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# Verbalization of the Sport Concept in English and Uzbek Languages

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**Abstract**

Sport plays an important role in the social, cultural, and linguistic life of modern society. It is not only a form of physical activity but also a cultural phenomenon reflected in language and communication. In linguistics, the concept of sport can be studied through its verbalization, which includes lexical units, phraseological expressions, and semantic structures representing sport in a particular language. This article examines the verbalization of the sport concept in the English and Uzbek languages from a comparative linguistic perspective. The analysis focuses on lexical, semantic, and cultural aspects of sports terminology and explores similarities and differences in how the concept of sport is expressed in both languages. The research demonstrates that although many sports terms have become international due to globalization, each language preserves its own cultural and linguistic characteristics in representing sport.

**Keywords:** Sport concept, verbalization, cognitive linguistics, English language, Uzbek language, comparative linguistics, sports terminology.

## Introduction

Sport is one of the most significant phenomena of modern civilization and plays an important role in social development, cultural exchange, and communication between nations. In contemporary society, sport performs not only physical and recreational functions but also social, educational, and cultural roles. Sporting activities contribute to the development of healthy lifestyles, promote cooperation between countries, and strengthen international relations. At the same time, sport influences language and communication because it generates numerous terms, expressions, and metaphors that become part of everyday discourse[1,2]. For this reason, the concept of sport has become an important subject of study in linguistics, particularly within the fields of cognitive linguistics and cultural linguistics.

Linguists emphasize that language reflects the worldview of a particular society, and the way concepts are expressed in language reveals how people perceive different aspects of life[3,4]. Concepts represent mental structures that accumulate knowledge, experience, and cultural values within human consciousness. In cognitive linguistics, a concept is understood as a mental unit that organizes information about objects, events, and phenomena in the world. These conceptual structures are expressed through linguistic units such as words, phrases, idioms, and metaphorical expressions[5,6].

The process of expressing a concept through language is known as verbalization. Verbalization allows speakers to communicate their ideas, cultural experiences, and knowledge to others through linguistic means. Therefore, studying how concepts are verbalized in different languages provides valuable insights into the relationship between language, culture, and human cognition. Comparative analysis of conceptual verbalization helps reveal both universal and culture-specific features of linguistic expression.

The concept of sport contains several semantic components that reflect its complex nature. These components include physical activity, competition, achievement, teamwork, discipline, and fair play. Together, these elements form the conceptual structure of sport in human consciousness. However, the linguistic representation of this concept may vary across languages depending on cultural traditions, historical development, and social values[7,8,9].

The English and Uzbek languages provide an interesting case for comparative analysis because they belong to different language families and cultural traditions. English is an international language widely used in global sports communication, while Uzbek reflects both national cultural traditions and the influence of international sports terminology. Due to globalization and international sporting events, many sports terms have become internationally recognized, yet each language maintains its own cultural and linguistic characteristics in representing the concept of sport.

## Methodology

This research applies a comparative linguistic approach to analyze the verbalization of the sport concept in the English and Uzbek languages. The study is based on descriptive, analytical, and comparative methods that are commonly used in cognitive and cultural linguistics. These methods make it possible to investigate how the concept of sport is represented through lexical units, semantic structures, and phraseological expressions in both languages.

The descriptive method was used to examine lexical units and semantic structures related to sports terminology in English and Uzbek. Through this method, examples of sports vocabulary, phraseological expressions, and idiomatic constructions were analyzed in order to identify the main linguistic features associated with the concept of sport. Particular attention was given to words that describe participants, sports activities, competitions, and achievements.

The comparative method was applied to determine similarities and differences in the linguistic representation of the sport concept in the two languages. This method allowed the researcher to compare the

semantic fields of sports vocabulary, the formation of sports terminology, and the cultural meanings embedded in linguistic expressions.

The research materials were collected from various sources, including explanatory dictionaries, academic publications, sports media texts, and linguistic studies related to cognitive linguistics and cultural linguistics. These sources provided authentic examples of sports terminology and phraseological expressions used in both English and Uzbek languages.

## Results

The analysis shows that the English language has a highly developed system of sports terminology. This development is closely related to the historical role of English-speaking countries in the formation and institutionalization of modern sports. Many internationally popular sports such as football, tennis, cricket, and basketball were either created or standardized in English-speaking societies. As a result, English has become the dominant language of international sports communication[10,11].

English sports vocabulary includes numerous lexical units that describe participants, competitions, and achievements. For example, words such as *athlete, player, competitor, champion, coach, referee,* and *trainer* represent participants in sports activities. Other lexical units such as *competition, tournament, championship,* and *match* describe organized sports events[12]. Vocabulary related to results and achievements includes words like *victory, defeat, record, medal,* and *score*. These lexical units together form an important part of the semantic field of the sport concept in the English language.

In the Uzbek language, the concept of sport is expressed through both native lexical units and borrowed international terminology. Words such as *musobaqa* (competition), *g'alaba* (victory), *mag'lubiyat* (defeat), *mashg'ulot* (training), *sportchi* (athlete), and *chempionat* (championship) represent important elements of the sport concept in Uzbek linguistic culture[13].

The analysis also shows that many international sports terms such as *stadion, turnir, rekord,* and *olimpiada* have entered the Uzbek language due to globalization, international sports competitions, and media communication. These borrowed lexical units illustrate the influence of global sports culture on the development of modern Uzbek sports terminology.

## Discussion

Another distinctive feature of English sports vocabulary is its extensive use in metaphorical expressions and idioms. Many expressions that originally originated from sports terminology have gradually become part of everyday communication. For example, the expression *"to get the ball rolling"* means to start an activity or initiate a process, while the phrase *"to throw in the towel"* refers to admitting defeat or giving up[14,15]. Similarly, expressions such as *"level the playing field"* or *"score a point"* are frequently used in political, business, and social contexts. These examples demonstrate how sports terminology in English has expanded beyond its original meaning and has become integrated into general communication.

In Uzbek linguistic culture, sports terminology reflects both global influences and national traditions. Traditional sports such as *kurash* play a particularly important role in the cultural representation of sport. Kurash is not only a traditional form of wrestling but also a symbol of national identity, pride, and historical heritage. In recent years, kurash has gained international recognition and has been included in various international competitions, which has further contributed to the spread of its terminology in global sports discourse.

Other traditional sports such as *kupkari* also illustrate how cultural traditions influence the linguistic representation of sport. These traditional competitions possess their own specific terminology that reflects historical lifestyles, nomadic traditions, and social practices of Central Asian societies[16]. As a result, the vocabulary associated with such sports represents an important cultural and linguistic heritage.

From a comparative perspective, the analysis shows that both English and Uzbek languages share

similar semantic components related to competition, achievement, physical activity, and sportsmanship. However, differences can be observed in the cultural interpretation and linguistic usage of sports terminology. While English sports vocabulary demonstrates a strong tendency toward metaphorical usage in everyday communication, Uzbek sports terminology often preserves its direct semantic meaning while reflecting national cultural traditions and historical forms of physical competition.

## Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that the concept of sport represents a complex cognitive and cultural phenomenon expressed through various linguistic structures. The verbalization of the sport concept in English and Uzbek includes lexical units, phraseological expressions, and semantic fields that reflect the social and cultural significance of sport in both societies.

The research also shows that globalization has contributed significantly to the spread of international sports terminology across different languages. International competitions, global media coverage, and digital communication platforms facilitate the exchange of sports vocabulary and promote the development of common sports terminology used worldwide.

However, despite these global influences, each language continues to preserve its own cultural and linguistic characteristics in representing the concept of sport. English sports vocabulary is notable for its wide use of metaphorical expressions that extend beyond the sports domain into everyday communication. In contrast, Uzbek sports terminology reflects both international influences and national cultural traditions, including traditional sports such as *kurash* and *kupkari*.

Thus, the comparative analysis of sports terminology provides valuable insights into the relationship between language, culture, and society. Studying the verbalization of the sport concept contributes to a deeper understanding of how linguistic systems reflect cultural values, historical traditions, and social practices in the modern world.

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