



Linguopragmatic properties of sports terms in English and Uzbek and their communicative functions

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates the linguopragmatic properties of sports terminology in English and Uzbek, with particular attention to their communicative functions in professional discourse, sports journalism, and everyday conversations. Sports discourse today plays a significant role in shaping global and local communication, serving not only as a medium of technical description but also as a cultural and emotional phenomenon. Through a comparative analysis of semantic, cultural, and pragmatic aspects, the study highlights how sports terms function as instruments of information transfer, tools of motivation, and markers of social and national identity. While English sports terminology often reflects globalized practices and media traditions, Uzbek sports vocabulary demonstrates the influence of historical borrowings, cultural norms, and national values. The findings confirm that sports terminology carries universal functions – informing, motivating, and uniting communities – yet its realization is closely connected to the unique sociocultural, historical, and linguistic environment of each language, offering valuable insights for intercultural communication.

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Инглиз ва о'zbek тилларида спорт терминларининг лингвопрагматик хусусиятлари ва уларнинг коммуникатив функциялари

Калит со'злар:

Спорт терминологияси,
лингвопрагматик таҳлил,
қийосий тилшунослик,
коммуникатив функциялар,
спорт нутқи,
ижтимоий-маданий контекст,
маданиятлараро мулоқот.

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqolada ingliz va o'zbek tillarida sport terminologiyasining lingvopragmatik xususiyatlari o'rganilib, ularning professional nutq, sport jurnalistikasi va kundalik suhbatlardagi kommunikativ funksiyalariga alohida e'tibor qaratilgan. Bugungi kunda sport nutqi global va mahalliy muloqotni shakllantirishda muhim rol o'ynaydi, nafaqat texnik tavsif vositasi, balki madaniy va hissiy hodisa sifatida ham xizmat qiladi. Semantik, madaniy va pragmatik jihatlarni qiyosiy ta'hlil qilish orqali tadqiqot sport atamalarining axborot uzatish vositalari, motivatsiya vositalari va ijtimoiy va milliy o'ziga xoslik belgilari sifatida qanday ishlashini ta'kidlaydi. Ingliz sport terminologiyasi ko'pincha globallashtirish amaliyotlar va media an'alarini aks ettirsa, o'zbek sport lug'ati tarixiy o'zlashmalar, madaniy me'yorlar va milliy qadriyatlarning ta'sirini ko'rsatadi. Topilmalar shuni tasdiqlaydiki, sport terminologiyasi hamjamiyatlarni xabardor qilish, rag'batlantirish va birlashtiruvchi universal funksiyalarni bajaradi, ammo uning amalga oshirilishi har bir tilning o'ziga xos ijtimoiy-madaniy, tarixiy va lingvistik muhiti bilan chambarchas bog'liq bo'lib, madaniyatlararo muloqot uchun qimmatli tushunchalarni beradi.

Лингвопрагматические свойства спортивных терминов в английском и узбекском языках и их коммуникативные функции

Ключевые слова:

спортивная терминология,
лингвопрагматический
анализ,
сравнительное
языкознание,
коммуникативные
функции,
спортивный дискурс,
социокультурный
контекст,
межкультурная
коммуникация.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье исследуются лингвопрагматические свойства спортивной терминологии в английском и узбекском языках, особое внимание уделяется её коммуникативным функциям в профессиональном дискурсе, спортивной журналистике и повседневном общении. Спортивный дискурс сегодня играет значительную роль в формировании глобальной и локальной коммуникации, выступая не только средством технического описания, но и культурным и эмоциональным феноменом. Посредством сравнительного анализа семантических, культурных и прагматических аспектов исследование выявляет, как спортивные термины функционируют как инструменты передачи информации, инструменты мотивации и маркеры социальной и национальной идентичности. В то время как английская спортивная терминология часто отражает

глобализированную практику и традиции СМИ, узбекская спортивная лексика демонстрирует влияние исторических заимствований, культурных норм и национальных ценностей. Результаты подтверждают, что спортивная терминология выполняет универсальные функции – информирует, мотивирует и объединяет сообщества, – однако её реализация тесно связана с уникальной социокультурной, исторической и языковой средой каждого языка, что предоставляет ценную информацию для межкультурной коммуникации.

INTRODUCTION

Sports discourse has become a vital component of global communication, influencing media, education, and interpersonal interaction. Sports terms function not only as technical vocabulary but also as cultural markers and pragmatic tools that convey emotional, motivational, and social meanings. In multilingual contexts such as English and Uzbek, the study of linguopragmatic properties provides insights into how language and culture interact within sports communication. Sports discourse has evolved into one of the most powerful forms of global communication. It transcends national borders, linguistic boundaries, and cultural differences, uniting people in shared experiences of competition, achievement, and identity. Today, sporting language is not confined to the field or arena; it permeates journalism, educational programs, political rhetoric, and even everyday conversation. For instance, expressions such as *“fair play,” “team spirit,”* or *“knockout stage”* have become common beyond sports contexts, reflecting how deeply sports discourse influences global communication practices.

This article aims to investigate the communicative functions of sports terms in English and Uzbek, focusing on their pragmatic roles in motivating athletes, informing audiences, and shaping cultural identity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Scholars in linguistics and pragmatics (Leech, 1983; Verschueren, 1999) emphasize that language use is inseparable from context and communicative goals. Sports terminology has been studied in the fields of sociolinguistics (Verschueren, J., Östman, J., 2020), media linguistics, and translation studies, highlighting its role in identity formation and intercultural communication. In the Uzbek context, research has mostly focused on the lexical-semantic properties of sports terms (Allamova M.K., 2022), while English studies often explore stylistics and discourse strategies in sports journalism. However, comparative linguopragmatic research between English and Uzbek remains underdeveloped.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a comparative linguopragmatic analysis of sports terms in English and Uzbek. The data sources include:

- ✓ English-language sports commentary (BBC Sport, ESPN reports).
- ✓ Uzbek sports media (O‘zbekiston24 Sport, Stadion.uz).
- ✓ Interviews and transcripts from athletes and coaches.

The terms were categorized according to their communicative functions: informative, motivational, emotional, and identificational. A corpus-based analysis was conducted to observe frequency and context, while qualitative analysis identified pragmatic effects in discourse.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Informative Function

In both English and Uzbek, sports terms serve to convey factual information. Terms like *offside*, *penalty*, *dribbling* in English and their Uzbek equivalents *o'yin qoidabuzarligi*, *jarima*, *to'pni olib yurish* function to describe rules and techniques. Informative use is dominant in referee communication, official reports, and analytical commentary. One of the most fundamental roles of sports terminology is its **informative function**, which ensures clarity and precision in communication. In both English and Uzbek, sports terms are employed to describe rules, techniques, and specific situations during a match. This function allows players, referees, coaches, commentators, and audiences to share a common understanding of the game, regardless of its complexity. For instance, when a referee announces “*penalty kick*” or “*jarima to'pi*”, the audience, players, and officials immediately recognize the nature of the violation and the consequence. This demonstrates how sports terms function as **codified signals** within a rule-governed system. Referees and umpires rely heavily on informative terminology to maintain fairness and control. In English football, terms like *foul*, *offside*, *handball*, or *red card* communicate decisions in a clear and standardized manner. Similarly, in Uzbek sports contexts, expressions such as *qoidabuzarlik*, *qo'l bilan o'ynash*, *qizil kartochka* ensure that players and fans interpret the referee's decision without confusion. Sports organizations, coaches, and journalists use specialized terms to prepare official reports and analytical commentary. English-language reports might include phrases like “*the striker committed an offside infringement in the 65th minute*”, while Uzbek equivalents could read “*65-daqiqada hujumchi o'yin qoidabuzarligini sodir etdi*” [1, 488].

Sports commentators and analysts employ informative terminology when explaining game strategies, tactics, and technical details to audiences. In English broadcasts, commentators may say:

➤ “*The team is struggling with ball possession due to poor dribbling skills.*” In Uzbek commentary, this could appear as:

➤ “*Jamoa to'pni olib yurishdagi xatolari sababli to'p nazoratini yo'qotmoqda.*”

Here, informative terms allow the commentator to educate the audience about the tactical aspects of the game, turning complex technical knowledge into accessible information.

The informative function of sports terms represents the **foundation of sports communication**. Without precise terminology, it would be nearly impossible to enforce rules, document games, or provide accurate analysis. In both English and Uzbek, these terms are indispensable for describing events, techniques, and violations, ensuring mutual understanding among participants and spectators. Moreover, the informative use of sports vocabulary illustrates how global and local linguistic practices interact: English contributes to universal standardization, while Uzbek maintains cultural accessibility through localized equivalents.

2. Motivational Function

Sports terms also act as motivators. English commentary often uses terms like *champion*, *victory*, *comeback* to inspire athletes and fans. Uzbek equivalents such as *g'alaba*, *champion*, *sharaflı qaytish* evoke national pride and collective encouragement. Here, linguopragmatics reveal the emotional power of terms beyond their literal meaning. In addition to their technical and informative role, sports terms also carry a strong

motivational potential. They are not limited to describing rules or actions but extend to inspiring athletes, energizing spectators, and strengthening collective identity [1, 487]. Through linguistic choices, commentators, coaches, and even fans create a powerful atmosphere of encouragement, which shapes both the emotional and psychological experience of sports events.

English sports commentary is widely recognized for its emotionally charged and motivational language. Terms such as *champion*, *victory*, *triumph*, *comeback*, *underdog*, and *glory* are not merely descriptive; they serve to boost morale, fuel determination, and generate excitement.

➤ *Champion* emphasizes achievement and conveys the highest possible recognition in sports.

➤ *Victory* symbolizes success and creates a sense of shared accomplishment.

➤ *Comeback* carries a particularly strong motivational force, highlighting resilience and the ability to overcome difficulties [4, 278].

Commentators often strategically repeat such words during live broadcasts (“*They’re on the verge of victory!*” “*What a comeback!*”) to intensify the audience’s emotional involvement. Coaches also employ motivational terms in pre-game or halftime speeches, urging players to embody the spirit of a *winner* or *champion* [3, 105].

In Uzbek, sports vocabulary fulfills similar motivational functions, but with culturally distinct nuances. Terms such as *g’alaba* (victory), *chempion* (champion), *sharafli qaytish* (honorable comeback), and *or-nomus* (dignity, honor) inspire athletes not only to win but also to uphold cultural values of pride and respect.

➤ *G’alaba* emphasizes collective success and resonates deeply with the historical and cultural notion of overcoming challenges as a nation.

➤ *Chempion* carries universal prestige but is often connected with national pride in Uzbek media, where athletes are celebrated as representatives of the homeland.

➤ *Sharafli qaytish* reflects both resilience and honor, highlighting that returning with dignity, even after difficulties, is a victory in itself.

Uzbek motivational sports discourse often places greater emphasis on **moral strength, honor, and patriotism**, aligning sports success with broader cultural and national identity.

3. Emotional Function

A distinctive characteristic of sports discourse is its ability to generate strong emotional responses among athletes, spectators, and broader audiences. Sports are not only about rules, performance, and statistics – they are also about passion, excitement, disappointment, and pride. Sports terminology plays a central role in this process, as certain words and expressions are deliberately chosen to **intensify emotional involvement** and create a sense of unity among participants and fans. Terms can intensify emotional involvement. Expressions like *goal!*, *knockout!*, *unbelievable finish!* or Uzbek exclamations *g’alaba!*, *zarba!*, *hayratlanarli yakun!* carry heightened emotional load, engaging spectators and strengthening community spirit.

In English-language commentary and journalism, emotional terms and exclamations are essential to building a dramatic narrative around the sporting event.

➤ “**Goal!**” – Perhaps the most iconic exclamation in football, repeated with prolonged intonation by commentators, not only reports the scoring of a goal but also amplifies the excitement of the moment.

➤ **“Knockout!”** – In boxing or mixed martial arts, this term signals a sudden and decisive end to a match, producing an intense reaction from both the audience and the commentators.

➤ **“Unbelievable finish!” / “Incredible victory!”** – Such expressions are evaluative rather than purely descriptive; they carry strong emotional value, highlighting the extraordinary nature of the event.

Commentators use these terms strategically: their heightened tone of voice, repetition, and dramatic delivery make the audience feel more connected to the match. This is especially evident in global broadcasting, where millions of viewers simultaneously experience the same emotional excitement.

In Uzbek sports commentary and media, emotional terms are equally vital, though often embedded in culturally resonant language.

➤ **“G‘alaba!”** (Victory!) – A powerful exclamation that goes beyond the sporting result, symbolizing national pride, honor, and collective success.

➤ **“Zarba!”** (Strike/Shot!) – A common expression in football or boxing commentary that conveys intensity and anticipation.

➤ **“Hayratlanarli yakun!”** (Unbelievable/astonishing finish!) – Similar to English commentary, this expression emphasizes the extraordinary and dramatic ending of a match.

Unlike in English, where commercial and entertainment aspects are often emphasized, Uzbek emotional sports discourse frequently intertwines with **cultural values of pride, dignity, and unity**, especially in international competitions where athletes are seen as national representatives.

The emotional function of sports terms highlights their capacity to transform language into a **powerful tool of engagement**. Words such as *goal!* or *g‘alaba!* are more than mere markers of an event; they are symbolic triggers that ignite passion, unify audiences, and turn sporting events into memorable cultural experiences. From the linguopragmatic perspective, these terms illustrate how language shapes not only the description of sports but also the **emotional atmosphere and collective identity** of those who participate in or observe them.

CONCLUSION

The linguopragmatic analysis of sports terms in English and Uzbek demonstrates that sports terminology is not limited to technical description but serves broader communicative purposes. Informative, motivational, emotional, and identificational functions highlight the dynamic interaction between language, culture, and communication. While English sports discourse reflects globalized, commercialized practices, Uzbek sports language preserves cultural identity while integrating global terminology.

Further research could expand to corpus-based quantitative studies of frequency and collocations, or explore translation challenges in international sports communication.

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