



## METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK FOOTBALL DISCOURSE

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### ABSTRACT

This thesis investigates metaphorical expressions used in English and Uzbek football discourse. Football communication is characterized not only by specialized terminology but also by extensive metaphorical language that enhances expressiveness and facilitates the interpretation of sporting events. The study examines the semantic, cognitive, and communicative functions of football metaphors and identifies similarities and differences in their usage across English and Uzbek football discourse. The findings demonstrate that metaphor plays a crucial role in shaping football narratives and reflecting cultural perceptions of the game.

Keywords: football discourse, metaphor, cognitive linguistics, football language, sports communication, conceptual metaphor.

Introduction. Football discourse represents one of the most dynamic varieties of modern sports communication. In addition to technical terminology and tactical



vocabulary, football language contains a considerable number of metaphorical expressions that enrich communication and make descriptions of sporting events more vivid and emotionally engaging. Journalists, commentators, coaches, and supporters frequently employ metaphors to describe players, teams, matches, and tactical situations.

Modern cognitive linguistics considers metaphor not merely as a stylistic device but as a mechanism of human thought. According to Lakoff and Johnson, metaphor allows individuals to understand abstract concepts through more familiar experiences. Football discourse provides numerous examples of such conceptualization, where matches are interpreted through the domains of war, battle, movement, machinery, and art.

The increasing popularity of football and the expansion of sports media have contributed to the development of rich metaphorical systems in many languages. Consequently, the comparative study of metaphorical expressions in English and Uzbek football discourse offers valuable insights into linguistic creativity, cultural perception, and sports communication. The aim of this research is to investigate metaphorical expressions in English and Uzbek football discourse and to identify their semantic and communicative functions.

The analysis reveals that football metaphors are organized around several dominant conceptual models. One of the most productive models is the “Football is war” metaphor. In both English and Uzbek football discourse, matches are frequently described as battles, while players and teams are portrayed as fighters.

English examples include:

battle for the title



attacking force

defensive line

football warrior

Uzbek equivalents include:

chempionlik uchun kurash

hujum quroli

himoya qal'asi

jangovar jamoa

Such expressions conceptualize football competition through the language of military conflict and emphasize rivalry, strength, and determination. Another productive model is “Football is a journey”. This metaphor portrays the football season as a path toward success.

English examples include:

road to the final

step towards the title

moving forward

Uzbek examples include:

final sari yo'l

chempionlik sari qadam



muvaffaqiyat yo‘li

This model highlights progress, development, and goal achievement.

A third conceptual model is “Football is art”. Players are often described as artists, while their actions are portrayed as creative performances.

English examples include:

football maestro

artistic finish

masterpiece goal

Uzbek discourse’s similar expressions:

futbol dahosi

san’atkorona zarba

futbol mo‘jizasi

These metaphors emphasize creativity and technical excellence.

The study demonstrates that football metaphors perform several important functions. First, they increase expressiveness. A commentator who states that a team “launched an attack” creates a more vivid image than one who simply states that the team moved forward.



Second, metaphors facilitate understanding by connecting football events with familiar experiences. Supporters can easily interpret a phrase such as “the road to the final” because it draws on universal human experiences of movement and travel.

Third, metaphors contribute to evaluation. Expressions such as “football genius”, “defensive wall” or “golden generation” carry positive connotations and influence audience perception.

Fourth, they enhance entertainment value. Football media compete for audience attention, and metaphorical language helps create memorable narratives and emotional engagement.

The analysis indicates significant similarities between English and Uzbek football discourse. Both languages employ metaphors based on war, journey, art, and movement. This similarity can be explained by the global nature of football communication and the widespread influence of international sports media. However, differences are also observable. English football discourse tends to produce new metaphorical expressions more rapidly due to its dominant position in global football communication. Uzbek football discourse frequently adopts these expressions through borrowing, calquing, or adaptation.

Furthermore, certain metaphorical expressions in Uzbek reflect national linguistic and cultural traditions. As a result, some football metaphors acquire local semantic nuances that are not present in English discourse.

The study demonstrates that metaphorical expressions constitute an essential component of English and Uzbek football discourse. Football metaphors are not merely decorative linguistic devices but important cognitive and communicative tools that shape the interpretation of sporting events.

The analysis identified several dominant conceptual models, including “Football is war”, “Football is a journey”, and “Football is art”. These metaphors



contribute to expressiveness, evaluation, understanding, and audience engagement. The findings further reveal both universal and culture-specific features of football metaphorization.

The results may contribute to sports linguistics, cognitive linguistics, discourse analysis, translation studies, and football journalism. Future research may investigate metaphorical language in football commentaries, social media discourse, and multilingual football communication.

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