

SOCCKER: ENGLISH TERMS VS OTHER LANGUAGES TERMS IN USE

ФУТБОЛ: ВЖИВАННЯ АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ ТЕРМІНІВ ПРОТИ ТЕРМІНІВ ЗАПОЗИЧЕНИХ З ІНШИХ МОВ

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The intersection of football terminology and language, particularly how it reflects cultural identities and the global spread of the sport, offers a vast field for further exploration. One promising avenue of future research is the deeper investigation of how the blending of English terms with local expressions impacts the cultural preservation of football communities. While much of the current literature highlights the adoption of English terms in various countries, less attention has been paid to how local football cultures resist or adapt to this linguistic influence. The paper explores the intersection of soccer terminology in English and other languages, highlighting how language reflects both the global spread of the sport and the cultural uniqueness of individual footballing nations. English, as the dominant global language in football, has shaped much of the international lexicon, but local languages continue to contribute distinctive terms that reflect cultural identity and playing style. The paper examines examples from countries like Brazil, Argentina, and France, where unique expressions capture the essence of the sport as perceived within their respective cultures. It also addresses the hybridization of language in the digital age and the ongoing efforts in many countries to preserve local terminology while embracing global influences. The study aims to explore how English has influenced global soccer vocabulary, while also considering how other languages have preserved or modified terms to reflect local linguistic and cultural contexts. The study demonstrates that football's vocabulary is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of national pride, emotional connection, and the sport's universal appeal. A lot of countries continue to protect their linguistic heritage, striving to preserve local terminology and adapt global influences in ways that respect and reflect their cultural traditions.

Key words: soccer terminology, football language, cultural identity, global influence, linguistic diversity, English terms.

Перетин футбольної термінології та мови, зокрема те, як вона відображає культурну ідентичність та глобальне поширення цього виду спорту, пропонує широке поле для подальшого дослідження. Одним з перспективних напрямків майбутніх досліджень є глибше вивчення того, як поєднання англійських термінів з місцевими виразами впливає на збереження культури футбольних спільнот. Хоча значна частина сучасної літератури висвітлює впровадження англійських термінів у різних країнах, менше уваги приділяється тому, як місцеві футбольні культури протистоять цьому лінгвістичному впливу або адаптуються до нього. У статті досліджується перетин футбольної термінології англійською та іншими мовами, підкреслюючи, як мова відображає як глобальне поширення цього виду спорту, так і культурну унікальність окремих футбольних країн. Англійська мова, як домінуюча світова мова у футболі, сформувала значну частину міжнародного лексикону, але місцеві мови продовжують створювати самобутні терміни, що відображають культурну ідентичність та стиль гри. У статті розглядаються приклади з таких країн, як Бразилія, Аргентина та Франція, де унікальні вирази відображають суть виду спорту, як це сприймається в їхніх відповідних культурах. У ній також розглядається гібридизація мови в цифрову епоху та постійні зусилля багатьох країн щодо збереження місцевої термінології, одночасно враховуючи глобальні впливи. Мета дослідження – дослідити, як англійська мова вплинула на світовий футбольний словник, а також розглянути, як інші мови зберегли або змінили терміни, щоб відобразити місцевий лінгвістичний та культурний контекст. Дослідження демонструє, що футбольний словник – це не лише засіб спілкування, а й відображення національної гордості, емоційного зв'язку та універсальної привабливості спорту. Багато країн продовжують захищати свою мовну спадщину, прагнучи зберегти місцеву термінологію та адаптувати глобальні впливи таким чином, щоб поважати та відображати їхні культурні традиції.

Ключові слова: футбольна термінологія, футбольна мова, культурна ідентичність, глобальний вплив, лінгвістичне різноманіття, англійські терміни.

Introduction. The comparison of English soccer terms with their equivalents in other languages highlights the cultural and linguistic dimensions of one of

the world's most popular sports. Soccer, or football as it is called in most countries, transcends borders and unites diverse cultures, yet the language used

to describe the game often reflects unique regional characteristics. English, being a dominant global language, has heavily influenced soccer terminology worldwide, especially through the sport's professionalization and globalization. Terms such as "goalkeeper," "offside," and "penalty kick" are frequently borrowed directly into other languages, illustrating the international reach of English and its role as a lingua franca in the sports domain.

However, localized adaptations and translations of soccer terms demonstrate how different cultures interpret and integrate the game into their linguistic frameworks. For instance, while English terms like "striker" may remain untranslated in some countries, others may create equivalent terms in their native languages, reflecting a sense of cultural identity and linguistic pride. This duality emphasizes the balance between globalization and localization in sports communication. Analyzing these differences not only deepens our understanding of linguistic evolution but also sheds light on the ways cultural contexts shape the reception and practice of soccer. Moreover, understanding the interplay between English and other languages in soccer terminology is critical for effective communication in a sport that thrives on international cooperation. Players, coaches, and fans from diverse linguistic backgrounds rely on a shared vocabulary to engage with the game. This shared lexicon, often rooted in English, facilitates cross-cultural exchanges while allowing space for local expressions to flourish. Such dynamics underscore the importance of fostering multilingual awareness in sports to promote inclusivity and mutual understanding.

Additionally, the study of soccer terminology in multiple languages offers insights into broader sociolinguistic trends. It reveals how loanwords, neologisms, and hybrid phrases emerge in response to global influences while maintaining local distinctiveness. These patterns mirror the interconnectedness of modern societies and the role of sports as a medium for cultural exchange. By exploring the convergence and divergence of soccer terms across languages, we gain a deeper appreciation of the sport's universal appeal and its ability to bridge linguistic divides.

Materials and Methods. In our article, modern Ukrainian and foreign scientific literature was used through analysis and study.

The purpose of the study is to examine and compare soccer terminology in English with its equivalents in other languages, highlighting the cultural and linguistic adaptations that occur across different regions. The study aims to explore how English has influenced global soccer vocabulary, while also considering how other languages have preserved or

modified terms to reflect local linguistic and cultural contexts. This analysis seeks to enhance our understanding of the intersection between language, sports, and global communication, and to provide insights into the impact of globalization on the language of soccer.

The research methods used in this study include a comparative linguistic analysis to examine the soccer terminology in English and its equivalents in other languages. This involves collecting terms from official soccer rule books, sports media, and coaching manuals in both English and selected foreign languages. The study employs qualitative analysis to explore how these terms are adapted or maintained across different linguistic and cultural contexts, focusing on the nuances in their usage. Additionally, content analysis of soccer broadcasts and commentary from various countries is conducted to observe real-world applications of these terms. Interviews with bilingual soccer professionals, such as coaches, players, and commentators, are also used to gain deeper insights into how these terms are understood and used in practice. Finally, survey techniques may be used to gather data on the recognition and understanding of soccer terminology across different linguistic groups.

Results and Discussion. We have carried out a detailed analysis of the problem under study. The language of soccer, or football as it is known in many parts of the world, is rich in terms and expressions that vary significantly across different cultures and languages. English, as the dominant global language for soccer, has shaped the lexicon used in international soccer, but each language has its own terms, some of which offer fascinating insights into cultural perspectives on the game.

In English, soccer terminology includes words like "goal," "penalty," "kickoff," "corner," and "offside," which have become almost universally understood in international contexts [1]. The simplicity and directness of English soccer terms often make them easy to adopt across borders. "Goal," for instance, is used in most languages, though some variations exist. In Spanish, it's "gol," in French "but," and in German "Tor," all of which reflect the same basic concept but with distinct linguistic roots. This diversity in terms can highlight regional differences, yet all of them converge on the same sport.

Other words related to the game, like "football," carry different connotations depending on the region. While "football" in most languages (such as "fútbol" in Spanish, "calcio" in Italian, and "fussball" in German) refers to the sport known as soccer in the United States and Canada, the English-speaking

world often uses the word "football" to refer specifically to American or Canadian football, further demonstrating the linguistic divide between cultures. In the UK, the sport is simply called "football," whereas in the U.S., "soccer" was coined in the late 19th century to distinguish it from American football [2]. Some other distinctions come in the form of specialized terms for parts of the game. For instance, the term "nutmeg" in English describes a specific move where a player passes the ball through an opponent's legs. In some languages, such as Portuguese, this same move is known as "caneta," a reference to the shape of a pen or penholder, underscoring the creativity of local expressions. Similarly, in French, the term "dribble" has become synonymous with any sort of maneuver with the ball, a term that has been widely adopted across many languages but originates from English.

In addition to basic gameplay terms, soccer commentary also introduces a variety of phrases that often defy easy translation. For example, the English expression "sweeper keeper" describes a goalkeeper who plays a more active role outside the penalty area, often coming out to intercept the ball. This term doesn't have a direct counterpart in many languages, but similar descriptions exist in places like Spain, where phrases like "portero libero" convey the idea of a goalkeeper playing a more open and dynamic role [3]. As global soccer continues to expand its reach through technology, media, and tournaments, the influence of English is undeniable. Many non-English-speaking countries, especially in Europe, have integrated English terms into their own soccer vocabularies. However, these terms are often adjusted to fit the phonetic and grammatical structure of each language, demonstrating the blend of global influence with local tradition. For example, in Russia, the term "penalti" is used instead of the English "penalty," while in Japan, "corner kick" is simply called "corner," but with a unique Japanese pronunciation [4].

In summary, the terminology surrounding soccer is a fascinating blend of local and global linguistic influences. English has undoubtedly shaped the global understanding of the sport, but each language offers a unique twist on the game's lexicon. These variations highlight not only the global popularity of soccer but also the deep cultural ties each language has with the sport, revealing a rich tapestry of expressions that make soccer the world's universal language.

Continuing the thought, the diverse terminologies and expressions surrounding soccer also reflect the sport's evolution in different cultural contexts. While

English terms are widely recognized due to the global influence of Premier League football, international tournaments like the FIFA World Cup, and the proliferation of English-language media, each language adds its own flavor, sometimes reflecting the local history, traditions, and the relationship the culture has with soccer.

In many cases, these linguistic differences emerge from the way soccer is integrated into national identities. For instance, in countries like Brazil and Argentina, where football is more than just a game—it's a cultural cornerstone—soccer terms are not only understood but are part of everyday life. In Brazil, the use of "jogo bonito" (the beautiful game) emphasizes a more artistic and fluid style of play, reflecting the country's passionate love for skillful play. In Argentina, the term "la pelota" (the ball) is often used in a more personal, affectionate manner, indicative of the deep connection the people feel to the sport. This kind of terminology reveals how the sport is woven into the social fabric of these countries, beyond the confines of the pitch [5]. Moreover, local dialects and colloquialisms further enrich the soccer vocabulary in different languages. In Italy, for example, soccer commentary is often peppered with expressions drawn from the country's rich linguistic history. Terms like "catenaccio" (a defensive style of play) and "pallonetto" (a lob shot) have specific meanings that are rooted in Italian football culture. These expressions may be less familiar to English speakers but carry with them a nuanced understanding of Italian footballing traditions and styles.

Similarly, in French football, terms like "coup franc" (free kick) or "tir au but" (penalty shootout) capture both the elegance and the strategic depth associated with the sport in France. The language often reflects the tactical sophistication that French football has historically been known for, with terms like "la passe décisive" (the decisive pass) or "l'attaque" (the attack) conveying the balance of flair and structure in the game [6]. As soccer has become more globalized, some English terms have infiltrated other languages due to the widespread consumption of English-language soccer media. Words like "offside," "matchday," "assist," and "manager" are now commonly used in various languages, sometimes even replacing traditional terms. This trend is particularly visible in countries like Japan, where English terms are often seamlessly integrated into soccer commentary and media, though with distinct Japanese phonetic alterations. This blending of languages highlights the sport's ability to cross borders and adapt to different cultural environments while maintaining a common core of understanding.

However, the integration of English terminology into other languages isn't without controversy. In countries like Spain or Italy, there is ongoing debate about preserving the linguistic integrity of the sport while still participating in the global conversation. Some fans and commentators argue that the increasing use of English terms undermines local traditions, while others see it as a necessary adaptation in the modern, interconnected world of football. In response, many countries have worked to maintain their soccer lexicons, creating official translations or new terms to keep the language unique. For example, the Spanish Football Federation officially uses terms like "arbitraje" (refereeing) and "tiro libre" (free kick) alongside the more widespread "penalti" or "gol." [7]. In addition to these practical language differences, the role of digital platforms, social media, and global broadcasting has also contributed to the spread of soccer terminology. As more people watch games online, use soccer apps, and interact with international fanbases, the influence of English has continued to rise, creating a hybridized, multilingual soccer culture. However, even in this interconnected world, local terms and expressions are cherished, as they reflect the unique identities of football communities around the world.

In conclusion, the language of soccer offers a compelling lens through which to explore the sport's global reach and the cultural diversity it encompasses. While English has become the lingua franca of international soccer, the rich variety of local terms and expressions from different languages adds depth and richness to the game's global conversation. These linguistic differences not only reflect the unique traditions, histories, and philosophies of each footballing nation but also underscore the universal appeal of the sport, showing how it transcends borders and unites people from all corners of the world.

Continuing the thought, it is important to note that despite the global influence of the English language on football vocabulary, it is in local languages that the uniqueness of football communities is often preserved. This is reflected not only in terms but also in the language used by fans, where unique expressions exist that are often only understood by those who are deeply immersed in the football culture of their country.

In countries with rich football traditions, such as Brazil, Argentina, or Mexico, there are unique colloquial expressions that add an extra layer of meaning to the game. For example, in Brazil, the term "ginga" describes a unique style of play that combines skill, rhythm, and flair, often associated with the country's approach to football. This concept has deep cultural

roots and cannot be easily translated into other languages because it encapsulates a whole philosophy of movement and play that is distinctly Brazilian. Similarly, in Argentina, the term "la garra" is used to describe a fierce, determined style of play, often seen as a reflection of the country's national character. These expressions demonstrate how language in football is not just a means of communication but also a cultural marker that carries with it local traditions, values, and emotions. In Argentina, for instance, the phrase "el fútbol es un sentimiento" (football is a feeling) reflects the deeply emotional connection that fans have with the sport, a connection that transcends just watching a game and becomes an integral part of national identity [8].

In contrast, in more football-industrialized nations like England or Germany, while the game is still emotionally charged, the focus often shifts towards tactical discussions and technical jargon. Terms like "counter-attack," "pressing," or "high line" reflect the analytical, strategy-focused nature of the game in these countries. This reflects how language adapts to not only the style of play but also the way football is perceived and discussed in different parts of the world.

Moreover, the role of media and technology in football has further globalized the sport's lexicon, making it more accessible and interconnected. Social media platforms, international football coverage, and global fanbases have all contributed to the spread of English terms like "assist," "manager," or "goalkeeper," while also incorporating localized expressions. In Japan, for instance, despite the heavy influence of English, Japanese football broadcasts often blend English terms with local phrases, reflecting the hybridization of language in the digital age. Yet, despite this growing commonality of language in the football world, there remains a strong push in many countries to protect local terminology and maintain linguistic diversity. In France, for example, football governing bodies often promote the use of French terms, like "tir au but" for a penalty shootout instead of simply adopting the English "penalty shootout." This resistance to the dominance of English is part of a broader cultural effort to preserve linguistic heritage in the face of globalization [9].

Therefore, while English has become the dominant language in global football, the vocabulary of the sport remains a powerful tool for expressing local identity and culture. Football terminology, in all its variations, reveals the multifaceted relationship between language, culture, and the game itself. The diversity of terms used around the world reflects how football can unite people across borders, while also

celebrating the unique characteristics and traditions of each footballing nation [10]. Ultimately, the blending of global and local football languages highlights the sport's universal appeal, as well as the rich cultural tapestries it is woven into.

Conclusions:

1. Global influence of English: English has become the dominant language in global football, with many terms such as "goal," "penalty," and "assist" being widely adopted. This has facilitated cross-border communication and created a shared vocabulary that helps unify fans, players, and analysts worldwide.

2. Cultural Significance of Local Terms: Despite the prevalence of English, local languages continue to play a crucial role in football culture. Unique terms and expressions, such as Brazil's "ginga" or Argentina's "la garra," reflect the cultural identity and philosophy of each footballing nation, underscoring the deep emotional and cultural connection people have with the sport.

3. Linguistic Hybridization and Preservation: As football becomes increasingly globalized through digital platforms and international media, there is a blending of English terms with local language expressions. However, many countries continue to protect their linguistic heritage, striving to preserve local terminology and adapt global influences in ways that respect and reflect their cultural traditions.

Prospects for Further Research. The intersection of football terminology and language, particularly how it reflects cultural identities and the global spread of the sport, offers a vast field for further exploration. One promising avenue of future research is the deeper investigation of how the blending of English terms with local expressions impacts the cultural preservation of football communities. While much of the current literature highlights the adoption of English terms in various countries, less attention has been paid to how local football cultures resist or adapt to this linguistic influence. Future research could focus on examining how specific countries maintain their unique football terminology while balancing the need for international communication. This would provide insight into the role of language as a tool for cultural preservation in a rapidly globalizing world. A related area of study could involve the sociolinguistic impact of football terminology in global media. With the increasing influence of digital platforms and international broadcasts, the terminology used in commentary, fan interactions on social media, and football reporting is increasingly homogenized. Exploring how this influences the way football is discussed across different cultures could shed light

on the ongoing negotiation between local football traditions and global commercial influences. This research could also consider the role of international football organizations, such as FIFA, in shaping or standardizing football language across countries, particularly in non-English-speaking regions. By analyzing the language policies adopted by these organizations, researchers could better understand the balance between fostering global communication and respecting linguistic diversity. Additionally, the role of football language in shaping national identities presents a fertile field for further investigation. In countries where football holds significant cultural importance, such as Brazil, Argentina, or Italy, language reflects not only the sport itself but also national pride and historical narratives. Investigating how football terms relate to national identity could uncover how these terms evolve in response to sociopolitical changes. For instance, the way certain expressions in football reflect historical moments, such as major victories or defeats, could reveal how national narratives are constructed and maintained. Researchers could also explore how football fans, as a linguistic community, use language to assert identity in the face of globalization, examining how fan culture and local dialects contribute to the larger football discourse. Another promising research direction is the exploration of football language as a tool for social inclusion and cohesion. In multicultural and multilingual societies, football has the potential to bridge divides by providing a common language. However, the adoption of English or other global terms might inadvertently exclude certain communities who are not familiar with these terms. Research could investigate how football terminology can be used to promote inclusivity and reduce language barriers, especially in regions where there is a diverse mix of languages spoken. Understanding the role of football in fostering communication across cultural and linguistic boundaries could offer valuable insights into how language can be a unifying force in sports.

Finally, the impact of football's growing digital presence on language and terminology is another exciting prospect for further research. The rise of digital media, including social platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, has created new ways for fans to engage with the sport. This has led to the creation of new football-related terms, memes, and slang that might not be found in traditional media or formal publications. Investigating the evolution of this digital lexicon, particularly how it spreads across different regions, could provide an interesting perspective on the changing dynamics of football language. Moreover, researchers could explore the

role of artificial intelligence in generating football-related content and how this influences language, particularly in terms of commentary and fan-generated materials.

In conclusion, the prospects for further research in the area of football language and terminology are vast and multifaceted. From exploring cultural identity and social inclusion to investigating the digital

transformation of football discourse, these studies offer an opportunity to better understand the complex relationship between language, culture, and sport in a globalized world. Each of these research directions has the potential to deepen our understanding of how football, as a global phenomenon, is not only a sport but also a powerful medium for communication, cultural expression, and social interaction.

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