

Ling 194 – Language and Sports

Assignment 3

Due February 27

Using NBA, NHL, and or NCAA basketball or volleyball, obtain footage of at least two player interviews, from a television or radio broadcast of a game. These interviews are likely to be found during intermissions or after games, as the players leave the bench to head to the locker room; they may also take place in the locker room following the game.

Transcribe the interview as fully as you can. Most such interviews are relatively brief, with perhaps four questions or so.

1. Describe as much as you can the extent to which the content of the players talk seems to be specific to the context of the game just played, and how much of it could instead be construed as structures which are possibly routine of this interview setting.
2. Note and attempt to quantify discourse marking structures such as “you know”, “like”, “obviously”, “well”, or anything else that appears in the players’ speech that qualifies. Where in each utterance do these structures fit?
3. Do the players also use any peripheral vocabulary, nicknames, or anything else noteworthy? Please describe in detail.