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LEXICAL-SEMANTIC, LINGUOCULTURAL AND PRAGMATIC FEATURES OF SPORTS TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Annotation. This article presents a comparative study of sports terminology in English and Uzbek from lexical-semantic, linguocultural, and pragmatic perspectives. In particular, it provides a comprehensive analysis of the etymological origins of sports terms, their semantic features, scopes of meaning, specific patterns of usage in various speech contexts, as well as their functional potential in international and national communication. The research findings are systematized and summarized in tabular form. The common and distinctive linguistic characteristics of sports terminology in English and Uzbek are identified and illustrated through specific examples. Furthermore, the article formulates theoretical and scholarly conclusions concerning the processes of formation, enrichment, and major developmental trends of sports terminology in both languages.

Keywords: sports term, linguocultural and pragmatic point of view, English and Uzbek language.

Sports linguistics represents one of the emerging fields of contemporary linguistics, focusing on the formation and development of sports terminology across different languages, as well as its linguocultural and pragmatic characteristics. In this regard, English has established itself as the predominant language of international sports communication, serving as a major medium of interaction at the Olympic Games, World Championships, and other large-scale sporting events. At the same time, the Uzbek language has developed a distinctive terminological system shaped by both traditional and contemporary national sporting practices, including ***kurash*** (traditional Uzbek wrestling), ***kupkari*** (a traditional equestrian competition), and other indigenous sports. These terminological units reflect the cultural identity, historical heritage, and national mentality of the Uzbek people. Therefore, investigating the lexical-semantic, linguocultural, and pragmatic features of English and Uzbek sports terminology is significant not only from a linguistic perspective but also in terms of its broader cultural and sociolinguistic implications.

The semantic differences between English and Uzbek sports terms are largely determined by their historical development, cultural backgrounds, and the degree of

evolution of various sporting disciplines. In English, the terminology associated with contemporary sports is characterized by considerable dynamism, continuous lexical expansion, and increasing international standardization. For instance, terms such as *basketball*, *snowboarding*, and *e-sports* have rapidly entered widespread usage alongside the emergence of new sporting disciplines and have gained international recognition through mass media and global communication networks [4]. In contrast, Uzbek sports terminology, particularly that associated with traditional national sports, is deeply rooted in historical and cultural traditions and is closely connected with folk games and customary practices. Lexical units such as ***kurash, kupkari***, and ***chillak*** denote not merely particular sporting activities but also embody elements of national customs, traditional ceremonies, and the social life of the Uzbek people [3]. Consequently, whereas English sports terminology demonstrates predominantly dynamic, internationally oriented, and globally standardized characteristics, Uzbek sports terminology plays an important role in preserving national identity, cultural values, and historical heritage.

Table 1. Lexical-semantic features of sports terminology.

English	**Uzbek**	**Feature**
Football	Futbol	Directly translated, used internationally
Wrestling	Kurash	Meaning is extended through a traditional national sport.
Boxing	Boks	Borrowed through phonetic adaptation.
Cricket	Kriket	A culturally specific English sporting discipline.
Horse racing	Ot poygasi	Widely practiced in Uzbek folk traditions.

Sports terms function not merely as linguistic units but also as significant carriers of cultural meaning and identity. In English, sports terminology reflects the development of modern sporting technologies, regulatory frameworks, and the processes of globalization within international sports culture. By contrast, Uzbek sports terminology is closely associated with national traditions, cultural values, and the historical evolution of indigenous sporting practices. For instance, the term ***kupkari*** embodies the traditional equestrian heritage and cultural customs of the Uzbek people, whereas the term ***football*** represents the international expansion and institutional development of modern sport, particularly in the context of the industrial era. Thus, sports terminology serves as a linguistic representation of the historical, cultural, and social processes that shape sporting traditions in different societies.

Table 2. Linguocultural features of sports terminology.

Terminology	Language	Cultural-spiritual significance
Kurash	Uzbek	Associated with national values and the Navruz holiday
Cricket	English	A symbol of Britain's historical heritage
Uloq-ko‘pkari	Uzbek	A traditional equestrian sport reflecting the cultural heritage of Central Asian peoples
Rugby	English	An important element of European and Australian sporting traditions
Pahlavon	Uzbek	Represents strength, courage, and bravery

From a pragmatic perspective, sports terminology in English generally exhibits a high degree of universality, as many terms are used and interpreted consistently across different geographical and cultural contexts. For example, lexical units such as ***football, tennis***, and ***marathon*** retain relatively stable semantic meanings in international sporting competitions and mass media discourse. This phenomenon demonstrates the dominant role of English as a global medium of sports communication and contributes to the international standardization of sports terminology [6].

In contrast, certain sports terms in Uzbek may acquire different pragmatic interpretations depending on their communicative and sociocultural contexts. This is primarily due to the close relationship between national sports terminology and the historical, cultural, and traditional heritage of the Uzbek people. For instance, although the term ***kurash*** is commonly translated into English as ***wrestling*** in international contexts, within Uzbek culture it conveys a broader range of meanings. Beyond denoting a particular sporting discipline, it represents an important element of national heritage, cultural identity, and traditional ceremonial practices. This distinction highlights the essential role of context in the interpretation of sports terminology: while a particular term may function as a semantically neutral designation in international sports discourse, it can acquire additional social, cultural, and symbolic connotations within its national context.

Therefore, the study of sports linguistics requires consideration of not only linguistic characteristics but also the cultural and social factors underlying the formation and interpretation of sports terminology. A pragmatic approach is particularly important for identifying the semantic boundaries of sports-related lexical units across different languages and examining their functional characteristics in both global and local communicative environments. Such an approach provides a deeper understanding of how sports terms

convey meanings, reflect cultural identities, and perform specific communicative functions in different linguistic communities.

Table 3. Pragmatic features of sports terminology.

Terminology	Usage in English	Usage in Uzbek	Communicative role
Goal	International sporting competitions	Football broadcasts	Providing immediate information about the score
Coach	Coaching process	Coaching process	Managing and directing a team
Referee	Officiating process	Officiating process	Ensuring fair and impartial judgment
Champion	Winner of a competition	Winner of a competition	Expressing victory and motivating participants
Match	Sporting event or contest	Sporting event or contest	Describing the course of a competition

The data presented in the tables reveal considerable differences in the formation and usage patterns of sports terminology in English and Uzbek. As the predominant language of international sports communication, English continuously expands and updates its terminological inventory to accommodate newly emerging sporting disciplines, technical developments, regulatory frameworks, and competition formats. This process contributes to the establishment of a relatively standardized international sports vocabulary. For instance, terms such as ***freestyle, triathlon***, and ***snowboarding*** are widely recognized and interpreted consistently across different linguistic and cultural communities.

In contrast, Uzbek sports terminology comprises two principal lexical categories: internationally established sports terms and vocabulary associated with traditional national sporting practices. Although international terms generally retain their conventional meanings within the global sporting environment, terminology related to indigenous sports, such as ***kurash, kupkari***, and ***chillak***, is deeply embedded in the historical experience, cultural heritage, and traditional values of the Uzbek people. Consequently, the semantic and cultural implications of these lexical units may not be fully comprehensible to individuals who lack sufficient knowledge of Uzbek national traditions and cultural practices [3].

From a pragmatic standpoint, English sports terminology generally facilitates relatively precise and consistent communication among representatives of different

linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Conversely, certain Uzbek sports terms may undergo contextual interpretation and acquire additional semantic associations depending on the communicative environment. For example, although ***kurash*** is often rendered as ***wrestling*** in international sports discourse, its meaning within Uzbek culture extends beyond the concept of physical competition. It also represents a traditional sporting practice associated with national customs, cultural conventions, historical heritage, and ceremonial traditions.

Thus, sports terminology in English and Uzbek performs a dual function: on the one hand, it facilitates mutual understanding within international sports communication; on the other hand, it preserves and represents the distinctive cultural and national characteristics of individual linguistic communities. This demonstrates that sports language serves not only as a means of specialized linguistic communication but also as an important instrument of cultural representation and social interaction.

In conclusion, sports terminology in English and Uzbek constitutes a linguistically diverse and culturally significant lexical system characterized by distinctive semantic, linguocultural, and pragmatic features. Its comparative investigation offers valuable theoretical and practical insights for several academic disciplines, particularly linguistics, translation studies, and sports pedagogy. Furthermore, the findings may contribute to improving the accuracy of sports translation, intercultural communication, and the teaching of specialized sports vocabulary in both languages.

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