

Original Research Article

## Research on the influence of French New Wave films on modern editing techniques

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**Abstract:** The unique editing technique of French new wave film has a profound influence on the history of film, especially when it breaks the traditional narrative structure, its skipping and non-linear narrative breaks through the limitation of time and space, and creates a free and multi-dimensional narrative style. This paper discusses its influence on, application difficulties and challenges of modern films, as well as its enlightenment and direction for future creation. The research shows that although it is limited in mainstream films, it provides inspiration and path for the innovation and personalized expression of film art, which is of important value.

**Keywords:** French new wave; Editing technique; Skipping; nonlinear narrative; Film innovation

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### 1. Foreword

French new wave film in the middle of the 20th century to traditional narrative profound challenges and innovation, especially its editing technique influenced the later many film creation, with the development of the film industry, modern film made progress in technology and narrative means, but still faces how to keep the narrative innovation and balance between market acceptance. This paper will take the editing technique of the French new wave as the starting point, analyze its influence on the modern film, and explore its development path in the future film creation.

### 2. Breakthrough and current situation analysis of traditional editing mode in French New Wave films

#### 2.1. The innovation background of the traditional editing mode and the new wave

In France in the late 1950s to early 1960s, Newwave film gained fame for its bold breakthrough in the traditional film editing model. All along, the traditional Hollywood editing method always follows the principle of linear narrative, pays high attention to the coherence and logic of the story, and tries every effort to immerse the audience in the smooth narrative of the film. However, the new wave of directors deliberately broke this consistent and unified pattern, and vigorously advocated a more experimental and free editing technique. They not only innovate in narrative structure, break the continuity of time and space with the help of non-linear narrative, but also introduce editing skills such as skipping to create a sense of “film reality”, so that the audience can think more actively about the development of the plot.

#### 2.2. The use of jumping cut and long lens

In this context, the jump cut (Jump Cut) technology has become one of its most iconic editing techniques. Jump cut is completely different from the traditional smooth editing. Its sudden scene switching breaks the natural flow between the shots and creates a fragmented narrative effect. This technique not only fills the film with visual tension, but also enhances the sense of rhythm of the film, so that the audience will always keep

alert and have a sense of participation in the process of watching. At the same time, the use of long shots breaks through the traditional practice of over-reliance on editing to control the rhythm in movies, so that the audience can experience a more real sense of scene and character experience in the long shot following.

### **2.3. The uniqueness of realism pursuit and editing techniques**

New wave directors pursuit of realism is also reflected in the editing techniques. Film is not just about telling a complete and closed story, but also should reflect the contingency and complexity of life itself. For this reason, the directors do not deliberately cover up the narrative cracks and incoherence in the editing, but deliberately create the gap between visual and narrative, highlighting the uniqueness of the film as a creative medium. This way breaks the audiences traditional expectation of watching movies, prompting them to re-examine the narrative structure and image language of the film, and then creates a new style<sup>[1]</sup> of modern film editing. These editing innovations have had a profound impact on modern films, especially in the field of independent films and art films. These breakthroughs in the new wave have provided the later creators with a lot of editing skills and ideas.

## **3. The application dilemma and challenge of the French new wave editing technique in the modern film**

### **3.1. The restriction of commercial films on the editing techniques**

In contemporary film production, the editing skill of the French New Wave has its own unique appeal, but it has encountered many difficulties and tests. The further development of film production technology has made commercial films put more emphasis on audience recognition and market response, while the traditional editing techniques — those methods dedicated to telling coherent stories and providing visual and smooth experience — still maintain its core position. In the fields of art and independent film, the bold editing techniques adopted by New Wave films, such as skipping and nonlinear narratives, are seen as representative of innovation. However, in the category of mainstream films, these technologies are often interpreted as a lack of “mainstream” or a failure to meet the expectations of the audience, which restricts the popularization and practice of new wave editing techniques in a wider range of fields.

### **3.2. Audience acceptance of jumping technology**

In modern movies, the application of the jump-cut technique is being tested by audience acceptance. Compared with the coherence pursued by traditional editing, the jumping technology deliberately cut off the smooth connection between shots, resulting in a rigid visual shift and subverting the audiences viewing habits. Those accustomed to the smooth editing of Hollywood movies may feel that this editing method will interfere with their viewing experience and even negatively affect the understanding of the story. In the current film industry, which focuses on visual impact, the audience pays more attention to the layout of the picture and the presentation of special effects, rather than the complexity of the story structure and the unique editing techniques. In this case, the unique editing style of New Wave films is difficult to gain wide recognition from the broad audience.

### **3.3. The challenge of the digital production process to manual editing**

In the field of technology, the new wave editing technique faces significant constraints in its application. In the digital production process, more and more automated functional editing software and technical equipment can be realized, so that the editing process is gradually standardized and modularized, and the original complex

manual editing skills are simplified and replaced. In the digital filmmaking process, the classic techniques such as manual cutting and long shot scheduling, although artistically expressive, are less adopted due to time and effort. With some directors and editors want to incorporate a new wave style into their work, an efficient commercial production process can often become an insurmountable challenge to find the right balance between these two areas.

### **3.4. The conflict between the narrative techniques and the audiences habits**

In the context of literary creation, a significant challenge is in the transformation of narrative techniques. In the current film production, streaming media platforms especially prefer straight-line narrative, which is easy for audiences to quickly digest the content, while too complex and split plot arrangement may reduce the audiences fun and the depth of understanding<sup>[2]</sup>. In new wave films, although the complex timeline and nonlinear narrative techniques can give the story multi-level expression, this often conflicts with the viewing habits of modern audiences, who may lose interest in watching movies because it is difficult to follow the development of the plot.

## **4. Explore the enlightenment and development path of the French new wave editing technique for the future film creation**

### **4.1. Inspiration of narrative freedom and multi-dimensional development**

The enlightenment of the French new wave editing technique to the future film creation is contained in its unremitting pursuit of narrative freedom and image language diversification. By breaking the shackles of traditional time and space, this editing method endows the film with richer expression possibilities. For the future film creation, this technique can not only help the director to construct a complex narrative structure more flexibly, but also enhance the interaction between the audience and the film with non-linear narrative and skipping techniques, and promote the audience to actively devote themselves to the reasoning and understanding of the plot.

### **4.2. Artistic retention in the background of digitization**

With the continuous progress of technology and the increasingly diversified means of film production, the future film creation will increasingly rely on digital editing technology. In this context, the editing technique of the new wave gives a reverse thinking enlightenment, that is, how to retain the artistry and uniqueness of films in the digital efficient production process. Although digital production simplifies the production process of films, it also leads to the emergence of homogenization to some extent. The bold experiments of the new wave remind future creators that film should not only be a narrative tool, but also a carrier of emotional expression and interaction with the audiences mind.

### **4.3. The unity of personal style and film art**

The editing technique of the French new wave inspires future filmmakers to pay more attention to the display of personal style. Although the modern film market is dominated by commercial blockbusters, the development space of independent films and art films is also gradually expanding in<sup>[3]</sup>. This provides a good opportunity for those directors who are eager to break through the convention and creatively use editing techniques. The New Wave emphasizes the directors personal perspective and encourages film creators to explore deeply in narrative and visual performance.

#### **4.4. The change of the audiences aesthetic appreciation and the media form**

With the widespread popularity of streaming media platforms, short and concise films are increasingly popular with audiences. This does not mean the disappearance of complex narrative and unique editing techniques. On the contrary, the new wave of editing techniques can show a different charm in the new media forms. Emerging media such as short videos and interactive films provide a broader experimental space for skipping and non-linear narratives.

### **5. Epilogue**

The editing technique of French new wave films has changed the traditional narrative and visual expression of films, and provided inspiration for the creation of modern films. Although it faces challenges in contemporary mainstream films, it is still dynamic in independent and art films. With the progress of digital technology, its editing concept is of great significance in the future film creation, especially the non-linear narrative and personal style expression. Continuous exploration and innovation will continue to influence the diversity and deep expression of the future film language, open up a new path for the film development, and promote the film art forward.

### **About the author**

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