

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Football is one of the most popular sports in the world. Football is a sport which involves kicking a ball with the foot to score a goal. One of the most popular football league competitions is called UEFA (*Union of European Football Associations*) Champions League, known simply as the Champions League. The Champions League is widely considered to be the world's premier club competition. It pits 32 of the most successful clubs in Europe, as determined by their standing in their domestic leagues the previous season to crown the champions of the continent. Played on Tuesday and Wednesday nights scattered throughout the season, the Champions League runs from late September to late May with a hiatus in December and January. (Robinson, 2013). The 2012 Champions League Final was a football match which took place on Saturday, 19 May 2012 between Bayern Munich of Germany and Chelsea of England at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany. Chelsea hopes to become the first team to win the competition in Bayern Munich's home stadium with a dramatic victory in Munich, Germany. (UEFA.com, 2012).

One of the interesting things involved in the Champions League Final 2012 match is the language used by football commentators to report the match. The language used to report the match is considered as register. Register is the variety which tends to be associated with particular groups of people or

sometimes specific situations of use. (Holmes, 2008). The language used by different particular groups has different features from each other. For examples, the language used by journalisms, babies, legislators, auctioneers, race-callers, sport commentators, airline pilots, criminals, financiers, politicians, disc jockeys and teachers could all be considered as examples of different registers (Holmes, 2008). Therefore the language used by particular groups is different from each other in terms of vocabulary level, syntactic level and intonation level and which depends on occupational group or job profession.

In sport broadcasting like Champions League Final 2012, play-by-play commentators are assisted by color commentators. According to Holmes (2008), play-by-play commentators focus on the action with the sounds of the action and spectators also heard in the background, as opposed to ‘color commentary’ which refers to the more discursive and leisurely speech with which commentators fill in the often quite long spaces between spurts of action. Color commentators are announcers, especially in sports, who provide supplementary information or comment. (Dictionary.com, 2013). In case of big event like Champions League Final 2012, the football players are not only reported by play-by-play commentators and colour commentators, but the football players are also interviewed by sideline reporters who are placed strategically at the football court to interview the football players. Sideline reporters are professional journalists who assist a sport broadcasting crew with sideline coverage of the playing field or court. The sideline reporters typically make live updates on injuries and breaking news or conducts player interviews while players are on the field or court because

the main commentators or play-by-play broadcasters and color commentators must remain in their broadcast booth. (Ask.com, 2012). For example, some sideline reporters could be in the dressing room area while others could be between the respective team benches. The names of the play-by-play commentators of Champions League Final 2012 are Martin Tyler and Gary Neville. In the beginning of the match, the play-by-play commentators speak about the short history of the clubs, the players, the coaches, and the stadium. After that, during the match, the play-by-play commentators speak about the action of the players and about the course of the match.

Holmes (2008) stated that when play-by-play commentators describe a sporting event, the language they use is quite clearly distinguishable from the language used in other contexts. The most obvious distinguishing feature is generally the vocabulary. For example, “Kalou is offside,” “It hits the posts,” and “I thought that’s a late goal.” Those are examples of vocabulary of football, because offside means “When the first team passes the ball to the teammate, the teammate of the first team is standing behind the last defender of the opposite player, so the teammate of the first team is in an offside position.” Furthermore, posts mean “A pair of posts usually joined with a crossbar to form a goal. The posts are eight foot high and it is only between these and under the crossbar that a goal can be scored.” And goal means “When the entire ball crosses the whole of the goal line between the goalposts and the crossbar” or “When players score for the team.” This term belongs to vocabulary pattern of football which is used by football commentators.

According to Holmes (2008), play-by-play commentary involves features such as syntactic reduction of normal word order in sentences. Holmes (2008) stated that while describing the action play-by-play commentators often omit the subject, verb or object. For example, “(It is) handball by Schweinsteiger,” this example omits the subject and the verb so that the form becomes “Handball by Schweinsteiger.” Second example is “Muller (heads the ball),” this example omits the verb and the object so that the form becomes “Muller.” Third example is “(This is) Drogba,” this example omits the subject and the verb so that the form becomes “Drogba.”

According to Holmes (2008), play-by-play commentary also involves features such as syntactic inversion of normal word order in sentences. Holmes (2008) stated that reversal or inversion of the normal word order is another feature of play-by-play commentary. For example, “Staying focus Juan Mata,” the normal word order of “Staying focus Juan Mata” should be “Juan Mata is staying focus.” Second example is “Defending again Ashley Cole,” the normal word order of “Defending again Ashley Cole” should be “Ashley Cole is defending again.” Third example is “Climbs over the top Thomas Muller,” the normal word order of “Climbs over the top Thomas Muller” should be “Thomas Muller climbs over the top.”

Beside syntactic reduction and syntactic inversion, the intonation of play-by-play commentary also becomes an important factor to deliver the speech in play-by-play moment. Intonation reflects the way of voice rising and falling in different ways among the speakers to deliver the “linguistics and pragmatic

meaning” of their utterances. (Wells, 2006). The way play-by-play commentators deliver their speech with intonation depends on the moment which is happening during the match. Thus when the moment is close to the climax like scoring goal, the commentators often raise their voice intonation. For example, when Drogba headed the ball to the goal, the commentators said “Drogba” with raising or high intonation and the intonation was falling when the commentators told about the short history of the clubs in the beginning of the match.

Holmes (2008) stated that speech reflects and constructs the contexts in which language is used, rather than characteristics of the speakers. Therefore, the meaning is determined by the social context. For example, the moment when the commentators said that Muller or Drogba were scoring the goals, the setting of the camera went directly to the players who scored the goals, and the players were celebrating the goals. Another example is the moment when the commentators said that Juan Mata was staying focus, the setting of the camera went directly to Juan Mata’s face, and the player was staying focus or ready to kick the ball.

Several previous studies about the analysis of football commentators have been conducted. One of the studies is about the grammatical structure of the register of football commentators by (Noertjahyanto, 2001) and which entitled “The Grammatical Structure of the Register of Football Commentators” and another study is about syntactic and intonation pattern in play-by-play by football commentators by (Rosmia, 2011) and which entitled “Syntactic and Intonation Patterns in Play-by-Play Description Used by Football Commentators in Barclays Premier League.” However those previous studies only include the syntactic

pattern in the register itself, they do not observe about the vocabulary pattern which is used by football commentators. Therefore, this thesis includes the analysis of the vocabulary of football which is used by football commentators.

It is interesting to conduct a study on the linguistic features of the register of football commentary because of some reasons. First, the Champions League Final 2012 is one of the biggest event in Europe in 2012. Second, the variety of the language especially in the football commentators is unique because the language contains vocabulary pattern, syntactic pattern and intonation pattern which are different from other occupational varieties. Third, studies on the linguistic features of the register of football commentary including vocabulary, syntax, and intonation have not been conducted comprehensively. In brief, those are the reasons which have motivated the writer to conduct this study.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

How is the register of football commentators in Champions League Final 2012 in play-by-play moment between Bayern Munich and Chelsea?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problem, this study is intended to describe the register of football commentators in Champions League Final 2012 in play-by-play moment between Bayern Munich and Chelsea.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

By showing the characteristics of the language of the football commentators, this study is expected to give some contribution to the knowledge in the field of sociolinguistics under the domain of register by understanding the vocabulary pattern, the syntactic pattern and the intonation pattern. This study is expected to help the readers to see the language of football commentators in wider social context and to know the language of football commentators more deeply and why football commentators use that kind of language. In addition, this study is expected to give an inspiration for the next research about the language of football commentators.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study is about the language used by football commentators of only one match of Champions League Final 2012. The writer believes that one football match, which has 120 minutes of the duration (90 minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> half and 2<sup>nd</sup> half and 30 minutes of extra time, excluding the injury time) and penalty shoot-out, provides sufficient data to be observed. The data is obtained from the commentators' play-by-play description of the match between Chelsea and Bayern Munich downloaded from a website which provides the video of full football match in Champions League 2011-2012. This study only focuses on the action which is called play-by-play moment, and the commentators' speech which is analyzed is only from the play-by-play commentaries. The analysis is on the vocabulary, the syntactic and the intonation patterns of the utterances.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- Register : Occupational style or the language variation of particular groups of people with common interest or the language used in situations associated with such groups and which is quite distinguishable in terms of its linguistic features. Three of the features are vocabulary pattern, syntactic pattern, and intonation pattern. (Holmes, 2008).
- Football commentators : Persons who deliver speech to report the football matches and whose speech is characterized by the play by play description and colour commentary (Holmes, 2008).
- Play-by-play description : Football commentators' speech which focuses on the action and aims at communicating the drama of the moment (Holmes, 2008).
- Champions League : The world's football premier club competition in Europe. (Robinson, 2013).