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Syntactic Structure of Play-by-Play Description found in Live Tweet Reports of English Premier League Matches Posted by English Sport Journalists

Abstract

The changing of technology prompts a new kind of sport commentary, as can be seen in live reports of football matches posted on Twitter. As the commentators describe the action of the match, the syntactic structure used is quite distinctive. This study aims at describing the syntactic structure of play-by-play description in live tweet reports of English Premier League matches which are posted by English sport journalists. The method used in this study is qualitative approach. The data were taken from a compilation of live tweet reports that focus on English Premier League matches especially those posted by English sport journalists. In analyzing the data, Radford’s theories on null constituents and auxiliary inversions are used. The findings of the research show that the syntactic structure of play by play description in live tweet reports involves several categories of syntactic reductions or null constituents. The categories of null constituents are null subjects, null auxiliaries, null T in finite clauses, null C in finite clauses, null determiners, and null quantifiers. These syntactic reductions occur because of the focus of the tweets which mainly revolves around the actions happening on the match. Furthermore, the syntactic reductions are caused by the limitation of Twitter's feature which only allows the users to post 140 characters at most. Beside syntactic reductions, the syntactic structure also involves several syntactic inversions, such as auxiliary inversions and inversions of word order.

Keyword: english, journalist, english, premier, league, live, tweet, reports, play-by-play, description, syntactic, structure,

Daftar Pustaka: