ABSTRACT

Based on the observation when reading newspapers, especially the sports section, the writer found that the sportswriters (writers of the sport section) use a large variety of verbs to describe winning and losing in giving account of the results of sport events. In particular, he found the phenomenon in football news. He was, then, interested to look into the phenomenon in depths and develop it into a thesis.

In this thesis, the writer tries to determine what (kinds of) verbs the sportswriters use in their description of winning and losing and to find out the reason and particularly the contexts that underlie the use of verbs. On his analysis, he finds that there are forty verbs commonly used to describe winning and twenty verbs to allude to losing. The writer describes the use of the verbs describing winning and losing in relation to its contextual and semantic values. By the former value, the discussion is in the range of knowing the contexts that underlie the use of the verbs in sentences reporting winning and losing events – as the scores of the game and whether one team is favored or not over the other. By the second, the discussion is in the range of knowing the semantic values of the verbs. It is assumed that the verbs are used to describe winning and losing because there are similarities of meaning between the verbs.

In the analysis, he finds that the sportswriters do not randomly choose any verb of winning or losing to be employed in sentences. Instead, there is a strong tendency that they are governed by certain contexts – e.g. verb 'A' is used to describe winning in sentence X under the contexts of a, b, and c. The contexts here may deal with the factual details of a particular match and the circumstances surrounding it. He also finds that the verbs are used by the sportswriters in their description of winning and losing because they have similarity of meaning. It is similar in the way that these verbs are all used to describe winning and losing respectively. They only differ in to what degree of winning or losing they convey – (e.g. win barely or overwhelmingly).

He also finds that all the verbs describing winning are used as such because they implicate the nature of winning, and its repercussions, whereas all the verbs describing losing are used to describe losing because their meaning impart the nature of losing and the circumstances it entails. The implications of winning are such that the winning team dazes or stupefies, makes helpless, quashed the pride or dignity of, butchers or kills, or hurt the feelings of its opponent (by causing it to be foolish or contemptible). Meanwhile, the implications of losing are such that the losing team is prevented from gaining success, brought to nothing, put to an end, shocked deeply, made humble or lowly in mind, or discarded as worthless.

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