

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

As time goes by, sports have developed into many types. Sport is an activity of the human body to be exercised and could be challenged with another human or even a group of people. According to May (2021), the definition of sport has a close relation with human activity that involves human physical exertion and performance measures. Another definition of sport also has a strong association with play, games, and contests (Rowe et al., 2020). There are numerous types of sports in this world and each type of sport requires different types of human physical effort. Basketball, Football, Volley, Badminton, and motor race are examples of common sports that people have already known. Initially, racing or motorsport is not as common as the other sports. However, because of technological advancement, it also can be considered as a sport.

Wood (2014) defined motorsport as an event that can be considered as competitive and which is often associated with motorized vehicles, whether the purpose itself is for auto racing or only for amusement purposes. Motorsport has a strong relationship with auto racing itself. Schlatter (2021) stated that auto racing is where drivers compete with each other in order to reach the finish line first and win the race. A lot of people still think that motorsport or auto racing is not a sport since racers only drive a car. However, at the same time, drivers always do physical

exercise before they go racing. For that reason, auto racing or motorsport can also be considered a sport

No different from other sports such as Football, Basketball, Badminton, etc., Motorsports or auto racing also develops throughout the time. Its purpose also develops from just competing with each other to entertaining auto racing or motorsport enthusiasts. There are also different types of motorsport that people enjoy, one of the examples is Formula 1.

Formula 1 is a planned motorsport racing single-seater car championship that is held every year all around the world. They race throughout the year and in many different countries. Formula 1 consists of 20 drivers from 10 different teams. Each team has two drivers that will drive the team's cars. Based on the Formula 1 official website (*Formula1.com*), they refer to themselves as the most prestigious motor auto racing competition as in 1950 they held their first race in Silverstone, UK.

Every year, Formula 1 has approximately 20 races in a year. It is held in different countries all over the world. Each Formula 1 race in a country can be called "Grand Prix", depending on where the location of the races was taken. In 2020, the Turkish Grand Prix held a specific race and probably became the most memorable time for Sir Lewis Hamilton . In the race, He won the race and he also won another world title with Mercedes and he equalled the record of Michael Schumacher's seventh world title with record-breaking 94 wins in Turkey surpassing Michael Schumacher's 91 total wins. "Hamilton has achieved what was thought impossible"

(Richards, 2020). That victory in the Turkish Grand Prix made Sir Lewis Hamilton the greatest Formula One driver of all time in Formula One history.

During the race, Formula 1 always has commentators to help navigate viewers about what is going on, off, and on the track. It is well-known that Formula 1 has numerous, complex naming and terms in the world of Formula 1. Those certain terms or words are quite unusual for common people if they do not watch Formula 1 and these terms are called Register. According to Holmes (2013), Register can be considered as the language from a group of people who have the have and share the same interest, or a language that is used in certain conditions. Register in another definition is a set of languages that are associated with different occupational or social groups (Wardhaugh, 2010). Moreover, register can also be defined as a variety that is related to the use of language in a certain situation (Biber and Conrad, 2009).

Most commentators of sporting events are talking quickly and efficiently, including Formula 1 commentators. Holmes (2013) stated that register itself is to accomplish efficiency, smoothness, and quick communication between those people who have and share the same expertise, experience, field, and purpose. Formula 1 commentators often describe what is happening at the moment and occasionally predict what will happen in the race. In this case, they might use a way of sports announcer talk, known as ‘play-by-play’ description. According to Holmes (2013), the play-by-play description mainly focuses on the action and moment of the game. It involves syntactic reduction and inversion of word order in sentences for them to make the communication quick and efficient (Holmes, 2013).

The conversation between Formula 1 commentators during the Turkish Grand Prix 2020 was quite different. The registers that are spoken by the commentators were interesting to be analyzed. Several linguistic features of registers occurred during the live commentary such as acronym (e.g. DNF “Did Not Finish”) for example. According to Holmes (2013) her book, registers are developed with more characteristics which are lexical, syntactic, and phonological. Moreover, not all viewers, especially the new one, will completely understand the meaning of certain words. Sometimes there is misunderstanding from the viewers towards the words that are being spoken. It will be difficult for viewers to keep up with the information provided if they do not understand the meaning from certain terms or words.

In this certain race, the commentators used some register that emphasize the Hamilton's record-breaking victory. For example, the commentators stated “Hamilton is not pitting” and “Lewis Hamilton took the lead at the Turkish Grand Prix on the weekend that he could become the seventh world champion, where he started sixth from the grid”. Here “pitting” refers to where drivers go into the pit lane to change tires and “grid” refers to where the driver’s position to start a race. In addition, some registers which are used by MB and DC are focused on Lewis Hamilton.

Furthermore, Formula 1 viewership has been increasing significantly for the last couple of years. According to *Formula1.com*’s official website, the average audience per Grand Prix in 2016, 2017, 2018 was 87m (million) people, 80m and 83m people in 2015 and 2014 respectively. Meanwhile, in 2020, the average

audience per Grand Prix reached 87.4m despite this number being decreased compared to 2019 wherein 2020 had fewer Grand Prix races due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Several previous studies have been conducted related to the analysis of registers. Ningrum (2020) conducted a study namely “The Register Used In Dota 2 Play-By-Play Commentary Of “Sea Games 2019” In Razer Youtube Channel” in which she examined how the register is being used and what are the linguistic features that can be found in the Dota 2 gameplay commentary in Sea Games 2019. She used play-by-play description by Holmes (2013) as the theoretical framework. Moreover, A study entitled “The Register Of Archery Used In Airlangga Archery Club” by Sartika (2020) also identifies the usage of archery registers in Airlangga Archery Club. The result shows that the archery’s register usage was dependent on the contexts.

The gap between previous study and recent study would be on the object of the study itself and the time the registers are used. Previous studies discussed the registers used in the live commentary of e-sports and the use of registers in certain groups of people. The register in the live commentary in esports is used mostly when there were activities from certain players in which they can be buying some items from within the game itself and when they attack or defense towards the enemy for example. Commentators give some feedback over tiny details from the player's activities.

In the other study, the register is used mostly when there is interaction between people in occupational groups. However, recent studies focused on the

registers that are being delivered by the commentators and it mostly occurs when there is head-to-head between two drivers (or more) competing to be in front. Nevertheless, this study is expected to fill the gap where there have not been many studies that discuss registers in the scope of motorsport, especially Formula 1.

Covid-19 outbreak has forced people to stay at home to prevent themselves from the deadly spreading virus. People could not come to the circuit to watch the live race itself and they could only watch it from the internet or television. It is hard for people to feel the atmosphere of the live race when they watch it from afar.

Thus, it is important for commentators to explain the event carefully and thoroughly so that people can fathom what commentators are explaining. They need to deliver and describe what is happening at the moment and what is going to happen in a short period during the live race. Doing the live commentary properly and correctly is necessary, especially for newcomers, so that people will know what is going on at a certain event in a short moment.

The linguistic features of registers which occurred within the live commentary of the Turkish Grand Prix 2020 are interesting to be examined and it is important for viewers to understand the certain words so there will not be misunderstanding. Therefore, the author is trying to analyze what are the linguistic features of registers that are used by the Formula 1 commentator and how are the linguistic features of the register being used during live commentary in the Turkish Grand Prix 2020 using the play-by-play description proposed by Holmes (2013).

1.2 Statements of the Problem

This study will attempt to answer the following questions below to find out mainly the linguistic features from the provided data. Therefore, the research questions are listed as below:

1. What are the vocabularies characterizing the register of the Formula 1 commentators in the play-by-play commentary of Formula 1 Race in Turkish Grand Prix 2020?
2. What are the word formation processes of the vocabularies characterizing the register of Formula 1 commentators in the play-by-play commentary of Formula 1 Race in Turkish Grand Prix 2020?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

According to the statement of the problems mentioned above, the objectives of the study include:

1. To identify the vocabularies characterizing the register of the Formula 1 commentators in the play-by-play commentary of the Formula 1 Race in Turkish Grand Prix 2020.
2. To describe the word formation processes characterizing the register of the Formula 1 commentators in the play-by-play commentary of the Formula 1 Race in Turkish Grand Prix 2020.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study aims to identify what are the registers that are used and how the register is used in the play-by-play description by Holmes (2013) during Formula 1 race in the Turkish Grand Prix 2020. There are many previous studies that discuss sports registers, but there are still few that discuss the use of registers in the motorsport field, especially Formula 1. Therefore, practically the writer hopes this paper will be beneficial for further study to enrich knowledge regarding the use of registers. Moreover, for the theoretical contributions, the writer also hopes that this paper will give an additional input to the field of sociolinguistics, specifically, register study. The findings of the analysis showed that the use of registers can be related to English Morphology, especially word formation processes. Using Holmes's (2013) theory, the use of registers were analyzed and explored.

1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

1. Register : The language from a group of people who have the have and share the same interest, or a language that is used in certain conditions (Holmes, 2013)
2. Vocabulary : A set of meaningful word forms that suits sentence frames or outlines
3. Morphology : Morphology is the study of word formation, including how they are being employed and used in sentences. (Lieber, 2009)
4. Formula 1 : Formula 1 is a planned motorsport racing single-seater car championship that is held every year all around the world (*Formula1.com*)

5. Grand Prix : It is a derivation term from French which means “Great Prize”. It refers to a race in a season. (*tutorialspoint.com*)