



BEAU TRAVAIL: SOUND AND CINEMA

Noise, Music, and Galoup

- Sound and image are used to show Galoup's inability to cope with his expulsion from the French Foreign Legion; his loss of identity leading to his suicide, or apparent suicide. Through voice-over, rhythm (sound-image coordination), and ambiguous diegetic sound, this inner turmoil is made clear.



Clip

- Main clip (4:42)

“synchronization of senses”

- ◎ Noise- bed making, birds chirping
- ◎ Music- “rhythm of the night”
- ◎ Rhythm- coordination of sound with image
- ◎ Voice over- “Serve the Good Cause and Die”

Looking closer

- ⦿ Segment 1 – voiceover/fade in of music:
- ⦿ Galoup's final voice-over is represented on his chest (tattoo)
- ⦿ Possible significance of coordinating the fade-in of the music with his visible pulse: emphasizes internal/personal aspect of the music, especially if we assume he kills himself.

Functions of noise

- ⦿ For this clip, “noise” precipitates music and dance, adding emphasis and replacing a gunshot with music
- ⦿ Sounds of bed-making, birds chirping, like the ocean and desert noise used in other scenes, preclude particular music, or significant sound (the split-second helicopter explosion for example). For this scene, our expectations of “gun” and fatalistic voice-over are upset by music and the dancing that follows.

Connections to rest of film

Discipline and rhythm- Galoup's dance

Expectation and possible disunity- "death" represented by ecstatic expressive dance (closely choreographed to follow the music, but in such a way to absolutely contrast the discipline of the various training/exercise scenes throughout the film)

Beau Travail, roughly translated, is "good/nice work" (roughly). For Galoup, death is the fulfillment of his devotion to the Legion. "The perfect legionnaire"