

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains four topics related to the first chapter. They are background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

As social creature, people need a language to communicate and socialize with others. They need it since language is a tool for communication. Language is essentially a set of items. Hudson (1996) as cited in Wardhaugh (2006, p. 10) defines “linguistic items are such entities as sounds, words, grammatical structures, and so on.” In other words, language contains some items such as, sounds, words, grammatical structures, etc. From this statement, it can be assumed that people need those items to share their minds and ideas to their friends, lecturer, parent, and anyone they desire to communicate.

Nowadays, the use of language is spreading. Language is not just for communication. People can deliberately use the language for many things. Some people use the language for community, politics, campaign, advertisements, and some of them use the language to show their identity. Wardhaugh (2006, p. 10) defines that the particular ways of speaking, choice of words, and even rules for conversing are in fact highly determined by certain social requirement. It means that people speak variously in social life since people are the member of society

which has their own interest. Therefore, many people speak differently from others in a language.

Dealing with society, sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which discusses the relation between language and society. Chambers (2002) as cited in Wardhaugh (2006, p.11) defines “sociolinguistics is the study of the social uses of language” Moreover, Hudson (1996) as cited in Wardhaugh (2006, p.13) describes “sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society.” In short, sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics which studies the language in relation to society. Based on two statements above, it can be said that language and society are quite connected. Therefore, sociolinguistics is the solution to reveal any question and phenomenon about language which occur in social life.

As the researcher has described above, people use language for many things. This leads to the fact that language is divided into some varieties. Hudson (1996) as cited in Wardhaugh (2006, p. 25) defines that variety of language is a language or a set of linguistic items with similar distribution. In other words, variety of language is languages which have similar distribution. Based on Hudson’s statement, it could be said that London English, Canadian English, Australian English, Singapore English, the English of football commentaries, etc. are kinds of language varieties since all the linguistic items have similar distribution.

One kind of language varieties is register. Wardhaugh (2006, p. 52) defines “registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social group.” He adds that surgeons, airline pilots, bank managers, sales clerks,

jazz fans, and pimps employ different registers. It means that certain linguistic items which are used in profession or social life group could be said as register. In fact, there are many communities and professions which use special vocabulary, for example, the language of sport commentaries, the language of airline pilots, criminals, politicians, and disc jockey they all could be considered examples of different registers.

Register might occur both in oral language, for example, utterance, public speech, conversation, sport commentator and in written language such as, live text commentary, article, literature, book, etc. The researcher was interested to study register in football field. It is chosen because nowadays, football has become a favorite sport for most of people in the world. It is proven when the football event comes then, there is euphoria of it. In this study, the researcher was intended to investigate the use of register in live text commentary on Euro 2012 since in written language the researcher could analyze repeatedly and clearly.

The 2012 UEFA European Football Championship was commonly referred to as Euro 2012. According to (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English) Euro is “relating to Europe, especially western Europe or the European Union.” In other words, it was the 14th European Football Championship organized by UEFA in every four years. Euro 2012 was participated by national football teams around Europe which finally remained 16 teams advanced to Poland and Ukraine on 8th June up to 1st July 2012. After the play off, Quarter-final, Semi-final section, it went on to the final. The national teams which contested in the final match were Spain and Italy. Spain became the champion after absolutely defeating Italy 4-0.

The researcher chose register used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final football match between Spain and Italy based on some reasons. First of all, Euro 2012 was the latest Euro football championship in the Europe. Thus, the live text commentary is automatically the latest and newest. Second, the live text commentary was uploaded into BBC sport website which is managed by British company. The researcher believed that the commentator is a native of English. The last but not least, this was the final match of Euro 2012 contested by the greatest team in European Union. In this case, the live text commentary is longer than usual.

The researcher also had some purposes in this study. The purposes were generally to help and give more information toward students and other people. First, this study was expected to give contribution to the linguistic students who develop their knowledge especially, in sociolinguistics and register. Besides, the study was also expected to be reference to the student who wants to conduct the similar topic with this study in the future. The last, the researcher wished this study could give information to many students and people to enrich their knowledge about register language.

This study focused on register used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final football match between Spain and Italy. The data were taken from live text commentaries which were uploaded into the BBC sport website on July, 1st 2012. The researcher intentionally chose live text football commentary only in BBC sport website since it is managed by the English native. Therefore, it is assumed that the English used would be authentic and good.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, this study investigated these following problems:

1. What are the registers used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final football match between Spain and Italy?
2. What are the meanings of registers used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final football match between Spain and Italy?
3. What are the linguistic features of register used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final match between Spain and Italy?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of study can be described as follows:

1. To find out the registers used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final football match between Spain and Italy.
2. To describe the meanings of registers used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final football match between Spain and Italy.
3. To find out the linguistic features of register used in live text commentary on Euro 2012 final match between Spain and Italy.

1.4 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding about some terms related to the study, the researcher gave the meaning of some key terms, they are:

1. Register

Registers are sets of language items associated with discrete occupational or social group (Wardhaugh 2006, p. 52).

2. Live Text Football Commentary

Live text commentary is live expression of opinions and explanations about football match which is delivered by the commentators in the form of written text (not utterances in television or radio).

3. Football

Football is a game played by two teams of eleven players who try to kick a round ball into the other team's goal (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English).

4. Euro

Euro is football championship which is held by UEFA every four years for the national football teams around European Union.

5. Spain

Spain is a country in southwest Europe lying between France and Portugal which participated in the final match of Euro 2012 (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English).

6. Italy

Italy is a country in southern Europe surrounded on three sides by the Mediterranean Sea which participated in the final match of Euro 2012 (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English).

7. Linguistic Feature

Linguistic feature is a feature in linguistics in which the part of a constituent in a sentence can be changed into another form.

8. Syntactic Reduction

Syntactic reduction is leaving out the words and phrases that we think form part of the complete grammatical unit (Parrott 2008, p. 318)

9. Passive Voice

Passive voice is a form of sentence in which the object of an active verb becomes the subject of the passive verb (Azar 1999, p. 208).

10. Semantics

Semantics is the study of the linguistic meaning of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences (Fromkin et al 2011, p. 180).

