

SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPORTS AND ART

Mamarasulov Ulug‘bek Umirzoqovich

*Researcher of the
Samarkand State Institute
of Foreign Languages*

Abstract: *The theme of the movement of the human body in art is as old as culture itself. One glance at the literary and sculptural works, at the ceramic products of the past is enough to understand how great was the human desire to capture people's physical exercises and sports. During the period of ancient civilizations in Egypt, Greece and Rome, the themes of human physique and movement are repeated in works of art over and over again.*

Key words: *sport, art, aesthetics, beauty, victory, game, justice, conscience.*

And in our time, dance and sports exercises also inspire artists in their work. In canvases such as Braque's Tennis Players, Villon's Wrestlers, Zytman's Fencers, Robinson's Hammer Thrower and Dunlop's Rugby sculptures, the quintessence of movement is accurately conveyed, and we enjoy meeting these works of art. With the advent of film and television, it was possible to capture athletes directly in the moment of joy or tragedy, and, more importantly, the opportunity to reproduce the sequential flow of movement again at their leisure. Such a work of art as Leni Riefenstahl's talented film about the 1936 Olympic Games, which captures the movements of athletes, is also a source of aesthetic pleasure for the audience.

The question of whether sports activity can be a topic for art has never been questioned, in contrast to the question of whether sport is an art form. Sport, as is sometimes said, is the quest for victory, while the purpose of art is to create beauty. Therefore, it is implied that since the ultimate goal of sport is victory and not beauty, it cannot be considered an art. But, as already noted, [1: 197] this is not such a simple question as it seems at first glance, because due to some of its elements, certain sports, such as figure skating, create beauty. Whether individual sports satisfy the definition of art remains an open question. [2: 73]

The connection between art and sport is expressed in the fact that art sees sport as a source of aesthetic pleasure. But the whole point is that the movements of the human body cannot be expressed in terms of sports, and aesthetics cannot be considered in terms of art. This paper does not aim to answer such a controversial question whether some sports can be considered an art and, if so, in what cases. Here only an attempt is made to highlight the question of whether sports activity can be a source of aesthetic pleasure. In this work, the topic of the connection between sports and art is touched upon, but it is not the main one here.

The concept of sport is actually much broader than is commonly thought. Sport does not lend itself to a simple definition, as it includes a wide variety of activities, often having nothing in common. In some sports, cars are used, in others - balls, and there are those that could not exist at all without special sports equipment. Sport is a collective term and currently includes many disparate forms of activity. Sports include motorcycle racing, water polo, and weightlifting, as well as games on the sports ground: rugby, croquet, hockey, and outdoor sports: hunting, shooting, fishing. If one can speak of all sports taken together, one might say that they are associated to varying degrees with such traits as whole-body tension, competitiveness, the use of agility, the uncertainty of the result, and some elements of danger. In addition, most sports have their own rules, ritual, system. They are "life forms" in miniature and require courage, physical strength, speed, endurance. Some sports, although similar to each other in many ways, such as tennis and other ball games, still have their own distinctive rules of the game, strategy and tactics. If the same expression can be used with equal success, for example, in relation to jumping and to some other types of activities related to sports, then this means that they are united by "family resemblance".[3: 31]

The "common" that unites many different sports into one concept – "sport", is undoubtedly sports dexterity. For many people, it is inseparable from the concept of sport. For example, he characterized sports agility as a moral category and associated it with such moral virtues as courage, courtesy and generosity. For some people (perhaps this primarily applies to those who were brought up in the spirit of the closed private schools for boys) to play sports is to be an athlete. This also includes appropriate behavior. This means that it is not enough for an athlete to just follow the rules of the game, but in all his actions he should be guided by the moral principles of equality and justice. Of course, such beliefs are not inherent in all athletes. In sports, there are cheaters and those who spoil the fun, while treacherously violating the fundamental nature of sport. "Fair" sport does not harm mutual respect and goodwill. A real athlete is always grateful to his opponent if he contributes to the creation of an atmosphere of brotherhood and mutual understanding during the competition.

However, too much emphasis on the analysis of individual features of sports can lead to neglect not only of its moral, but also psychological elements. In the beginning, sport was a means of entertainment, fun or pleasure. But with the advent of professionalism and the emergence of a commercial approach to it, it has become a serious business.... [4: 12]

The content of sport is not limited to its external features and rules: sport is satisfying and meets the needs and aspirations of those who practice it. And while athletes in competitive sports follow all the necessary rules and strive to win, these "precisely" identifiable features of sport are incommensurable with the reasons or motives, if any, that motivate people to play sports. In other words, the logical features of sports do not always

explain why people want to play sports. The fact, for example, that a person seeks to win in a game does not mean at all that his goal (at least the main one) is to win. For many, trying to win is nothing more than a procedural feature of the competition.

Some people do sports not to win, but because they see another meaning in it and find satisfaction as a result of sports activities. Among the reasons that encourage people to go in for sports, one can name emotions, catharsis or health. It should also be noted that some people are mainly attracted to the aesthetic experience that sports evoke.[5: 71] The point is that although trying to win is a necessary procedural feature that determines the reason why people come to sports, it does not mean that they do it because they hope to win.[6: 40]

Although sport is not a game, it is unlikely that “modern” sport could exist today if it did not contain elements of the game. Sport, devoid of fun and spontaneity, becomes boring and serious business. That is why it is amateurs, not professionals, who are the defenders of the sport and do not let it die. Amateurs go in for sports because they enjoy it, and not because they see it as a source of livelihood.

Although the game itself is not a sport, without it it is impossible to imagine a “good” sport. One way or another, the attitude to the game as to life is very characteristic of sports. One can, of course, characterize the concept of sport without mentioning the game, but for a person involved in sports, such a concept will seem insufficiently complete. Therefore, the game is an important but not essential element of sport. Without her, the sport could not be what it is. Without the element of play that is present in sport from time to time, much of what is done in the name of sport would lose its brilliance, cheerfulness and fun.

The aesthetic aspects of sport, like play, can be a source of pleasure.[7: 127] They are not always present in sports, but like the spirit of the game, they appear and disappear. The hammer thrower sometimes feels the movement of his skillful rotations no less than the spectator, who admires the accuracy, smoothness, stability and balance with which the athlete performs these movements. For both athletes and spectators, sport, which combines diverse activities, opens up wide opportunities for aesthetic enjoyment.

In principle, it would be possible to consider each sport separately from an aesthetic point of view, but we will not do this. Let us consider only a few of the main aspects characteristic of various sports in order to illustrate with examples the assertion that sport is an important type of human movement and, together with dance, a potentially rich source of aesthetic experiences for both the performer and the spectator.

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