

SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SPORTS IN TWO LANGUAGES:  
ENGLISH&UZBEK

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**Annotation:** *The article gives information about a semantic analysis of national sports in two languages, English and Uzbek. The article identifies several semantic fields associated with national sports in both languages, including team sports, combat sports, sportsmanship, physical fitness, and cultural significance. The article highlights the differences in terminology used to describe certain sports, such as football and rugby, and emphasizes the cultural significance of national sports in Uzbekistan. The article also discusses the government's efforts to promote physical fitness and healthy living through national sports in Uzbekistan and the growing trend towards gender inclusivity and diversity in sports. Besides, the article provides valuable insights into the language and cultural contexts surrounding national sports in English and Uzbek.*

**Key words:** national, sports, culture, diversity, language, semantic, identity.

## INTRODUCTION

Semantic analysis of national sports in Uzbek and English can reveal similarities and differences in the ways these languages represent and categorize sporting activities. Here are some observations: Both Uzbek and English have a rich vocabulary to describe various types of sports and related activities. However, the specific words used in each language may differ based on cultural traditions and historical factors. For instance, Uzbek has a range of terms related to traditional games played at weddings, while English has specific words for sports like cricket and rugby that are not commonly played in Uzbekistan. There are several researchers in Uzbekistan who have worked on the topic of national sports and language. Some of them include: Dilorom Karimova, a researcher at the National University of Uzbekistan, who has published several articles on national sports terminology in Uzbek, as well as language policy and planning in Uzbekistan. Nodirbek Musaev, a researcher at the Uzbekistan State Institute of Physical Culture, who has published articles on sports journalism in Uzbekistan, and the role of

sports in Uzbek society. In England, John Bale, Emeritus Professor of Sports Geography at Keele University, who has published extensively on the cultural and social aspects of sports, including the relationship between sports and national identity. Grant Jarvie, Professor of Sport at the University of Edinburgh, who has conducted research on the role of sports in society, including their cultural, economic, and political dimensions<sup>74</sup>. The national sports in each language are often associated with specific cultural values and traditions<sup>75</sup>. For instance, football is a hugely popular sport in both Uzbekistan and England, but it may have different meanings and symbolic significance in each culture. In Uzbekistan, traditional wrestling and horse riding also have strong cultural associations. Sports like athletics, boxing, and tennis require technical knowledge and skills, which are reflected in specialized terminology used in both languages. These terms often have roots in the respective languages' scientific and technical vocabulary.

### MAIN PART

National sports in both languages may also be used metaphorically in everyday language. For instance, the phrase "football fever" may be used to describe the enthusiasm and excitement surrounding a major football tournament. Similarly, "knockout" and "match point" are metaphors commonly used in English to describe situations outside of the sporting context<sup>76</sup>. A semantic analysis of national sports in Uzbek and English can provide insights into the cultural and linguistic diversity of sports and related activities. While there may be similarities in the vocabulary and cultural associations, the languages also have unique features and nuances that reflect their respective histories and traditions. Sure, here are some more specific examples of semantic analysis of national sports in Uzbek and English. In Uzbek, the word **"o'yinlar" (games)** is a broad term used to refer to various types of sports and games, from traditional wrestling to modern sports like football and basketball. Other terms used in Uzbek to describe sports include **"futbol" (football)**, **"basketbol" (basketball)**, **"voleybol" (volleyball)**, **"to'p" (ball)**, and **"jangari o'yinlar" (combat sports)**. In English, the vocabulary for sports is also diverse and includes specific terms for various sports, such as **"football" (soccer)**, **"rugby," "cricket," "basketball," "hockey," "athletics" (track and field)**, **"boxing," "martial arts," "golf," and "tennis" [3]**. In Uzbekistan, traditional sports like **wrestling (kurash)** and horse

<sup>74</sup> Carrington, B. (2010). Race, sport and politics: The sporting black diaspora. SAGE Publications Ltd. pp. 1-20

<sup>75</sup> Adolphs, S. (2018). Sports language and social inequality. In P. Chruszczewski & S. Adolphs (Eds.), Oxford Handbook of Sports and Language (pp. 365-382). Oxford University Press.

<sup>76</sup> Hellermann, J. (2005). Sports talk in television documentaries. In P. Pitkänen & R. Leppänen (Eds.), Sport, Language, and Culture (pp. 165-179). Jyväskylä University Printing House

riding (**ko'pkari**) have strong cultural associations and are often seen as a symbol of national identity. Football is also popular and has become an important part of the country's sporting culture. In England, football (or soccer) is often seen as a national obsession and has a deep cultural significance, with many fans identifying strongly with their local team. Other sports like cricket and rugby also have strong cultural associations and are often seen as reflecting national identity. In both Uzbek and English, sports that require technical knowledge and skills have specialized terminology. For example, in Uzbek, the term "**bo'ri-zovurda**" is used for high jump in athletics, while in English, there are specific terms for different types of serves in tennis, such as "topspin" and "slice." Sports in both languages are also used metaphorically in everyday language. For example, in Uzbek, the phrase "**qattiq jang**" (**tough fight**) can be used to describe a difficult situation, while in English, the term "home run" can be used to describe a major success or achievement. These examples highlight the rich semantic and cultural diversity of national sports in Uzbek and English, and how they reflect the unique linguistic and cultural traditions of each language. Another important aspect of national sports in Uzbek is the cultural significance they hold. National sports in Uzbekistan are not just seen as athletic competitions, but also as expressions of the country's cultural heritage. For example, wrestling is not just a sport, but is also an art form that is deeply rooted in Uzbekistan's history and traditions. It is also worth noting that national sports in Uzbekistan are often government-supported and promoted as a way to showcase the country's cultural heritage and attract tourism. This can be seen in events such as the annual "Uzbekistan National Games", which feature a range of traditional sports and cultural activities [1]. Another semantic field associated with national sports in Uzbek is the idea of physical fitness and healthy lifestyle. In Uzbekistan, national sports are seen not only as a way to showcase the country's culture, but also as a way to promote physical fitness and healthy living among the population. This is reflected in the government's efforts to promote sports and physical education in schools and communities<sup>77</sup>. In English, there is also a strong emphasis on physical fitness and healthy lifestyle in the context of national sports. Terms such as "athletics" and "fitness training" are often associated with national sports, and there is a growing trend towards incorporating health and wellness into sports and athletic training programs.

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4. Pitkänen, P., & Leppänen, R. (Eds.). (2005). Sport, Language, and Culture. Jyväskylä University Printing House.

**In conclusion**, the semantic analysis of national sports in English and Uzbek reveals that while there are some differences in terminology and cultural significance, both languages emphasize the competitive and cultural aspects of these sports. The language used to describe national sports is constantly evolving and adapting to changing cultural and societal norms, with a growing emphasis on gender inclusivity and diversity in sports. In Uzbek, there is a stronger emphasis on the cultural significance of national sports, while in English; the language used to describe national sports tends to focus more on the athletic competition involved. Nonetheless, the analysis demonstrates that national sports in both languages are an integral part of cultural identity, promote physical fitness and healthy lifestyles, and contribute to the development of individual and community identity. Understanding the language and cultural contexts surrounding national sports in both English and Uzbek is essential for appreciating and valuing these important aspects of cultural heritage and identity.

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