in the same place. Since the film production staff are not in the same place, coordination regarding making a film in the form of instructions for making a film is given at a meeting regularly online. Likewise, every staff in charge must submit reports on the progress of the work held.

3.5. Post Production and Distribution

In this process, the editing process, sound arrangement, adding effects, until the color grand. In practice, the editor does not carry out the editing process alone but is still assisted and supervised by film producers and directors with the aim of monitoring so that the film continues to run according to the concept pre-determined and agreed previously.

In this process, the images that have been taken are arranged into a single unit in the form of a complete short film through the editing process. The production manager carried out editing for the movie short *The One Word* and was supervised directly by an executive producer. Meanwhile, in the short film *“The One Word of Rebellion*, the editing was done by a member of Nihon Go Gakko, who was assisted by an apprentice team from Indonesia and supervised directly by the Production Manager. The editing process that goes through is not just combining the

pieces of the recorded scene but also the proper arrangement to add the necessary effects for some scenes. In addition to editing the two short films, the team from Nihon Go Gakko also prepared other things needed to make a film, such as editing photos for film posters and also editing subtitles in English and Japanese. At this stage, Nihon Go Gakko does not sell or distribute the short film but instead includes the short film in film festivals, such as the heated mirror competition.

4. Conclusion

Nihon Go Gakko's process of making short films involves various parties from several countries in the pandemic era: development, preparation, production process, post-production, and distribution. Because short films are produced online with the cast and film crew across countries, during the production process, the short films produced by Nihon Go Gakko encountered many obstacles such as weather, licensing, experience, and miscommunication. The short film made by Nihon Go Gakko is a short film that is interesting because the background is taken, and the actors involved in it come from several different countries. In this pandemic era, it is very difficult for members of the Nihon Go Gakko to be in the same place while the members are in different countries. In addition to the existing cast far from each other, the short film made by Nihon Go Gakko is a kind of The interactive short film, where the ending of this short film is submitted to the viewer. The short film by Nihon Go Gakko consists of two films, namely the main short film entitled "The One Word" and the sequel to the short film headline entitled "The One Word of Rebellion."

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