

A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL VARIATIONS OF THE WINNERS OF *MOTOGP* 2016

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Abstract

There are nine different winners in *Motogp* 2016 who originate from four different geographical backgrounds. The different style of each rider to express their feelings is affected by both internal and external factors. In addition, the riders' style in answering the interviewers' question along with their lexical choices somehow refers to certain things. The first objective of this research is to categorize the types of lexical variation from the winners' interview of *Motogp* 2016. Meanwhile, the second objective is to explain the factors that affect a certain expression which uttered in the interview. In order to help the research, the researcher uses qualitative methods in the process. Through its method, researcher finds that there are five features that occur in the winners' interview such as; noun change, metonymy, register, jargons and repetition. Those five categories affect by the internal and external factor such as the race, the strategy, the team, family and public judgment.

Keywords: stylistics, geographical backgrounds, lexical variation, *Motogp* 2016

INTRODUCTION

Motogp is one of racing sport competitions which has become globally famous in last few years. In *Motogp*, the battle is not only between the riders but also the team as each of them has to prove whose motorcycle is the best. The battle between teams and riders has become the main attraction for this competition. As reported by *crash.net*, a statistics displays more than two millions people enjoy this competition. In 2016, there were more than 2.6 million people who enjoyed *Motogp*. Compared to 2014 season, the number of 2016's crowd had gained around 200.000 people. However, those 2.6 million people were the only numbers of the spectators who came to the circuit and watched the race live. The number can still be higher as there are still many

Motogp fans who watch the race from live broadcast in television or internet.

Such statistics indicate that there is an increase in terms of the number of worldwide watchers, and it can also mean that the racing competition is well-liked. *Motogp* 2016, is the most competitive season in the history of the sport as it produced nine riders as a winner which representing five different teams as. Those winners are the representatives of their respective countries. They come from such countries such as Italia, Spain, Australia and Great Britain. Different national backgrounds mean that there are differences between them especially the way they speak which is portrayed in the interviews after the race.

Interview in *Motogp* 2016 is a routine activity as it is conducted for the first, second and third winners. The riders as the

interviewees are questioned directly by reporters in English right after the race. The main topic of the interview is limited only on the race experience of the three front runners. This activity in such competition is known as “post-race interview”, and it does not have any particular duration. Sometimes, the riders have many stories during the race that they can tell to the interviewers. However, there are also some riders who only speak few words after the race. This is possibly affected by what they experienced during the race, particularly the race situation.

The post-race interview is also significant as it demonstrates the riders’ other side in using language. Although all the winners come from Europe, they are originated from different countries which have different cultures and primary languages. Therefore, their styles of speaking are different also with their lexical choices. Riders with limited English speaking skills, for example, face difficulties in answering questions related to their opinions on the race. Interviews help revealing the rider’s speaking abilities in English, and finding out whether the riders can express their feelings regarding the race perfectly or not. They can also show particular styles of speaking. For example, one rider may have a tendency to use many repetitions as he has a limited English speaking skill, and he cannot express his feeling about his race thoroughly. On the other hand, not only do riders with different capabilities in speaking in English will

generate a particular style, their origins may also display a unique style distinguishing one rider from the others. As a result of this, investigating their ways of speaking in English regarding to those factors can illuminate the riders’ styles.

RESEARCH METHOD

A. Type of Research

Based on the problems which stated on first chapter, this research dealt with lexical variation phenomenon. This research accordingly focused on the analysis of lexical variation which occurred in the interview. To investigate such issue, the researcher used a qualitative research method to help the analyzing process. Denzin and Lincoln (1994:2) states that qualitative research studies on natural phenomena which means that this kind of research is concerned with experiential elements such as case study, personal experience, life story, and interview itself.

The main focus of this research occurred in lexical variation issues which made the forms of this data conducted in the form of word and phrases. The context of data in this research was the winners’ utterances during the interviews. The interviews were obtained from *Motogp*’s official video channel and the videos of the interviews were taken from <https://www.youtube.com/user/MotoGP>.

The technique that was used by the researcher was note taking technique.

Researcher used this technique to write the utterances from the interview with *Motogp* 2016 winners which had been uploaded in *YouTube*. As Boch and Piolat (2005:1) states, one of the objectives from note taking process is to record an information. Thus, the researcher collected the data through note taking techniques.

According to Zohrabi, (2013), research instrument is a tool which helps the researcher for analyzing or interpreting the data. Therefore, the research instrument of this research was the interview only. Although the researcher not directly doing the interview, the main issue of this research was occurred on the lexical variation between each rider when they express their victory in the interview.

In order to make the research become valid, the researcher need to did some cross-checking process. Hence, the researcher adopt the triangulation methods which involves other researchers in different interests to check the researcher worksto optimize the validity of the research.

As stated by Creswell (2000) triangulation is a validity procedure where the researcher tries to find the convergence using multiple sources of information. In this research, researcher involved few people as the sources of information in order to reach the trustworthiness.

In this research, researcher used the researcher triangulation types which involved other researchers in checking the same

research. The researchers who were acted as the triangulators have a responsibility to control the validity of the research by neutralize the bias of the data and fix the weaknesses of the research so research can gained the maximum research credibility.

THE RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

I. Types

According to its name, lexical variation concern on the variety of words choice that occurs from people's speech. Every person has different characteristics while uttering a speech whatever the factors are. The same case also happens in *Motogp* 2016 while the winners are in the interviews rightafter the race. During the research, researcher finds that each winner has his own lexical variation in the interview. There are five elements of lexical features which occur in *Motogp 2016* winner's interview. Those features represent the function in a speech as well. Below are the explanations from the winners' lexical features.

Noun Change

Noun change is used by the winners to simplify a general expression into the proper one. As Radford (1997) there are two kind of noun subclasses. They are common and proper nouns. While common noun functioned to describe a general thing, the proper specifically give a direct refers from the name of the noun itself such as name of a person, cities, or countries. Practically in the

winners' interview, the winner uses the noun change aspects to specify their utterance. Noun change is used by the riders to remark the riders that draw their attention in terms of skill, strategy or threat more than the other. Here is the example when the noun change occurs in the *Motogp 2016* winner's interview.

- (1) Lorenzo: our main rivals **Marquez** and **Rossi** choose the hard one.

-datum 3-

Extract (1) depicts Lorenzo's answer when being interviewed by a reporter. Lorenzo utters such response when he is asked about his strategy to win the race. As expressed in the utterance, Lorenzo believes that his rivals are the two most challenging riders competing with him on the race. Therefore, without underestimating other riders, Lorenzo feels that he give more attention to Marquez and Rossi at the race. Within his answer, he deploys **Marquez** and **Rossi** to refer to **our main rivals**. Such substitution of the general '**our main rivals**' to both proper nouns indicates that noun change emerges in Lorenzo's report.

Register

In general, Stockwell (2002) explains that register is an occupational variety of language. Therefore, in the *Motogp* interviews, most of the riders use a register which familiar with their profession as a motorsport athlete. They use a specific term related to the race and motorcycles which people are still familiar with it. As well as another sports, *Motogp* also have some terms

related to the regulations, track layout, part of circuit and many things around the track. Therefore, a register is needed to simplify the explanation of those things. One of the examples of register is shown by the winners' interview transcripts below.

- (9) Iannone: it's a my first victory
Motogp class.

-datum 87-

Motogp class is the top class in *Motogp* competition. Meanwhile, the lower classes also have their own names. A middle class in competition in *Motogp* is called Moto2 and the lowest class competition commonly is known as Moto3. However, for people who are not familiar with *Motogp*, it is easier for them to get confused with the word '*Motogp*' which can make them possibly think the name is for all classes.

Metonymy

In general, Littlemore (2015) explain metonymy as a linguistic and cognitive process which referring one thing from different thing. In the *Motogp* interview, metonymy occurs when the rider mention their team's name directly. In the interview, metonymy issue occurs when the riders praise their team effort by mentioning the team's name. Below is the example of Metonymy.

- (4) Vinales: I hope I can stay there and give to **Suzuki** more..more things like that"

-datum 74-

According to the statements, Vinales changes the general form of his team into the proper ones by mentioning his team's name in the interview. Thus, the name of 'Suzuki'

functions as a metonymy for giving a tribute from his victory.

Jargon

Similar with register, jargons also related with lexical variation issues concerning the usage of the terms. However, register and jargon have different standards in this case. As Hudson (1978) states, jargon is an own terminology from a particular profession which help the people inside the circumstance to express anything relate to their profession. While register use by the riders to discussed about race terms or motorcycle parts, jargons occur in a more exclusive fields.

If register is still understandable for common people, jargons often understandable only by the people who are directly involved in the race such as the riders, crew, mechanics or experts. Therefore, because the terms in jargons are unfamiliar, people can be confused with the riders' statement. The examples of jargons in *Motogp* interview are shown by few examples below.

- (10) Lorenzo: I past De Angelis in this corner in the last **chicane** for the second place and I thought 'okay maybe I can do the same'.

-datum 21-

Researcher categorizes 'Chicane' as jargons because it is the only terms which can be found in some racing sports. Chicane is one of the corner types that have unique form. Practically, it consists of a right and left hand turn in one section. In addition, chicane can

be said asa corner which looks like an 'S' letter.

Repetition

The last aspect that occurs in the interview is repetition. According to Tannen (2007), repetition has a few functions such as to indicate a reference, establish a rhythm, giving an impression and many more. Therefore, in this part, researcher divided the different types of repetition through the different motives. The first is named as 'meaningful repetition' which occurs in the interviews because the rider have some motives such as stressing his explanation and providing some highlights in their expression. The example of meaningful repetition is shown by the interview below.

- (14) Crutchlow: I'm **really-really** pleased for my team"

-datum 99-

According to the statement, the only repetition on the interview is 'really'. Here, Crutchlow emerge the repetition in the word 'really' in order to express his happiness and emphasize it as well. Hence, the repetition is clearly uttered with a motive behind it which fulfillls the requirement of meaningful repetitions.

The second type is 'meaningless repetition' which functions as one of the rider's ways to give them a spare time to think what they want to say next. This type of repetition commonly occurs in non-English riders' interviews as they have a lower fluency level compared to the interview with the riders who comes from commonwealth

countries. The example of meaningless repetition is shown by the example from Andrea Iannone's interview below.

- (16) Iannone: They support me at 100% from the beginning and now..so..I..I..I..I know at the end..the end..this season, I finished my ride”.

-Datum 90-

Iannone's repetition is repeatedly until four times. Hence, from the number of repetitive words, possibly the repetition occurs to give him a spare time to think on his next words. The repetition of 'I' is unseen as an effort from Iannone to highlight his statement or to underline his utterance into important information. Therefore, this kind of repetition is just a pure repetition which functioned to give the speaker an opportunity to think the next utterances.

II. FACTORS

According to the findings, there are also some factors that affect the winners' lexical variation in the interview. The main factors divided into two types, the internal and external factors. Internal factors are the lexical variation factors that involved an internal element in *Motogp* field such as the race situation, the team atmosphere and the strategies.

A. Internal Factor

1. Race Situation

This type of internal factor occurs after Marquez wins the race in a dreadful condition. His victory not only decided by his performance. Marquez's victory is also

caused by his better strategy than the rivals. Here is the admission from Marquez about the difficult race that he had.

- (19) Marquez: Yeah honestly it was really-really difficult because you know on wet tires I think I choose the wrong tire in front for my riding style.

According to Marquez statement, it is shown that the race situation is really hard for him. The combination from the weather and the wrong tire choice makes him suffer during the first half race in Germany's which held under the wet weather. The race situation becomes trickier when the sun come up. The situation forces all riders to change their bike in the right time. Finally, Marquez able to wins the race after he adopted the best strategy dealing with the unpredictable racing situation.

2. Rivalry

In addition, a rivalry can also affect the lexical variation of the riders. Usually, the riders only pay attention to their rivals performance. Here is the example of the case.

- (22) Lorenzo: So was very risky you know to go for the..for the soft one because our main rivals Marquez and Rossi choose the hard one.

According to Lorenzo's statement above, it is shown that he only focuses on two different riders that most threatening him at that time Valentino Rossi and Marc Marquez. Without underestimating the other riders, Lorenzo cannot avoid the fact that Marquez and Rossi are the biggest threat to his championship glory. Thus, he only mentions

those two riders in his statement to show how much he is aware of them as his main rivals.

3. Rider-Team Relation

Another internal factor that occurs in lexical variation is the relationship between the rider and the team. If the relationship goes well, the rider will be pleased with the team effort in giving them the best motorcycle during the practice, qualifying and race. In 2016 season, the relationships between riders and teams are blatantly shown through the interview. Here is one of the examples.

(27) Vinales: today we did it you know, this one dream that came true, I hope I can stay there and give to Suzuki more..more things like that.

The statement shows that Vinales is very proud with his because his dream comes true. In addition, Vinales also expresses his desire to stay and give more victories to Suzuki. This case shows that Vinales has a close relationship with his team and big expectations for them.

B. External Factors

Here, the external factors refer to the factors that come from any aspect apart from the *Motogp* circumstance. External factor means that it appears on the outside but still affects the idea and expression from the riders during the interview sessions.

1. Public Judgment

The first external factor that triggered the lexical variation from the rider is people's opinion which uttered by Jack Miller after the

his team and him receive some negative opinion.

(32) Miller: I don't know what to feel at the moment, I mean a lot of people bad mouth us and everything like that and said that this project wouldn't work or anything like that.

According to his statement, Miller admits that he had been criticized with people's judgment at that time which is seems pessimistic with his team and his career as well. However, he succeeded to prove that the opinion is wrong through his victory.

2. Family

Another external factor that affects the lexical variation in the rider's expression is their family. As an athlete, *Motogp* riders not only need the support from his fans. In addition, the biggest support comes from their family as their closest people.

Therefore, few riders is also give the tribute not only for the team but for the family as well as an appreciation for their support through the up and down situation. Here is the example on how the important is the family for the winner. This example is taken from the interview from Cal Crutchlow after Brno GP when Crutchlow claimed his first place for the first time in 2016's season.

(34) Crutchlow: Lucy giving birth here, it was the best feeling in the world. Don't get me wrong, winning races is, uh, is fantastic but I had the best present a couple of weeks ago"

According to Crutchlow, the external factor from his baby birth give him happiness twice bigger than what he gets from winning

equal the race. This case proves that family is meaningful for the riders. Even the happiness from having new child is become the best present for him.

CONCLUSION

The researcher gives some conclusions based on the objectives that had been determined before. Therefore, in this research, there are two conclusions below.

1. Objective 1

The first objective is determining the types of lexical variation which occurs in the winner's interview of *Motogp2016*. Based on the data and findings the researcher have, there are five types of lexical variation that occurs in the winner's interview of *Motogp 2016* which are differentiated by the usage.

The first type of lexical variation is called as noun change. In daily life, this type can be used to emphasize and specified speaking intention.

The second type is metonymy. In the social usage, this kind of variation applicable for give an opinion about some product, advertise the product or to specified a brand of some product that we need.

The third type is called register. Register is terms which have a specific meaning in a certain community but still familiar for people outside the community as well. Therefore, researcher concludes that in people's life register is applicable for simplified the words in their own community.

Almost the same with register, the fourth type of variation is called as jargon. However, jargons more specific than register. Therefore, people who are not familiar with the topic discussed in this research will be easily confused with the terms. Hence, jargons are useful for those groups of people to show the differences, originality and terms that prevail in their circumstances.

Last but not least, the type is called repetition. aspect can be divided into two types, meaningful and meaningless repetition. Similar with the function in people's daily life, meaningful repetition can be used to emphasize the statement that remarkable while the meaningless is functioned as a replacement for people who want to avoid filler in their statement.

2. Objective 2

The second objective of this research is to reveals the factor behind each lexical variation from the winners. As Mukherjee explains, the factors influencing people's lexical variation could be determined from the internal and external factors.

a. Internal Factors

The first internal factor is from the race. A race can be act as the internal factors because each race has different situations and obstacles. Since most of the interview with the winners are started by the riders tells about the race condition, it can be concluded that the race itself have a big part in influencing the lexical variation on the interview.

The next internal factor is the riders which refer to the characteristic of each winner in expressing their feelings. Some of the riders prefer to pick a word that directly describes their happiness. Meanwhile the others were looks more calm and chill.

Another internal factor which triggered the lexical variation is from the team. This factor involved the close relationship between the riders and the team elements such as the engineers, mechanics, team principal and the other. A good relation often represented from the riders who usually give praises for the team effort.

b. External Factors

The first external factor which triggered the lexical variation is from public judgment. The different judgment from people can affect *Motogp* riders to react through their statement or their performance. In a good way, a judgment can be a triggered factor for the rider to show their potency. However, if they fail to prove that, it is easier from them to feel under pressure due to the public judgment.

The second external factor is from the family. Riders frequently prosecuted to perform in their maximum ability that they can. Therefore, to recharge and fulfill their motivation, they need a kind of loyal supporters such as their family who already supports them from the beginning.

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