

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Badminton is assumed to be the second most popular sport after football in Indonesia (“Facts about Badminton”, 2012). Badminton is familiar sport among Indonesian society. People play badminton in the stadiums, fields, streets, or in front of homes when their leisure times, such as weekends, holidays, or fasting months. They also watch badminton match, either in the stadium or on television, to support their favorite players. Because of the great number of the fans, the tournament of Indonesia Open Premiere Super Series is chosen as the best badminton tournament by BWF (“BWF: Indonesia penyelenggara superseries terbaik 2014”, 2014). Moreover, Indonesian badminton players often win many prestigious achievements, for instance they become the winner of Thomas Cup for 13 times (“the Thomas Cup”, 2012), achieve gold medals in Asian Games, Olympic Games, All England, World Championship, and other tournaments.

There are a lot of international badminton tournaments. One of the prestigious tournaments is BWF World Badminton Championships (WBC). It is the tournament which the winner becomes the world champion. The 2013 edition of World Championships was held in Guangzhou, China, on 5 until 11 August 2013. Indonesia won two world champion titles; in mixed doubles, from Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir, and in men’s doubles from Hendra Setiawan and Muhammad Ahsan. Also, Liliyana Natsir made a record, to be the first ever player

in the badminton history to win three world championships mixed doubles titles (“Players: Player profile of Liliyana Natsir”, n.d.).

Badminton is a racket sport which is played by two or four players. Two people play in terms of singles, either men’s singles or women’s singles. Meanwhile, four players play in terms of doubles, which are divided into three categories namely men’s doubles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles. The player will get a point when the shuttlecock is served successfully, is inside the boundaries, does not fall to the ground, and it cannot be returned by the opponent. The player who scores 21 points in two games wins the match. However, if each player has won each set in two set match, then additional set is needed to determine the winner of the match. These three set match is called rubber match (“Organization: Laws and Regulations”, n.d.).

In general, badminton match, like football, can be divided into two moments namely *in play moment* and *out of play moment* (“Soccer Glossary”, n.d.). *In play moment* refers to the period when the shuttlecock is inside the boundaries of the field and the umpire has not stopped the play. It usually contains the occurring actions which are essential in defining the score of the match, for example serve, smash, rally, drop shot. As a contrast, *out of play moment* refers to the moments when the shuttlecock is outside the boundaries of the field and the umpire has stopped the play. This moment takes place when the players stop playing for a while; probably, the players wipe their sweat, drink, change the shuttlecock, and even protest the umpire about the score or line judging.

What is also interesting from badminton match that is aired on television is the way of the commentators in informing certain moments to the viewers. The commentators have a particular style of language that differs from other social context. The distinctive style of language shares the idea of register. Register is defined as the sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social groups (Wardhaugh, 2002). Hence, certain groups have their own language features that distinguished them from other groups. The study of register in sport commentaries is called as sport announcer talk (Holmes, 2008).

Sport announcer talk is a term in which the commentators demonstrate an oral reporting of ongoing moments of the match (Holmes, 2008). The commentators usually consist of two people, a professional commentator who gives a detailed description of the action and a guest or sometimes an expert, to give certain comment or summarize of the match. Sport announcer talk is divided into two terms, play-by-play description and color commentary (Holmes, 2008). The term play-by-play description refers to the process of giving detail information about the action in sport events. The commentators describe the drama of the moments to the viewers (Holmes, 2008). On contrary, color commentary present information of “outside” of the moments to fill any space between actions. It provides deeper information to the viewers about player’s personal appearance, clothing style, short biography and achievement. The commentators use “more discursive and leisurely speech” in describing the match (Holmes, 2008, p. 260).

Holmes suggested that sport commentators are expected to give the impression of fluency (2008, p. 264). Pauses and hesitations in sport commentaries are not acceptable. They must keep talking and speak fast around four to five syllables per second (Holmes, 2008). On the other hand, badminton is supposed to be the world's fastest racket sport and involves more actions than other sports (Conti, 2000). In order to suit the rapidness of the action, the commentators usually do not provide the detailed description of the moments. Badminton commentators are likely to focus on the players instead of the actions. They usually present commentaries within the breaks throughout the match (Grice, 2008). The breaks here includes opening ceremony, players' introduction, players stop playing for a while or *out of play moment*, interval time or times out, and also prize ceremony. Thus, there are some pauses between 1-2 minutes, in the process of delivering information.

Furthermore, the commentators do not know about estimation of the time duration of each match since one match can be lasted more than an hour. Because they have more time in delivering the information, the commentators tend to heavily modify the nouns in the description. It is an effort to add a kind of entertainment in order to avoid the viewer's boredom since they have to watch the match for over an hour (Phelan, 2013). In Holmes term, it is called as color commentary (2008). Hence, badminton commentators tend to use color commentary in giving the description of the match, as opposed to other sports like football commentators which use play-by-play description. Holmes (2008) stated that play-by-play description describes detail explanation about *in play moments*

of the match. Color commentary, by contrast, presents *out of play moments* and gives limited description about the actions, for example “Of course, Hendra Setiawan, *the former well-known the Olympic champion with Markis kido, but now playing with Mohammed Ahsan*”. Other example is “*The number one seed, Xu Chen and Ma Jin, the Olympic silver medalist up against Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir, the number three seed from Indonesia*”. In these two examples, the commentators tend to modify the nouns in giving their information. The modification of nouns is the characteristic of color commentary (Holmes, 2008).

Some studies about sport commentaries have been conducted. The first is undergraduate thesis entitled “Syntactic and Intonation Patterns in Play by Play Descriptions used by Football Commentator in BPL in 2011” conducted by Rosmia (2011). The focus of the study is on syntactic and intonation patterns of utterances in a football match under the term of play-by-play descriptions. The second study is the undergraduate thesis entitled “A Study on Register used in Live Text Commentary on EURO 2012 Final Football Match ‘Spain vs. Italy’” conducted by Chandra (2013) in Brawijaya University. The study described the general register in the written form of commentaries of a football match. Both of these studies have the same object, football, while this study focuses on badminton match. The first study focused only on play by play descriptions, while the second was about registers in general. This study tries to find the noun modification pattern in color commentary.

Attracted by the phenomena that badminton has different type of commentaries and there is still a few study about it, the writer wants to analyze

further about the noun modification in the color commentary used by the badminton commentators in World Championships.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

From the background of the study, the research problem is stated as follows:

How are nouns modified in the color commentary delivered by the badminton commentators in the final of BWF World Badminton Championships 2013?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, this study is conducted to describe the noun modification in the color commentary used by the badminton commentators in the final matches of mixed doubles and men's doubles in BWF World Badminton Championships 2013.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer is studying on sport commentary which is under the domain of sociolinguistics in order to help badminton fans understand the typical register used in particular badminton competition. Moreover, the study is intended to assist badminton viewers understand the noun modification commonly used by the commentators in a badminton match. The results of this study are expected to contribute to syntax field in analyzing noun modification patterns of the registers. In addition, this study is beneficial for students and readers who are interested in

sociolinguistics, especially register, as it can be used for reference to conduct further research on register.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- **Color Commentary** : The more discursive and leisurely speech with which the commentators fill in the often quite long spaces between spurts of action (Holmes, 2008).
- **Heavy Noun Modification** : The characteristic of the color commentary, which means the modification of a noun both before and after the noun (Holmes, 2008).
- **Modifiers** : The extra information that are said to be dependent on the head, which divided into complement and adjunct (Miller, 2002).
- **World Badminton Championships** : One of the prestigious badminton tournaments which compete in five

matches, the men's and women's single, the mixed doubles, and the men's and women's doubles; and the winner of each category will be the world champion ("Events: BWF World Championships", n.d.).

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW