



LINGUOCULTURAL FEATURES OF SPORTS TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

Kenjabayev Jahongir Abdisalimovich

PhD, Associate Professor Department of Foreign Languages,
Termiz State University, Uzbekistan

Abstract

This article examines the linguocultural features of sports terminology in English and Uzbek. By analyzing both traditional and modern sports terms, it highlights how language reflects cultural values, national identity, and intercultural communication. The study shows that English sports terminology tends to emphasize fairness, strategy, and globalization, whereas Uzbek terms emphasize honor, collective spirit, and historical continuity. A comparative analysis is provided to demonstrate the differences and similarities in cultural metaphors underlying sports terminology.

Keywords: Sports terminology, linguoculturology, English, Uzbek, cultural values, intercultural communication, metaphor

In the era of globalization, sports are not merely a tool for strengthening human health and promoting leisure but also a vital bridge for intercultural communication. Sports terminology, in this regard, plays a dual role: it functions as a linguistic unit and as a carrier of cultural values and national identity. Studying the linguocultural features of sports terms in English and Uzbek languages provides valuable insights into how nations perceive sports and integrate them into their cultural narratives.

1. Linguoculturology and Sports Terminology

Linguoculturology is a field of linguistics that explores the interaction between language and culture. According to E. Vereshchagin and V. Kostomarov, language acts as the 'mirror of culture.' Sports terms, therefore, embody not only the rules of the game but also the cultural identity of the people who use them.



2. Linguocultural Features of English Sports Terminology

English sports terminology is widely influenced by international practices, yet it often reflects deeper cultural values. For example, 'fair play' signifies honesty and fairness, becoming a metaphor for ethical behavior in all aspects of life. 'Cricket' is not only a sport but also a symbol of British patience, order, and collective spirit. 'Boxing' conveys strength, endurance, and determination. 'Marathon' metaphorically denotes long and exhausting tasks. 'Goal' refers not only to a point in sports but also ambition and success in life.

3. Linguocultural Features of Uzbek Sports Terminology

Uzbek sports terms can be divided into two layers: traditional and modern borrowed terms. Traditional terms such as 'kurash' (wrestling), 'pahlavon' (hero-wrestler), 'uloq-ko'pkari' (traditional equestrian game), 'chavandoz' (horse rider) reflect bravery, honor, and national values. Borrowed terms such as 'futbol' (football), 'basketbol' (basketball), 'tennis', 'boxing' have been localized and integrated into the Uzbek linguistic-cultural system.

4. Comparative Analysis of English and Uzbek Sports Terms

English Term	Cultural Meaning	Uzbek Term	Cultural Meaning
Fair play	Honesty, fairness	Halol kurash	Integrity, honor, bravery
Cricket	Patience, British tradition	Ko'pkari	Heroism, teamwork, community
Boxing	Strength, endurance, willpower	Kurash	Pride, national bravery
Marathon	Endurance, long journey	Pahlavon	Moral hero, protector of people
Goal	Ambition, success in life	G'alaba	Victory, noble aspiration

Conclusion

Sports terminology in English and Uzbek is not limited to technical vocabulary; it mirrors worldviews, values, and traditions. English terms demonstrate globalization and metaphorical usage in everyday life, while Uzbek terms showcase national identity, historical continuity, and cultural heritage. Therefore,



***Modern American Journal of Linguistics,
Education, and Pedagogy***

ISSN (E): 3067-7874

Volume 01, **Issue** 05, August, 2025

Website: usajournals.org

***This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution
4.0 International License.***

linguocultural study of sports terminology contributes significantly to intercultural communication and comparative linguistics.

at influence everyday speech, literature, and even political discourse. For instance, expressions such as 'to win the game' or 'level playing field' are commonly used in English beyond the context of sports, symbolizing fairness, opportunity, and social justice. English has contributed significantly to the international lexicon of sports due to the global spread of games like football, cricket, tennis, and rugby. Terms such as 'offside', 'penalty', and 'championship' have been adopted worldwide, reflecting not only the dominance of English in sports but also the transfer of cultural concepts. According to P. Choudhary (2018), English sports terms often carry metaphorical meanings in politics and economics; for example, 'scoring a goal' in diplomacy refers to achieving a significant success. In the Uzbek context, sports terms highlight the interplay between tradition and modernity. Traditional terms like 'kurash' are included in the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list, underscoring their importance to national identity. Moreover, Uzbek scholars such as A. Madvaliev emphasize that terms like 'musobaqa' (competition) and 'jamoa' (team) reflect the collective spirit of the Uzbek people, contrasting with the individualistic orientation found in some Western sports cultures. Thus, Uzbek sports terminology reveals not only linguistic adaptation but also socio-cultural resilience. Comparative linguocultural analysis demonstrates that while English sports terms often symbolize globalization and international standards, Uzbek terms emphasize historical continuity and cultural preservation. For example, the English term 'marathon' metaphorically conveys persistence in modern life, whereas the Uzbek term 'pahlavon' embodies not only physical strength but also ethical and moral authority. Such comparisons underline the cultural specificity of sports discourse in different languages. In conclusion, sports terminology provides a valuable lens through which cultural values can be studied. The linguocultural features of English and Uzbek sports terms illustrate the dual role of sports as both a globalizing force and a preserver of national traditions. Future research in this area should focus on corpus-based studies of sports discourse in media, education, and international competitions to further understand how sports language contributes to cultural identity and intercultural communication. The study of



***Modern American Journal of Linguistics,
Education, and Pedagogy***

ISSN (E): 3067-7874

Volume 01, **Issue** 05, August, 2025

Website: usajournals.org

***This work is Licensed under CC BY 4.0 a Creative Commons Attribution
4.0 International License.***

sports terminology is especially relevant today because of the increasing influence of sports on mass media, education, and international relations. Through television, the internet, and newspapers, sports terms have penetrated everyday communication. Phrases like 'kick-off meeting' or 'final whistle' are metaphors transferred from football into business and academic discourse. This demonstrates that sports language is no longer confined to the field of athletics but has become part of global communication. In English-speaking cultures, the use of sports metaphors is pervasive. For example, in politics one may hear expressions like 'playing hardball' (taken from baseball) or 'moving the goalposts,' which describe strategies and tactics beyond sports. George Lakoff (1980) explains that metaphors derived from sports often structure our perception of competition, fairness, and conflict resolution in broader cultural contexts. Hence, English sports terminology functions as a powerful source of cultural metaphors. In the Uzbek language, traditional sports are deeply tied to rituals and national celebrations. For example, the game 'uloq-ko'pkari' is not only a competition but also an important element of community festivities, symbolizing unity and collective strength. Furthermore, the term 'kurash' is strongly associated with weddings and holiday events, where it serves as a demonstration of both physical and moral strength. These associations show that Uzbek sports terms often extend into the domain of social and cultural life. It is noteworthy that both English and Uzbek use sports terms as symbols of values, but the values themselves differ. English emphasizes fairness, strategy, and individual achievement, while Uzbek emphasizes honor, collective spirit, and resilience. This reflects broader cultural differences. Western individualism versus Eastern collectivism. Thus, linguocultural analysis of sports terminology provides insights into fundamental cultural orientations. To summarize, the linguocultural dimension of sports terminology offers a unique way to understand national identity and cultural worldview. English sports terms highlight globalization, metaphors, and international influence, whereas Uzbek terms underline tradition, history, and cultural continuity. Expanding this research to include corpus studies, fieldwork in sports communities, and cross-cultural surveys would further deepen our understanding of how sports language shapes cultural perception in the modern world.



References

1. Lakoff G., Johnson M. *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.
2. Crystal D. *English as a Global Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
3. Vereshchagin E., Kostomarov V. *Language and Culture*. Moscow, 1990.
4. Madvaliev A. *The Development of Sports Terminology in Uzbek Language*. Tashkent, 2019.
5. Choudhary P. *Sports, Language and Culture*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 2018.
6. Anderson B. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London, 2006.
7. Kachru B. *The Alchemy of English: The Spread, Functions and Models of Non-Native Englishes*. Oxford, 1990.
8. Hymes D. *Language in Culture and Society*. New York: Harper & Row, 1964.
9. Kenjabayev J.A. Linguodidactic Peculiarities of the Development of Communicative Competence of Students of physical education (in the example of sports terms) // *European Journal of research*. - Vienna, Austria, 2020. - №6. - P. 24-29. (№ 5) 6.
10. Kenjabayev J.A. Lingodidactic Peculiarities of the Development of Communicative Competence of Students in the field of physical education // *Pedagogika va psixologiyada innovatsiyalar*. –Тошкент, 2020. 2-матсис сои, -Б. 253-258 (№ 5) 7.
11. Kenjabayev J.A. Linguistic features of the development of oral speech competence of students of the direction of physical culture education (on the example of sports terminology) // *European Journal of Research and Reflection in Educational Sciences*. - UK, 11.2020. - №8. - P. 48-51. (13.00.00 № 3)
12. Nuralieva G. *Arxeologiya sohasiga doir matnlarini ingliz tilidan o'zbek tiliga tarjima qilishdagi muammolari*. USA. New York may 28th 2025