



OPDI 124: Movement Behavior Analysis – Observing Behavioral Differences in
Dance Performance
Paula Johnson
Module Eight Part Two
MBA/P of Multiple Dancers from Video, #1
March 20, 2023

MBA/P Analysis of a Single Video Subject

MBA/P: 3 Point Observation Scale

Individual

Observation of: Dancer A: left side, red

Date/Time/Place: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrZAmu6L_kc

Time stamp: 1'01" to 1'45"

Setting: Small dance space, curtain in the back, yellow squares on the floor, some with red Xs in them.

Description of the tasks: Kathack Dance of Lucknow Gharana: The dancers complete arm gestures, pivot to change spatial orientation, and come to a rest after each exercise. They work within a limited environmental space, and their patterns are meant to 'match' in space, time, and force as closely as is possible. The movement patterns are introduced verbally and rhythmically by the instructor. Patterns are then demonstrated by the two students.

Quantifiable Data

Scale, 3 – Point 1 2 3: (1) Small/Slow/weak, (2) Adequate, (3) Large/Fast/Strong

Space:	Small	Ade	Large
Time:	Slow	Ade	Fast
Force:	Weak	Ade	Strong

Personal Space: 2

Environmental Space: 2

Time: 2

Force: 1

Descriptive/Qualitative Data for 3-Point MBA/P

Personal Space: Dancer A takes up adequate personal space.

Environmental Space: Dancer A takes up adequate personal space. Her arms reach out with the gesture to the front, her feet lift up but not a lot.



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Time: Dancer A is moves to the rhythmic pattern being called out by the teacher. She appears to be right on time with the pattern. You can observe her mouth moving as she seems to be saying the pattern to herself as well. She does not hesitate. She seems confident in the pattern but still worried that she might make a mistake. It looks like she is putting in a good effort to get the sequence correct.

Force: Dancer A shows a weaker force. I am guessing that she is newer to this movement pattern. Her feet movements are smaller than Dancer B and weaker. I don't know if I should be comparing the two here. Dancer A shows weaker force in her foot stomps and hand gestures.

Patterns Used Most Often: Comments

Dancer A maintains a long spine while creating a rhythmic pattern with her footsteps. For the most part her head follows her hands as they move out away from the body to the front diagonals and above her head. Her wrists articulate small circles as they extend. The feet change timing and pattern with the instructors vocal leading.

Small Fast Strong was used most often.

Space: Small

Personal space was adequate in size. The subject stayed mostly facing the front and arm movements went out on the diagonal forward and back to a central position and up and above the head and back.

Environmental space was small. The subject moved in one spot, one square on the floor. She did step a little outside of the square at one point, but was mostly within the small square on the floor. Her levels stayed consistent. She did not move a lot up or down. Her foot steps were small and light. She did turn in a circle on the spot but did not take up a lot of space by traveling. Her arms gestures took up the most space.

Time: Fast

The subjects movements were with the rhythm of the teacher's voice. In that way they were adequate speed. The rhythm was quick, so in that manner her moves were fast. There were different speeds in her movements. Her feet, for example, started off more slowly and increased as the rhythm sped up. Her final arm gesture to the extended leg was a little slower to get out, perhaps a slight hesitation.

Force: Strong

I feel as though I might be contradicted myself here. I said above that the force of her movements were weak and perhaps I meant that in comparison to her partner. The subject dances with strong force in her arms and head. Her movements look less forceful than her



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partner. I should not be looking at her partner right now. Her last arm gesture to her extended leg was more relaxed.

Patterns Used Least Often: Comments

Large Slow Weak was used less often.

Space: Large

Time: Slow

Force: Weak

NEPs Observed: Comments

What evidence of the subjects NEP do you observe? Here a comparison between subjects might be helpful to your observation, as you may see one demonstrating a burst pattern while the comparison dancer demonstrates a consistent use of a sustained pattern.

Burst: Burst movements with the arms and feet.

Undulate: The repetitive pattern and rebound in the arms and feet?

Sustained: Same height of head in the turn shows that the movement is steady and constant.

Restrained: The movement was contained/confined to a small space except for the arms extending out and away from the body.

Notes on RTPs, Reflexes, Unique Traits, or Other Comments:

MODULE 10

MBA/P Analysis of a Single Video Subject

MBA/P: 3 Point Observation Scale

Individual

Observation of: Dancer B: right side, green

Date/Time/Place: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrZAmu6L_kc

Time stamp: 1'01" to 1'45"

Setting: Small dance space, curtain in the back, yellow squares on the floor, some with red Xs in them.



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Quantifiable Data

Scale, 3 – Point 1 2 3: (1) Small/Slow/weak, (2) Adequate, (3) Large/Fast/Strong

Space:	Small	Ade	Large
Time:	Slow	Ade	Fast
Force:	Weak	Ade	Strong

Personal Space: 2, adequate

Environmental Space: 2, adequate

Time: 2, adequate

Force: 3, strong

Descriptive/Qualitative Data for 3-Point MBA/P

Personal Space: Dancer B extends her arms out to the diagonal/front and above her head using adequate pace. She turns but stays on the spot keeping her body level. Her feet come up and down with steps in a specific, rhythmic pattern.

Environmental Space: Dancer B does not move out of the square on the floor. She takes up an adequate amount of space for the set choreography. Her arms extend out and away from the body and they take up the most environmental space.

Time: She stays perfectly with the rhythm of the instructor’s voice. She does not hesitate and is very confident in all of the required movements from stepping pattern, to arms, to eye line. She does not go ahead of the rhythm, she is perfectly in time.

Force: Strong and confident force in all movements.

Patterns Used Most Often: Comments

Dancer B used an adequate personal and environmental space. Her arm movements were mostly to the front diagonal and above her head. There was a center resting place



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for the arms in front of her chest at the center of the body. The environmental space was adequate for the set exercise but this exercise did restrict the use of a large space. Movement stayed within the square on the floor, on the spot. The dancer turned in a circle. The dancer maintained a level head when turning. There was no spotting. The speed of the movement started slow and increased. There was a quick movement pattern of the feet and arms. Dancer B did not hesitate and was exactly on the rhythm. There was a very distinct confidence in all of her movements. The force used was strong. You can see this in her feet and the steps that she was performing. You can see this in her posture and the strength in the carriage of her arms as she extends them and brings them back in.

Space: adequate use of the small space

Time: Slow to fast with the rhythmic pattern

Force: strong and confident

Patterns Used Least Often: Comments

Dancer B does not ever make large movements that travel. She does not move slowly and she does not use a weak force.

Space: Large

Time: Slow

Force: Weak

NEPs Observed: Comments

Burst: Arms, head, feet stepping pattern

Undulate: rhythmic pattern of the feet and the rebounding of the arms out and back in

Sustained: movement is steady and constant

Restrained: movement is confined to small environmental space.

Notes on RTPs, Reflexes, Unique Traits, or Other Comments:

MODULE 10

When observing the same movement sequence in Dancer A and B, the main difference is the strength. Dancer A appears to be newer to the movement sequence. You can see that she is counting or repeating the rhythm phrase with the teacher. Dancer A has weaker footsteps and her final arm extension over the leg comes out slower than Dancer B. Dancer B has stronger footsteps that come up a bit higher. She appears



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more confident and familiar with the set exercise. Neither of the dancers make any errors from what I can see. There is just a difference in familiarity and that can be seen in the strength of the movements.

Works Cited

Hagood, Thomas K and Sally Sevey Fitt. "Movement Behavior Analysis and Profiling: Observing Qualitative Differences in Dance Performances." 2022.

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