

## Appropriate Commentary Register in a Match of Volleyball Men's Nations League 2019

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### ABSTRACT

This research examines the register by the commentator's utterance in the video "France vs. Japan - Full Match | Men's Volleyball Nations League 2019". This research aims to discover the register and its meanings in volleyball and explore the appearance of register by paying attention to field, mode, and tenor in utterances made by the commentators in Volleyball Men's Nations League 2019. The researcher used qualitative methods with descriptive and analysis techniques by using Halliday's register theory. This research shows that in fields, language is used to explain a situation's context and create social relations. The mode shows how the speaker conveys his message, which involves spoken or written communication. In tenor, the commentator considers the audience equal so that it shows minimal social distance due to the use of informal forms of language, such as the colloquial, the tone, and the choice of words. In conclusion, using registers helps meet communication needs between experts in their fields because they represent languages whose functions are for specific purposes.

**Keywords:** *Field, Mode, Register, Register Situation Type, Tenor.*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Register is the linguistic expression of a given contextual configuration. There are many languages, according to various situations (Halliday & Hasan, 1992, p. 38). Each socially recognizable situation type has a unique register or mode of communication. People usually choose different languages depending on the context of the situation being discussed (field), the medium of communication (mode), and with whom they are communicating (tenor). In particular, when the topic of conversation is specialized, the use of terms or words that only "insiders" understand will be used.

On the other hand, when the topic of conversation is general, the use of general terms or words that ordinary people understand will be used. Language use is affected by the distance between the speaker and the addressee. Different languages depend on the medium of communication, whether by telephone or face-to-face speaking. Each situational context allows for quick feedback and the use of cues. In addition, the distance of experience between language and social processes that also occur impacts language use.

Moreover, language choice can be varied based on the power relationship, frequency of contact, and affective involvement between the speaker and the addressee (Martin, 2012). For example, we commonly use more formal language when talking to people of unequal status, with little contact, or with low affective engagement. On the other hand, we use informal language when interacting with

people of equal status, people with whom we have frequent contact, or a high level of affective involvement because we feel much more intimate.

In some instances, using registers helps meet communication needs between speaker in their fields because these registers represent languages whose functions are for certain purposes. In the volleyball field, they use the register as a technical term specific to this field. For example, the term “ace” (general field) refers to a person who is very skillful at something. While “ace” (volleyball field) refers to a service that immediately results in points. Only insiders (administrators, athletes or volleyball fans) know the meaning of these terms. On the other hand, outsiders (ordinary people) will find it difficult to understand the term because they do not have sufficient knowledge about the field. From this, it can be seen that registers tend to be used and understood by certain groups of people in certain situations. The examples above show the different functions of each use because the term is spoken in different situations and is also addressed to different speakers.

Research on commentary register in sports reveals that commentators use specialized language tailored to the sport and audience, often involving unique vocabulary, word-formation processes, and cultural elements. Studies of football and badminton commentary show that registers include technical terms formed through compounding, abbreviation, and coinage, which help audiences understand game progress and player actions (Sundari & Faizal M, 2023; Rokhmah, 2023; Winasis & Hakim, 2020). In esports commentary, registers also involve affixation and reduplication, with meanings varying between limited and open circles of understanding among viewers (Prasetyo et al., 2024). Indonesian sports commentators use storytelling techniques infused with cultural and emotional content to build nationalism and social cohesion, highlighting the role of commentary in shaping audience identity beyond mere play-by-play description (Syaputri et al., 2024). Live text commentary represents a hybrid register combining spoken language features with written text conventions, including interactivity and icon use, reflecting media convergence in sports broadcasting (Pažanin & Petrović, 2022; Lewandowski, 2012). Overall, appropriate commentary registers in sport balances technical accuracy, cultural relevance, emotional engagement, and media format to enhance viewer experience.

While existing scholarship extensively examines commentary registers across diverse sports, including football, badminton, and esports, this study offers a novel contribution by specifically investigating the linguistic register of commentators' utterances within men's volleyball. This particular sport, and its commentary, remains relatively underexplored through a dedicated linguistic lens. A significant gap addressed by this research is the systematic application of Halliday's register theory, particularly its dimensions of field, mode, and tenor, to volleyball commentary. While the broader literature acknowledges specialized language, cultural elements, and audience engagement, this study provides a granular analysis of how these elements manifest within a specific theoretical framework.

The use of register in volleyball field can be found in a volleyball match. All volleyball components, such as players, referees, coaches, volleyball analyzers, and commentators, use their own language. The commentator especially acts as an informant who guides volleyball matches to explain what is happening on the field. Register in volleyball is a type of language used to make it easier to express things that happen in volleyball matches. Commentators in volleyball matches often use the register because it is easier to convey understanding between them and the audience watching the game. This register also facilitates practical understanding and communication between commentators and viewers.

The researcher found a connection between volleyball matches and the register used by commentators that the world of volleyball has much-hidden information. The researcher chose

register to find out the language features used by volleyball match commentators because volleyball matches contain much information. Several terms are still unknown to the public. Also, the number of volleyball fans makes the researcher decide to analyze the special terms or registers that exist in the world of volleyball. This research can provide insight to fans or non-volleyball fans that there are special terms that are not yet known by the public. Many studies on registers have been carried out, but not much analysis on registers used by a group of people in a particular field, such as in the volleyball field. This study proposes how are the appearance of register by paying attention to field, mode, and tenor in utterances made by the commentators in Volleyball Men's Nations League 2019.

## 2. METHOD

This research used qualitative descriptive methods by conducting through observations of the research object, the utterance that contains register. The researcher collected the data by watching the volleyball match video, looking the register in the video based on the match commentator's utterances, and writing down the utterance that contains registers found in the utterances during the match. During this process, particular attention was given to identifying instances of registerial language. The identified utterances were then transcribed carefully, forming the primary dataset for future analysis. The goal was to capture the exact wording, tone, and context of the commentator's speech. The researcher analyzed the data by sorting the data that relevant with the objectives of the research, which common meanings will be checked in the online dictionary Cambridge, and Oxford. Following this, a crucial step involved analyzing the particular meanings and connotations of these terms within the specific context of the volleyball world, drawing upon the researcher's understanding of the sport's terminology and dynamics. Then, the researcher analyzed the particular meaning based on the volleyball world. Then, the researcher will analyzing the data used Halliday's theory to answer the second research question. The theory of register by Halliday will be used in this study.

Halliday's theory posits that language varies according to the context of situation, which can be described in terms of three metafunctional variables: Field, Mode, and Tenor (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The "Field" of discourse, referring to what is happening, the nature of the social action, and the subject matter, was analyzed by identifying lexical choices related to specific volleyball actions (e.g., "spike," "block," "dig," "set"), game rules, player names, team strategies, and score updates. The "Mode" of discourse, concerning the channel of communication and the role of language in the interaction, was examined by recognizing the spoken, real-time, and often spontaneous nature of the commentary. This involved noting features such as intonation, pauses, and the direct address to an unseen audience, distinguishing it from written forms of communication. The "Tenor" of discourse, which describes the relationship between the participants, was analyzed by observing the commentator's linguistic choices that reveal their attitude towards the audience and the subject matter. Finally, while Halliday's framework is comprehensive, a deeper dive into specific linguistic features such as word-formation processes (e.g., compounding, abbreviation), which are noted in broader sports commentary research, was beyond the primary scope of this particular application of the theory.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the register and its meaning of register and the field, mode, and tenor from the commentator's utterance in the video "France vs Japan - Full Match Men's Volleyball Nations League 2019". This video is a match between France and Japan in the Men's Nations League Volleyball, which was held on 2 June 2019 in Novi Sad, Serbia. The France team took the lead in the first set despite having difficulty maintaining their lead over the Japanese counter-

attack. In the second set, Japan managed to equalize the score to 1-1. Unfortunately, the second set was too exhausting for Japan, so France easily snatched victory in the third and fourth sets. Volleyball Men's Nations League is an annual international volleyball competition contested by the senior men's national teams whose countries are members of the volleyball governing body, the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).

### 3.1 Field in France vs Japan - Full Match Men's Volleyball Nations League 2019

Field is a topic being discussed that involves the activities of readers and listeners. Halliday (2014) stated that the speakers and listeners must be aware of the fields to prevent misunderstandings brought on by different fields. Because people have varied experiences, there are still misunderstanding sometimes even within one field.

#### Data 2

*"Timeout call by Japan with the deficit at four points." (13:51)*

In data 2, the commentator explained that Japan asked for its first timeout in the match. Timeout is the time required to take a break or reorganize the game. In addition, timeouts are also used to inhibit the opponent's point gain by stopping the momentum they gain because it will break their concentration. In this case, the "timeout" register is used when a Japanese coach asks for a timeout because the players are starting to lose their rhythm and are four points behind France. This register was successful because it was able to break the concentration of French players so that they had to give up Japan getting the next point. The register "timeout" used in volleyball has the same meaning as the word timeout in the dictionary. Both are paused in a match. With this same meaning, it will be easier for ordinary people when watching their first volleyball match.

#### Data 5

*"Slightly soft to serve on this occasion, and they paid for it. That's a great example of really well, you can see why the server will in many cases go for it and risk either going long or going into the net because a soft serve like that, it is just gonna get eaten up all day by the receiving side." (38:35)*

In this utterance, the commentator explained that serve can affect the game's rhythm. Serve as the first hit in a rally that affects the points earned in a game. Therefore, the person who serves needs special techniques to benefit him in the game. In this case, the Japanese player serves quite softly to be safe. However, this benefited France, so it made points. In this utterance, the commentator also explains that soft serve is very easy to manage to benefit the serve receiver. The register "serve" used in volleyball has the same meaning as the word serve in the dictionary.

#### Data 7

*"Tilly comes up with a monster block there that is absolutely outstanding from Tilly against Ishikawa, timed his jump to perfection just got enough of the right hand to direct that ball down." (46:40)*

In this utterance, the commentator explained the French player, Tilly, who did a monster block in the match. The "monster block" register is mentioned when one of the players succeeds in a block that results in points. In this case, the monster block was performed by Tilly, who managed to block the ball from the Japanese player, Ishikawa. The commentator also explained how Tilly got the monster block. According to the dictionary, a monster block consists of the word monster, which means very big, and a block, which is an act of stopping the opponent or the ball from moving. Meanwhile, the "monster block" register in volleyball is a block that generates points.

#### Data 9

*"Good dig, shooter again the go-to man and this time he finds his mark. They're just looking for him every time."* (1:07:59)

In data 9, the commentator explained that the Japanese did a good dig. The "dig" register is mentioned when one player defends against an opponent's attack. In this case, a dig is performed by one of the Japanese players after he has received a punch from the opponent. The setter then processes this good dig and hit to make points. Dig in the dictionary is to press or push strongly, while in volleyball, dig is a defensive move so that the ball does not hit the floor after the opponent spikes it. The dig that is done in volleyball, of course, requires strong pressure, just like the meaning of the dig in the dictionary.

#### Data 10

*"The telepathic understanding between the setter, Sakita and Nishida it's a great partnership."* (1:08:09)

In data 10, the commentator explained that the telepathy between the setters, Sakita and Nishida, was extraordinary. The register "setter" is mentioned when the player with that role makes a set-up to earn points. In this case, Sakita, who played the setter role, showed extraordinary telepathy to Nishida. This was proven by how Sakita made the attack strategy that was given to Nishida, and Nishida managed to execute the attack into points. The meaning of setters in the dictionary and volley is the same because they both have meanings to set-up.

#### Data 12

*"Substitution from Japan that comes Yamauchi, middle blocker."* (1:45:34)

In data 12, the commentator explained that Japan substituted for a player in the middle blocker. The register "middle blocker" is mentioned for someone who has that role and is tasked with focusing on blocking. In this case, Japan included Yamauchi, who has a middle blocker role in strengthening Japan's block. According to the dictionary, a middle blocker consists of the word middle, which means in a central position, and a blocker, which is something or someone that stops something from happening or succeeding. Meanwhile, the "middle blocker" register is a player who is responsible for blocking and attacking at the center of the net.

Based on the analysis above, the field is the topic discussed. In this context, the commentator explains what happened in the live match. Hassan (2017) stated that the field describes the activities and processes during speech. Besides, Nurani (2014) stated that the field refers to the subject matter or topic of communication. For example, the language used in a business context would have a different field than the language used in a volleyball context.

Understanding certain registers can provide insight into how language is used to describe the context of a situation and create social relations in that context. In this analysis, commentators talk about volleyball in different contexts. For example, in data 5, the commentator explains the soft serve context that occurred. He said that in many cases, the server would go with soft serve, whatever the risk is. He also explained that soft serve is very easy to manage to benefit the serve receiver. Another example is in data 7, where the commentator explains the context of the monster block. He explained that his timed jump to perfection just got enough of the right hand to direct that ball down so that Tilly managed to get points from the block. The commentator's explanation of the context shows that the commentator is very experienced in that field. This follows Matthiessen et al. (2010) statement that the field is connected with "what happens in context," which means that it covers activities and realms of experience.

### 3.2 Mode in France vs Japan - Full Match Men's Volleyball Nations League 2019

Mode is a type of communication that involves written or spoken. It focuses on how the speaker conveys his message. Moreover, Martin and Rose (2003) explain that mode describes the symbolic structure of the text, its status, and its purpose in context. It also describes the role language plays in the situation and what participants expect from the language.

#### Data 1

*"There being challenged here looking for a blocked touch signaled by referee Morisik. So, Japan once again a short there was a touch from that spike by Nishida."* (9:36)

It is an utterance conveyed by spoken language. Commentator mention the volleyball register directly. In this case, the register referred to "spike." The commentator mentions the register "spike" with a high intonation which shows his excitement about what he's talking about. The function of the register "spike" here is to show sharp attack made by Nishida. Unfortunately, the ball fell outside the opponent's area. The function of the speech by the commentator is to inform the audience that the Japanese team asked the referee for a challenged blocked touch after Nishida spiked and felt that the French player hit the ball.

#### Data 3

*"Ishikawa. Wow, first ace of the match! That was impressive, wow. Not necessarily known for his serving skills but that was special."* (19:26)

This is a commentator's communication to the audience where utterances are delivered in a spoken language containing registers. In this case, the commentator mentioned register "ace." It can see the commentator when he mentions the register "ace" with a high intonation which shows his excitement because it is the first ace in the match. The function of the register "ace" here is to show Ishikawa's skill in serving so that he gets the first ace in the match. Meanwhile, the function of the

speech by the commentator is to inform the audience that it is Ishikawa who turns out to have such good serving skills that he can produce an ace.

Data 6

*"Tilly was everywhere there mopping up and finally putting away the winning spike and that is of course a mega rally. Wonderful, wonderful persistence there from Kevin Tilley."* (41:30)

This is a commentator's communication to the audience where utterances are delivered in a spoken language containing registers. Commentators often say several sentences spontaneously when speaking directly at the match because several things are not included in the prepared text. An example is here the commentator mentions the word "wonderful" twice. This is a repetition that occurs spontaneously to continue to the next utterance. Additionally, in this case, the commentator mentioned register "rally." The function of the register "rally" here is to show the occurrence of a very memorable mega rally. Meanwhile, the function of the speech by the commentator is to explain to the audience that France managed to end the mega rally with the points earned by Kevin Tilley's persistence.

Based on the analysis above, the mode used by commentators is spoken mode because the aim is to convey what is happening directly in the field so that the audience can understand the situation (Farkhan et al., 2020). Hassan (2017) stated that spoken mode causes spontaneity because it is close in time to the event that must be explained. For example, utterances uttered by commentators during a sports match will be more spontaneous than news about the same match the next day. According to Rangarajan, V. & Narayanan, S. (2006), one of the spontaneous signs is the occurrence of repetition. For example, in data 6, repetition occurs after several words. Commentators mention the word "wonderful" twice. Repetition can be one word, where one word is repeated after a silent pause between the repetition of several words.

Mode involves aspects of language, such as intonation. In this study, the commentator plays intonation. For example, in data 1 and 3, the commentator mentioned the register "spike" and "ace" with a high intonation, which shows his excitement about what he is talking about. Intonation is not only related to the voice's volume but also to when the voice should be low, medium, to high. This intonation plays a role in communication because it affects excitement in communicating. According to Suardana (2020), a mode is a combination of field and tenor, so it is seen as a way of carrying out these two aspects so that communication can run well. It is proven by how much attention is paid to style in communicating, such as what topics will be discussed, how to communicate, to the style of language.

### 3.3 Tenor in in France vs Japan - Full Match Men's Volleyball Nations League 2019

Tenor indicates that the situation's goals or expected results are impacted by tenor, particularly the relationship between the speaker and the addressee. It depends on whom we are speaking with, who is listening, and the speaker's relationship with the listener. Knowing the audience is important for the speaker to avoid speaking in their language to avoid unfamiliar speech.

Data 4

*"That was nicely done there by Yamamoto the libero from Nishida showing great presence of mind there."* (31:36)

The social role relationships play in this text is between the commentator and the audience (Hassan, 2014). The audience trusts commentators to watch the live match and provide information and explanations to the audience at home. The utterances spoken by the commentator use informal language because of the social and emotional closeness between the commentator and the address, the audience. In this case, the informal speaking style can be seen when the commentator mentions the word “libero” very passionately since Yamamoto, the libero, did a great job.

Data 5

*“Slightly soft to serve on this occasion, and they paid for it. That’s a great example of really well, you can see why the server will in many cases go for it and risk either going long or going into the net because a soft serve like that, it is just gonna get eaten up all day by the receiving side.”*  
(38:35)

This utterance is spoken in an informal style showing the close social relationship between the commentator and the audience. It can see that there is no social distance between the commentator and the audience because of the informal form of expressions, for example, the use of the colloquial verb “going” pronounced by “gonna.” In this case, the commentator explained casually, like he was talking with his friends.

Data 8

*“Double substitution for France, just bringing on some reinforcements. From Corre to Patry, and Carle to Brizard.”* (58:20)

The social role relationships among the speakers and the hearers were between the commentator and the audience in an informal situation. Commentators consider the audience to be familiar people and have no social distance or gap between them, so they use informal language in contrast to the formal news reader, which shows that he has a distance or gap from one another. It can be seen that the commentator is not clear in explaining the substitution system. Therefore, the viewers who are not familiar with volleyball will be confused when watching it.

Data 11

*“The ball coming in, ball’s still alive. There’s the set attack, excellent dive from Rossar.”* (1:28:40)

The speaker or the commentator treats the audience, who is the listener, by not giving a distance between the two—evidenced by the informal language styles used by commentators. Commentators consider audiences as friends to build a close-relationships. In this case, the commentator explained in a hurry and irregularly. Apart from this happening because of live broadcasts, this also happens because commentators think there is no gap between them and the audience which proves freedom of communication without formal boundaries.

Based on the above analysis, the tenor determines the social relationship between the speaker, and the listener. This social relationship will later determine what style of speech the commentator will use. As was said Hassan (2017), when analyzing the tenors to determine their status, this will be seen in the speaker's choices when speaking. Does the speaker perceive them to be the same or different. In this case, the commentator uses an informal language style because he wants to get closer to the audience and assumes that there is no social distance between the commentator and the audience.

The social distance of participants in the interaction is considered minimal, which is highly characterized by the use of informal expressions; for example, in data 5, the colloquial of the verb

“going,” which is pronounced by “gonna.” Hasanah (2020) stated that colloquial is informal English often used in daily communication, for example, when they talk to people with close relationships. This informal style proves that the speaker does not differentiate between age, level of educational background, or even job position, even though the speaker is more experienced. Nurani (2014) stated that experienced speakers tend to give detailed explanations. In data 5, commentators explain that the server does soft serve in many cases even though there is a risk of doing so. With this statement, it is evident that a commentator is an experienced person in this field because he has seen many different volleyball matches. Besides, Farkhan et al. (2019) also explained that an easy way to distinguish this is formal or informal language is to notice the choice of words, the tone, and how words are used in sentences. In addition, informal language tends to be spontaneous, as explained in the mode section above.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This research examines the commentator's utterance in the video “France vs. Japan - Full Match Men's Volleyball Nations League 2019” by analyzing the existing registers in the video as well as exploring how the register situation type are fields, modes, and tenor applied. Register is a variety of language used in a community that differs in its use. There are several volleyball registers found that have the same or even different meanings when compared with their particular meaning in the online dictionary. It shows that register is a particular language used by a particular community.

In this research, the utterances used in communication not only reveal aspects of identity, such as who the audience is, but also show the context of how the language is used. In the field section, the finding shows that understanding certain registers can provide insight into how language is used to describe the context of a situation and create social relations in that context. The second one is a mode, which is a combination of field and tenor because it pays attention to the topic, how to communicate, and the language style. In mode, the commentator uses spoken language, which causes spontaneity because it is close in time to the event that must be explained. Besides, a mode is related to intonation because it affects passion in communicating. The last one is the tenor, where the commentator uses an informal language style since he wants to get closer to the audience and assumes that there is no social distance between the commentator and the audience. The commentator does not differentiate between age, level of educational background, or even job position, even though he is more experienced. Future research could expand upon these aspects to provide an even more granular linguistic analysis.

This study examined how feminist values are reflected in the character of Minerva McGonagall. It addresses the gap in existing discussions of gender in literary texts, which often focus on younger characters and overt form of resistance, while paying less attention to the feminist values embodied by mature female figures. The analysis reveals that McGonagall's life choices, professional dedication, and acts of resistance embody key principles from both liberal and radical feminism. Her refusal to enter marriages that would limit her ambitions, her decision to retain her Muggle father's surname despite pure-blood elitism, her unwavering protection of students during oppressive leadership, and her resilience in the face of personal loss, all highlight a form of women's empowerment rooted in integrity, wisdom, and independence. The key takeaway is that feminist values in literature can be effectively conveyed through characters whose leadership and influence are grounded in ethical conviction rather than overt activism. Practically, this study encourages further exploration of mature female characters in literature as role models who challenge restrictive gender norms. Theoretically, it expands the understanding of feminist representation by showing how subtle yet consistent resistance to patriarchal structures can be as transformative as more visible forms of activism. Future research could extend this analysis to comparable literary figures in fantasy

and other genres. It would allow for a broader examination of how feminist values are embedded in diverse narrative contexts.

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