

WEEK 7 LESSON

COSTUME AND MAKE-UP IN DRAMA

Costumes

Costume refer to clothing materials worn by the actors on their bodies during drama performance. It includes wearing of shirts, trousers, gowns, caps, shoes etc. Since drama is a representation of a story on stage, the people acting it are merely playing the roles given to them. Someone asked to act as a doctor may not be a doctor in real life. In a school environment, a drama involving parents and children will require the children to act as adults. A drama may be set based on a faraway culture. A drama group in Sokoto may have to act a drama based on Igbo culture. All these require costuming to make the drama appear real. A costumier arranges the various clothing materials to be worn by the actors and actresses under the supervisor of the director of the drama performance to fit the roles and cultures of the drama. Costumes are very important aspects of any drama presentation.

Make-up

Make-up are substances applied on the body to change or enhance the appearances of actors and actresses on stage. These substances applied to the body help to give more information about the culture, personalities or even status of the casts in the drama. In traditional setting, several materials are used for make-up. They include tangele, camwood, tiro, kaya and kwaliya, ndon or nzu (traditional white chalk), gazar etc. In more modern times, other substances such as powder, eye pencil, lipstick, wig, eye shadow etc. are used for make-up.

Importance of costume and make-up

1. **Age:** It help to make a cast appear either older or younger than he really is.
Sometimes, white substances are poured on the head of young people to make it appear as it they have grey hairs when they are to act as old men.
2. **Status:** It is used to make someone appear fitting for status of a king, rich man, poor man, herbalist, politician, president and so on. Kings usually wear robes, crown and beads, a rich person dresses flamboyantly while a poor man dresses dirtily. A person of high status is usually more ornamented.
3. **Occupation:** It is used to depict certain occupations like that of a doctor, nurse, lawyer, banker, engineer, etc. The cast have to dress as the people in the occupation he is acting. Make-ups also help to enhance this.
4. **Mood:** It can be used to show a happy or sad mood. For instance, people who are bereaved wear a mourning clothing and appear tattered.
5. **Setting:** Costumes and make up can be used to show the period in history when the story took place. For a story based on 17th century, the cast are supposed to dress the way people in that era dress. They are also supposed to put up their kind of appearance.
6. **Culture:** Costume and make-up can easily show the culture that is involved in a drama. An Igbo drama will require that the actors dress like Igbos. A Yoruba drama will require that the actors dress like Yorubas. It is needed more in drama where even more than one culture is involved. The dressing and appearance will help to tell the tribe one represents and differentiate him from other tribes.
7. **Gender:** Costume and make-up can be used to easily tell who is a male or who is a female. In some dramas, a male may even be acting as a female but the audience may

not know because the costume and make-up will make the person appear like a female.

8. Identification: A particular character, usually the main actor may frequently appear in a particular costume all through the drama. With time, the audience associates the costume with such character. It becomes an easy means of identification.
9. Impression: Costume and make-up can be used to create an impression about several things. It can be used to give the impression that someone is at home by making the person appear on home wear, it can also be used to show when someone is in the office or church. The way someone is dressed can give the impression that he's just waking up from sleep by making the person appear on night gown, hair net and weak eye appearance.
10. Aesthetics: Costume and make-up is useful in giving a general sense of beauty and glamour. A drama with good costume and make-up will be very interesting and attractive.

Types of make-up

1. Straight Make-up: This type of make-up simply enhances the appearance of a cast. It doesn't create so many changes or try to alter absolutely what he looks like.
2. Character Make-up: This type of make-up is meant to alter the appearance of the cast. He may be made to appear younger, or older, or sick or even dead.

Review Questions

1. Explain the term, costume in your own words
2. Explain the term, make-up in your own words
3. State ten importance of costume and make-up
4. List and explain two types of make-up