



THE ROLE OF LOW-PRODUCTIVITY WORD-FORMATION METHODS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS TERMINOLOGY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This article explores the role of low-productivity word-formation methods in the development of terminology and neologisms in the field of Physical Education and Sports (PES) in English and Uzbek. While productive processes such as affixation and compounding dominate lexical expansion, less productive mechanisms—including phonological formation, etymology, coinage, blending, clipping, back-formation, conversion, and multiple processes—also contribute significantly to the enrichment of sports vocabulary. Through a comparative linguistic analysis, the study identifies structural, functional, and semantic features of these processes in both languages. The findings reveal that English demonstrates a higher reliance on conversion and clipping, whereas Uzbek exhibits greater flexibility in integrating borrowed elements through multiple processes. The study highlights the importance of low-productivity methods in reflecting cultural, historical, and communicative dynamics within sports discourse.

Keywords: word formation, low-productivity methods, sports terminology, neologisms, English linguistics.

Introduction

Language development is a continuous and dynamic process shaped by both internal linguistic mechanisms and external sociocultural influences. In modern society, the field of Physical Education and Sports (PES) has become an important domain where linguistic innovation is particularly visible. The globalization of sports, international competitions, media expansion, and technological advancements have all contributed to the rapid growth of sports-related terminology.

Traditionally, linguistic studies have focused on productive word-formation processes such as affixation, compounding, and borrowing. However, low-productivity methods, although less frequent, play a unique and often underestimated role in lexical innovation. These processes are especially



relevant in specialized domains like sports, where expressive, concise, and context-specific vocabulary is essential.

This study aims to investigate the role of low-productivity word-formation methods in English and Uzbek PES terminology. By examining these processes comparatively, the research seeks to identify similarities and differences in linguistic strategies and to demonstrate their contribution to the enrichment of both languages.

Methodology

The research is based on a combination of qualitative and comparative linguistic methods. The primary data consist of lexical units related to physical education and sports collected from English and Uzbek dictionaries, academic literature, and sports media.

The following methods were employed:

- Comparative analysis to examine similarities and differences between English and Uzbek word-formation processes
- Descriptive analysis to identify structural and semantic characteristics of lexical units
- Etymological analysis to trace historical development and semantic shifts
- Contextual analysis to evaluate the functional use of terms in sports discourse

The selected examples illustrate how low-productivity processes operate within each language and how they contribute to the formation of specialized terminology.

Results and Discussion

Phonological Method (Onomatopoeia and Sound Symbolism)

The phonological method, often referred to as echoism or onomatopoeia, is one of the least productive yet highly expressive word-formation processes. It involves the imitation of natural or artificial sounds and is closely linked to human perception and emotional expression.

In sports terminology, phonological formations often reflect sounds associated with actions, equipment, or movement. A classic example is ping-pong, which originated from the imitation of the sound produced when a ball strikes a racket and table. Such terms are vivid and memorable, enhancing communicative efficiency.

Although rare in both English and Uzbek, phonological formations serve an important stylistic function, particularly in informal or descriptive contexts.

Etymological Method (Semantic Shift and Historical Development)



The etymological method plays a significant role in the formation of sports terminology. It involves the reinterpretation and semantic evolution of existing lexical units.

Many sports terms in English have origins in Latin, Greek, or other European languages. Over time, these words have undergone semantic specialization. For example, the term coach originally referred to a carriage but later evolved metaphorically to denote a person who guides athletes toward success.

This process demonstrates how language adapts to new conceptual needs by reassigning meanings to existing words. In Uzbek, similar processes occur through borrowing and semantic adaptation, particularly from Russian and English.

Coinage

Coinage refers to the creation of entirely new lexical items, often associated with technological or commercial innovation. In sports terminology, coinage is frequently linked to brand names that become generalized terms.

Examples such as Nike illustrate how a brand name can evolve into a global cultural symbol. Similarly, Google demonstrates how a coined term can transition into everyday language as a verb.

Although coinage is more productive in English, Uzbek also adopts coined terms through borrowing and adaptation.

Blending

Blending is a creative word-formation process that combines elements of two words into a single lexical unit. While not highly productive, it reflects modern linguistic innovation and is often associated with informal usage.

An example is chillax (chill + relax), which conveys a nuanced meaning not fully expressed by either original word. In sports discourse, blending may occur in media language and youth communication.

In Uzbek, blending is less common but may appear in hybrid forms influenced by English.

Clipping

Clipping involves the reduction of longer words into shorter forms. This method is particularly useful in fast-paced communication, such as sports commentary and professional interaction.

Linguist Hans Marchand emphasized that clipping follows systematic linguistic principles and contributes to lexical economy. Examples in sports discourse include shortened forms used for efficiency and convenience.

Clipping is more prevalent in English than in Uzbek, reflecting differences in linguistic structure and usage norms.

Back-Formation



Back-formation is a process in which a new word is created by removing an apparent affix from an existing word. This often results in a change in grammatical category.

For example:

- emotion → emote

Although relatively rare, back-formation demonstrates the dynamic nature of language and the role of speaker perception in word formation.

Conversion (Zero Derivation)

Conversion is one of the most productive processes in English and plays a crucial role in sports terminology. It involves changing the grammatical category of a word without altering its form.

Examples include:

- to hit → hit
- to whistle → whistle
- final → final

In sports discourse, conversion allows for concise and flexible expression, enabling speakers to adapt words to different grammatical functions.

In contrast, Uzbek relies less on conversion and more on affixation and syntactic structures.

Multiple Processes

Multiple processes involve the interaction of several word-formation mechanisms within a single lexical unit. This phenomenon is particularly significant in Uzbek, where borrowed elements are actively integrated into the language.

For example:

- snowball → compounding
- to snowball → conversion
- snowballed → suffixation

In Uzbek, examples include:

- kriketchi, tennisshunos (suffixation)
- futbolsevar, gol mashina (hybrid compounding)

These formations illustrate the adaptability of Uzbek in incorporating foreign elements while maintaining its morphological structure.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that low-productivity word-formation methods, despite their limited frequency, play a vital role in the development of sports terminology in both English and Uzbek. These processes contribute to linguistic diversity, expressiveness, and adaptability.

English tends to rely more heavily on conversion, clipping, and coinage, reflecting its analytic structure and global influence. Uzbek, on the other hand,



shows a stronger tendency toward morphological adaptation and the use of multiple processes, particularly in integrating borrowed terms.

Overall, the study confirms that both productive and low-productivity methods are essential for the continuous development of specialized vocabulary. Understanding these processes enhances our knowledge of linguistic evolution and supports effective communication in the field of Physical Education and Sports.

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