

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter aims to explain the background of this research. Some aspects described in this chapter are basic consideration, research questions, research objectives, research limitation, and research significances. In basic consideration, the points that will be explained are the topic of research and the issues that will be studied. Research questions consist of several questions which is the problems in this research. Research objectives are the aim of this study that consists of the problems' answer that exist in research questions. This research is also focused on issues related to the topic and problems that will be examined in this study. Some benefits of research both practically and theoretically will be discussed in research significances.

Basic Consideration

As the language has brought us into its change of what we call civilization, it is clearly necessary that we should speak our words in a way that those words are supposed to deliver and use them to their best advantage; not only by giving its true and proper meaning and also stringing them together in a form that is easily recognized, but by speaking them in such a way that the listeners hear with ease of understanding. The more precise a person's ability to use word, the better the quality of communication obtained. Thus, to get the intended message, language users should consider to the use of word.

Arranging the word must follow certain rules. In uttering a word, we must pay attention to whom, where, and how the appropriate situation in using certain words is, so that the word could be used to other people. Therefore, a language would seem meaningful if the speaker can choose which words that appropriate to use.

According to Mendenhall (1919, p. 22-23), with regard to words, we learn that our vocabulary should be large. We should enlarge it by reading, by observation (that is, by picking up technical and professional words), by innovation; but we must restrain ourselves in this, and finally by the habit of translating. We should choose the word by omitting vulgarisms, archaisms, provincialisms, and the like, and also seeking elegant words. Such words should be used or chosen as the matter, place, time, and audience require: we should not use profane language to the godly, immodest to the pure. It is not enough to speak clearly and smoothly, but what is said should be eloquent as well.

In terms of linguistic, this word selection is known as diction. Diction or choice of words is the ability both speaker and listener to select words felicitously, then arrange them into a series of sentences that correspond to the alignment in terms of context. (Pateda, 1995, p. 116). In diction, language users choose the word by considering to who they talk to, what they talk about, where the conversation takes place, and how the situation when the conversation takes place. So, the purpose of diction is to achieve a process of effective communication or interaction between speaker and listener.

In this case, the selection of the right words can convince the reader or listener about what we say. On other hand, if the words we say are unclear, ambiguous, and incorrect, it would make the readers or listeners will confused about the content of what we will convey. For this reason, it is important to choose word which is as precise and clear as possible. The more precise and clear one's use of word becomes, the fewer the number of possible interpretations for a message.

The ability to speak is very important in society. Everyone has a message to convey, but the person receiving the message will see it through the clarity of his or her emotions, prejudices, and beliefs that have been existed before. It is not enough just to be clear, feasible, and even brilliant. Thus, the key to have a successful communication is how to put ourselves into the brain of the listener to know what they are thinking and what they are feeling. How people can feel what we say is the real thing than how we feel what we are saying. So, people should pay attention to some crucial points which to maintain the effectiveness of communication.

A best strategy to have an effective communication is to help our audience to listen more effectively. To make our message more "listenable," we should be able to understand from their perspective. We do not only pay attention to the habits and the age of the audience, but we also have to share our opinions and our assumptions to the audience. It follows that diction that used by the speaker must be in accordance with the listener or audience which he/she addresses.

One of the speaking activities is to become a commentator. The presence of sport commentator in providing and analyzing the game is such a significant requirement in bringing people to the sport. Through commentators, we seem to feel the atmosphere of the game occurred in the field. Moreover, information and analysis from commentators is educative information for listeners. Therefore, the success of commentator in commenting on the match is not being apart from the language choice.

The responsibility of commentator is quite significant. Drama presented by commentators can establish the mood in watching the game on TV. Good commentators should be able to give the impression that he mastered the material of an event that will be delivered. They have to convince the listeners or audiences about their comments that delivered by using the right choice of words. Even, for sound appealing, sportscasters need to choose some lucid vocabularies, which is quite rare in the spoken language. Thus, the accuracy of conveying ideas is the crucial thing that can not be ignored by the commentators.

In conveying the information to the audience, commentators are required to have the ability to choose words. Choice of words or diction is one of the things that must be considered in a comment on an event, the more precise diction used by commentators the better the listener receives such comments and the more simply and plainly an idea is presented, the more understandable it is—and therefore the more credible it will be. Through the right choice of words used by commentators, it will be easy for the audience to get into the game.

One area of sports that demand by many people is badminton. As stated by Hashman and Jones (1977, p. 5) badminton is a game that played with a shuttlecock, or shuttle which is hit back and forth across a net by players using rackets, strung with gut or synthetic fibre. Badminton is a game that has various rules and techniques in doing so. In badminton, there are several terms which represent the rules or techniques in badminton.

Badminton language often arise in oral situations, which have an impact on the choice of language. Badminton is a sport that is very typical that naturally developed the specialized vocabulary list. There are many specific words, phrases and idioms used in a game of badminton, which others in this field will be easier to understand than the "uninitiated" audience.

The researcher decided to use a badminton match for a number of reasons. The first reason is, mostly, the commentator often modifies the sentences that they would convey. The second is, they used to use the vocabulary outside of the terms that contained in badminton, being devoid of technicalities e.g "*shuttlecock*" => "*bird*". The third reason is, badminton has become the only national sport in Indonesia that gives its contributions in some international championships. Then the last reason is because its duration (more or less 1 hour) is sufficient to provide detailed comments.

In Indonesia, badminton is a sport that is very popular. Indonesia is known as one of countries that are very fond of badminton. So far, there is no sport that bring up the name of Indonesia to International exceeds badminton. Several championships such as Thomas Cup, Uber Cup and Sudirman Cup, which is the

supremacy of the power of badminton has repeatedly stopped in Indonesia. Even with the Olympic gold medal, World Championship gold medal, until the All England also has repeatedly achieved by the athletes of nation. Until 2014, Indonesia managed to donate a gold medal in the field of badminton championship 2014 Asian Games.

Asian Games, also called the Asiad (from Asia and the Olimpiade), is a multi-sport event held every four years, with athletes from all over Asia. Several sports, including badminton taken part in this championship. In badminton matches of this championship, John Helm entrusted to be a commentator.

John Helm, a British man who was born in 1942, is a Sportscaster who begin his career in the 1970s as a commentator on BBC Radio for various sporting events. Actually, other than football, John Helm become the commentator on other sports. In fact, until 2014, he was a commentator for the game of badminton Asian Games mixed doubles between Indonesia pair (Praveen Jordan / Debby Susanto), against Korean pair (Ko Sung Hyun / Kim Ha Na).

As the professional commentator, John Helm is always spontaneous in the match. He has its own characteristics in commenting the match. The way he commented on the game is not same to other commentators. The best line that spoken by Helm comes from his heart. Helm with his best comments could illustrate how well the game was. People who hear his voice could easily recognize who the person behind that voice. He is not only able to explain the game. Moreover, Helm's intonation and language style are able to describe a dramatic and emotional game that makes us feel the adrenaline and the

atmosphere of the game. He might not be a commentator who is always screaming hysterically every time, but he always tries to wrap the game into a dramatic story. That are what make John Helm became one of the highly acclaimed sports commentator, especially in England.

This study makes John Helm through his commentary as the subject of this research. The basic of this research is the sentences were uttered by John Helm in commenting on the mixed doubles badminton match at the 2014 Asian Games. The spontaneous use of language that comes from John Helm become the interest to be analyzed. By uttering spontaneous sentences, the commentator also see a selection of the right words to illustrate the atmosphere of the game. With this choice of words, viewers or listeners become more carried away by the atmosphere of the game. In this study, the researcher want to see the type of diction used by John Helm from his words.

One of example of John Helm commentary in Badminton Mixed Doubles is

“..... and it would have believe, that could happened rarely that one team is so inferior in the first game and so superior in the second ”

In this sentence, the word of “*inferior*” is abstract diction which indicates the quality of each team in playing the game. Helm's word above means that the Korean team was not good at the second game. He preferred to use “*inferior*” than “*weak*” or “*bad*”. He tried to convince the audience that “*inferior*” means a very bad quality of Korean team in playing the second game.

The other word that uttered by John is

“..... beautiful, straight down in the middle, extreme shot from Debi Susanto who split the Korean pairing”

In this sentence, the word “*split*” does not mean cleaving or tearing. John used that word connotatively to tell the audience that the Indonesian pair managed to beat the Korean pair. So the word *split* is connotative diction.

From the explanation above, diction is a part of stylistic that discusses about the ability of speaker in choosing the appropriate word to deliver an idea. Diction has some types to categorize the sentence. In sports commentary which has some language styles or language variations, diction that exist in sports commentary will certainly have variation too. As the commentary of John Helm in Asian Games, Badminton Mixed Doubles, there are some variations in delivering his idea. So, this research focuses on what type of diction that used by John Helm in commenting the Badminton Mixed Doubles Match of Asian Games.

Research Questions

This research is set out to provide answers to the following research question:

“What are the types of diction that exist in John Helm’s commentary”?

Research Objectives

This study aims to find out what types of diction that exist in badminton commentary. It will be conducted by categorizing types of diction used by John

Helm, a badminton commentator, in commenting on the badminton semifinal mixed doubles match of Asian Games 2014.

Limitation of Research

This research concentrates on several aspects. First, this research focuses on the types of diction. The types of diction provided in this research are based on Keraf's theory. Keraf 1996, p.89-108 stated that types of diction are divided into several types ; denotation, connotation, abstract diction, concrete diction, general diction, specific diction, scientific diction, popular diction, jargon, and slang.

Second, the object of this research is John Helm's commentary through Badminton Semifinal Mixed Doubles Match of Asian Games 2014. John Helm is a sport commentator who has been give his contribution in sport commentary for more than 50 years. Recently, he had been entrusted to be a commentator in badminton match of Asian Games 2014. So, this research will focus on sentence that uttered Helm while commenting the game.

Third, this research will focuses on Helm's sentences in commenting the match. In badminton, there are many technical terms often used by commentators in describing the match. They also often spontaneously describe the game by using pleonastic words and sometimes dramatizing the sentence. In this case, the research focuses on sentence that related to the game. Those sentences are uttered by John Helm while commenting on the game, such as "*they have to chain inspire*

the teams to one last strike after here into victory”, “first point already on the board for Indonesia”, etc.

Research Significances

1. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, the results of this research can increase reader’s knowledge about diction that related to semantical aspects. They will know the types of diction that used by sport commentator, like John Helm. This research can also give more information to the readers about concept of diction and use the appropriate diction in their daily communication.

2. Practical Significance

Practically, this research can be a reference for students in English Department or other researchers who want to get deeper information about diction and also be a model for those who want to do research with similar topic. Students can also get some explanations about the concept of diction and diction types in sports commentary, especially badminton, because the use of diction in sports commentary is a bit different with the diction in other fields.

This study does not only show about the use of diction in sports commentary, but it gives a broad insight of words; what is the meaning of the word literally and how the meaning of a word can change. So, the readers will learn comprehensively about the meaning of words in accordance with its use.

The other significance of this research is, it can help the readers or the students to know how the proper usage of words and how to select the appropriate words.