

BASKETBALL TERMS: “DUNK”, “ASSIST”, “REBOUND”, “FOUL” AND OTHERS

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ABSTRACT: This thesis analyzes the process of adaptation of English basketball terms “dunk”, “assist”, “rebound”, and “foul” — into the Uzbek language from a linguistic perspective. The study examines phonetic, semantic, and contextual changes of these terms, translation strategies, and their usage features in sports texts. The results show that English sports terminology mainly enters the Uzbek language through transliteration and semantic adaptation. This approach plays an important role in ensuring clarity and comprehensibility in professional sports language.

Keywords: Basketball, Terminology, Linguistics, Transliteration, Phonetic Adaptation, Semantic Adaptation.

INTRODUCTION

Basketball terminology is one of the widely used lexical layers in global sports discourse and plays an important role in understanding, commenting on, and analyzing the game process [1]. During the integration of English terms into the Uzbek language, phonetic, morphological, and semantic adaptations occur [2]. In particular, terms such as “dunk”, “assist”, “rebound”, and “foul” are actively used in contemporary Uzbek sports texts, making the study of their linguistic characteristics highly relevant [3]. This thesis aims to analyze the adaptation process of these terms, identify their usage features in the Uzbek language, and highlight issues related to terminological precision.

Phonetic and transliteration adaptation of English basketball terms

The analysis shows that English basketball terms are mostly adopted into the Uzbek language through phonetic approximation and direct transliteration. Specifically, the terms “dunk” and “assist” are transferred into Uzbek texts with minimal changes while preserving pronunciation-based forms [4]. The term “dunk” refers to the slam dunk action, while “assist” denotes a significant passing action during the game. Such transliteration-based adaptation ensures semantic accuracy in sports commentary and helps maintain unified international sports standards. In addition, phonetic adaptation facilitates quick comprehension by readers or listeners, as many terms used during a game must be perceived in real time [2].

Semantic adaptation and interpretation of terms in Uzbek

Another group of terms, including “rebound” and “foul”, undergo semantic adaptation when entering the Uzbek language. In this case, terms are adapted not only phonetically but also semantically into Uzbek sports lexicon. For example, “rebound” refers to regaining possession of the ball after an unsuccessful shot or deflection and is often explained as “recovering the ball” or “collecting the ball” in Uzbek [3]. The term “foul” denotes any violation of the rules in basketball and is widely used in Uzbek with the same meaning [5]. Through semantic adaptation, terms become clearer, more contextually appropriate, and free from ambiguity. This process

allows sports commentators, coaches, and journalists to convey complex game situations more effectively to audiences.

Communicative function of terms in sports texts

The analysis indicates that English basketball terms function not only as lexical units denoting game actions but also as elements shaping the communicative structure of sports discourse. Corpus analysis reveals a high frequency of these terms in Uzbek sports texts and demonstrates their role in enhancing textual dynamics, emotional intensity, and technical precision [4]. Discourse analysis further shows that these terms improve the efficiency of information exchange between commentators and audiences. Professional sports commentators often prefer using original English forms of terms, as they contribute to creating texts aligned with international sports lexicon. At the same time, providing explanations and placing terms correctly within context is an essential factor in developing sports language culture. Consequently, the use of English basketball terminology contributes to concise, accurate, and comprehensive sports discourse.

CONCLUSION

The study demonstrates that English basketball terms adapt into the Uzbek language through three main mechanisms: phonetic adaptation, transliteration, and semantic interpretation. The preservation of phonetic forms of “dunk” and “assist” enhances their role and comprehensibility in professional sports discourse. Meanwhile, “rebound” and “foul” are successfully integrated into the Uzbek terminological system through semantic adaptation. As a result, the development of sports terminology enables the creation of precise, concise, and internationally standardized sports texts in the Uzbek language.

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