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# SEMIOTICS OF TERMS/WORDS USED IN SPORT BASED ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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## ABSTRACT

Sport has always been very important for the proper development of every nation. We can fairly say that sport is a true source of multiculturalism, as it unites different people from various countries in the global society. Everyone finds pleasure both in participating in sports events and watching them. Sport reduces stress and is particularly important for the proper development of adolescents, as it strengthens their self-confidence and maintains their health and physical fitness. The language of sports is rich and includes various terms and expressions that are mainly internationally known and accepted without translation in almost every country of the modern world. The article research concerns different categories of words and their formation, as well as specific idioms and phrases that are found in particular sports.

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## KEYWORDS

Sport, Idioms, Language, Phrases, Word Formation

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## Introduction.

The oldest definition of the word "sport" in English, from around 1300, is "anything that people consider fun or entertaining". "Sport" - the word comes from the Old French word "desport", which means "leisure time". The Cambridge Online Dictionary defines sport as "a game, competition or activity that requires physical effort and skills and is played or performed according to rules, for pleasure and/or as a skill." The Collins Cobuild Advanced Learner's Dictionary offers a similar definition of sport: "Sport is games like football and basketball and other competitive entertainment activities that require physical effort and skills". Thus, although both definitions agree on the importance of effort and skills, and both define sport as a form of recreation or pleasure, the first one mentions something that is extremely important for this type of activity, specifically that sport is played, or should be played according to rules. This is what distinguishes sport from mere play. Play is a spontaneous activity, free and without any restrictions, but it also includes certain rules. Therefore, play can be defined as a rule-bounded or regulated game. People have been involved in various games since the beginning of humanity. Ancient Greece introduced formal sports with the first Olympic Games in 776 BC, which included sports such as running, jumping, wrestling, discus and javelin throwing. With the first organized sporting events, the term "competition" came into use.

Competition is another important characteristic of sports. People compete for victory and to demonstrate their qualities in various sports disciplines, and again, this is what distinguishes sports from a mere game. Then, at the end of the 17th century, quantitative assessment became an important aspect of sports, and in the 19th century, the word "record" (also English) with the meaning of improved quantitative achievement was first introduced.

Over the centuries, new sports have developed and the demand for new words has increased, which were needed to describe newly created events, games, rules and competitions. Sports language is a huge, comprehensive category that includes terms from various sports disciplines, so listing them all would be an impossible task. The language of sports changes over time. Some terms (for example, chariot racing) become

obsolete as some sports disappear. The term "sportsman", although still used today, has become somewhat outdated and is almost regularly replaced by the word "athlete". The same happened with the phrase "doing sports", which was very common several decades ago. Keeping track of these changes is sometimes difficult and can complicate the understanding of sports communication for ordinary people.

To describe a general concept the term "sport" is used in most English dialects. (e.g., "children participate in sport"), while "sports" is used to describe multiple activities (e.g., "football and rugby are the most popular sports in England"). In American English, "sports" is used in both cases. It's worth noting that the word "sport" has other meanings as well, for example in the phrase "to be a good sport," where "good sport" refers to someone who plays fairly, accepts both victory and defeat, and remains good-natured. A coach is a person who is responsible for teaching and training athletes to improve their skills.

Trainer/coach is a synonym for coach. The main difference between a coach and a trainer is their priority: coaches mainly focus on the team, while a trainer focuses on an individual athlete or a small group.

A referee is a person who makes decisions during the game. Runs on the field alongside the players (football). The arbitrator makes decisions from one position (e.g. tennis).

There are many terms used to refer to people participating in various sporting events. The most general is participant, a word that refers to a person who participates or engages in a specific activity. An athlete is a person who is involved in sports, regardless of gender, while sportsman and sportswoman are terms used for different genders. Sportsman is a word that can be considered somewhat outdated and is sometimes specifically used for someone who mainly participates in outdoor sporting activities such as hunting, fishing, mountain climbing, and horseback riding. Another word to denote a sportsman or sportswoman in a general sense is Athlete . Player is also a commonly used word for people competing in certain sports, so there are "football players," "basketball players," etc. Captain is the team leader.

A supporter is a word used in British English to refer to someone who wants a particular team to win and may express this by going to watch the team play. The American term for a supporter is fan (abbreviated from fanatic). A cheerleader is one of those people who leads the cheering at large public events, especially sporting events. In North America, attractive girls who serve as cheerleaders are particularly popular. Cups, trophies shaped like humans or animals, bowls, goblets, medals, and plates are awards given to winners in various sports.

There are different terms that refer to places where various sports are held. Arena or stadium is the most commonly used term. It is a flat area where sporting events such as the Olympic Games, football, and rugby are held. It has a circular shape and is surrounded by seats for spectators. A field is a grassy area used for sports such as hockey, rugby, or football.

A track is a piece of land used for long-distance racing competitions such as marathon, auto racing, and golf. A court is a rectangular area where tennis, basketball, and badminton are played. A gym is a place where you can exercise on training equipment, or an indoor space designated for sports lessons at school. "Gym" is a shortened form of gymnasium, which is also the name of a school in Germany, Scandinavia, and Central Europe that prepares students for university entrance. A pitch or sports field is an open playing area designated for various sports. The term "pitch" is most commonly used in British English, while the corresponding term in American and Canadian English is "playing field" or "sports field". A rink is a smooth ice surface designed for ice skating, roller skating, or playing curling. A running track is a type of road or path, often in the shape of a ring, specifically designed and built for sporting events such as racing. The term "track-and-field" is used in the USA for athletic competitions where people compete in running, jumping, and throwing. In the United Kingdom, the term "athletics" is used.

Many verbs are used to describe people's actions in various sports disciplines. The most common verbs are: play, compete, pass, dribble, score, defeat, shoot, throw, catch, serve, hit, throw the ball, exercise, return, run, race, sprint, jump, win, lose and others.

She passed long afternoons pitching a baseball.

The goalkeeper jumped up to catch the ball.

He served an ace.

She returned the ball to continue the rally.

They kicked the ball into the net.

They both raced for the ball.

They are training for the new season.

I ran past the defender.

The runner sprinted to the finish line.

We've won every match this season!

He lost in three straight sets.

Most phrasal verbs are also used to denote actions performed in various sports.

In any discourse, the most commonly used verb categories are verbs and nouns. This also applies to sports terminology. Nouns that denote sports events, actions, and performers are formed in many different ways. Most words denoting performers of actions are formed through the derivation process, that is, by adding the suffix "-er" to the base. These are words such as player, boxer, trainer, skier, guard, shooter, and many others. Also, the ending "-ship" is a very productive derivational suffix, so many words like championship, sportsmanship, gamesmanship, and others are formed with this suffix.

Many complex nouns are found in sports terminology. We will discuss some of them, sorted by their constituent parts. a) Noun + Noun compounds: - Complex nouns where the word "sport" is one of the constituent parts, such as sportsman, sportsman (male), sportswoman (female), sportswear, sports commentator. · Many compounds with the word "ball", such as: football, volleyball, basketball, handball and "baseball". · Compounds with the word "team" such as: teamwork, team member. · Compounds with the word "line" such as: sideline, out line, goal line, baseline. b) Adjective + Noun compounds: - penalty kick, mid-time, red card, yellow card, joker, dead ball, false start, and many others. c) Noun + Preposition or Preposition + Noun compounds: · offside position, out of field, extra time, playoffs, runner-up, time-out. Clipping is another way of noun formation used in sports terminology. The most commonly used clippings are undoubtedly fan (shortened from fanatic) and ref (shortened from referee). There is also the word "gym" which is a clipping from gymnasium.

Conversion is another word formation process through which nouns are created in sports. During conversion, the word category changes but the form remains the same. As an example, we can take the verb "to work out" which transformed into the noun "workout". The difference is that the compound verb is written as two words, while the noun is a solid compound. Also, "ace" (noun) has been transformed into the verb "to ace", as in "I aced that test today", which means "I did this very well."

Initialisms and acronyms are also frequently used in sports terminology. Examples include FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association, or in English - International Federation of Football Associations), FIDE (Federation Internationale des Echecs, or in English - International Chess Federation), NFL (National Football League), UEFA (Union of European Football Associations), ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals), NBA (National Basketball Association), IOC (International Olympic Committee), MMA (Mixed Martial Arts, Kickboxing) and others. Today, one of the most well-known acronyms is G.O.A.T., which means Greatest Of All Time, referring to outstanding individuals in various fields, primarily in sports. Various idioms and phrases also add color to sports terminology. Most idioms describe familiar sports situations, but they also have metaphorical meanings that can be used in everyday situations. Here are some examples:

a) Idioms consisting of adjective and noun: unfair hit - hitting someone in the back, unexpected move - something unexpected or intended for deception, low blow - unfair or harsh comment or tactic, red-shirting - postponing or suspending an athlete's participation to extend their eligibility period. c) Idioms consisting of two word categories and conjunction: detailed - with great detail, sequential - giving a detailed description.

b) Idioms consisting of verbs and nouns: setting a record - achieving the best result in a sports competition, sitting on the bench - being sidelined, observing without participation, or waiting for an opportunity to participate, taking responsibility - taking over management of affairs, taking responsibility, making a mistake - making an error, missing an opportunity, taking off the gloves - beginning more hostile or persistent behavior, moving the goalposts - changing competition criteria during its course, hitting below the belt - acting unfairly or unprincipled, last hope - the final tactic for saving a situation or project.

### Conclusions.

Despite the fact that each of us is somewhat familiar with sports terminology, even in a global sense, it is still necessary to review the most widely used terms that a sports student will definitely encounter during their learning process. Sports terminology is a huge category where words, idioms, and phrases are created in different ways and where, like in any aspect of language, the need for new entries arises daily. We cannot know every word in every sport, but we can try to learn the most frequently used words so that we can enjoy events and talk about them in English.

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