

## **STRUCTURAL AND DERIVATIONAL PARAMETERS OF THE SPORTS TERMINOLOGY**

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### **Abstract**

The paper is grounded upon the fact that the amount of vocabulary in the English language is expanding and growing quickly, as its constant development and enrichment are both an obligatory condition and a direct consequence of the progress in the particular branches of human activity. It has been accentuated that all terms, fulfilling the applied function of the tools of cognition and means of fixing scientific and technological progress, are unified and fixed in the language. Based on this, the classification of terms has been done according to normativity – non-normativity.

Grounding on the number of already existing definitions, we understand a terminological phrase as a semantically integral word combination of two and more words connected by prepositions, or asyndetically. The correlation concerning the morphological structure of terms demonstrates a clearly expressed tendency of derivation being used as the main way of word-building in the development of sports terminological units. The conducted analysis of the studied mono- and multi-component terminological units showed that derivation is one of the most powerful sources of development of sport terminology. The corpus of sports terms can be described in accordance with the specialized spheres of use.

The amount of vocabulary in the English language is expanding and growing quickly, as its constant development and enrichment are both an obligatory condition and a direct consequence of the progress in the particular branches of human activity. The dynamic development of sports contributes to its belonging to the social area and gains a global meaning. Sport is not only a purely professional activity of a person, but also a part of the cultural, political and economic life of the country, an integral segment of traditions and self-consciousness of the people. Sport draws attention of lots of specialists and scholars, in particular linguists, who study its verbal representation and treat sports terminology as a prior one.

**Keywords:** term, terminology, sport terms, derivation, terminological parameters, specialized spheres of use

## Introduction

In the context of the constant development of sports during the preceding decades and present time, sports journalism, reflecting sports activities and its development, occupies a very important place in the life of a society. Moreover quick development of specific information is inevitably connected with the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the corresponding terminology. Spreading of the information triggers the need to process sports terms by their systematization, standardization, unification, as well as translation.

The formation of English sports terminology is mostly a result of the narrowing of the subject-conceptual correlation of the common, stylistically neutral lexemes: lexical units were firstly used without any significant formal changes in a certain professional communicative situation and became a language sign of clearly represented sports notions. That is why the specification of word meaning became the first means of sports terminology formation. Ordinary words would lose their direct meanings and obtain figurative sense in the new contexts. Sageder even proves that if a lexical unit is to be recognized as a term, a terminological space for its placement should exist in advance (Sageder, 2010: 126). Then the process of their terminologization took place. English terminology is a complex systemic semantic paradigm the main features of which are structural derivation, density of meaning, dynamism, exactness, a high level of informativity, expressiveness and metaphoric nature.

The investigation of English sports terms gains a high relevance nowadays, gives an opportunity to define certain regularities and mechanisms of their formation, and to analyze their semantic features in the modern English professional language. Sports terminology, in comparison with other layers of the English lexicon, does not have a clearly expressed scientific component. Scientific or official language units are evaluated with the help of objective factors, while sports lexemes include exclusive terms. Obviously, such division between sports terminology and literary language units may be explained by different roles which they perform in the life of people. Sports terminology occupies a significant part of the English professional language and has its own unique features. According to the generally accepted characteristics of terms a sports term is systemic in a particular kind of sport, has its preciseness and definiteness, relative independence from the context, expressiveness, and neutrality. Spreading of the information triggers the need to process sports terms by their systematization,

standardization, unification, as well as translation.

The amount of vocabulary in the English language is expanding and growing quickly, as its constant development and enrichment are both an obligatory condition and a direct consequence of the progress in the particular branches of human activity. In the context of the constant growth of sports during the preceding decades, sports journalism, reflecting sports activities and its development, occupies a very important place in the life of a society. Moreover quick development of specific information is inevitably connected with the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the corresponding terminology.

Spreading of the information triggers the need to process sports terms by their systematization, standardization, unification, as well as translation. The task of the automatized sports-publicist translation and e-dictionary compilation is becoming more and more acute. The successful fulfillment of these and other practical tasks significantly depends on the solution of the number of theoretical problems related to the stylistic aspects of sports-publicist texts.

So, the relevance of the research is determined by the fact that the group of sports terms introduces a quantitatively rich and semantically complex system, the development of which started in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and continues to this day.

Taking into consideration the preconditions of sports terminology development, the objective of the research lies in the setting of parameters of the sports terminology in publicist writing. The realization of the objective presupposes the necessity of solving the following tasks: 1) to define and compare the phenomena of terminology and a term system; 2) to analyze the interpretation of terms in modern linguistics; 3) to determine distinctive features of modern sports terminology; 4) to single out the terminological corpus in the analyzed articles from the "Sport Business" magazine; 5) to analyze structural-semantic peculiarities of English sports terminology and divide them according to the themes; 6) to define lexical characteristics of sports terminology on the basis of the collected data.

### **Terminology vs. term system**

The understanding of such notions as terminology and term system is a burning issue in modern science. A generally accepted statement is that terminology is a separate system inside the language stock and consists of the units of terminological nomination. The differences occur when talking about the nature, origin and systemic character of these units for the specific purposes (or professional languages), which actually caused the existence of two main approaches to the solution this problem.

On the one hand, some terminologists equate the notions of terminology and a term system (e. g. Volodina (2017), Humovska (2000)). Another group of scholars claims that sectoral term systems are separate systems existing inside terminology (e. g. Hrysh (2010) and Mykhalevych (2010)). We agree with such an approach and consider a term system not to be interconnected by a set of all kinds of terms, because in linguistics, the notion of a system itself expresses an integral orderly formation that performs certain functions.

Ay the same time, there are scholars who single out the notions of terminology and a term system. In their opinion, terminology is a spontaneously formed unity of terms inside of a language stock, and a term system is consciously formed. In his opinion, a term system correlates, not with the development of science, knowledge or practical activities in general, but together with corresponding theories that form inside them.

Separating the notions of terminology and a term system, they understand a term system as special lexicon that serves for one branch of science or technology (Dyakov et al, 2000: 187).

On the basis of the characteristics parameters and models of formation, Tur introduced the following distinctive features that describe a term system (Tur, 2014: 127):

1. A term system is a certain unity of terms that fulfills a communicative-thematic or communicative-situational task;
2. Elements of a term system structure are directly or indirectly combined with each other;
3. Some terms may not belong to any term system, or, on the contrary, may enter several of them at the same time;
4. Borders of a term system can be more or less defined;
5. Term systems may overlap each other forming a zone of overlapping, so to say, a certain group of terms that are common for several term systems;
6. A term system can be used by one particular branch of science, as well as by some branches of science simultaneously; that will point out its status as a cross-sectoral one.

We assume that the list of the mentioned above features is rather well-directed. That is why we agree with Tur that terminology is a zone of overlapping term systems that comprise a certain group of terms that are common for several term systems. According to Richards et al terminology is: a) the special lexical items which occur in a particular discipline or subject matter; b) the development or selection of lexical items for concepts in a language (Richards et al, 1999: 376).

It is important to point out that a scientific language has ancient traditions of terms creation. Term systems were formed on the basis of the native language units having adopted what had already been worked out. The correlation of national and international has always been and still is beyond a framework of the conceptual approach of a term creation. Therefore, in modern linguistics there still no universal definition of a term, so the research in this field remains acute and relevant.

Taking into account the results of the conducted investigations of the nature of term, we share the definition suggested by Citkina, who determines a term as a language sign that represents a scientific concept of a specialized, professional branch of knowledge. The unambiguousness of a term still leaves much to be discussed, as a correlation with a concrete notion and relative independence from the context, do not negate contextual conditionality (Citkina, 1988: 10).

Having analyzed different approaches to the studies of the differences between concept terminology and a term system, we can say that terminology is a concept much broader than a term system. Terminology is a part of the lexical composition of a particular language, which is spontaneously formed and contains terminological units of all types: industrial terms, nomenclature symbols, professional words and special terms. The term system is a complete separate system in terminology, the demarcation of which requires an accurate professional approach in each specific field. In addition, one and the same term can be polysemantic within the terminology as part of the vocabulary of the language and unambiguous within a certain term system, which is defined by the nature of the term.

### **The terminological parameters**

All terms, fulfilling the applied function of the tools of cognition and means of fixing scientific and technological progress, are unified and fixed in the language. Based

on this, the classification of terms has been done according to normativity – non-normativity. This classification distinguishes the standardizing terms (which are in the process of standardization), standardized (which have passed the standardization stage), inadmissible (the terms rejected by the standardization process), recommendable terms (terms that are at the stage of normalization and systematization), and recommended (terms, which have passed the stage of normalization and systematization).

The problem of a systemic character of terminology is widely debated in linguistic literature because a systemic character is one of the most important factors of a term existence. Thus, the very thought that a term can exist only in a term system, i. e. among other terms that are linked with the help of certain relationships, is often adhered. There is an assertion that the term system is a set of terms belonging to a certain sphere of knowledge that is interrelated at different language levels: conceptual, lexico-semantic, grammatical and morphological (word building).

Basic sports terminology consists of terminological lexemes (simple or derived), terminological phrases, clippings and abbreviations which may be stylistically neutral or marked. Grounding on the number of already existing definitions, we understand a terminological phrase as a semantically integral word combination of two and more words connected by prepositions, or asyndetically.

Terminological phrases (TP) are used in their primary meanings but can gain a new status. Their number is constantly growing as they are actualized on new levels and attain a worldwide popularity (the amount of terminological phrases in the analyzed corpus is the biggest). Besides that, new notions become international and are frequently used on the world-wide arena.

Another parameter on the basis of which sports terms can be described and analyzed is their reference to a part of speech. It is well-known that all terminological systems in general, and the one of sport, consist of two main types of lexical units: one-component and complex.

On the basis of their morphological structure, one-component sports terms are divided into the following way: simple words (35 %) and derivatives (65 %). Such correlation demonstrates a clearly expressed tendency of derivation being used as the main way of word-building in the development of sports terminological units. Derivative sports terms are formed according to the typical for English word-formation models: suffixation, prefixation, suffixation-prefixation. The derivatives built up with the help of suffixation means are most widely introduced (65 %), while prefixation and suffixation-prefixation ones turned out to be less productive – 10 % and 25 % correspondingly. There were identified 6 most productive suffixes: *-ence*, *-er*, *-ing*, *-ion*, *-or*, *-ty*. The most productive ones are *-er*, *-ion* and *-ing*. The suffix *-er* stands for a model  $V + -er > N$ , the suffix *-ion* is to be observed in the model  $V + -ion > N$ , and the suffix *-ing* realizes the model  $V + -ing > N$ .

The most numerous part of derivatives in the complex terms are the components of *V-ing* and *V-ed* types, while those of *V-er*, *V-ive*, *N'S*, *N-Prep*, *Prep-N* types are less used.

The conducted analysis of the studied mono- and multi-component terminological units showed that derivation is one of the most powerful sources of development of sport terminology. The most productive way of term-formation of the professional vocabulary is the suffix-derivative method involving the models  $V + -er$ ,  $V + -ion$ ,  $V + -ing$  (among monocomponent terms) and *V-ing*, *V-ed* (among multicomponent terms).

The derivatives formed of verbs are quantitatively predominant in the sport terminology, based on the fact that the verb, as the bearer of the meaning of action, its result and the dynamics of games, is the most common part of the language on the terminology layer of the professional vocabulary of the game sports.

Besides affixation, other important means of word formation are composition, conversion, and borrowings. Scholars observed that compound and composite words have a great capacity of compressing a good amount of content in the compact form. They are capable to reflect broadly the features and characteristics of different objects of reality. Compound words are formed according to different models, the largest group of which is N+N (*backhand, end line*) and it serves as empirical data for the research on all composites. The second group is the model A+N (*deep ball, good serve*). Less frequent are models Num +N (*double bounce, two-step footwork*), Num 0+N (*third ball*), PII+N (*closed racket, inverted rubber*), G+N (*playing surface*), and V+N (*drop shot*).

## Materials and methods

The corpus of the investigated terms, terminological word-groups and abbreviations consists of 600 units (297 word terms, 203 terminological phrases and 100 terminological abbreviations), which is a result of a continuous sampling from 150 articles in the “Sport Business” magazine (Sport Online Magazine). The articles from this magazine serve as the data resource for the research.

The study adopts a mixed-method approach, combining a quantitative approach with a qualitative analysis of selected sports terms. Quantitative approach is based on the measurement of quantity or amount. It is applicable to phenomena that can be expressed in terms of quantity. Qualitative approach is concerned with phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind. The parameters that can be used to distinguish these research approaches concern the type of data (quantitative or qualitative), the method of analysis (interpretative or statistical), and the manner of data collection (experimental or non-experimental).

The structural method and immediate constituents analysis have been applied to study the inner organization of English sports terms and their structure. The aim of the immediate constituents analysis is to segment sports terms into maximally independent sequences or ultimate constituents, thus revealing the hierarchical structure of these linguistic units.

The word formation and morphemic analyses have been carried out to determine the main ways of sports terms formation. The purpose of morphemic analysis is to reveal the structural and functional status of sports terms and identify the following characteristics:

- 1) morphological structure of sports terms;
- 2) morphemic structure of sports terms;
- 3) structural-semantic type of sports terms.

The definitional, componential and semantic analyses have been employed to study the meaning of terminological units and to determine their semantic peculiarities. The study of lexical meaning by lexical definitions and its lexicographic presentation allows to establish the nature and types of semantic structure of sports terms belonging to different semasiological subclasses and semantic categories, in other words, to consider the lexical meaning of a sports term. Using the method of componential analysis it is possible to distinguish two semantic concepts – meaning and sense. The meaning of the sports term is the semantic object it names, and the sense is the way in which this semantic object is conveyed.



## Results and discussion

### 4.1. Structural-semantic specificity of the English sports term system

The corpus of sports terms can be described in accordance with the specialized spheres of use. Lexico-semantic groups build structural-semantic specificity of the English sports term system. Lexico-semantic groups are lexical units connected with one linguistically cognitive context and grouped by the existence of the common archive. The terms that nominate the subject-conceptual apparatus of numerous kinds of sports might be grouped as following: general names, sports terminology that relates to contest organization, their variety, structural parts: *game, quarterfinal, score*; names of people according to their occupation, position, and sportsmen by their activity: *guard, captain, referee, scorer*; names of throws: *hook, charge*; names of game actions: *to shoot, to dribble, to pass, to block*; names of movements, technical acts. The nominative area of terms of this group is formed by the components with the *OFFENCE* semantic: *give-and-go, triple-threat position, drop-step*; *DEFFENCE*: *help and recover, pick and roll*; *VIOLATION*: *double dribble, carrying the ball, 24 second shot clock violation, out-of-bounds, goaltending*. Other thematic fields are names of the games situations: *possession, offensive rebound, defensive rebound, outlet pass, fast break, alley oop, full-court press, squaring up*; names of the sports inventory, basketball equipment and the places where sports events take place: *playing court, boundary line, baseline, arc, score sheet, backboards, ball*; names of the games, games actions: *quadruple-double, triple-double, fast break point, game lost by forfeit*; names of the temporal parameters of the game: *period, shot clock, garbage time*; tokens for teams, gestures of the referee during the game: *stop clock for violation, ball returned to backcourt, beckoning-in etc.*

On the basis of the analysis of the structure and semantics of composite sports terms we can conclude that the frequent usage of compound terms in specialized sport texts is determined by their high normativity and semantic density; for the definition of the meaning of the compound sports terms it is necessary to explicate a semantic relationship between their components; semantic motivation helps to reveal the meaning of compound words with ambiguous semantics; compound words contain either an agent or an object of an action, moreover they are divided into category motivated and objectively motivated words; words that denote a performance of strokes and rules of the game are semantically unmotivated, and, as a result, the semantic relationships between their components are not manifested.

So, English sport terminology is a complex systemic semantic paradigm, and its main method of naming is the metaphorical naming of phenomena and concepts: re-thinking, metaphorization, specializing in commonly used vocabulary, which is then terminated. The main features of sport terminology are its structural derivation, density of form, dynamism, accuracy, high informative content, expressiveness and metaphoric nature.

### 4.2. The formation of English sports terminology

A very important distinctive feature of a terminological corpus is its formal structure. In the context of cardinal changes connected with the informational revolution in a number of spheres of human activity, the pace of the vocabulary growth has significantly increased. This process has been observed in many languages and particularly English where four new terms come into being every day. That is why terminological lexicon

plays an important role in the vocabulary of any language. New phenomena require new words. This process is accompanied with a constant coining of new terms.

One of the essential linguistic systems that serve as the main sources for the term creation is a morphological system and means of word-building. In most cases, terms, similar to neutral words, are coined on the basis of the general language tools. Thus, grounding on the already existing models of word-building, the language of science and technologies develops its own word-formation subsystem, adjusting to the basic requirements and functions of the terminological lexicon and the language of science in general. In their turn, word-formation means belong to a certain system in terminology.

The formation of English sports terminology is mostly a result of the narrowing of the subject-conceptual correlation of the common, stylistically neutral lexemes: lexical units were firstly used without any significant formal changes in a certain professional communicative situation and became a language sign of clearly represented sports notions. That is why the specification of word meaning became the first means of sports terminology formation. Ordinary words would lose their direct meanings and obtain figurative sense in the new contexts. Then the process of their terminologization took place. English terminology is a complex systemic semantic paradigm the main features of which are structural derivation, density of meaning, dynamism, exactness, a high level of informativity, expressiveness and metaphoric nature.

Word formation is one of the most productive means of language enrichment. This category in the language system is responsible for the formation of the language signs that are used to name different elements of internal and external human experience (Dyakov, 2000: 53).

As sport is gaining popularity throughout the world and a great quantity of terms has a free access to a wide range of people, there must be a modern approach to sports terminology processing done thoroughly and in a systemic mode. The problems of a sports lexicon description and classification of sport terms are in the focus of scientific interests of specialists in sports and linguistics. As the analysis shows, these problems drew the attention of many researchers and scholars (e. g. Bardina et al. (2002), Yankiv (2000) Samson (2020), Romanchuk (2012)). However, the problem of a systemic nature of terms word-formation, namely of gaming sports, lacks complex investigations nowadays.

Basic sports terminology consists of terminological lexemes (simple or derived), terminological phrases, clippings and abbreviations which may be stylistically neutral or marked. Grounding on the number of already existing definitions, we understand a terminological phrase as a way of expressing a certain idea, an integral semantic and grammatical unity of two or more words (Yermolenko, 2001).

The research on sports terminology witnesses the existence of a number of terminological phrases and abbreviations in the analyzed corpus.

Terminological phrases (TP) are used in their primary meanings but can gain a new status. Their number is constantly growing as they are actualized on new levels and attain a worldwide popularity (the amount of terminological phrases in the analyzed corpus is the biggest). Besides that, new notions become international and are frequently used on the world-wide arena. In the course of our analysis we singled out the following new TP: *playing strip, league club, multiple fights, boxing promoter, first-team players, football club, Premier League, Club League, full-length race, Football Confederation, league's final play-off, the top-tier Liga, Super Cup, football market, worldwide markets, Olympic Games, full-length race, sports executives, athletic director, scale*



*issue, single-day or single-week leagues, league-level sponsorships, training facilities, football's leading club, attacking player, forcing through, goal scoring, combined defence, time wasting, feigned shot, unguarded player, defensive foul, referee's throw, offensive foul, passive play, referee's ball, underhand pass, overhead shot, flagrant foul, bounce pass, free throw, three point shot, double dribble, blocked shot, established position, time played, held ball, tied score, team member, home team, visiting team.*

The corpus of word terms is the least numerous, but is constituted with the most frequently used lexemes. The analysis of the sport word terms has defined root terms to be of the quantity dominance. Every third article in "Sport Business" magazine contains such word terms as: *tournament, the league, team, sprinter, baseman, coach, athlete, uniform, position, substitution, score, equipment, rule, violation, stopwatch, press, screen, zone* (Sport Online Magazine). The most frequently used are the terms that denote the names of different kinds of sport: *ice hockey, football, basketball, cycling, rugby, handball, golf, car racing.*

So, the analysis of the terminological content of the articles on sport in accordance with its formal structure has proved the prevalence of terminological phrases above term lexemes. This might be explained by the psychological approaches of the recipients to the gained information who tend to perceive a wider picture and name it rather than a simple notion.

Other parameters on the basis of which sports terms can be described and analyzed are their structure, word building pattern, and reference to a part of speech. It is well-known that on the structural level all terminological systems in general, and the one of sport, consist of two main types of lexical units: one-component and complex.

In accordance with the parts of speech structure one-component sports terms are divided into the following way:

- simple words – 35 % from the overall quantity of the processed terms: (*dashes – the term commonly used to describe races up to the 800 meter distance. For example, the 100 meter dash; flexion – the movement of a joint during which the angle of the joint becomes more acute. For instance, flexion of the elbow brings the wrist toward the shoulder; junior – an athlete who is under 20 years of age on December 31<sup>st</sup> of a given year*);

- derivatives – 65 % (*intensity – a measure of how hard an athlete is working during exercise; lifting – in the race walk, a violation in which the athlete raises both feet off the ground simultaneously; macrocycle – in training, the term used to describe a long block of training constituting a buildup toward one period of competition. Macrocycles are commonly equivalent to a single season; macrocycle – in training, the term used to describe a long block of training constituting a buildup toward one period of competition. Macrocycles are commonly equivalent to a single season*).

Such correlation demonstrates a clearly expressed tendency of derivation being used as the main way of word-building in the development of sports terminological units.

Derivative sports terms are formed by typical for English word-formation models:

- suffixation (*pronation – the inward roll of the foot that occurs from initial foot strike (especially in runners who heel-strike) until preparation for toe-off. Pronation is a necessary type of joint movement for running, as it is a primary means of absorbing the impact forces of running. However, excessive pronation is a common precursor for overuse injuries. This can be addressed with strengthening, orthotics/insoles, or*

*corrective footwear; recovery – a window of time during which the body repairs, rebuilds, and restores. Commonly refers to the sum total of regenerative processes throughout a training cycle, time between workouts, or blocks of lower intensity or rest during a workout session);*

- *prefixation (restart – to start a turn again after it has stopped; semifinal – one of two sports games whose winners then compete against each other to decide who wins the whole competition);*

- *suffixation-prefixation (intermission – a short period of time between game; substitution – when a player is replaced by someone or something else, or the person or thing being replaced).*

The derivatives built up with the help of suffixation means are most widely introduced (65 %), while prefixation and suffixation-prefixation ones turned out to be less productive – 10 % and 25 % correspondingly.

There were identified 6 most productive suffixes: *-ence (defence – the players on a sports team whose main job is to try to prevent the other team from getting points), -er (player – someone who takes part in a game or sport), -ing (holding – a process when a player owns a ball), -ion (suspension – when a game is officially stopped for a period of time), -or (commentator – someone on television or radio who describes an event as it is happening), -ty (penalty – a chance to kick the ball or hit the puck into the goal in a game of football, rugby, or ice hockey, given because the other team has broken a rule). The most productive ones are -er, -ion and -ing.*

The suffix *-er* stands for a model  $V + -er > N$  (*to lead – to be winning a game, competition > leader – the person or group that is in front of all the others in a race or competition; to play – to take part or compete in a game or sport > player – someone who takes part in a game or sport; to shoot – to kick or throw a ball in a sport such as football or basketball towards the place where you can get a point > shooter – a basketball player who is good at throwing the ball through the basket.*

The suffix *-ion* is to be observed in the model  $V + -ion > N$  (*to combine – if you combine two or more different things, or if they combine, they begin to exist or work together > combination – a mixture of different people or things that work successfully together; to exclude – to deliberately not include something > exclusion – when someone is not allowed to take part in something or enter a place (Terminological Dictionary));*

The suffix *-ing* realizes the model  $V + -ing > N$  (*to kick – to hit something with your foot > kicking – a beat on the ball; to warn – to tell someone that something bad or dangerous may happen, so that they can avoid it or prevent it > warning – a statement telling someone that if they continue to behave in an unsatisfactory way, they will be punished.*

As we may see the most numerous group within one-component terms is verbal derivatives. This might be explained by the fact that a verb is the carrier of the meaning of the action, or its result, and is the most frequently used part of speech in the terminological layer in the professional lexicon of gaming sports. As to complex terms, their analysis has shown that the most frequent parts of them are not just terminological units, but the derivatives of the following types:

- *V-ing – (ancillary training – a type of training in which the athlete focuses on a type of work not directly related to the event for which the athlete is training. For instance, a distance runner utilizing resistance training is doing ancillary training; championship racing – racing in which the primary determinant of success is place. Usually a title is on the line, such as a conference title or national championship;*

*interval training* – a type of training during which an athlete runs a given pace for a given distance and time, and then takes a specified amount of rest before another bout of intense running. The “interval” commonly refers to both the running bout and the rest period. The rest period can either be constituted by complete rest, or simply a lowering of intensity;

- *V-ed* (*Staggered Start* – used in races from 200 meters to 800 meters that start on a curve. The starting lines are staggered lane by lane to make up for the different distance of the curve in each lane, so that each athlete starts the same distance from the finish line; *wind-Aided* – a term applied to marks gained with the help of a tailwind stronger than 2.00 meters per second (m/s). Wind-aided marks count for the purpose of the competition in which they are made, but are not officially counted for record purposes;

- *V-er* (*goalkeeper* – the player in a sports team whose job is to try to stop the ball going into the goal; *timekeeper* – someone who officially records the times taken to do something, especially at a sports event);

- *V-ive* (*defensive foul* – infraction of rules in a game;

- *N'S* (*referee's ball* – arguable ball; *referee's throw* – arguable throw; etc.;

- *N-Prep* (*Toe-off* – the phase of the running or walking stride when the toes (primarily the big toe) push off the ground (The Webster Thesaurus);

- *Prep-N* (*Takeoff* – the moment at which an athlete's support foot breaks contact with the surface of the throwing circle, runway, or track and the athlete enters a period of flight.

So, the most numerous part of derivatives in the complex terms are the components of *V-ing* and *V-ed* types, while those of *V-er*, *V-ive*, *N'S*, *N-Prep*, *Prep-N* types are less used.

#### 4.3. Sports terms and their specialized spheres of use

The corpus of sports terms can be described in accordance with the specialized spheres of use. Lexico-semantic groups build structural-semantic specificity of the English sports term system. Lexico-semantic groups are lexical units connected with one linguistically cognitive context and grouped by the existence of the common archive.

The terms that nominate the subject-conceptual apparatus of numerous kinds of sports might be grouped as following.

1. General names, sports terminology that relates to contest organization, their variety, structural parts. For example: *game* – an activity or sport in which people compete with each other according to agreed rules; *quarterfinal* – one of the four games near the end of a competition, whose winners play in the two semi-finals, *semifinal*, *final*; *score* – the number of points that each team or player has won in a game or competition.

2. Names of people according to their occupation, position, and sportsmen by their activity. Players: *guard* – one of two players on a basketball team who is responsible for moving the ball to help their team gain; *captain* – someone who leads a team or other group of people; *referee* – someone who makes sure that the rules of a sport such as football, basketball, or boxing, are followed; *scorer* – someone who keeps an official record of the points won in a sports game.

3. Names of throws: *hook* – a way of hitting your opponent in boxing, in which your elbow is bent; *charge* – the position of having control or responsibility for a

group of people or an activity, etc.

4. Names of game actions: *to shoot* – to kick or throw a ball in a sport such as football or basketball towards the place where you can get a point; *to dribble* – to move the ball along with you by short kicks, bounces, or hits in a game of football, basketball etc.; *to pass* – to kick, throw, or hit a ball to a member of your own team during a game; *to block* – a movement in sport that stops an opponent going forward or playing the ball forward.

5. Names of movements, technical acts. The nominative area of terms of this group is formed by the components with the *OFFENCE* semantic: *give-and-go* – a play (as in basketball or hockey) in which a player passes to a teammate and immediately cuts toward the net or goal to receive a return pass; *trilpe-threat position* – a position that makes you feel like a threat to the basket and the defense; *pivot* – to turn quickly on your feet so that you face in the opposite direction; *drop-step* – a post up move in which the player possessing the ball ceases his dribble and stretches a leg to one side of the defender while turning towards the basket, in order to position himself for an unimpeded shot; *DEFFENCE: help and recover* – this is a 3-on-3 basketball drill that uses man to man defense; *pick and roll* – in basketball is an offensive play in which a player sets a screen (pick) for a teammate handling the ball and then slips behind the defender (rolls) to accept a pass; *VIOLATION : double dribble* occurs when a player dribbles with two hands simultaneously. A double dribble can also occur when a player picks up the ball with two hands then dribbles it again with one hand; *carrying the ball* is a violation in the game of basketball. It occurs when the dribbling player continues to dribble after allowing the ball to come to rest in one or both hands; *24 second shot clock violation* is used in some sports to quicken the pace of the game; *out-of-bounds* means outside the boundary of a playing field or court and therefore not in play or legal; *goaltending* is the violation of interfering with the ball while it's on its way to the basket and it is (a) in a downward flight, (b) entirely above the rim and has the possibility of entering the basket, and (c) not touching the rim.

6. Names of the games situations: *possession* – when a person or team has control of the ball in some sports; *offensive rebound* – a term used in basketball to describe a rebound secured by an offensive player after his/her teammate has missed a shot; *defensive rebound* occurs when the defense obtains the possession of the ball after a missed shot by the offense; *outlet pass* – a pass made in basketball by the player taking a defensive rebound to a teammate to start a fast break; *fast break* is an offensive strategy in basketball and handball. In a fast break, a team attempts to move the ball up court and into scoring position as quickly as possible; *alley oop* happens in basketball is an offensive play in which one player throws the ball near the basket to a teammate who jumps, catches the ball in mid air and puts it in the hoop before touching the ground; *full-court press* is a very aggressive way of playing defense over all areas of the court; *squaring up* – to get in the fighting position.

7. Names of the sports inventory, basketball equipment and the places where sports events take place: *playing court* is the venue where the sport of tennis is played. It is a firm rectangular surface with a low net stretched across the center; *boundary line* is the line or plane indicating the limit or extent of something; *baseline* – the line at the back of the court in games such as tennis or volleyball; *arc* – part of a curved line or a circle; *three-point field goal area*; *score sheet* – a special piece of paper on which someone records the points won in a sports match; *backboards* – the board behind the basket in the game of basketball; *ball* – any game or sport played with a ball, especially baseball or basketball.

8. Names of characteristics, features of sports actions. Predominantly these are names depending on the result of the game, game action: *quadruple-double – is defined as a performance in which a player accumulates a double digit number; triple-double – is defined as a performance in which a player accumulates a double digit number total in three of five; fast break point – is an offensive strategy in basketball and handball; game lost by forfeit – is a method in which a match automatically ends and the forfeiting team loses.*

9. Names of the temporal parameters of the game: *period – one of the equal parts that a game is divided into in a sport such as ice hockey; shot clock – the amount of time an offense is given to shoot the ball; garbage time – is a term used to refer to the period toward the end of a timed sporting event that has become a blowout when the outcome of the game has already been decided, and the coaches of one or both teams will decide to replace their best players with substitutes.*

10. Tokens for teams, gestures of the referee during the game: *pushing or charging without the ball; stop clock for violation – the clock only stops when the official blows his whistle to indicate a foul, violation or timeout; ball returned to backcourt – the ball has been illegally returned to the backcourt; beckoning-in – to signal or summon, as by nodding or waving.*

Besides affixation, other important means of word formation are composition, conversion, and borrowings. Scholars observed that compound and composite words have a great capacity of compressing a good amount of content in the compact form. They are capable to reflect broadly the features and characteristics of different objects of reality (Baysan, 2011: 102).

Compound words are formed according to different models, the largest group of which is N+N (*backhand – a hit with a closed racket; end line – the last line*) and it also serves as empirical data for the research on all composites. The second group is the model A+N (*deep ball – a long ball; good serve – a right service*). Less frequent are models Num +N (*double bounce– a wrongly done hit; two-step footwork – the work of feet*), Num 0+N (*third ball – a strong attack*), PII+N (*closed racket – a hit with a closed racket; inverted rubber – even and soft rubber*), G+N (*playing surface – a surface for playing*), V+N (*drop shot – a sortened hit*).

Dyakov considers motivation to be an important feature of an internal form of a lexeme. To his mind, internal form is a systemic characteristic of a word or phrase that functions as a “bridge” between a sound form and the meaning, and makes the impression of the word in human memory (Dyakov, 2000: 74). Other scholars added to this point, that the form of a language sign in our consciousness is tightly bound with its meaning that is why these notions are kept in the human memory as an integral unity.

Traditionally a word is defined as “the unity of a meaning and form”, and has two sides – denoting (the main meaning of the sign) and representing (the form of the sign). These two stay in the interdependent relationships, are socially accepted, and systemically studied. One side, namely meaning, points at the formal side of the sign, and vice versa, the form of the sign evokes a correspondent meaning in the consciousness of a language user. It has also been stated, that motivation of a derivative unit contains a derivative stem and word-building affixes that interpret a denotator.

The term *blade covering* – “the coveting for a board, something that is applied on the racquet board”, is derived from the verb *to cover – the main meaning of which – to lay over*. There might be found such descriptions in the semantics of this term as *to wallpaper, to paste all over*, which gives a clearer understanding of the meaning of the language unit.



It is necessary to admit that the compound terms *penhold*; *backhand*; *cross court*; *down the line*, etc carry the semantic bonds due to the generalized components of a word-composite: *pen hold* – a grip in which the bat is held between thumb and forefinger, like a pen.

The scholars treat such definitions of the word *pen*: 1) a stylus; 2) a calligraphic pen. The semantic of a calligraphic pen expresses a meaning of this composite.

*Backhand* is a stroke done with the back of the hand facing toward one's opponent. *Backhand* describes a manner of hitting.

*Cross court* is a stroke that's hit diagonally from corner to corner. One of the meanings of the word *cross* is to go from one side to another.

*Down the line* – a shot travelling parallel to and close to the side of the court (diagonally) (Panochko, 1978: 73).

There is not any hint of a *stroke* in the semantics of the words *spin*, *cross*, *down*, but their main denotative function is the description of the *stroke*, as well as how it is performed.

Very often the main issue of the semantic structure of a compound word is that it simultaneously refers to the world of things/objects/notions/beings and to the world of linguistic tokens. A compound word motivation is not explicit, so it is not easy to analyse it. The main difficulty is to find out the correlation between a figurative meaning of the interpreted words and their motivation, e.g. *backhand* is interpreted not literally as 'the back of the hand', but figuratively as 'a type of a stroke with the back of the hand facing the same direction as the hit itself'. Such semantic motivation of the meaning of the word is always conditional: we can consider either a higher or lower degree of conventionality.

In the course of the meaning definition of a compound word it is necessary to take into account an implicit semantic relation between components of the compound word. Terminologists state that nouns are constituent parts of a compound word and are engaged in various speech acts, realizing not only their static and stable semantic features, but also their potential hypothetical denotations and references, that include the following four groups: 'agent', 'place', 'time', and 'material'.

In the compound word *assistant-umpire*, its semantic motivation is achieved by the reference to one of the components of category – 'agent'. This example illustrates a categorical motivation in which the most important thing for defining semantics is to find out about the relationships of the word *assistant* with the word *umpire*. *Assistant* is a subject, a direct doer of an action, in relation to which *umpire* is a subject, because it is the one that helps the referee to perform an action towards him. So, the relationships "action + object of action" can be set. Thus, interacting with the notion *umpire* (referee) *assistant* (aide) expresses the category 'agent' (tool).

The unit *tennis club* (the building or rooms that a table tennis club uses) is referred to the category 'place'. Following Meshkov, we classify nouns into two groups: 'subjects that perform an action' and 'simple objects', the latter one can express the categories 'agent' or 'material'. In the compound word *footwork* – the way in which a person moves his feet when playing a sport – a foot performs the function of an 'agent'.

It must be pointed out that among the analyzed compound sports terms there is a small number of nouns, whose semantic motivation is formed under the influence of the category parameter of one of the components. Another word group is formed by objectively motivated words: *rubber cleaner* – used to keep the surface of inverted rubber clean; in this unit a dominant meaning is based on the semantic relationships of the words that denote two different objects. Thus, such units have only their own



particular lexical meanings and form the relationships of a 'purpose' ('rubber cleaner'). The relationships in this language unit are set by the logical-presentational correlations. The unit *racket hand – the hand that is used to hold the racket* – belongs to this group too. Here the component *hand* does not have its original denotative meaning - a part of a body, an agent that performs an action, but denotes a "tool" for the object expressed by the first component. In such a way it represents an object that serves a support and forms a racket. In the unit *net serve – when the serve hits the net and lands on the opposite side* – the word *net* denotes an object over which an action is performed.

Other analyzed examples of semantically unmotivated units are the following: *handshake (a grip of the bat that resembles 'shaking hands' with it); drop-shot (a shot which falls very short over the net on the opponent's side of the table); handicap event (an event in tournament where points are spotted to make the match even); open racket (a stroke played with the striking surface of the racket angled upwards).*

## Conclusions

On the basis of the analysis of the structure and semantics of composite sports terms, the following conclusions can be made:

1) the frequent usage of compound terms in specialized sport texts is determined by their high normativity and semantic density;

2) lexicographical analysis of compound sports terms showed that for the definition of their meaning it is necessary to explicate a semantic relationship between their components;

3) semantic motivation helps to reveal the meaning of compound words with ambiguous semantics;

4) terms denoting sport equipment form a small group of words, they are structurally motivated, and their meanings are revealed through their components;

5) compound words contain either an agent or an object of an action, moreover they are divided into category motivated and objectively motivated words;

6) words that denote a performance of strokes and rules of the game are semantically unmotivated, so that the semantic relationships between their components are not manifested.

This group of compound terms requires further studies not only of their semantic structure but also of functioning and explication of implicit cognitive factors.

So, English sport terminology is a complex systemic semantic paradigm, and its main method of naming is the metaphorical naming of phenomena and concepts: re-thinking, metaphorization of commonly used vocabulary which is then terminated. The main features of sport terminology are its structural derivation, density of meaning, dynamism, accuracy, high informative content, expressiveness and metaphoric nature.

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