AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE COMMENTED BY PETER DRURY IN WORLD CUP FINAL MATCHES IN 2014, 2018, AND 2022

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Abstract

This thesis explores the use of figurative language in football commentary, focusing on Peter Drury's commentary on the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup final matches. This study aims to identify and analyze the types of figurative language and meanings used by Peter Drury during the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup final matches. A qualitative descriptive approach was employed, using Abrams and Harpham's theory to analyze figurative language, alongside Leech's theory for meaning. Out of 53 instances of figurative language, metaphor emerged as the dominant type in each World Cup final edition, appearing 11 times in 2014, 11 times in 2018, and 10 times in 2022, totaling 32 times (60.38%). The connotative meaning was the most prevalent among the seven types of meaning, occurring 29 times (54.72%). Types of figurative language such as alliteration, onomatopoeia, litotes, and euphemisms were not found in this study. The type of meaning that was not found reflected meaning. This analysis reveals a change in the pattern of Peter Drury's figurative language use in the last three editions of the World Cup finals, in addition to metaphors that appear dominant each year, hyperbole has decreased significantly in the three editions of the World Cup finals. In 2014 it was found 6 times, in 2018 it was found 3 times, and in 2022 it was found 2 times. This analysis also highlights the role of figurative language in creating an immersive experience for the audience.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Peter Drury, World Cup Final

A. INTRODUCTION

Language, as a complex communication tool, allows for the exploration of meaning through semantic studies. Kreidler (2014) defines semantics as the study of the relationship between language and meaning. One aspect that enriches linguistic expression is figurative language, which conveys abstract ideas and deep emotions. Abrams & Harpham (2015) highlight that figurative language deviates from conventional usage to produce specific effects, often serving to

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evoke vivid imagery and emotional responses, making it essential even beyond poetry.

Football commentary, particularly during high-profile matches like the FIFA World Cup, exemplifies the impactful use of language. Commentators such as Peter Drury use figurative expressions to narrate the game dynamically, enhancing viewers' engagement. The World Cup, being the most-watched sporting event globally (Lisi, 2007), provides an ideal setting to analyze this unique linguistic style.

Previous studies on figurative language in football commentaries, such as those by Wibowo (2021) and Putra & Marlina (2024), focus on single matches and dominant language types. However, this study takes a broader perspective by analyzing Peter Drury's commentary across three FIFA World Cup finals (2014, 2018, and 2022). Using Abrams & Harpham's (2015) theory of figurative language and Leech's (1985) theory, this research examines patterns in Drury's use of figurative language and meaning, identifying trends and shifts over time. This study not only contributes to linguistic and cultural analyses but also highlights the narrative art in sports commentary, fostering a deeper appreciation of football as both a sport and a cultural phenomenon. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Commented by Peter Drury in World Cup Final Matches in 2014, 2018, and 2022".

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. This method aligned with the goals of the research as it clarified and analyzed the types of figurative language used by Peter Drury when commentating on the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup final matches. It sought to make clear the underlying interpretations, meanings, and experiences represented in the data. With this strategy, the researcher was able to gather and classify the pertinent data for the figurative language method's analysis.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Types of Figurative Language

There are ten types of figurative language that the researcher studied based on Abrams & Harpham's (2015) theory, but only six types were found, including metaphor, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, simile, and irony. The table below shows the number of types of figurative language found in each year's edition and a summary of the results of this study:

Table 4.3. Findings table of figurative language types in each year's edition

No	Types of Figurative Language	2014	2018	2022
1.	Metaphor	11	11	10
2.	Hyperbole	6	3	2
3.	Personification	1	1	1

4.	Metonymy	2	0	2
5.	Simile	0	1	1
6.	Irony	0	1	0
Total		**20**	**17**	**16**

Table 4.4. Findings table of the types of figurative language

No	Types of Figurative Language	The Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1.	Metaphor	32	60,38%
2.	Hyperbole	11	20,75%
3.	Personification	3	5,66%
4.	Metonymy	4	7,55%
5.	Simile	2	3,77%
6.	Irony	1	1,89%
Total		**53**	**100%**

This study found 53 figurative languages in total, which are only divided into six types according to the table above. From the three editions of the World Cup finals, metaphor appeared 32 times, hyperbole appeared 11 times, personification appeared 3 times, metonymy appeared 4 times, simile appeared 2 times, and irony appeared 1 time. The table shows that, of all the categories, metaphor has the highest frequency with 32 occurrences. However, the types of figurative language not found in this study are alliteration, onomatopoeia, litotes, and euphemism.

Metaphors dominated with 32 occurrences (60.38%), representing Drury's effectiveness in describing the situation and emotions of the match in a concise yet profound way. Here are some examples of metaphors in Peter Drury's commentary:

World Cup final 2014

(Datum 6)

These two muscular giants of the global game

The type of metaphor in the datum above is found in the comparison between the Argentine and German teams with Muscular giants. This metaphor does not refer to literal physical size but rather describes the strength, power, and dominance of both teams in the world of football. It implies that they are very strong, tough, and influential teams. By using this comparison, the commentator portrays the Argentine and German teams as giant and dominant forces in the world of football, figuratively wielding tremendous power in the "global game," emphasizing their influence and achievements on the world stage.

World Cup final 2018

(Datum 34)

The boy with the world at his feet

The type of metaphor in the datum above is found in the comparison between the boy (Mbappe) and the world. In this metaphor, the phrase "The world at his feet" is a metaphor meaning that the world or vast opportunities are within his control, or he has the ability to achieve whatever he wants. Figuratively, it suggests that Mbappe has a great chance of becoming one of the best players in the world as if the world is at his mercy, and he just needs to step up to the plate. By using this comparison, the commentator is portraying that Mbappe, with his young age and great achievements, has a bright future and all doors are open for him to become a legend in the world of football.

World Cup Final 2022

(Datum 48)

Messi with such immaculate poise

The type of metaphor in the datum above is found in the comparison between Messi and immaculate poise. The word "immaculate" literally means flawless, perfect, or clean from mistakes. In this context, it illustrates that Messi has perfect self-control and movement, without any mistakes in the way he plays. It emphasizes that everything he does on the pitch is very precise. While "Poise" refers to balance, calmness, and control. It describes how Messi always looks calm and in control, even in the most stressful situations, such as when facing strong opponents or big matches. By using this comparison, commentators highlight Messi's perfect balance of technique, composure, and control on the pitch. He is portrayed as a player who plays with flawless grace, even in critical moments.

Hyperbole came in second with 11 occurrences (20.75%). Here are some examples of hyperbole in Peter Drury's commentary:

World Cup final 2014

(Datum 7)

Gonzalo Higuain missed a golden chance

The type of hyperbole in the datum above is found in the phrase golden chance. This phrase literally means to describe a very valuable and rare opportunity. In the context of a match, it means that the opportunity is considered very big and important to score a goal or change the course of the match. The word "golden" is overused to emphasize how important the opportunity is. By using this hyperbole, the commentator is illustrating how much Higuain's missed opportunity meant, even though the chance may not have been as important as it was portrayed. This aims to emphasize the

amount of disappointment or frustration that Higuain failed to take advantage of an important opportunity.

World Cup final 2018

(Datum 30)

The stamina in their team is formidable

The type of hyperbole in the datum above is found in the word formidable. This word means very frightening or impressive. In this context, the word emphasizes that the Croatian team's stamina was formidable as they were able to continue playing with high intensity throughout the match without getting tired. By using this hyperbole, the commentator is describing the Croatian team's stamina as formidable and unrivaled, almost as if they were able to continue playing without fatigue. While Croatia's stamina may be incredible, words like "formidable" exaggerate their ability to portray them as a team that is very difficult to beat due to their incredible physical endurance, especially in the context of a long tournament like the World Cup.

World Cup final 2022

(Datum 50)

The nation will Tango all night long

The type of hyperbole in the datum above is found in the phrase all night long. This phrase is used to give the impression that the Argentine team's championship celebrations will go on endlessly all night long, which is a form of exaggeration. While in reality, people may not have actually danced all night long, this hyperbole illustrates the intensity of the excitement and outpouring of emotions following the historic victory. By using this hyperbole, the commentator emphasizes the overwhelming joy of Argentina's victory, as if the entire nation would celebrate their victory with non-stop joyful dancing, creating an atmosphere of great and unstoppable national happiness.

2. Types of Meaning

There are 7 types of meanings studied by the researcher based on Leech's theory (1985), namely conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning. However, there is one type of meaning that the researcher did not find in this study, namely reflected meaning. The table below shows the number of types of meanings found in each year's edition and a summary of the results of this study:

Table 4.5. Findings table of types of meanings in each year's edition

No	Types of Meanings	2014	2018	2022
1.	Connotative Meaning	8	10	11
2.	Affective Meaning	6	5	4
3.	Social Meaning	2	2	1

4.	Conceptual Meaning	2	0	0
5.	Thematic Meaning	1	0	0
6.	Collocative Meaning	1	0	0
	Total	**20**	**17**	**16**

Table 4.6. Findings table of types of meanings

No	Types of Meanings	The Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1.	Connotative Meaning	29	54,72%
2.	Affective Meaning	15	28,30%
3.	Social Meaning	5	9,43%
4.	Conceptual Meaning	2	3,77%
5.	Thematic Meaning	1	1,89%
6.	Collocative Meaning	1	1,89%
	Total	**53**	**100%**

Based on the table above, from the three editions of the World Cup final, it can be seen that the occurrence of connotative meaning is 29 times, affective meaning is 15 times, social meaning is 5 times, conceptual meaning is 2 times, thematic meaning is 1 time, and collocative meaning is 1 time. Based on the table, the most dominant meaning used is connotative meaning with 29 occurrences, followed by affective meaning with 15 occurrences.

Connotative meaning is the most dominant meaning with 29 occurrences (54.72%). Here are some examples of connotative meaning in Peter Drury's commentary:

World Cup final 2014

(Datum 11)

The lights will burn on late tonight

The sentence in the datum above has a rich connotative meaning. This sentence describes that the match will last until late at night, indicating that this match is a long and tiring fight. This can refer to extra time or even a penalty shootout, which often happens in big finals like this. This sentence can also have the connotation that after the match ends, the celebration will last all night. The lights that stay on until late at night depict the joy, party, and celebration of victory that does not pass quickly, both in the stadium and around the world, especially for the winning country. By using this connotative meaning, the commentator describes a very fierce final match between Argentina and Germany. The audience or supporters from both countries have to wait longer to see who will finally emerge as the champion and celebrate the victory.

World Cup final 2018

(Datum 29)

He's really had the opportunity to turn on the afterburners

The datum above has a connotative meaning in the phrase "turn on the afterburners". This phrase connotatively refers to sudden acceleration and incredible power. In aviation, "afterburners" are mechanisms on jets that increase thrust by burning more fuel. Connotatively, this illustrates that Mbappe is not only fast, but he has the ability to explode at much higher speeds when needed. This creates an image of Mbappe as a player who is able to open up top speed instantly, leaving opponents far behind. By using this connotative meaning, the commentator describes Kylian Mbappe's incredible burst of speed when he gets space to run. This statement creates an image of Mbappe as a player with incredible athleticism and complete control over his game when he is at full speed, often leaving opponents unable to catch up.

World Cup final 2022

(Datum 47)

Mbappe into the Galaxy of lucks

The datum above has a connotative meaning in the phrase "Galaxy of lucks". This phrase connotatively describes that Mbappe is enjoying great luck in his football career. The word "galaxy" refers to something vast, magnificent, and full of stars. Connotatively, this means that Mbappe is experiencing a wave of extraordinary luck in his life and career, where everything is going very well. By using this connotative meaning, the commentator describes Mbappe as a player who is entering the peak of luck, glory, and global recognition. This statement also emphasizes that Mbappe is at an extraordinary level in his football career, where he is surrounded by great opportunities and luck that support his success.

Affective meaning is the second most frequently used type of meaning with 15 occurrences (28.30%). Here are some examples of affective meaning in Peter Drury's commentary:

World Cup final 2014

(Datum 7)

Gonzalo Higuain missed a golden chance

The sentence in the datum above implies deep frustration and disappointment. The affective meaning is found in the phrase "golden chance". This phrase emphasizes that the opportunity was very valuable and may not occur often, so Higuain's failure to take it felt very disappointing. The affective meaning here expresses how disappointing the moment was for Higuain, his teammates, and the Argentine supporters, especially in the context of a very decisive match like the World Cup final. By using this affective meaning, the commentator evokes feelings of frustration, disappointment, and tension, creating a strong emotional drama. The Argentine audience and supporters may feel regret and sympathy, while the tension on the field is increasing due to this missed important moment.

World Cup final 2018

(Datum 24)

He scores a painful goal that may matter in the final

The datum above has an affective meaning in the phrase "a painful goal". This phrase implies that the goal scored by Mandzukic, although a goal, was something very painful. Usually, a goal is a positive moment, but in this case, the own goal became a personal tragedy for Mandzukic, causing a deep sense of regret. The affective meaning is that this goal not only harmed the Croatian team but also created emotional suffering for Mandzukic who may feel guilty about what happened. By using this affective meaning, the commentator describes feelings of pain, regret, pressure, and anxiety. This statement creates feelings of tension and worry for both players and spectators while hinting that this mistake could have significant consequences in the World Cup final match.

World Cup final 2022

(Datum 42)

Argentine gold, that is just beautiful

The datum above has affective meaning in the phrases "Argentine gold" and "that is just beautiful". The word "gold" in the first phrase is used to describe the goal as something very valuable and beautiful, like gold which symbolizes victory and high value. The second phrase shows a strong emotional reaction to the goal. The word "beautiful" here expresses admiration for the aesthetic beauty and elegance of the goal scored. The affective meaning of this phrase reflects the feeling of being mesmerized and impressed by how the goal happened-not just from a technical point of view, but also emotionally touching the hearts of the audience. By using this affective meaning, the commentator expresses praise, admiration, pride, and emotional beauty for the goal scored by Argentina in the 2022 World Cup final. The goal was perceived as something precious and beautiful, both technically and emotionally, creating a feeling of victory and beauty at a pivotal moment in the match.

3. Discussion

The researcher conducted a study on the types of figurative language and types of meaning used by commentator Peter Drury in the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup finals. Ten types of figurative language were proposed by Abrams & Harpham, and seven types of meaning were proposed by Leech. The researcher analyzed the types of figurative language and meanings used by Peter Drury in the three editions of the World Cup final.

The type of figurative language most often used by Peter Drury in the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup finals is metaphor. Abrams & Harpham (2015) mention that metaphors have the ability to condense meaning, which is especially important in real-time commentary such as in football. By figuratively describing the situation, Peter Drury was able to communicate the complexity of the game in a concise yet striking way. This is particularly

relevant in the context of commentary, where speed and effectiveness of language are key. Metaphors can also evoke a deeper emotional response. In the World Cup final, where the emotional atmosphere was very high, metaphors helped intensify the audience's emotional engagement. In other words, metaphors serve to not only describe the action but also create an atmosphere that encourages the listener or viewer to experience the key moments first-hand.

The non-formal nature of football commentary favors the dominance of metaphors as it allows for more free, emotional, and engaging expression. It is evident from the data findings that metaphors are consistently the most dominant type used by Peter Drury in the World Cup finals in 2014, 2018, and 2022, with a stable number: 11 (2014) > 11 (2018) > 10 (2022), and accounts for the majority of the total use of figurative language (32 out of 53 total, or 60.38%).

The second type of figurative language widely used by Peter Drury in the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup finals is hyperbole. As stated by Abrams & Harpham (2015:169), hyperbole is a dramatic overestimation or exaggeration of reality or potential. In Peter Drury's commentary, hyperbole is used to increase dramatization in matches, it is also effective in describing the intensity of the emotions of the players and spectators. Peter Drury's use of hyperbole in the World Cup final reflects his skill in making commentary that is not only informative but also interesting and entertaining. However, judging from the data findings, although hyperbole is the second most common type of figurative language after metaphor, there is a decrease in its frequency of use from year to year, 6 (2014) > 3 (2018) > 2 (2022). This suggests an evolution in the style of the commentary or a change in audience preference. Another factor that may have influenced this is a shift in Peter Drury's commentary style towards more accurate and less exaggerated descriptions which could be an attempt to reduce sensationalism in football commentary.

Other types of figurative language such as personification, metonymy, simile, and irony only appear a few times in Peter Drury's commentaries on the three World Cup finals. This indicated Peter Drury's attempt to vary his commentary style and reflects a progression in the way he describes the game situation, rather than monotonously using only metaphor or hyperbole as the types of figurative language used by Peter Drury. Meanwhile, alliteration, onomatopoeia, litotes, and euphemisms were not found in Peter Drury's commentaries on the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup finals.

The use of alliteration in real-time commentary is too cumbersome and impractical as commentators have to choose words with the same sound in an instant. Abrams & Harpham (2015) state that this form of alliteration is more suitable in literary or poetic contexts, where the speaker has more time to choose words. In a live commentary, the main focus is speed and

efficiency, therefore alliteration is not found. Onomatopoeia is often used to convey specific sounds. In football commentary, the audience already hears sounds from the pitch such as the sound of the ball and the crowd cheering, so onomatopoeia is not needed to add sound effects.

The use of litotes in commentary can be deemed inappropriate as it does not adequately represent the great emotions that occur in the field. Similarly to euphemisms, in Abrams & Harpham's (2015) theory, euphemisms are more effective in situations where language must be kept polite or subtle, such as in formal communication or in certain social contexts. However, in an intense final match, commentators like Drury tend to choose direct and bold words to express the atmosphere, so euphemisms feel irrelevant or even reduce the impact of the comments they want to convey.

The results of this study are the same as the results of research by Wibowo (2021), Putra & Marlina (2024), Hadi (2019), and Luo (2024). The study also analyzed figurative language in football commentators and metaphors became the most dominant type. However, the results of research by Ramadhani (2024) showed that hyperbole was the most widely used type. Although there are some differences, it can be seen from this study that the types of metaphors and hyperbole are the most frequently used by football commentators, especially Peter Drury. In addition, this study also analyzed the meaning to see a broader and deeper context to understand how figurative language is used and interpreted.

The type of meaning frequently used by Peter Drury in the 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cup finals is connotative meaning. According to Leech (1985:12), connotative meaning is the additional communication significance that a word has beyond its merely conceptual content because of what it alludes to. Peter Drury's dominant use of connotative meaning reflects his skill in creating commentary that is not only informative but also highly engaging and emotional. It helps transform a football match into a rich and immersive narrative, enhancing the listening experience for the audience. In this study, connotative meaning being the most frequently found meaning is inseparable from metaphor which is also the most dominant in the category of figurative language types, as connotative meaning and metaphor are closely related in language as both involve the use of deeper or indirect meaning. Metaphors create a relationship between two concepts that are not literally related, and the connotative meaning attached to the word or phrase used in the metaphor enriches the interpretation of the relationship.

The second frequently used type of meaning by Peter Drury is affective meaning. As stated by Leech (1985:15), affective meanings are meanings that convey the speaker's emotions and attitudes, such as their level of sincerity, involvement, or evaluation of something. Affective meaning

allows Peter Drury to convey the emotional atmosphere of the match. The use of affective meaning also helps the listener or audience feel more emotionally involved in the match.

Other types of meaning such as social meaning consistently appeared in each year, albeit in small numbers. Conceptual meaning, thematic meaning, and collocative meaning only appeared in 2014 and were not found in subsequent years. This is because the characteristics of the matches in the 2018 and 2022 finals may be different, requiring a different approach in commenting on the matches. The situation on the pitch may be less suitable for the use of this type of meaning. Another reason is that Peter Drury may have refined the language style, focusing on the most effective types of meaning such as connotative meaning and affective meaning.

Of the seven types of meaning proposed by Leech, only reflective meaning was not found in this study. Real-time football commentary, especially on final matches, emphasizes clarity and emotional intensity. Leech (1985) states that the use of reflected meaning often carries indirect associations or secondary connotations, which may slow down audience comprehension or create confusion. In this context, Peter Drury chose words that directly reflected the events on the pitch and the emotions that were happening, without ambiguity or additional nuances that could interfere with the audience's understanding.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This study found six types of figurative language in Peter Drury's commentaries on the 2014, 2018 and 2022 World Cup finals, with metaphor being the most dominant type (32 out of 53 occurrences), followed by hyperbole. Metaphors proved effective in describing the action and emotions of the matches, making the commentary more engaging for the audience. Other types, such as personification, metonymy, simile, and irony, appeared in small numbers, while alliteration, onomatopoeia, lithotes, and euphemisms were not found.

In terms of meaning, connotative meaning is used most frequently (29 occurrences), reflecting Drury's ability to create an immersive and emotional narrative. This meaning has a close relationship with metaphor, as both use indirect associations to enrich interpretation.

For future research, it is recommended to analyze comments from other broadcasters for comparison in both types of figurative language and their meanings. The research can also be extended to other major matches such as the Champions League or Europa League to provide a more comprehensive insight into Peter Drury's language style.

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