Taraqqiyot spektri
ILMIY JURNALI
Vol 2 № 6 2026

CREATING A BILINGUAL THESAURUS OF SPORTS TERMINOLOGY (ENGLISH–UZBEK)

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Abstract: The growing globalization of sports has intensified communication among athletes, coaches, journalists, researchers, and sports organizations worldwide. As English functions as the dominant language of international sports communication, the need for effective bilingual lexical resources has become increasingly significant. This study examines the theoretical and practical aspects of creating a bilingual English–Uzbek thesaurus of sports terminology. The research explores methods of terminology collection, classification, semantic organization, and translation equivalence. Particular attention is paid to the challenges of establishing conceptual relationships between sports terms in two languages and to the role of a thesaurus in enhancing translation quality, language learning, and professional communication. The findings suggest that a bilingual sports thesaurus can serve as an effective tool for terminology standardization and intercultural communication in the field of sports.

Keywords: bilingual thesaurus, sports terminology, English language, Uzbek language, lexicography, terminology management, sports discourse, translation studies.

Taraqqiyot spektri

Introduction

The development of international sports relations has transformed sports into a global phenomenon that transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries. International competitions, sports journalism, academic research, and digital media generate a vast amount of specialized vocabulary that requires accurate interpretation and translation. Consequently, sports terminology has become an important area of linguistic and lexicographic research.

In recent decades, English has established itself as the lingua franca of international sports communication. Many sports terms originate in English and subsequently enter other languages through borrowing, adaptation, or translation. In Uzbekistan, the rapid development of professional sports and international cooperation has increased the need for standardized bilingual terminology resources. However, inconsistencies in translation and the absence of comprehensive bilingual reference materials often create communication difficulties.

One effective solution to this problem is the development of a bilingual thesaurus. Unlike traditional dictionaries, a thesaurus organizes lexical items according to semantic and conceptual relationships. Such an approach enables users not only to find translation equivalents but also to understand the connections among terms within a particular field of knowledge.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the process of creating a bilingual English–Uzbek thesaurus of sports terminology and to identify its potential applications in translation, education, and professional communication.

Literature Review

Terminology has long been recognized as an essential component of specialized communication. The foundations of modern terminology studies were established by Eugen

Taraqqiyot spektri

Wüster, who emphasized the importance of concept-oriented approaches to terminology management. According to Wüster, terminology systems should reflect logical relationships among concepts within a specific domain.

Cabré (1999) argues that terminology serves as a bridge between language and specialized knowledge. Terminological resources help professionals communicate efficiently while reducing ambiguity and misunderstanding. In multilingual contexts, terminology management becomes particularly important because equivalent concepts may be expressed differently across languages.

The concept of a thesaurus has evolved considerably since its introduction in lexicography. A thesaurus differs from a dictionary in that it focuses on semantic relations such as synonymy, hierarchy, and association. Modern thesauri are widely used in information retrieval systems, digital libraries, and knowledge organization structures.

Research on sports terminology has revealed several linguistic characteristics, including extensive borrowing, metaphorical expressions, abbreviations, and rapid lexical innovation. Sports language reflects both technical precision and popular usage, making it a particularly dynamic area of vocabulary development. Despite the increasing number of studies devoted to sports discourse, relatively little attention has been paid to bilingual thesaurus construction in the English–Uzbek language pair.

Research Methodology

The study employs qualitative and descriptive research methods. Data collection was carried out through the analysis of sports dictionaries, international sports regulations, academic publications, sports journalism materials, and online sports resources.

The process of creating the bilingual thesaurus involved four main stages:

1. Collection of sports terminology from authentic sources.

Taraqqiyot spektri

2. Verification and selection of relevant terms.
3. Classification according to semantic and conceptual categories.
4. Identification of translation equivalents and semantic relationships.

More than 500 sports terms representing various sports disciplines were examined during the research process. The terminology was analyzed from linguistic, semantic, and lexicographic perspectives.

Results and Discussion

Principles of Sports Terminology Classification

For effective thesaurus construction, sports terminology should be classified according to conceptual categories. The following classification model is proposed:

1. Sports Participants

This category includes individuals directly involved in sporting activities.

Examples:

English Term	Uzbek Equivalent
Athlete	Sportchi
Coach	Murabbiy
Referee	Hakam
Captain	Sardor
Competitor	Musobaqa ishtirokchisi

2. Sports Competitions

This category includes terminology related to sporting events and tournaments.

Taraqqiyot spektri

English Term	Uzbek Equivalent
Tournament	Turnir
Championship	Chempionat
Final	Final
Qualification	Saralash bosqichi
Playoff	Pley-off

3. Sports Equipment

English Term	Uzbek Equivalent
Ball	To'p
Racket	Raketka
Helmet	Shlem
Gloves	Qo'lqop
Uniform	Sport formasi

4. Sports Actions and Techniques

English Term	Uzbek Equivalent
Pass	uzatma
Dribble	Dribling
Serve	xizmat
Sprint	Sprint
Jump	Sakrash

Semantic Structure of the Thesaurus

Taraqqiyot spektri

The effectiveness of a thesaurus depends on the organization of semantic relationships.

For example:

Football

Broader term: Team sport

Narrower terms:

- Indoor football

- Beach football

Related terms:

- Goal

- Penalty

- Referee

- Offside

- Stadium

Uzbek equivalent: Futbol

Such a structure allows users to navigate the conceptual network surrounding a particular term.

Challenges in English–Uzbek Terminology Equivalence

Taraqqiyot spektri

Several challenges were identified during the study.

Absence of Direct Equivalents

Some sports concepts are culture-specific and lack exact Uzbek counterparts. In such cases, descriptive translation strategies may be necessary.

Example:

Touchdown → Amerika futbolida ochko keltiruvchi harakat

Terminological Variability

Multiple translation variants often coexist.

Example:

Coach → Murabbiy

Trainer → Murabbiy

The distinction between these terms depends on context and sport type.

Borrowing Processes

Many sports terms enter Uzbek directly from English.

Examples include:

- Fitness
- Sprint
- Match
- Champion
- Playoff

Taraqqiyot spektri

The thesaurus should indicate both borrowed forms and recommended standardized equivalents where appropriate.

Practical Applications of the Bilingual Sports Thesaurus

The proposed thesaurus can be used in several areas:

- Translation and interpreting;
- Sports journalism;
- Foreign language teaching;
- Lexicographic research;
- Terminology standardization;
- Digital information systems;
- Sports education and coaching.

Furthermore, the thesaurus may serve as a foundation for developing electronic terminology databases and machine translation tools.

Conclusion

The creation of a bilingual English–Uzbek thesaurus of sports terminology represents an important step toward the standardization and systematization of sports vocabulary. The study demonstrates that a concept-oriented approach can significantly improve terminology management and facilitate communication among specialists from different linguistic backgrounds.

A bilingual thesaurus provides users with more than simple translation equivalents. It establishes semantic relationships among concepts, supports accurate information retrieval, and enhances understanding of specialized knowledge structures. As international cooperation in sports continues to expand, the development of comprehensive bilingual terminological resources will become increasingly important.

Taraqqiyot spektri

Future research should focus on enlarging terminological databases, incorporating corpus-based approaches, and developing digital platforms capable of supporting dynamic updates and user interaction.

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Taraqqiyot spektri