

SEMANTIC FEATURES OF SPORTS TERMS

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Abstract: This article analyzes the semantic features of sports terms from a linguistic perspective. The article aims to identify the specific patterns of the semantic structure of sports terminology, as well as to indicate the directions of the semantic development of sports terminology in the modern Uzbek language.

Keywords: sports terms, semantic characteristics, terminology, lexical-semantic analysis, polysemy, metaphor, metonymy, Uzbek language, international terms, semantic adaptation, sports vocabulary.

СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ СПОРТИВНЫХ ТЕРМИНОВ

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Аннотация: В данной статье анализируются семантические особенности спортивных терминов с лингвистической точки зрения. Статья направлена на выявление специфических закономерностей семантической структуры спортивной терминологии, а также на указание направлений семантического развития спортивной терминологии в современном узбекском языке.

Ключевые слова: спортивные термины, семантические характеристики, терминология, лексико-семантический анализ, многозначность, метафора, метонимия, узбекский язык, международные термины, семантическая адаптация, спортивная лексика.

SPORT TERMINLARINING SEMANTIK XUSUSIYATLARI

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Annonatsiya: Ushbu maqolada sport terminlarining semantik xususiyatlari tilshunoslik nuqtai nazaridan tahlil qilinadi. Maqola sport terminologiyasining semantik tuzilishidagi o'ziga xos qonuniyatlarni aniqlashga, shuningdek, zamonaviy o'zbek tilida sportga oid terminlarning semantik rivojlanish yo'nalishlarini ko'rsatishga qaratilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: sport terminlari, semantik xususiyatlar, terminologiya, leksik-semantik tahlil, polisemiya, metafora, metonimiya, o'zbek tili, xalqaro terminlar, semantik moslashuv, sport leksikasi.

Introduction. The field of sports occupies a significant place in humanity's physical health and socio-cultural development, while also serving as one of the most vivid and dynamic manifestations of the mutual interaction between language and culture. Contemporary sports terminology in the Uzbek language is being formed amid the rapid advancement of global sports culture, the widespread popularization of international competitions and the Olympic movement,

as well as the preservation, development, and international promotion of national sports disciplines (particularly traditional ones such as kurash).

Sports terms play an important role as a linguistic, cultural, and social instrument in enriching the lexical resources of the Uzbek language, deepening international communication and cooperation, and at the same time preserving and strengthening national cultural identity. The classical approaches of terminology theory and practice – such as the precision and systematicity of terms, mechanisms of term formation (transliteration, calquing, borrowing, semantic adaptation), principles of dictionary compilation, and standardization rules – are extensively covered in the literature. These works provide a solid theoretical foundation for understanding terminological methodology and its application to the sports domain.

Numerous studies have empirically demonstrated that language contact, external cultural influences, and technological factors (especially mass media and the Internet) play a decisive role in the dissemination and assimilation of loanwords. In sports terminology, the dominant influence of English-language terms stands out particularly, along with their rapid and widespread dissemination through mass media, digital platforms, and international sports events.

Literature review. Practical mechanisms developed within the framework of national language policy by standardization institutions (terminological commissions, terminology departments of the Academy of Sciences, and other bodies), procedures for term selection and approval, normative documents, and recommendations are discussed. At the same time, international terminology standards (recommendations of organizations such as ISO/TC 37 and other global norms in terminological work) exert considerable influence on national terminological systems and norms, underscoring the necessity of maintaining a balance between national and international terminology in the context of globalization[1].

This article is devoted to a scholarly-theoretical and empirical analysis of the formation of sports terminology in the Uzbek language, processes of linguistic adaptation, standardization practices, and their impact on trends toward international integration, thereby illuminating the complex equilibrium between globalization processes and the preservation of national identity.

Studies on the structural features of terminological dictionary compilation, the degree of precision in term definitions, and methodologies for handling bilingual equivalents yield practical recommendations and methodological guidelines for lexicographic practice. Analysis of sports-domain dictionaries commonly identifies the coexistence of alternative forms expressing the same concept, synonymous pairs, and regionally differentiated variants.

Corpus-driven analyses of sports terminology in various languages, media monitoring initiatives, as well as research grounded in sociological surveys and expert evaluations, are available and supply valuable empirical insights into the pace of sports term adoption, frequency of contextual usage, and levels of societal acceptance. A review of the existing literature reveals that the processes of sports terminology influx into the Uzbek language, along with its systematic standardization and normalization – particularly from the standpoint of corpus-based empirical investigation and integration into national lexicographic systems – remain insufficiently explored in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

Research Methodology. In light of this gap, the present article applies core principles of language contact theory and general terminology theory specifically to the sports domain. By integrating corpus analysis with expert evaluation methods, it offers a detailed exposition of the adaptation mechanisms operative in Uzbek. Drawing on national standardization practices and international terminological recommendations (such as those from ISO/TC 37 and related bodies), the study reformulates lexicographic principles into concrete, actionable proposals.

Ultimately, the research aims to fill identified lacunae in the development and standardization of sports terminology in Uzbek, propose an integrated empirically grounded

framework, and establish a practical foundation for preserving and advancing national terminological heritage amid globalization processes.

Sports terminology enters and is assimilated into the Uzbek language primarily through three main channels:

1. **Direct international borrowings** (predominantly from English) – driven by globalization processes, international competitions, the Olympic movement, and the strong influence of mass media. Such terms are typically adopted with minimal phonetic and morphological modification: football → futbol, basketball → basketbol, marathon → marafon, tennis → tennis (with slight adjustments in pronunciation)[2].

2. **Mediated borrowings via Russian** – a layer formed mainly through linguistic and cultural contacts during the Soviet period, whereby terms passed from Russian into Uzbek: gandbol (from Rus. гандбол), boks (from бокс), chempionat (from чемпионат), shtanga (from штанга). These terms are often adapted to Uzbek phonology through an intermediate Russian form.

3. **Indigenous formation and calquing** — the creation of new terms or semantic/structural translations of foreign concepts by drawing on the internal lexical-morphological resources of Uzbek: goalkeeper → darvozabon (darvoza ‘goal’ + -bon ‘keeper/guardian’), penalty → jarima zarbasi (jarima ‘penalty’ + zarba ‘kick/shot’), offside → ofsayd or nojoiz holat (‘invalid/offside position’), forward → hujumchi (‘attacker’), back → himoyachi (‘defender’)[3].

The phonetic-morphological adaptation (integration) of foreign terms into Uzbek exhibits the following key characteristics:

1. **Phonetic simplification and transcription:** Sounds absent in Uzbek phonology (e.g., English /ʊ/, /θ/, /ð/) are replaced by the closest Uzbek phonemes — football → futbol (ʊ → u, with retention or softening of final /l/); rugby → ragbi or robgi (regional variants showing /g/ → /b/ alternation); volleybol → voleybol (v retained, but syllables restructured to fit Uzbek pronunciation patterns).

2. **Syllable structure and additional elements:** To conform to Uzbek syllabic preferences (predominantly open syllables), epenthetic vowels may be inserted or segments shortened — basketball → basketbol (final /t/ retained, syllables adjusted to open forms); sprint → sprint or sprinter (with the derivational suffix -chi for agent nouns).

3. **Script and transcription variations:** Following the post-independence transition to the Latin alphabet, many terms underwent orthographic changes – Cyrillic “футбол” became Latin “futbol”; however, certain terms (e.g., “чемпионат” → chempionat) retain parallel usage of older and newer variants, contributing to variability and posing challenges for standardization.

Analysis and results. These adaptation processes not only enrich the lexical inventory of Uzbek but also play a crucial role in developing national term-formation capabilities and maintaining equilibrium between alignment with international standards and the preservation of cultural-linguistic identity. Research indicates that while English anglicisms predominate due to global dominance in sports, indigenous calques and derivational strategies (via affixation) serve as effective means for safeguarding national identity.

Sports terminology integrates deeply and effectively into the morphological system of the Uzbek language. This process occurs through the adaptation of borrowed lexical units to the language’s distinctive derivational (word-formation) and inflectional (grammatical modification) patterns, vividly demonstrating the high degree of adaptability inherent in Uzbek.

Inflectional morphology Borrowed terms readily accept the full range of Uzbek inflectional affixes (plural, case, possession, etc.) and perform all required syntactic functions within sentences:

1. Plural forms: futbolchilar ('football players'), voleybolchilar ('volleyball players'), sprinterlar ('sprinters').

2. Case and locative forms: chempionatlarda ('in championships'), musobaqalarda ('in competitions'), terminda ('in the term / in terminology'), federatsiyaga ('to the federation')[3].

This seamless integration ensures that adopted terms become fully embedded in the grammatical structure of the language and function syntactically without restriction.

The morphological adaptation and further development of sports terminology are significantly shaped by several socio-linguistic factors:

Language prestige and internal hierarchy The global dominance and high prestige of English in the domain of sports promote the rapid spread and preferential adoption of English-based or English-derived forms, often conferring them an advantage over proposed native calques or fully Uzbek equivalents.

Mass media and digital communication channels Television and online broadcasts, social media networks, digital sports platforms, as well as the activities of international bodies such as FIFA, the IOC, and UEFA, serve as primary catalysts for the global dissemination and gradual standardization of specific terminological variants through international sports discourse[4].

Education and institutional structures National sports federations, higher sports education institutions, schools, coaches, and instructors play a decisive role in establishing, promoting, and enforcing normative and official terminological usage, thereby contributing to the formation of a uniform terminological culture among younger generations.

Ultimately, the interplay between morphological integration and socio-linguistic factors enables sports terminology in Uzbek to undergo dynamic development even under conditions of globalization, while successfully preserving its distinctive lexical-morphological identity. This phenomenon clearly illustrates the language's remarkable adaptability, functional expansion, and ability to maintain a balanced equilibrium between global integration and the safeguarding of national cultural-linguistic identity.

Sports terminology serves as one of the key sources for expanding and enriching the lexical resources of the Uzbek language. The processes of linguistic adaptation of these terms (phonetic, morphological, and semantic integration), their standardization, and their integration into the international terminological system hold significant current and strategic importance from the perspective of contemporary language development.

Conclusion/Recommendations. The establishment of a unified terminological policy, the activities of national standardization institutions (terminological commissions, terminology departments of the Academy of Sciences, and related bodies), as well as the compilation of high-quality explanatory and specialized terminological dictionaries – including those dedicated to the sports domain and bilingual terminological resources – play a decisive role in effectively guiding, regulating, and enhancing the functional capacity of these processes.

This approach takes into account the dominant influence of international (predominantly English) terms under conditions of globalization, while simultaneously aiming to preserve national lexical-morphological characteristics, promote the development of indigenous equivalents and calques, and ensure the precision, systematicity, and consistency of the terminology.

As a result, sports terminology not only broadens the lexical inventory of the language but also functions as an important linguistic instrument for strengthening national cultural identity and enabling effective participation in international communication.

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