CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language in life develops in accordance with the circumstances that occur when the language is used. In sociolinguistic, language is not only understood as system of signs, but also as social system. Therefore, language in sociolinguistics research always consider social factor inherent in social life. The social factors include educational level, age, profession and etc. Based on those social factors, emerges the diverse languages from particular social groups.

The differences between language users in each social environment are usually characterized by Register. Holmes (1992) said that Register refers to particular language features are used by several occupational groups (Holmes, 1992). Registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social group. It is means that the level of differences in linguistic variation between one occupational group to another are in vocabulary level (particular term) and in syntactic level (sentence). Doctor, police, politician, bank manager, and sport announcer employ different registers. Each groups has their own pattern or style while they are communicating to each other, including in sportcasting.

The language use in sportcasting will be totally different from the one use in news, talk shows, and sermons. Charles Ferguson said (1983) "....sportscast is a discourse genre as identifiable as the sonnet, the bread-and-butter letter, the knock-knock joke... or any hundred of such forms of discourse in the total

repertoire of communities of users of English". It is due to the fact that it has its own framework, that it is believed to be the foundation of every announcing. Every basketball commentator begins with introduction of the teams, and then a brief outline and background information about the actual of both side, and ends with short recap about games and also interviews with players, coaches or character that had just been main focus area.

According to Charles Ferguson (1983) "...sportcasting is the oral reporting of ongoin activity combined with provision of background information and interpretation. One of the most characteristic features of sports announcer talk is frequency of giving the background information about players, about teams, providing the audience with short recaps, latest result, high scores, best players and soon. This play-by-play coverege is vey unique, mostly of them focus on activities which has already ended and not on the ones that are in progress. We can observe many linguistic differences between the sportscasting live broadcast and other live broadcast. Oral language has different characteristic with written language. Michael Swan, Catherine Walter (1997) described that in English, oral language is characterised by features such as, use of contractions, informality and use of personal pronouns. These characteristics are often determined by audience. For example, the sport commentator usually delivered we've, they've which mean respectively we have, they have. Those are common form in spoken or oral language.

In this study, the writer wants to analyze register that is used by sport announcer in basketball games. As we know that, after the football, basketball is a

team sport that has the biggest fans than other sports. It is supported by many media which discuss and broadcast the basketball. Basketball is a team sport played by five players in each team. Five players from each team try to score points by throwing or shooting a ball through the top of a basketball hoop while following a set of rules. Almost every country in this world has a basketball league. National Basketball League (NBA) in America is the most famous basketball league in the world. NBA is the professional basketball league in north America. The NBA league is followed by thirty professional club that divided into six division (atlantic, central, southeast, northwest, pacific, southwest). In order to attract or to make the game more interesting, NBA add commentator in every single live on air match.

There are two kinds of sport commentaries, in this case is in the NBA match. First is play-by-play commentaries and second is colour commentaries. The interesting characteristic that can be found in play-by-play commentary focusses or concerns on the action. For example the commentator delivered the commentary while player was carrying the ball, passing the ball, shooting the ball, and so on. Colour commentary is the opposite of play-by-play commentary, in which it presents the commentary in casual way and more discursive. Colour commentary is a commentary that assists play-by-play when game is not in progress. Amoia (2010) described that colour commentator provides the viewer (or listener) deeper analysis of the information.The colour commentary analyst and main commentator will often exchange comments freely throughout the broadcast, when the play-by-play announcer is not describing the action. The

characteristic grammar used in play-by-play commentary is telegraphic grammar. According to Holmes (1992) "play-by-play description is characterised by telegraphic grammar. This involves features such as syntactic reduction and the inversion of normal word order in sentences. In colour commentary, by contrast, where there is more time, nouns tend to be heavily modified."

It is quite impossible for commentator to give comment on every detail that happens in the field with correct grammar, because the moment of the game was going on fast moment and limited by time. For example, when commentator actually comment "Kobe is looking confident" and "Garnet is running down the court", become "Kobe looking confident" and "Running down the court is Garnet". First comment by commentator is the example of syntactic reduction and the second is example of syntactic inversion. The commentator also modified the subject noun as the characteristic of colour commentary. For example, "There's Paul Gasol, one of the NBA truly dangerous man."

In this study, the writer describes the syntactic pattern of play-by-play and colour commentary in NBA match between Los Angeles Lakers versus Boston Celtic in 2009. In analyzing this study, the writer used two theories. First is theory about sociolinguistic, especially register in play-by-play and colour commentary by Janet Holmes (1992). Second is theory about syntax by Andrew Radford (2005) in order to analyze two syntactic pattern in play-by-play commentary, syntactic reduction and syntactic inversion, and one characteristic in colour commentary, heavy noun modification.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The writer is interested in analyzing the grammatical structures, syntactic inversion and syntactic reduction used by Basketball commentators. The statement of the problems is :

1. What are the sytactic patterns of play-by-play and colour commentary used by National Basketball Association (NBA) commentator.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, the writer would like to describe the syntactic pattern of play-by-play and colour commentary used by National Basketball Association (NBA) commentator.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study give meaningful contribution to the knowledge of sociolinguistic field, namely register and aimed this study gives contribution in English language syntax for those who learned English as their second language and English first language user. It would help the readers by means of giving analysis of syntactic pattern that used by basketballs commentator and also the writer expect the works would be inspiring and interesting enough for them who have concerned in sociolinguistic area of studies, especially in syntax. In practical aspect the writer expects that by reading this research, the NBA audiences not only watching the match but also knowing the syntactic characteristics which the commentator uses.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

Focus of this study is about the language used by basketball commentator from National Basketball Association (NBA) first and second quarter match between Los Angeles Lakers and Boston Celtic. The writer focused on 1st and 2nd quarters because the duration (24 minutes) provideed sufficiet data to be observed. The other reason was because the 1st and 2nd quarters LA Lakers was too powerful for Boston and made the rest of the quarters run monotonous. The data was obtained by downloading the video of NBA's match in www.indowebster.com in 19th december 2010. The analysis focused on syntactic patterns used by basketball commentator which were observed including syntactic reduction, syntactic inversion, and heavy noun modification.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- **Register** : is a set of unique language used by particular social group, mainly professional group in particular situation (Holmes, 1992).

- **Play-by-play description** : is a kind of talk used by sport commentators which aims to deliver the "drama of the moment" and has the action as the focus (Holmes, 1992, p. 277).

- **Colour commentary** : is a kind of talk used by sport commentator which refers to the more discursive and

leisurely speech with which commentators fill in the often quite long spaces between spurts of action (Holmes, 1992, p. 277).

- **NBA** : is the pre-eminent professional basketball league in North America which is comprised of thirty franchised member clubs.

- **Syntactic pattern** : In this study, syntactic patterns which are observed include syntactic processes namely reduction, inversion and complete form. In this case, the term null constituent is used by Radford (2005) in place of the term syntactic reduction proposed by Holmes.