

CLASSIFICATION OF SPORTS TERMS - THEMATIC APPROACH

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SUMMARY

Sports terminology is one of the most active terminologies in modern society. However, the systemic nature of sports terminology takes shape only in recent decades, which is related to the awareness of sport as a type of professional activity that is greatly being developed, as well as to the emergence of sports science.

Sports terminology, like any other terminology, represents a system because it has systemic features and includes a whole set of concepts from the field of sports, reveals a hierarchical structure, and reflects logical connections between the elements of the system of concepts. The connection between the elements of the system of concepts is clearly represented in the relations of antonymy and gradation, in the relations of logic, in the relations of the whole and parts, as well as in the formation of terms according to the nest system.

Just as there is no unified definition of a term/terminological unit, there is also no single way of classifying terms.

At this stage of studying terminology, linguists has not yet developed certain norms for the classification of terms used in different areas of life, thus for the time being we can judge the presented classifications in terms of their detail and how effective they are when considering sports terminology.

Terminological classifications suggest that division should take place on the basis of important characteristics. From a linguistic point of view, terms are most often classified based on the criteria of form, function, meaning and origin, with the fact that the mentioned criteria are not mutually exclusive.

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Apart from this classification, there are other ways and criteria by which the division is made, and in this research they are considered by the sphere (area) of use and based on the division into broader thematic groups that have characteristics that determine them.

Key words: sport, terminology, classification

INTRODUCTION

Sports terminology, like any other terminology, represents a system because it has systemic features and includes a whole set of concepts from the field of sports, has a hierarchical structure, and reflects logical connections between the elements of the system of concepts.

The connection between the elements of the system of concepts is clearly represented in the relations of antonymy and gradation, in the relations of logic, in the relations of whole and parts, as well as in the formation of terms according to the nest system (Gureeva, 2007).

In the sports sphere of public life, a special language, a special layer of vocabulary is used. The question of whether the sports lexicon has the right to the status of "terminology" or whether it should be classified as a general or professionally limited lexicon remains debatable to this day.

Researchers N.I. Zelinskaya and E.A. Molditaev touched on the topic of heterogeneity of sports terminology, and also offered their view in the process of dividing this type of lexicon. In the work of Zelinskaya dedicated to the study of the language of sports, the classification of its units and the allocation of approaches in terms of their codification, two types of lexical units are distinguished: sports terminology and sports lexicon (Zelinskaya, 1974, p. 83). Terminology according to Zelinskaya is used in the high register of communications, that is, in academic textbooks and reference books, in various written scientific papers, as well as in business discourse, which covers documents such as competition rules and regulations. She defines sports lexicon as special terminology, argotisms and so-called non-terms, which are used in a professional sense. Zelinskaya fixed the sports lexicon in the sphere of sports monitoring, that is, its use in newspaper articles, in the speech of sports commentators during online sports coverages (Zelinskaya, 1974, p. 79).

Another researcher E. A. Molditaev also conducted research closely related to the analysis and classification of the lexicon in the field of sports. He divided the sports terms based on the area of use. The first group includes language units that are found in the media and in works of fiction, which are intended for a wide audience, that is, terms with a wide range of usage. The second group of lexical

units is used by individuals who are directly connected to sports, coaches, sports commentators of a certain sport, that is such a lexicon is intended for a narrow circle of people and represents a narrow sphere of use (Molditaev, 1969, p. 200).

If the determination of the terminology of A.A. Reformatski is taken as the basis, it can be concluded that the sports lexicon is a special type of terminology because it represents words that are used to describe a certain type of activity and that strictly correspond to logical concepts.

By a more detailed analysis of the two lexical groups identified by well-known scientists, it can be noted that sports lexicon of a terminological character is mostly collected in sports terminological dictionaries. And the non-terminological sports lexicon in most cases includes professionalism, sports archaisms and jargon. The second part of the sports lexicon is less studied, in connection with which some philologists agreed that the presented stratification should be considered conditional (Elistratov, 2010, p. 26).

A. A. Elistratov also draws attention to the fact that the unusualness and obscurity of lexical units of a special area at the current stage of language development does not in any way prevent them from being classified as sports terminology, explaining this by the fact that the disappearance and emergence of new lexemes is a natural process that is equally characteristic of the national and special languages.

A. A. Elistratov also worked on the stratification of the sports lexicon. He analyzed in detail the problem of demarcation of sports terminology and sports professionalism. According to Elistratov, the border between these two groups is weakly expressed, terms and professionalisms are closely related to each other, they interact with each other and with units of the general literary language.

He points out that this feature of the sports language unit is a consequence of its orientation to the needs of not only a narrow professional circle of interest, but also of a wide circle of people (Elistratov, 2010, p. 124).

Sports began not only to gain popularity, but also to penetrate, interact, and sometimes replace other terminological systems which helped this area of human activity to become widespread. Mass media greatly contribute to this process and play a huge role in popularizing both the sports sphere of life and sports terminology.

Sports terminology inadvertently becomes a part of every person's life. We watch sports programs, follow events at sports events, browse sports articles on the Internet, so every person needs a dictionary or a glossary for each sport. The first step towards creation is the structural division of linguistic units of sports. Therefore, in any case, it is necessary to talk about the classification of sports terminology.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The characteristics of the formation and development of the subject field of sport and its terminological apparatus represent a current issue because this field is widely present in the everyday life of modern society.

Terminological units of sport are classified by thematic groups through lexicographic, logical and semantic analysis. The methods that contribute to this kind of consideration and research are: the method of comparison, generalization and semantic identification.

The practical importance is determined by the fact that the materials and results can be used except in the field of sports and physical culture as a whole also in lexicology, terminology, lexicography.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Sports terminology is one of the most active terminologies in modern society. However, the systemic nature of sports terminology has taken shape only in recent decades, which is related to the awareness of sports as a type of professional activity that is being greatly developing, as well as to the emergence of sports science.

Just as there is no unified definition of a term/terminological unit, there is also no single way of classifying terms.

Terminological classifications suggest that division should take place on the basis of the important characteristics. Isolation based on the generality of terms is a deep feature of terms, which allows sports terminology to be easily separated from other units of language and the entire set of terms to be parsed within a group.

From a linguistic point of view, terms are most often classified based on the criteria of form, function, meaning and origin, with the said criteria not being mutually exclusive (Cabré, 1999, pp. 85-95).

Linguists and philologists have conducted numerous studies of sports texts and offered their own variants of dividing sports terminology into classes. For example, V. I. Litovchenko distinguished terms by content and emphasized such types of terms as terms by object of name and by logical category. In the first group V. I. Litovchenko arranged the terms according to areas of knowledge or activity. In the second group, he classified the terms of objects that are used, for example, during training, the terms of processes that occur during the realization

of certain movements of the athlete, as well as the terms of properties, features, sizes and their units. (Litovchenko, 2006, p. 157).

Litovchenko presented only two main groups, and the Soviet linguists T. L. Kandelaki and D. S. Lotte expanded and supplemented this classification. As a result of the activities of Tatyana Leonidovna and Dmitri Semenovich in connection with the arrangement and standardization of the terminology, the classification of terms according to the object of designation within special areas was presented, which is considered the most detailed classification of terms. This classification can be considered a good basis for dealing with sports terminology since a certain sport is a special field of activity. T. L. Kandelaki and D. S. Lotte believed that separating logical categories of terms helps in considering specific aspects of different sports on the basis of which they identified five subgroups of sports terms: terms of different sports; terms used to refer to special equipment in sports; terms used to denote different sports processes; terms used to denote quantities and their units in sports; terms used to refer to characteristics and properties encountered in various sports.

E. I. Gureeva, taking as a basis the classification that distinguishes subgroups of sports terms, in her work presents a group that refers to the names of sports and disciplines and represents a large group which counts several thousand language units. Examples of sports names are terms such as: football, basketball, volleyball, athletics, biathlon, etc. Disciplines are an integral part of a particular sport (Gureeva, 2007, p. 175). For example, in biathlon it is customary to distinguish the following disciplines: sprint, chase, mass start, individual race, relay, super sprint, mixed relay. The second group includes terms that name sports figures who are directly involved in the process. These terms relate to athletes, coaches, referees and other participants in sports activities. The names of athletes are as numerous as the sports themselves. Sometimes the same term can be used in different sports. The third group contains the names of techniques. At the heart of every sport are different actions, movements and techniques, of which there are many which makes this group the most numerous. The main representatives of this group are the terms "tactics" and "techniques".

The totality of the term physical exercise, and in that sense sport as the most expressive representative of physical exercise, can also be presented in the form of thematic/semantic groups or models that cover certain subject-conceptual areas with some broader common characteristics. This kind of approach makes it possible to get a clearer picture of the existing characteristics and legalities in sports, as well as to present in a more orderly manner the totality of lexical units that express the concepts of this field of human practice.

In this manner, it is possible to make the following classifications:

1. By the width of the area of use:

- 1) general scientific and interdisciplinary terms as well as terms borrowed from other fields of activity: abdominal musculature (from the field of medicine), psychological preparation, cognitive abilities (from the field of psychology); *pas de deux* (from the field of art); counterattack, defense, division, shooter, tactics (from the military field); technique, arena, tool (from the field of technique); motorcycle, keel, sail (from the field of transport); leader, favorite, competitor, outsider, arbiter, league, pressing (from the socio-political field), etc.;
- 2) general sports terms (branch) used in all sports: referee, victory, defeat, coach, training, tournament, competition, final, preparation, team, etc.;
- 3) inter-sport (narrow-branch) terms that function in two or more sports: out, dribble, match, pass, club, ball, goal, goalkeeper, kick, run, jump, racket, time-out, overtime, etc.;
- 4) narrowly specialized terms found only in one sport, for example, in football: corner, penalty; in basketball: basket, two-step; in handball: pivotman, seven meter penalty; in gymnastics: overgrip giant swing, uneven parallel bars, etc. (Mahal, 2017).

2. Based on some common characteristics that logically connect them:

1) SPORTS AND SPORTS DISCIPLINES

This group includes all the terms used to name existing sports and sports disciplines. Nowadays there is a large number of different official and unofficial sports and each has its own name. Within many sports there are also different disciplines that increase the number of concepts and terms within this thematic group.

Examples: (*ball, soccer, handball, tennis, short track running, pentathlon, skiing - slalom, giant slalom, downhill... etc.*)

2) SUBJECTS (PARTICIPANTS) IN SPORTS

This group includes all terms used to name all persons who participate in sports in any way, directly or indirectly (their effects; characteristics - psychological, physical, intellectual; categories, etc.). Here, too, within many terms there are subcategories that increase the number of terms by which they are named.

Examples: (*athlete, coach, doctor, judge, delegate, audience, competitor...*)

3) TRAINING PROCESS

This group includes all the terms used to name concepts that are part of the training process and physical exercise aimed at improving (psycho)physical abilities (methods, attitudes, movements, preparation results, etc.). The process means the manifestation of physical or intellectual activity that is not limited by time frames and that does not refer exclusively to a specific subject. These terms also do not mean only the process, but also the character or conditions of its flow.

Examples: (*physical exercise, training, warm-up, interval method, push-ups, squats, zig-zags, feinting, running, jumping, macrocycle, sections, conditioning, footing...*)

4) TECHNICAL-TACTICAL MEANS AND PROCEDURES

This group includes all terms that name concepts that represent technical-tactical means and procedures used and applied in sports preparation such as game systems, ways of movement, quality (skill) of movement, handling of objects/devices/props, kicks etc.

Examples: (*maneuvering, counterattack, bunker, wedge, zone, clearing, lobbing, pass, skyhook, volley...*)

5) TECHNICAL MEANS

This group is represented by all the terms and concepts named after them that represent material objects that are used in any way within the framework of physical exercise and the development of (psycho)physical abilities (tools, props, equipment...)

Examples: (*car, motorcycle, sled, gun, helmet, shields, weightlifting belt, jersey, cone, mat, stopwatch, net...*)

6) RULES

Most sports are followed by certain rules, primarily in the competition system, which explain in more or less detail what the purpose of action in a particular sport is and how the goals and tasks arising from activities in the course of playing it are realized. Observance of the rules is taken for granted, and their violation is a deviation from the norm and is sanctioned in a certain way.

Examples: (*foul, exclusion, disqualification, penalty, offside, foul, penalty...*)

7) PLACES OF ACTIVITIES

This group includes places and spaces where any physical exercise activity is carried out and which are of great importance in sports because they are strictly defined by rules, and in some sports, they also determine the functioning of certain roles of athletes (goalkeeping area, front zone, etc.). The features and characteristics of those places of activity are classified here.

Examples: (*stadium, hall, track, corner, penalty area, out, center, stands...*)

8) SPORTS EVENTS

This group is represented by all types of manifestations that represent any sporting event, their features and characteristics.

Examples: (*tournament, championship, match, derby, playoff ...*)

9) EVALUATION

This group includes terms that represent concepts that express results, accomplishments, achievements, performance, etc. and which can be quantified in a certain way.

Examples: (*goal, point, win, loss, draw, ranking, result...*)

10) QUALITATIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF ATHLETES

This group of terms refers to concepts that represent the abilities, characteristics, skills of athletes, resulting from work on their (psycho)physical development and improvement.

Examples: (*dexterity, accuracy, flexibility, speed...*)

11) SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, COMPETITION SYSTEMS

Most sports imply an appropriate degree of mutual connection between the participants in the process of physical exercise and competition, which implies a certain degree of organization at different levels and different forms of their presentation.

Examples: (*football association, basketball federation, national team, federal league, club, league, championship, cup, FIFA...*)

12) ROLES, TITLE, CATEGORIES

This group includes terms that name concepts related to participants in sports and their different roles and titles they have within what they do, but also different categories to which they can belong depending on the criteria of division or ranking.

Examples: (*captain, master of sports, fitness coach, dribbler, striker, corrector, national team member, goalkeeper, winger, center-forward, federal rank*)

CONCLUSION

At this stage of studying terminology, linguists have not yet developed certain norms for the classification of terms used in different areas of life, therefore for the time being we can judge the presented classifications in terms of their detail and how effective they are when considering sports terminology.

Based on all of the above mentioned, it can be concluded that sports terms have their own logic of mutual connection and that they are subject to a systematic thematic classification in the terminology of the modern language.

Based on the types and methods of classification of terminological units described above, it could be concluded that the issue of typology of terms is becoming more and more relevant, and terminology is a complex, extensive system and plays an important role in various fields and the functioning of modern society. A complete and comprehensive classification implies an inventory of all terms that represent physical exercise, their individual consideration and determination of essential characteristics on the basis of which it would then be possible to make a more complete classification. Also, there is a problem of ambiguity of certain terms, which leads to the fact that the same term can be found in several different categories, which further complicates the classification itself. Considering the huge number of terms that represent physical exercise and the achievements that result from it, the presented method of classification is certainly not comprehensive and complete but it is useful because it gives a closer picture of its complexity.

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