**Bringing an avenue of research in audiovisual translation home:**

**Calling audio description into play**

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**Abstract**

Audio description is a type of audiovisual translation that describes the images associated with different audiovisual products (e.g. cinema, theatre, and dance). It inserts descriptions of the images in the gaps left between dialogue and music in order to make these kinds of cultural products accessible for the visually impaired. The present study tried to delve into audio description as an activity and a prolific research topic in audiovisual translation framework. To this end, a complete profile of audio description was presented through meta-analysis, including discussing various definitions provided by scholars and stake-holders, discussing its standards and guidelines, tracing its history and history of its research and examining the different research approaches such as reception-centered research carried out on the issue to date. Furthermore, it was attempted to investigate this activity in the Iranian context and to present its current state through an explorative approach. Based on the literature and gathered local data, it was concluded that audio description as an inter-semiotic translation as well as a tool of accessibility to the blind and partially sighted audiences needs due consideration regarding both practice and research.

**Keywords**: *Audio description, audiovisual translation, reception studies*