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Semantic Relation of the Football Supporter Names in Indonesia

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Abstract - This article aims to analyze the lingual aspects of Indonesian football supporters' names due to its potential to unravel the intricate interplay between language, social dynamics, and culture within this community. The data sources are Indonesian football supporters' names from 28 clubs of the 1st and 2nd 2022/2023 league competitions. The data source is quite representative because these leagues are the two best professional leagues with the largest number of supporters in Indonesia. The authors collected data using note-taking techniques from official club websites, official supporters' websites, media reports, and supporters' social media accounts. Moreover, the authors also interviewed supporters from two popular League 1 clubs, PSS Sleman and Persib Bandung. Interviews were conducted to validate the naming of supporters, the language origin, and the diversity of the supporter names. Data analysis was examined by identifying the morpheme elements, categorizing the formation of naming supporters, analyzing the lexical meaning of the names, and categorizing the meaning relation of the semantic markers in the supporters' names. Based on these findings, the authors identified trends in the semantic relations that are widely used in the naming of Indonesian supporters. The study findings show that the supporters' names are morphologically formed through abbreviations/acronyms, lexical borrowing, and compounding. Through semantic identification, there are three categories of semantic references in the supporters' names, namely the origin of the region and club, local culture, and military terms. In these three semantic references, the lexical choices such as mania, extreme, fanatik, brajamusti, and other military terms in the supporters' names show the tendency of ultras feelings and fanatism of the football fandom.

Keywords: Meaning Relation, Football Supporter Names, Semantics

I. INTRODUCTION

Language in the linguistic relativity concept is a representation of the way of thinking and forming human conceptions of reality. The realization of the use of language is manifested through various popular cultural products such as sports, music, art, fashion, and others. Football, as the sport with the most fans in the world, is one of the cultural products most favored by Indonesians. However, the widespread news

about football tragedies in Indonesia is repeated due to excessive fanaticism towards certain football groups. Many academics and journalists relate acts of violence in football to the fanatical attitudes and ultras sentiments of supporters (Sucahyo, 2022) (Aziz et al., 2022) (Belekubun, 2023). After post-reform Indonesia, football ultras groups often cause violent action (Fuller & Junaedi, 2018, p. 919). As one of the countries with the most football fans in the world (Ahdiat,

2022), Indonesian football fans have led to the founding of various supporter groups. Football clubs in Indonesia are identified with their fans, who establish a community or group of supporters for a particular club. As an indication of group identity, there is an interesting linguistic pattern to be studied in the naming of football supporters. With morphological and semantic analyses, this paper outlines the linguistic patterns in the naming of popular supporters in Indonesia.

Indonesian supporter names have various morphological forms and semantic references to different meanings. Not only nicknames but supporter names also have semantic relations and linguistic patterns that are interesting to study further. The nicknames of football supporters also represent the motivation, identity, and militancy of community members. For instance, some Indonesian football supporters' names are Semeton Dewata Bali United supporters, Bartman Barito Putera supporters, K-Conk Mania Madura United supporters, Bonek (Bondho Nekat) Persebaya Surabaya supporters, BCS (Brigata Curva Sud) PSS Sleman supporters and others. These supporter names have various lingual uniqueness, such as terms of morphology, lexicon choices, and semantic relations. These names used some morphological strategies, such as the abbreviation process for Bartman and Bonek, the abbreviation process for BCS, and the lexical borrowing process for Semeton Dewata. In addition, the use of lexicons such as mania 'maniac', nekat 'reckless', brigata 'brigade', semeton 'brothers', and other words shows a semantic tendency towards fan militancy in naming them. Thus, the names of these supporters have varied morphological patterns of word formation and phrases. Moreover, the semantic relations in the supporter names refer to various categories of referents with different meanings.

Semantic studies related to naming have been carried out extensively with various case studies and frameworks. Several semantic studies on naming places with the ecolinguistic approach were examined by Subayil (2017);ethnolinguistics by Maharani & Nugrahani (2019) and Rahayu (2018); and place toponymy by Muhidin (2021) and Mauliddian et al. (2022). In addition, semantic studies on enterprise names in various regions of Indonesia, for example, were carried out by Ambarwati (2020) and Dewi (2019). Moreover, semantic studies of various languages in Indonesia using a cognitive

linguistic approach were carried out Fatikhudin (2018). Relating to the study of naming in football sports, several studies are related to the toponymy of stadium names by Rusu (2022) and Gerhardt et al. (2021); the semantic study of the nicknames of football clubs by Mubarokh (2023) and Priyanto (2020). These previous studies use a semantic approach and semantic relations in analyzing various data sources such as geographical names, places and buildings, enterprise names, and terms in the football sport. Not only focusing on semantic identification, but the previous studies also examined various lingual aspects such as the identification of forms and lingual structures in the research of Subayil (2017), Rahayu (2018), and Ambarwati (2020); identification of semantic relations by Muhidin (2021), Rusu (2022), and Gerhardt et al. (2021); and identification of semantic changes and other socio-cultural factors by Mubarokh (2023), Dewi (2019), Priyanto and Fatikhudin (2018). With a (2020),morphological and semantic analysis framework as in previous studies, this research fills the gap of research data sources that have yet to be elaborated in detail and specifically in previous studies. Different from previous studies, in this article, the author offers novelty regarding a tendency for semantic relations that leads to the meaning of fanaticism in the names of football supporters in Indonesia.

This article focuses on the study of the morphological patterns and semantic relations of football supporters' names in Indonesia. Therefore, the authors use a morphological and semantic approach. The morphological approach is aimed at identifying word and phrase patterns in the names of football fans. Moreover, this approach is conducted to identify morphological elements in the data that consist of morphemes and words (Hassan, 2006, p. 2). Furthermore, the authors also identify the lexical borrowing from foreign languages in the names of Indonesian football supporters. According to Hassan (2006, pp. 300-301), the main factor of lexical borrowing in a certain language is (1) the absence of morphemic affixes and morphological aspects in the native language or (2) these aspects cannot fulfill the grammar functions. These two factors are the main causes of foreign lexical Indonesian regarding borrowing in morphological aspects. Indeed, lexical borrowing is part of the linguistic case of code-switching in speech communities. Lexical borrowing occurs when speakers mix two (or more) languages in a speech act without any language situation that requires the mixing of other languages (Nababan, 1986, p. 32). This article does not focus on the study of community speech acts, so the authors use a morphological approach to identify morphemes, words, or lexical borrowing phrases from other languages.

The results of the morphological description are the first step to identifying the football supporter names in the semantic relation. Based on the morphological description before, the football supporter names are identified on the semantic aspect to reveal the lexical relation of the names. The semantic meaning of words is not separated from the lingual aspect but has a meaningful relationship with other words. In this regard, each word has a field of meaning that is classified as still in the same realm. Wijana (2019a, p. 48) defines the field of meaning as the realm or field of meaning possessed by lexical items. Therefore, words have a certain field of meaning that can be categorized in a similar semantic realm. In these semantic relations, a lexical unit can belong to a semantic domain similar to other lexical items (Wijana, 2019a, p. 48). For example, kacer, starlings, rock magpies, eagles, and hummingbirds can be classified in the same semantic field, namely birds. Because the data in this article are words and phrases of the supporter names, the identification of the data is also related to the meaning relations in these words or phrases. These words or phrases of the football supporter names do not come from speakers' speech that is without certain context or free of meaning outside of these words/phrases. In this regard, it is necessary to identify the meaning relations in the words/phrases of the supporter names. Wijana (2019a, p. 27) states that "concerning other elements in speech, words also contribute to the elements that it is accompanied." The semantic meaning relates to the elements that precede or follow it (Wijana, 2019a, p. 27), so each word is not an element of meaning that can stand alone without a field of meaning combining semantic relations. Furthermore, this article aims to identify the meaning referent categories and the semantic relations tendencies in the football supporter names through the lexical relations and its semantic field of meaning.

II. METHODS

This article is qualitative descriptive research. Febriansyah (2020, p. 38) defines a qualitative descriptive method as the description

or conditioning of such a phenomenon that will be an issue that the writer is concerned about. This is a suitable method for identifying linguistic data with the aim of obtaining depth in the analyzed data sources. In this regard, Sugiyono (2019, p. 19) states that qualitative research is used to understand the meaning, understand uniqueness, construct phenomena, and find hypotheses. The research identification in qualitative methods refers to the search for meaning. understanding. concepts, characteristics, symptoms, symbols, descriptions of events through the data being analyzed (Yusuf in Shifa Urohmah, 2023, p. 33). Thus, the method is in line with the data sources, and this study aims to identify the semantic relation patterns in the names of football supporters in Indonesia.

In this article, the data sources were collected from football supporter names that are included in the Indonesian Football League 1 and 2 competitions for the 2022/2023 season. In total, there are 28 football clubs in League 1 and 2 for the competition of the 2022/2023 season. Moreover, some soccer clubs have several groups of supporters with different names, so some clubs have more than one name. The authors use the language research steps by Sudaryanto (2015, p. xii), namely (1) data provision, (2) data analysis, and (3) presentation of data analysis results. The provision of data is conducted through literature and tracking on the internet from official club websites, media reports, official supporters' websites, and supporters' social media accounts. The football supporter names criteria in this study are limited to the Indonesian Football League 1 and 2 competitions for the 2022/2023 season. In the Indonesian football league system, these two leagues are the best professional leagues that have the largest number of supporters. In the data collection process, the authors used interview techniques to confirm the data that had been collected from two football club supporters, PSS Sleman and Persib Bandung. The football supporters' names were then collected on a data card. In this regard, the provision of data is one of the main steps that influence the final results of qualitative research, particularly on the quality of research instruments (Sugiyono, 2019b, p. 293). In the next step, the authors analyze the data morphological and on semantic approaches. These two analytical approaches were used because the objective of this research focused on identifying the lingual aspects, both morphological and semantic, of naming

Indonesian football supporters. Not only identifying patterns of naming forms but morphological identification also is carried out because morphemic elements can be a reference for grammatical and lexical meaning (Suparman, 2008, pp. 4–5). In this article, morphological identification is an initial reference for further identification using a semantic approach to obtain meaning relations in the names of Indonesian football supporters. The study results of the Indonesian football supporter names are presented through narrative and descriptive techniques.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Naming Pattern of Indonesian Football Supporters

The results of morphological identification show that the names of Indonesian football names are formed in words or phrases. The word is the smallest free form that has meaning in language (O'Grady et al., 2010, p. 73). According to Wijana (2011, p. 77), a phrase is defined as a combination of words that have no functional limit. In this article, the authors divide the process of forming Indonesian football supporter names into three processes, namely (1) abbreviations and acronyms, (2) lexical borrowing, and (3) compounding.

1.1. Abbreviations and Acronyms

Identification of data on football supporter names on members of leagues 1 and 2 for the 2022/2023 season shows that there are names formed from abbreviations and acronyms process. O'Grady et al. (2010, p. 91) define an acronym as the creation of a new morpheme with the initial letter in a phrase or word. An abbreviation is a result of abbreviating (shortening) in the form of letters combinations of letters (KBBI, 2016a). For instance, the acronym process on supporter names is Bonek, the name of the Persebava Surabaya supporter. Bonek is an acronym for Bondho Nekat, which means reckless capital. Balsing, the football supporter name of the Perserang Serang Football Club, was also created from the acronym process. This name was created from the morphemes Bala Singandaru. Another example of an acronym is Bartman, which is the name of a supporter of the Barito Putera Football Club, supporters from Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan. The acronym Bartman is a combination of two morphemes, Barito and Mania. Barito refers to the name of the largest river in Indonesia, which is located in

Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan. This word often refers to several geographical areas in Central and South Kalimantan. These supporter names are created by citing syllables in each word, such as Bo (Bondo) + nek (nekat), Bart (Barito) + man (mania), and Bal (Bala) + (sing)Singandaru. Moreover, the names of some Indonesian football fans were also created from an abbreviation process. The football supporter names created from abbreviations are UPCS (Ultras Persikabo Curva Sud), LBV (Laskar Benteng Viola), LAJ (Laskar Ayam Jantan), PFC (Persatuan Sepak bola Medan Sekitarnya Fans Club), SKULL (Suporter Kutaraja Untuk Lantak Laju) and BSC (Brigata Curva Sud). These football supporter names are created by shortening (abbreviating) the initial letters of each word in the supporter name phrases.

1.2. Lexical Borrowing

Lexical borrowing is the process of forming new words or phrases by using different languages (O'Grady et al., 2010, p. 91). The results of the study on Indonesian football names show borrowing words from other languages. Not only in Indonesian, but several names of football supporters were also created from a lexical borrowing process. The football supporter names that use non-Indonesian languages, such as Sementon Dewata, Bobotoh, Pasoepati, Red Brigade, Brajamusti, The Maident, Curva Boys 1, Curva Nord 1954, Greentroops, Cimahi Football, and K-Conk [kacong] mania. The authors classify the forms of lexical borrowing based on the origin of supporters' names in two categories: (1) borrowing local/vernacular languages in Indonesia and (2) borrowing from foreign languages.

The naming process of football supporters derived from borrowing vernacular languages is identical to its football club origin. For instance, Semeton Dewata is derived from the Balinese language, which means brother of Dewata. In this regard, Dewata is the name for the island of Bali. Bobotoh is a Sundanese loan, which means fans or is a designation for football supporters (KBBI, 2016c). Terms and words of the football supporters' names are derived from the Javanese language, such as Pasoepati, Brajamusti. and Banaspati. The lexical borrowing from the Madurese language is Kacong [kacon], which has a spelling deviation of K-conk. This word is a nickname for young men in Madurese. Moreover, the lexical borrowing process of Indonesian supporter

names derived from foreign languages is from Italian and English. The names of football supporters that are derived from English borrowing words are Red Brigade, the name of the Persikat Kabupaten Tegal supporter; Red Gank, the name of the PSM Makassar supporter; The Maident, the name of the PSIM Yogyakarta supporter; Football and Cimahi Greentroops, the name of the Cimahi PSKC supporter. Furthermore, the football supporter names that derived from Italian borrowing words are Curva Nord 1954, the name of the Persijap Jepara supporter, and Brigata Curva Sud, the name of the PSS Sleman supporter.

1.3. Compounding

The supporter names were formed from the process of compounding consisting of two or more words that are shortened or combined. This shortened word is derived from two base morpheme elements that were put together. For instance, the football supporter names created from the compounding process are *Persikmania*, Aremania, Bharamania, and Karomania. These supporter names are created from two combined base morphemes. Persikmania, the supporter name of Persik Kediri Football Club, consists of combined words Persik + mania. Karomania, the supporter name of Karo United FC, is the compounding process of Karo and mania. Moreover, the compounding process of several supporter names is also concurrent with the clipping process. In morphology, the clipping process is the process of shortening a word by removing one or more syllables (O'Grady et al., 2010, p. 91). For instance, Aremania, the supporter name of Arema Malang Football Club, is derived from the morphemes Arema + mania, which removes the first syllable in the second morpheme. Bharamania, the supporter name of the Bhayangkara FC, is derived from the word Bhayangkara + mania, which is concurrently clipping the word Bhayangkara to become Bhara and compounding the word Bhara with mania to become Bharamania.

2. Semantic Relations of Indonesian Football Supporter Names

The study results of the data show that the Indonesian football supporter names relate to various naming references. Based on the previous identification of morphological aspects, the authors divide the main references to the supporter names based on the similarity of semantic relations. The similarities in semantic

relations are then categorized into three types: (1) place references and club origin, (2) cultural references, and (3) military term references. The authors relate the finding results of semantic relations in the naming of football supporters to the tendency of an excessive sense of belonging. Indeed, the lexicons of language are closely related to the collective consciousness of its speakers because of social product and an embodiment of convention (Saussure in Maharani & Nugrahani, 2019, p. 226). The selection of lexicons such as *extreme*, *mania*, *fanatik*, *brajamusti*, and military terms relate to the excessive social cognition of some football supporters and fanaticism.

2.1. Place References and Club Origin

Most Indonesian football supporters' names refer to regional references and club provenances. The regional references and club provenances in the football supporter names were either explicitly or implicitly stated. The supporter names that have regional references are Pusamania (Putra Samarinda Mania), Jakmania (Jakarta mania), Kabomania (Kabupaten Bogor Mania), Snex (Suporter Semarang Extreme), SKULL (Suporter Sukaraja untuk Lantak Laju), Spartacks (Suporter Padang dan Anak Rantau Cinta Kabau Sirah), Cimahi Football, LA Mania (Lamongan asli mania), Ultras Gresik, and Balistik (Balikpapan suporter fanatik). The references on these supporter names refer to the place or regional references of each club. The names of these football fans include the name of the region of origin explicitly in the phrases or words of the supporters. Semeton Dewata, the name of the Bali United supporter, has a regional reference with the inclusion of the word *Dewata*. The word *Dewata* is the nickname of Bali Island. Other supporter names that have direct references to the club origin are Bharamania (Bhayangkara mania) supporters of Bhavangkara FC. Bartman (Barito mania) supporters of Barito Putera FC, Raskandia supporters of RANS Nusantara FC, PFC (PSMS Fans Club) supporters of PSMS Medan, Anak Dewa, supporters of Dewa United Tangerang, Persikmania supporters of Persik Kediri, Karo mania supporters of Karo United, Persipura mania supporters of Persipura Jayapura, Persipal mania supporters of Persipal Palu, Lulugu Persikab supporters of Persikab Bandung, and Delta mania supporters of Deltras FC.

Supporter names that have direct references to the club of origin include the club

name in the acronym or phrase of the name of the supporter. Most of the supporters' names, including the place references and the club origin, use the word mania. Mania in KBBI (KBBI, 2016d) is a mental disorder characterized by excessive anger, anxiety, confusion, or confusion. Mania in Indonesian is an absorption word from English. Quoted from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word mania has been used in English vocabulary since the 14th century AD. The word is a derivative of Latin that is absorbed from the Greek mainesthai, which means to be mad, akin to Greek menos spirit (Merriam Webster, nd-c). The word is included in the names of football supporters as a metaphor for the totality of support from the football clubs'

2.2. Local Cultural References

The Indonesian football supporter names also have references to terms found in local culture. These local cultural references are the names of spells, myths or legends of spirits, and greetings in the vernacular language. For instance, Brajamusti, the name of the PSIM Yogyakarta supporter, has a meaning that is similar to one of the Javanese recitation spells. Brajamusti spell was known as an incantation that was used by the ancients to paralyze their opponents when fighting (Chandra & Pratama, 2022, p. 2). Moreover, the names of Indonesian football fans also reference the football supporter's names to mythical spirits. Banaspati, the name of the Persijap Jepara supporter, has a meaning that is related to one of the ghosts in Java. In Javanese folklore, Banaspati is described as a ghost in the form of a fire wisp or a flaming vortex of flying fire (Media, 2022). Another reference that refers to local culture is the Madura United supporter's name, K-conk Mania. K-conk is a pronunciation deviation from the word Kacong [kacon]. Kacong is a greeting word for young men in Madura.

2.3. Military Term References

The identification results of the semantic relations on some of the Indonesian football supporter names find military term references. Several lexical borrowings are military terms in Indonesian football supporter names. Not only in Indonesian or Malay, military terms in Indonesian football supporters are also derived from English and Italian. The use of English and Italian terms is a form of the strong influence of history, discourse, and culture by English and

Italian-speaking countries in football sports. The interference forms of foreign terms in Indonesian speakers refer to the sense of exclusivity, prescriptivism, or the absence of word references in Indonesian. This is in line with research on foreign language interferences in various case studies, such as the naming of public notice boards by Sahril et al. (2019) and enterprise names by Wijana (2019). In this regard, foreign language interference constitutes the dominance of football sports in English- and Italian-speaking countries.

Indonesian supporter names that use military terms in Indonesian or Malay language are Laskar Benteng Viola (LBV), the name of the Persita Tangerang supporter, Laskar Ayam Jantan (LAJ), the name of the PSM Makassar supporter, and Asykar Theking, the name of the PSPS Riau supporter. In Indonesian, Laskar means soldiers; soldier group; or troops (KBBI, 2016d). The word Asykar in the phrase Asykar Theking, the name of PSPS Riau supporter, is Malay, which means *troops*, similar to *Laskar* in Indonesian (Abdi, 2019, p. 8). In Riau, the word theking in this phrase is a nickname for someone stubborn, unyielding, and relentless in achieving something (Abdi, 2019, p. 8). Other supporter names that use military terms in Indonesian are Panzer Biru and the PSIS Semarang supporter. The military term *Panser* in this phrase means an armored vehicle used by the armed forces (KBBI, 2016f).

There are military terms in English, such as *Greentroops*, the names of PSKC Cimahi supporter, and *Red Brigade*, the name of Persekat Tangerang supporter. The word troops in the compounding words Greentroops (green + troops) means a group of soldiers or a cavalry unit corresponding to an infantry company (Merriam Webster, nd-b). Moreover, the word brigade in the phrase the name of the Red supporter means tactical administrative units consisting of headquarters, one or more infantry or armor units, and support units (Merriam Webster, nd-a). Historically, the word Brigade in English is an absorption word from the Italian Brigata, which has a similar meaning (Merriam Webster, nd-a). The Italian language Brigata is used by PSS Sleman supporters with the name Brigata Curva Sud. In literally, this phrase means the troops of the southern tribunes. Brigata Curva Sud, the name of the PSS Sleman supporter, is more popular with the abbreviation BCS. The influence of Italian lexical borrowing in various football

terms is closely related to the history of the football ultra-supporter movement in Italy in the 1950s. The ultra-supporters movement is often associated with extreme support, thuggishness, and even violence (Pantelick, 2022). The choices of Indonesian supporter names that have semantic relations with military terms are related to the perceptions and social cognitive aspects of the group. In this regard, Chandler (in Maharani & Nugrahani, 2019, p. 226) states that the language lexicon is a representation of the speakers' concepts and abstractions, such as cognition, culture. or historical social background. The results of this research study provide a similar view regarding the ultrafandom football culture in Indonesia as the research examined by Fuller & Junaedi (2018). The previous analysis indicates that the naming patterns of supporters refer to the tendency of ultra-culture and fanaticism values in the discourse of football sports in Indonesia.

IV. CONCLUSION

The results of this study found that Indonesian football supporter names have morphological and semantic lingual patterns. The morphological pattern is shown by the naming formation process, which uses at least three ways of forming names. Meanwhile, the semantic elements in the names of football supporters refer to the tendency of excessive militancy in three categories of semantic relations. The study results found that Indonesian football supporter names have morphological and semantic lingual patterns. The morphological pattern is shown by the naming formation process, which uses at least three ways of forming names. Meanwhile, the semantic elements in the names of football supporters refer to the tendency of excessive militancy in three categories of semantic relations. In the morphological identification of naming structure, there are three categories of Indonesian football supporter names: (1) abbreviations and acronyms, (2) borrowing, and (3) compounding. Moreover, the identification results of the semantic aspects show the semantic relations between referents that have similar categories. These semantic relations found in the names of Indonesian football supporters are (1) regional and club references, (2) local cultural references, and (3) military term references. Furthermore, the study results on semantic relations indicate a relation meaning to the names of the regions and clubs' origin. Moreover, the use of terms such as mania,

extreme, ultras, brajamusti, and other military terms in the football supporter names indicate that Indonesian football fans are emphasized to be militant in the group. Thus, it is an indication that some Indonesian football fans have excessive fanaticism for football clubs. In this regard, the lingual patterns in naming football supporters as a socio-cultural product of the speaker refer to the tendency of the speaker's social cognition, which is often influenced by fanaticism. Not only showing designations, but linguistic artifacts manifested in naming football supporters can also be a representation of social cognition, communal identity, and the culture of the community. The generalization in this study is limited to the data source of naming supporters from Indonesian football clubs participating in the League 1 and 2 competitions for the 2022/2023 season. Further linguistic research can use wider data sources and corpus. Future research can be conducted to identify the group values, ideology, and culture of Indonesian football supporters in a wider discourse. Further linguistic research on semantic relations on the football supporter names in Indonesia can explore both the breadth and depth of the data more. Further research could benefit from a more extensive and diverse collection of data sources, including but not limited to fan forums, social media discussions, matchday chants, and supporter-created content. A broader corpus that spans various platforms and communication channels will provide a more comprehensive view of linguistic expressions and cultural references embedded in the discourse of Indonesian football supporters. Moreover, qualitative interviews with active supporters can be employed to gain deeper insights into the underlying values and ideologies of football supporter groups. Researchers may conduct in-depth interviews with representatives from different supporter communities, allowing for a nuanced exploration of the motivations, beliefs, and cultural influences that shape the linguistic choices and expressions within the football supporter landscape.

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