A Register Used By Badminton Commentators in the BWF World Championship 2022

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Abstract

This study discusses "A Register Used by Badminton Commentators in the BWF World Championship 2022". This study aims to find out registers used by Badminton Commentators and the contribution of registers to language functions according to the theory from Wardhaugh, Holmes, and Halliday. The source of data is the rebroadcast video of the semi-finals and finals on the BWF YouTube Channel. The method applied is qualitative because the writer only gives descriptions and explanations related to the data. Because this study analyzed the badminton matches on the BWF YouTube Channel without conducting interviews, it is appropriate to use observation and non-participatory methods. The result shows that there are 8 registers found. The use of registers aims to provide knowledge to the audience about badminton terms (technical/non-technical) so they can respond to the progress of the match. In language functions, this study classified registers into two types out of seven language functions. Those are representational function and personal function. The writer found 7 data in the representational function and 1 data in the personal function. Based on language function, a register has a contribution to badminton commentators. In the representational function, a register is useful to badminton commentators to assist audiences in identifying all badminton terms and players' movements so the audiences can enjoy the flow of the game. Moreover, a register is also useful for badminton commentators in reacting to all the moves of players to show to the audience (personal function).

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Register, Badminton Commentators, BWF World Championship, Language Function.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas "Register yang Digunakan Komentator Bulu Tangkis di Kejuaraan Dunia BWF 2022". Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui register yang digunakan oleh Komentator Bulu Tangkis dan kontribusi register terhadap fungsi bahasa menurut teori dari Wardhaugh, Holmes, dan Halliday. Sumber datanya adalah video siaran ulang babak semifinal dan final di Channel YouTube BWF. Metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif karena penulis hanya memberikan gambaran dan penjelasan terkait data. Karena penelitian ini menganalisis pertandingan bulu tangkis di Youtube Channel BWF tanpa melakukan wawancara, maka sudah tepat menggunakan metode observasi dan non partisipatif. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa ada 8 register yang ditemukan. Penggunaan register bertujuan untuk memberikan pengetahuan kepada penonton tentang istilah-istilah bulutangkis (teknis/non-teknis) sehingga dapat merespon perkembangan pertandingan. Dalam fungsi bahasa, penelitian ini mengklasifikasikan register menjadi dua jenis dari tujuh fungsi bahasa. Yaitu fungsi representasional dan fungsi personal. Penulis menemukan 7 data pada fungsi representasional dan 1 data pada fungsi personal. Berdasarkan fungsi bahasa, register memiliki kontribusi terhadap komentator bulutangkis. Dalam fungsi representasional, register berguna bagi komentator bulutangkis untuk membantu penonton dalam mengidentifikasi semua istilah bulutangkis dan gerakan pemain sehingga penonton dapat menikmati alur permainan. Selain itu, register juga berguna bagi komentator bulu tangkis dalam mereaksikan semua gerak-gerik pemain untuk diperlihatkan kepada penonton (fungsi personal).

Kata Kunci: Sosiolinguistik, Register, Komentator Bulu Tangkis, Kejuaraan Dunia BWF, Fungsi Bahasa.

INTRODUCTION

Human beings can only live and develop if they interact. In the process of interaction, humans as individual beings meet other humans in a certain place. Then, they formed a society or in a simpler scope, that is community. Society interaction is carried out in the form of communication. In linguistics, the close relationship between language and society is discussed in sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that takes language and society as a subject of study. It investigates the relationships between language and society with the aim being a better understanding of the structure of language, how languages function in communication, and why people speak differently in different social contexts (Wardhaugh 1998 & Holmes 2001). There are three social factors that become the basic components relating to the reason why people speak differently, namely participants, the setting or social context of the interaction, and the topic (Holmes, 2013). Other differences come from different regions or backgrounds, it will is called language variation. Language variation is a form that differs from other forms of language systematically. Linguists generally use language variation as a closing term for one of the overlapping language subcategories, one of which is register.

Register refers to the language of a group of people with common interests or jobs or the language used in situations associated with such groups (Holmes, 2001). The purpose of the register study is to find out the variety of languages used by certain people in certain communities, occupations, circumstances, and so on. One of the communities that have special terms is badminton. A study of the special terms used by badminton commentators is called the register. The register analysis is meant to make the general public, in particular badminton fans, more aware of how the term is used by badminton commentators in the match.

The writer chose the register used by Badminton Commentators in the BWF World Championship as the subject of the study. Lately, badminton sport has received high enthusiasm and reached around 54 million fans worldwide, including in Indonesia. As the number of fans increases, they have to understand the terms of badminton that they did not understand before to enjoy the flow of the match. So, the focus of this study is to find out special terms (register) used by two commentators, they are Gillian Clark and Steen Pedersen. The purpose of this study is to determine the type of registers used by Badminton Commentators and to identify how each register contributes to the language functions at BWF World Championship 2022. All of that can be done by using the theory from Holmes & Wardhaugh and Halliday in Tarigan.

This study has a connection with three previous studies that also discuss "Register". The first previous study is *Register Used by League of Legends E-sport Commentators: A Sociolinguistic Study* by Saputra (2020). This study aims to identify the specific and general terms used by League of Legends E-sport commentators and to analyze language functions based on the register used. The qualitative method was employed to collect the data. The data of this study was collected from comments made by League of Legends E-sport commentators in YouTube videos. There are 20 registers used by League of Legends E-sport, those are 11 closed registers and 9 more open registers. For the language functions, heuristic, interactional, and representational can all be found in the commentators' utterances. The equation of this study is the object chosen is in the field of sports. Another similarity is that this study aims to identify registers found and registers based on language functions. However, this study does not examine the form of registers.

The second previous study is the *Register of "Ojol Drivers" on Social Media Twitter* by Briskarisma (2019). This study aimed to describe and identify the forms, meanings, and functions of the language contained in "*Ojol Drivers"* registers on social media Twitter. This study used a theoretical approach, namely sociolinguistics. The method of data collection used is the listening method with the free involvement-free listening technique, with advanced techniques namely recording techniques and note-taking techniques. The methods and techniques of analysis used are equivalent methods with the basic technique of sorting out the determinants with reference sorting power. This study found 25 registers. Those registers are classified in the form of words and phrases. They are nouns, verbs, and adjectives. There are also language functions found including emotive language functions, referential language functions, rhetorical language functions, and phatic language functions. The equation of this study is that it only examines the language functions of the register but does not examine the form of the register. The object of this research is also different, this study reveals the registers used by "*Ojol Drivers"*.

The third previous study is *English Terms as Register Used by Online Prostitution Community in Closed Groups of Social Media* by Octaviani (2016). The purpose of this study is to identify the English terms register, register construction process, and the function of register toward the member of the online prostitution community. The research method that uses interviews and documentation is known as descriptive qualitative. The client reviews and promotion status transcripts from closed social media groups for online prostitution are used to compile the documentation data. Seven informants who actively participate in the community of online prostitutes were invited to participate in the study's interview subject. The social and educational backgrounds of the subjects are varied. According to the study's findings, there are two different types of registers in the Internet prostitution industry: one that tracks the status of sex workers' online promotions (offers and responses), and the other is a register of customer reviews (asking). There are 16 registers found in this study. The equation of this study are discussing registers and identifies the functions of language registers. The difference lies in the discussion of the register construction process and the register's object studied, namely registers in online prostitution.

METHOD

The research type applied in "A Register Used by Badminton Commentators in the BWF World Championship 2022" is a qualitative approach. This qualitative method is in observing the issue because this study consisted of the data related to status transcripts, pictures, and screenshots.

The data of this study was taken from conversations among commentators while commenting during the match. Each of the badminton matches could be seen through the rebroadcast video on the BWF YouTube Channel. The writer gave the limitation to analyze only from the semi-finals to the finals. If it added up, there were fifteen matches that going to be analyzed. Those were 2 matches for Men's Singles (MS), 2 matches for Women's Singles (WS), 2 matches for Men's Doubles (MD), 2 matches for Women's Doubles (WD), and 2 more matches for Mix Double (XD) in the semi-finals. While in the final, there was one match in each sector.

To collect the data, the writer required the method of observation. Since this study only analyzed the badminton matches through rebroadcast video on the BWF YouTube Channel without conducting interviews, it was appropriate to use the observation method.

In this study, there were two issues raised, that was finding out the registers used by badminton commentators and how each register contributes to language functions in the BWF World Championship. Furthermore, after the data collection process was carried out, the writer analyzed the data which is consist of registers from badminton commentators' utterances based on the theory from Holmes and Wardhaugh. Then, the data was identified by the writer based on language functions from the theory put forward by Halliday in Tarigan (2009). They emphasized that there are seven functions of language used.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION
FINDING
1. Registers Used by Badminton Commentators in the BWF World Championship 2022

In the BWF World Championship 2022 tournament, it was found some terms used by Badminton Commentators are considered registers. The writer found 8 pieces of data after analyzing the semi-final and final matches of the BWF World Championship 2022. From eight registers found, six registers are in the form of nouns and two are in the form of adjectives. Registers that are classified into nouns are rally, game point, challenge, strapping, flicker, and hawk-eye. Furthermore, registers that are classified into adjectives are fault and wide. In the form of nouns, a rally is considered a technical used by badminton commentators in the badminton match. The game point and the challenge are related to the stage and the rule of the game. Strapping and hawk-eye related to necessary tools in the game. In the form of adjectives, registers (wide and fault) are related to the judgment either from an umpire, a service judge, or a line judge toward the player's hits. The further discussions of register found in badminton match are as follow:

1. Rally
Gill: "This is the longest <u>rally</u> so far".

In the quote above, the word 'rally' is a noun that belongs to the register of badminton. 'Rally' is a special choice of words that reflects a technical term in badminton which means the exchange of shuttlecock. A rally happens when the playing team hits the shuttlecock back and forth across the net. Effectively, a rally begins when a player serves until one side misses and the shuttlecock hits the ground. The utterance "This is the longest rally so far", provides information to the audience about the duration or length of the ball exchange in a match. This information which contains a register is needed by the audience to respond to the progress of the game.

2. Fault
Gill: "So, the services of Ahsan are the <u>fault</u>".

In the quote above, the word 'fault' is an adjective that belongs to the register of badminton. 'Fault' is categorized to be a register in this context because it is associated with the word 'service'. It is a special word choice that reflects a badminton technical term. The word 'fault' when associated with 'serve' is defined as an error made by a player while serving. The service could be considered as a fault if there are any of the following: The position of the racket when serving is facing upwards, the height of the racket is more than 115 cm, the player seems to be hitting the shuttlecock twice during service, and the player's footsteps on the line during service. In the utterance "So, the services of Ahsan are the fault", the commentator provided information to the audience that the service performed by Ahsan is considered a fault by the service judge because the height of his racket is more than specified. This information which contains a register is needed by the audience, so they know what is allowed or not to do (role) in

badminton. Then, the audience can follow the game and respond to the progress of the game.

3. Wide
Gill: "It's gone <u>wide</u> as well (The return serve of Kunlavut)".

In the quote above, the term 'wide' is an adjective that belongs to the register of badminton. The word 'wide' is categorized as a register because it is associated with the word 'return of serve'. This term is a special word choice that reflects a non-technical term in badminton which used to indicate that the shuttlecock has landed out of bounds on the left or right sidelines. This is opposed to the shuttlecock landing past the baseline, which would be considered long. The utterance "It's gone <u>wide</u> as well (The return of serve of Kunlavut)" provided information that Kunlavut's return of serve is going wide while against Loh Kean Yew (Singapore men's single). It usually happens when the player could not control their energy when hitting the shuttle whereas the wind in the gym was quite strong. This information which contains a register is needed by audiences so that they know badminton terms to enrich their knowledge and respond to the progress of the match.

4. Game point
Gill: "It is a <u>game-point</u> opportunity for Aaron Chia & Soh Woo Yik".

In the quote above, the term 'game point' is a noun that belongs to the register of badminton. 'Game point' is part of a special choice of words that reflect a non-technical term badminton which means the end of the match. In that utterance "It is a game-point opportunity for Aaron Chia & Soh Woo Yik", the commentator provided information to the audience that when they reached a game point. It means that the players (Aaron Chia/Soh Woo Yik) had to get one more point to win the game.

However, when the point of players is 20-20 (deuce), the game point is determined by 2 points more to win the game. This information needs to be conveyed to the audience so that they understand terms related to badminton and then they can respond to the progress of the match.

5. Challenge
Gill: "That is all left off the <u>challenge</u> here".

In the quote above, the term 'challenge' is a noun that belongs to the register of badminton. 'Challenge' is part of a special choice of words that reflect a non-technical term in badminton which means an action a player can take when they disagree with a line judge's call on whether a shuttlecock landed in or out. Challenge can be done with a review system or viewing replays, using a technology called Hawk-Eye. The utterance above "That is all left off the <u>challenge</u> here" explains if there is no more challenge owned by the player. Based on BWF's regulations, the challenge is given only 2 times in each game. If the player already used both and it is called unsuccessful, the player did not have the opportunity to ask the challenge again. This information needs to be conveyed to the audience so that they understand terms related to badminton and then they can respond to the progress of the match.

6. Strapping
Gill: "Lots of <u>strapping</u> on the right shoulder (Aaron Chia)".

In the quote above, the term 'strapping' is a noun that belongs to the register of badminton. 'Strapping' is part of a special choice of words that reflect a non-technical term in badminton which refers to a tape that is used by players on their bodies to reduce motion to avoid injury. In the utterance "Lots of <u>strapping</u> on the right shoulder (Aaron Chia)", Gill (the badminton commentator) tried to give information that there was so much strapping on Aaron's right shoulder. Aaron put on strapping to prevent the

injury because of the intensity of the match that he did. This information which contains the register needs to be conveyed to the audience so that they understand terms related to badminton and then they can respond to the progress of the match.

7. Flicker

SP: "That was a good <u>flicker</u> (Alfian)".

In the quote above, the term 'flicker' is a noun that belongs to the register of badminton. 'Flicker' is part of a special choice of words that reflect a non-technical term in badminton. 'Flicker' is a nickname given to a player who serves the shuttlecock with a "flick" style. A flick is a technique used in badminton to hit the shuttlecock quickly and suddenly in an attempt to trick the opponent. The "flick serve" is most frequently employed in doubles serves and is meant to catch the opponent when they are anticipating a low serve. In the sentence above, Steen Pedersen stated that Alfian was a good flicker. The words 'good flicker' means that Alfian could execute a flick serve well. Information that contains a register needs to be conveyed so that the audience can enrich their badminton vocabulary. In the end, they can respond well to the development of the match.

8. Hawk-Eye

SP: "Anyhow, <u>Hawk-Eye's</u> gonna be in play for the first time in the semi-finals".

In the quote above, the term 'hawk-eye' is a noun that belongs to the register of badminton. 'Hawk-eye' is part of a special word choice that refers to one of the badminton items used during a match if it is needed. <u>Hawk-Eye</u> is a special technology in the form of a camera. It uses as the final judge to determine if the shuttlecock landed in or out. A Hawk-Eye's result will be shown if a player asks for a challenge because they are unsure of the umpire's decision about the shuttle in or out. In badminton matches, special terms (registers) such as hawk-eye must be explained by the commentator so that the audience knows what tools are used to support the game and the use of the hawk-eye itself. After that, it is hoped that the audience can understand the flow of the match.

2. The contribution of registers to language function in BWF World Championship 2022

From eight registers found, the contribution of those registers according to language function is classified into two types. Those are representational function and personal function. There are six registers that are included in the representational function. It was classified as a representational function because related to the badminton statement which conveys some information to the audience. Furthermore, two registers are classified as personal functions because related to the badminton commentator's reaction to the players' movements. Further discussions are as follows;

1) Gill: "This is the longest <u>rally</u> so far".

In the statement above, the commentator explained the duration of the rally. The focus of the sentence above is the use of the register 'rally'. In the language function, the use of a register based on the context above can be categorized as a representational function. The use of the register 'rally' helps commentators to assist the audience in identifying one of the non-technical terms in badminton which refers to the exchange of balls with a long duration.

2) Gill: "So, the services of Ahsan are the <u>fault</u>".

In the statement above, the commentator explained the service of Ahsan which was considered a 'fault' by the service judge. At that time, Ahsan's service was declared a fault because the height of the shuttlecock when serving was higher than the BWF regulations. The focus of the sentence above is the use of the register 'fault'. The term 'fault' in the context of

badminton has a specific meaning so that it can be categorized as a register. Usually the word 'fault' is intended for service in badminton. In the language function, the use of a register based on the context above can be categorized as a representational function. The use of register 'fault' helps the commentator to assist the audience in identifying a service action by a player that the service judge considered a fault.

3) Gill: "It's gone wide as well (The return serve of Kunlavut)".

In the statement above, the commentator talked about the widening return of the Kunlavut serve. The focus of the sentence is the use of the word 'wide'. The word 'wide' in the context of badminton has a specific meaning so that it can be categorized as a register. Usually the word 'wide' is intended for service or any shot in badminton. For example, the service is going wide or the shot is going wide. In the function of language, the use of the register based on the context above can be categorized as a representational function because the use of registers helps the commentator to assist the audience in identifying a situation when the shot is considered wide.

4) Gill: "It is a game-point opportunity for Aaron Chia & Soh Woo Yik".

In the statement above, the commentator conveyed the final point/21st point obtained by the players to end a round. The focus of the sentence above is the use of the register 'game-point'. In the language function, the use of a register based on the context above can be categorized as a representational function. The use of 'game point' helps the commentator to assist the audience in identifying each movement of players/terms in badminton.

5) Gill: "That is all left off the challenge here".

In the statement above, the commentator conveyed that the challenge that a player had was up. The focus of the sentence above is the use of the register 'challenge'. The use of the register based on the context can be categorized

as representational. The term 'challenge' helps the commentator to assist the audience in identifying the player's situation when they are unsure of the umpire's decision about the shuttle in or out (challenge).

6) Gill: "Lots of strapping on the right shoulder (Aaron Chia).

In the statement above, the commentator talked about the amount of strapping that Aaron Chia used on his right shoulder. The focus in the sentence above is the use of the register 'strapping'. In the language function, the use of a register based on the context above can be categorized as a representational function. The use of the term 'strapping' helps commentators to assist the audience in identifying objects used by players during the game to reduce injury.

7) SP: "Anyhow, Hawk-Eye's gonna be in play for the first time in the semi-finals".

In the statement above, the commentator conveyed that at that time hawk-eye would be played for the first time in the semi-final. The focus in the sentence above is the use of the register 'hawk-eye'. In the language function, the use of a register based on context can be categorized as a representational function. The use of the term 'hawk-eye' helps badminton commentators to assist the audiences in identifying situations when a player requests a challenge and there is a replay to see where the shuttle landed.

8) SP: "That was a good flicker (Alfian)".

In the statement above, commentators say that Fajar Alfian is a good flicker. The focus of the sentence above is the use of the 'flicker' register. In terms of language function, the use of the 'flicker' register in this sentence can be categorized as a personal function. The use of the register in the context above shows a reaction in the form of a commentator's opinion about Fajar Alfian's good flick serve. Thus, he was nicknamed a good flicker.

DISCUSSION

This study focuses on finding the register used with the meaning of it and the contribution of registers to language function by badminton commentators. The data is taken from badminton commentators' utterances while commenting on all badminton matches in the semi-finals and final matches. The match can be seen through the rebroadcast video on the BWF YouTube Channel. Based on the analysis result, the writer found 24 registers uttered by Gillian Clark or Steen Pedersen.

The writer found that the high-frequency data of the register based on language function is a representational function. The writer found 7 data in the representational function and 1 data in the personal function.

In Badminton, a register has benefits either for commentators or audiences. Based on language function, a register helps badminton commentators to assist audiences in identifying the player and badminton official movements and also to understand badminton stuff (representational function). In personal function, a register helps badminton commentators to react or respond to the player's action or whatever happens in badminton. For audiences, a register aids them to understand terms related to badminton, so they can respond to the progress of the match.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding analysis, this study proves how the register used by badminton commentators to the audience is about the player's actions in the match. There were 8 registers uttered by badminton commentators when commenting on the semi-final and final matches. Most of the registers were found in the final match especially the match of Setiawan/Ahsan against Aaron/Soh. Furthermore, the writer analyzed those 8 registers based on the language functions. Out of seven functions, the writer only found two

functions. Those are representational function and personal function. The high-frequency data of registers found based on the language function is a representational function with 7 data. It is followed by the personal function with 1 data.

Based on language function, a register has a contribution to badminton commentators or audiences. In the representational function, a register is useful to badminton commentators to assist audiences in identifying all badminton terms or players' movements so the audiences can respond to the flow of the game. Moreover, a register is also useful for badminton commentators in reacting to all the moves of players to show to the audience (personal function). For audiences, a register gives benefits to them understanding all badminton terms so they can respond to the progress of the match.

SUGGESTION

Since this research is about registers used in the BWF World Championships, the writer highly recommends this paper to badminton lovers who still do not understand the term badminton. The writer also suggests every sports teacher use this paper to increase students' vocabulary on the badminton court. Teachers can use this as material in certain subjects, especially reading. The results of this study are also expected to become educational practitioners in investigating the theoretical foundations of sociolinguistics, registers, and functions of language. It may be useful to them as related additional information.

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