

A STUDY OF SPORTS TERMS IN WORLD LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: The article is devoted to the study of sports terminology in world linguistics, and it systematically covers the current state of the study of sports terminology, the main scientific trends, methodological approaches, and relevant issues. The article aims to reveal the dynamic role of language in society, emphasizing the place of sports terminology in professional communication, social integration, and cultural interaction.

Keywords: sports terminology, world linguistics, comparative, research, international, terminology, assimilation, adaptation, standardization, and nationalization.

SPORT TERMINLARINING JAHON TILSHUNOSLIGIDAGI TADQIQI

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Qarshi davlat universiteti mustaqil tadqiqotchisi

Annotatsiya: Maqola sport terminlarining jahon tilshunosligidagi tadqiqi mavzusiga bag'ishlangan bo'lib, unda sport terminologiyasini o'rganishning zamonaviy holati, asosiy ilmiy yo'nalishlari, metodologik yondashuvlari va dolzarb masalalari tizimli ravishda yoritilgan. Maqola sport terminologiyasining professional kommunikatsiya, ijtimoiy integratsiya va madaniy o'zaro ta'sirdagi o'rnini ta'kidlab, tilning jamiyat hayotidagi dinamik rolini ochib berishga qaratilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: sport terminologiyasi, jahon tilshunosligi, qiyosiy, tadqiqot, baynalmilal, termin, o'zlashtirish, moslashuv, standartlashtirish, milliyashtirish.

ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ СПОРТИВНЫХ ТЕРМИНОВ В МИРОВОЙ
ЛИНГВИСТИКЕ

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Аннотация: Статья посвящена теме исследования спортивной терминологии в мировой лингвистике, в ней систематически освещаются современное состояние изучения спортивной терминологии, основные научные направления, методологические подходы и актуальные вопросы. Статья направлена на раскрытие динамичной роли языка в жизни общества, подчеркивая место спортивной терминологии в профессиональном общении, социальной интеграции и культурном взаимодействии.

Ключевые слова: спортивная терминология, мировая Лингвистика, сравнительная, исследовательская, Интернациональная, терминология, ассимиляция, адаптация, стандартизация, национализация.

Introduction. Sports terminology frequently assumes an international character, being adopted in numerous languages with virtually no significant phonetic or orthographic modification from the original form. For instance, tennis terms such as “game”, “set”, and “break” are used in various languages including Uzbek, Russian, Tajik, and many others-either in a form closely resembling the English original or directly as English borrowings. This



widespread pattern clearly demonstrates their universal and highly standardized nature. Analyses consistently show that instances of lexical borrowing in sports terminology occur with markedly higher frequency than in other specialized domains (such as medical, legal, or technical terminologies). The principal factors driving this elevated rate of loanword adoption are the following:

- the commercial globalization of sport (professional leagues, sponsorship agreements, broadcasting rights, and media rights deals);
- cultural globalization (dissemination through the Olympic Games, world championships, global media coverage, and social networking platforms);
- the imperative necessity of employing a unified terminological system in international competitions.

Collectively, these factors ensure the exceptionally rapid, extensive, and largely unresisted dissemination of sports terms across linguistic boundaries. This accelerated and frictionless spread is particularly characteristic of sports terminology due to its close association with globally regulated, highly visible, and economically powerful activities. The dominance of English as the working language of major international sports federations (FIFA, IOC, ITF, FIBA, etc.), combined with the requirement for precise and uniform rule interpretation in multilingual competitive environments, strongly favors the retention of original (predominantly English) forms over the creation of indigenous equivalents in most cases.

In addition, the process of adapting borrowed terms to native languages often involves semantic expansion, parallel use, or binary use. For example, in the Uzbek language, the term "penalty" is actively used in two forms: the directly adopted form "penalty" (predominant in international competitions and professional environments) and its full translation, "free kick" (common in media, educational literature, and local contexts). This demonstrates the inherent adaptability of languages and the potential for creating a national term in a globalized world.

Literature review. From a scientific perspective, such processes provide exceptionally valuable empirical material for investigating the interlinguistic dynamics of terminology – that is, the mechanisms of cross-linguistic interaction, borrowing, adaptation, semantic transformation, and standardization across languages. Sports lexis merits in-depth analysis not only within the narrow framework of pure linguistics, but also from the perspectives of sociolinguistics, cultural anthropology, and pragmalinguistics.

In the study by V.R.Bogoslovskaya[1] these aspects are not the central theme; nevertheless, they are extensively illustrated through secondary examples. Her work makes a significant contribution to understanding the mechanisms of cross-linguistic transfer and adaptation of sports terminology by examining the structural-semantic and functional integration processes of sports terms in English and Russian. Through this analysis, the author demonstrates the dynamics of borrowed lexicon under conditions of globalization, thereby shedding light on the broader role of sports vocabulary not only in linguistics but also in the cultural and communicative processes of contemporary society. This research effectively positions sports terminology as a privileged domain for studying how global cultural flows, professional standardization, and media dissemination interact with local linguistic systems to produce hybrid yet functionally stable terminological layers in multiple languages.

Research Methodology. Analyses have revealed that the principal directions in the worldwide study of sports terminology can be identified as follows:

- a) substantiation of the terminological status of specialized lexical units specific to the field of sport, and theoretical justification of their status as a distinct microsystem (terminological subsystem) within the overall lexical system of language;



- b) in-depth elucidation of the linguistic characteristics of sports terms – namely their lexicosemantic, grammatical, structural, derivational, and etymological dimensions;
- d) comparative investigation of sports terms, involving the contrastive analysis of equivalents across different languages, processes of borrowing and adaptation, as well as mechanisms and degrees of international standardization;
- e) identification and utilization of sports terms in certain studies as a secondary (auxiliary) object of research, in which capacity they function as confirmatory evidence or illustrative material supporting the analysis of a primary linguistic phenomenon or process.

These four main research orientations comprehensively reflect the multifaceted development of sports terminology studies in contemporary linguistics, encompassing both theoretical systematization and applied contrastive, sociolinguistic, and standardization-oriented approaches. These research directions serve not only to delineate the position of sports terminology within linguistics but also to illuminate its significant role in processes of globalization, standardization, and interlinguistic dynamics.

Studies of the first type have made a fundamental contribution by scientifically substantiating the terminological nature of specialized lexical units specific to the domain of sport and elevating them to the status of an independent and distinct object of investigation within the field of terminology. Works in this direction have provided a clear demarcation of sports lexis from ordinary general-language vocabulary. Through rigorous argumentation, they have confirmed the core characteristics of terms – precision, monoreferentiality (univocity), systematic interconnectedness, and functional restrictedness – thereby laying the theoretical foundation for the establishment of sports terminology as an autonomous subfield within the broader discipline of terminological science.

The second group of studies is oriented toward defining the place and functions of sports terms within the language system, as well as toward in-depth examination of their historical formation processes, developmental stages, internal structure, and contemporary dynamics. This line of research systematically addresses such issues as the mechanisms of term emergence, the position occupied by sports terms within the overall lexical system of the language, their diachronic and synchronic evolution, and their role in professional communication. As a result, these investigations have effectively revealed both the degree of integration of sports terminology into the language system and its remarkable capacity for rapid adaptation to societal and cultural changes. Collectively, these complementary research orientations have contributed substantially to a more comprehensive understanding of sports terminology as a highly dynamic, globally oriented, and socioculturally sensitive terminological subsystem.

The third line of research focuses on the comparative analysis of sports terms across different languages, with the aim of addressing a number of key tasks: identifying the causes and mechanisms of their borrowing, tracing the pathways of dissemination of international terms, evaluating the possibilities for nationalization (creation of indigenous equivalents) in local languages, and measuring the degree of interlingual interaction and mutual influence. These studies serve to achieve a balanced relationship between, on the one hand, the international terminological system that has formed under the dominant influence of English in the context of globalization, and, on the other hand, the specific lexical resources and expressive capacities of national languages. At the same time, they contribute to the development of effective strategies for both international standardization and local adaptation of terminology. In essence, this direction of research occupies a central place in contemporary contrastive and contact linguistics applied to terminology. It not only documents the asymmetrical flow of terminological influence in the era of global English dominance but also provides practical tools for language planning,



terminological policy, and the preservation of linguistic diversity within globally unified professional domains such as sport.

Analysis and results. In studies belonging to the fourth direction, the status of sports terminology as a distinct and independent microsystem within the general lexicon is demonstrated with greater clarity and supported by robust evidence. Through in-depth analysis of the internal systemic organization of terms, their functional characteristics, the degree of mutual interdependence, and the specific features that differentiate them from other terminological systems, these investigations firmly establish sports terminology as an autonomous subsystem. Collectively, these four principal research directions reflect the gradual and systematic development of sports terminology studies in world linguistics. Each direction contributes significantly to enriching the theoretical foundations of the field, expanding the empirical database, and advancing the understanding of key issues such as globalization, standardization, interlingual contact, and professional communication.

As a result, sports terminology is increasingly recognized not only as a linguistic phenomenon but also as a dynamic and complex system worthy of thorough investigation in the domains of sociolinguistics, cultural studies, and pedagogy. The study of sports terminology in world linguistics vividly demonstrates the organic and dynamic interconnection between language and societal life. These investigations show that the lexical system of language does not merely reflect social, cultural, and economic changes but actively and sensitively incorporates them with remarkable speed. The domain of sport serves as one of the most striking illustrations of this process, since it is a field that develops on a global scale, gains mass popularity, and continuously introduces new concepts, technologies, and rules – thereby serving as a powerful testing ground for the adaptive capacity of language.

These studies underscore the central role of terminology not only in reflecting scientific and technological progress but also in expressing cultural, social, and mass communicative processes. Sports terms serve as an effective instrument of professional communication while simultaneously functioning as an important arena for social integration: they unite representatives of different nations, cultures, and social groups within a shared semantic space, ensuring common understanding of concepts and rules through a unified linguistic medium.

The principal directions in which these investigations have developed include the following:

- scientific substantiation of the terminological status of specialized lexical units belonging to sports lexis and their confirmation as an integral component of the terminological system;
- comprehensive elucidation of the linguistic properties of sports terms (lexico-semantic structure, morphological formation, syntactic relations, derivational models, and etymological origins);
- contrastive analysis of sports terms across different languages, including comparison of the pathways of their borrowing, degrees of equivalence, and processes of international standardization.

These complementary research orientations collectively highlight the multifaceted nature of sports terminology as both a highly specialized linguistic subsystem and a powerful socio-cultural phenomenon that actively participates in the construction of global professional discourse and cross-cultural understanding in the contemporary world.

Research conducted in Russian, English, and Central Asian (Uzbek, Tajik, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and other languages) linguistics systematically and comprehensively covered the mechanisms of the formation of sports terms, the stages of historical development, and the processes of modern standardization. These studies not only revealed the specific approaches of national linguistic schools, but also demonstrated their interaction. One of the most significant findings is that the



processes of assimilation and adaptation in sports terminology have been significantly accelerated by globalization. The dominant position of English in international sports communication, its spread through the Olympic movement, professional leagues, global media, and digital platforms, has led to the widespread and rapid adoption of sports terms internationally. Many terms (goal, Offside, set, Rally, Knockout, penalty, etc.) have been adopted in most languages in almost unchanged form and have become universal lexical units. At the same time, the processes of creating national equivalents and semantic adaptation continue in parallel in local languages. This fact clearly demonstrates the inherent ability of languages to adapt, the possibility of preserving national identity even in the context of globalization, and the relevance of terminological policy.

Conclusion/Recommendations. Thus, the study of sports terminology not only enriches the terminological section of linguistics, but also provides an important empirical and theoretical basis for understanding the role of language in society, the linguistic consequences of globalization, the mechanisms of professional communication, and the processes of cultural interaction. These studies once again prove that language is not only a passive reflector, but also an active participant and a shaping tool.

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