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Research article

# EXAMINING LEXICAL SELECTION IN SPORTS TERMINOLOGY: THE CASE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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**Abstract**. The subject matter of the paper is the lexical selection between Anglicisms and their Serbian equivalents in Serbian sports terminology. The paper aims to determine the current tendencies in the use of synonymous sports terms on a sample of students of sport and physical education. The measuring instrument was an online questionnaire, completed by 117 respondents. It consisted of 60 sets of sports terms, one Anglicism and one or two of its Serbian equivalents. The data were analyzed qualitatively, but the frequencies of use of the select terms were presented in percents. Working within the set hypotheses, and based on the morpho-syntactic structure of the Anglicisms, the number of lexemes of the Serbian equivalents, and the morpho-syntactic structure of the syntagms, it was determined that the morphologically simpler Anglicisms are more often selected as sports terms (for example golser, - goaleng, servisser. – serveeng., slajsser. – sliceeng., sparingser. – sparringeng., faulser. foul<sub>ENG.</sub>), while those with a more complex structure were selected less frequently than polylexemic Serbian equivalents, often containing postmodification (igrač sa osnovne linijeser. – baselinereng., korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjemser. – knee lifteng., trka sa preponama<sub>SER.</sub> – steeplechase<sub>ENG.</sub>, udarac kroz noge<sub>SER.</sub> – tweener<sub>ENG.</sub>, utrčavanje uz **čeonu liniju**<sub>SER.</sub> – **baseline cut**<sub>ENG.</sub>). The results of this study do not only have lexicographic implications. They are also relevant for the field of English for Specific Purposes (ESP), in terms of assessing the preferences of Serbian students of sport and physical education for either Anglicisms or their equivalents, thus indicating the current trends in the field of Serbian sports terminology as well. In addition, the results can also influence General English (GE) language classes meant specifically for students of sport and physical education, as well as the sports terminology used in everyday teaching practices at various faculties of sport and physical education.

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#### 1. Introduction

A term is a word or a group of words with a specialized meaning, used to denote a particular concept related to a field of study (cf. Ranđelović, 2015). It is a part of a broader lexical system known as terminology, and prior to being accepted undergoes a process of standardization. The meaning of a term is in part dependent on the system of lexical units it belongs to (see L'Homme (2005); Milić, 2006, 2015a; Ilinčić, 2019; Panić Kavgić (2021).

Changes to existing systems of terminology include the introduction of new terms or the redefinition or alteration of existing ones and are usually the result of two dominant factors. The first one is the omnipresence of English as the lingua franca. The second is innovation in general. This leads to the internationalization of languages of science and professions (mainly through affixation and the introduction of loanwords), with a tendency towards homogenization and uniformity. If the same terms are used in a variety of L1 contexts, cascading knowledge and increasing the precision of the used terms is an expected and welcome outcome (see Ranđelović, 2015).

This paper aims to analyze whether a sample of students of sport and physical education select either Anglicisms or their Serbian equivalents in sports terminology. It includes a linguistic-based analysis of select sports terms. A description of this kind might lead us to determine the general tendencies in the use of sports terms, and therefore potential changes in Serbian sports terminology.

### 2. The method

A convenience sample of 117 students of the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, University of Niš was included in the study. Students of all four years at the undergraduate level voluntarily agreed to participate: first year students made up 38.5% of the sample, second year 13.7%, third year 7.7%, and fourth year students 40.2%. The L1 of all the respondents was Serbian. On average, they had studied English for 11.26 years (with a standard deviation of 2.41), which amounts to a full elementary school education of eight years in total, and high school education which is an additional four years of school. They provided self-reported data regarding their knowledge of English: level A1 was reported by 19.7% of the respondents, A2 by 12%, B1 by 32.5%, B2 by 23.1%, C1 by 8.5%, and level C2 by 4.3%. Their average age was 20.43 years (the age range was 18 to 22, with a standard deviation of 1.5); and their distribution in terms of gender was 40 female (34.19%) and 77 male students (65.81%).

When it comes to their professional participation in competitive sports, the respondents provided the following information: 31 (26.5%) played football, 13 (11.11%) played basketball, while 8 (6.84%) each played volleyball and handball. Of the remaining students, six trained judo (5.13%), two each (1.71%) trained ping pong, gymnastics, swimming, karate, athletics, and whitewater kayaking, and one (0.85%) participated in folklore, taekwondo, sports gymnastics, tennis, boxing, futsal, orienteering, and kickboxing. The range of years of sports training, as provided by the respondents, was 3 to 20 years, on average 9.82 yrs. Considering that Serbian L1 speakers of various

professional backgrounds do not understand Anglicisms to the same extent, as exemplified by Panić Kavgić (2006), our respondents were solely students of sport and physical education well-versed in sports terminology.

A survey questionnaire, prepared in Google Forms and made available online, consisting of 60 sets of Anglicisms and either one or two of their corresponding Serbian equivalents, was distributed to the institutional addresses of the selected student population in October and November, 2022. In accordance with the existing findings that professional terminology mostly consists of nouns (Ranđelović, 2015; Panić Kavgić, 2021), only nouns were chosen as the stimuli in this study.

The material for the questionnaire was extracted from the following dictionaries: *Novi englesko-srpski rečnik sportskih termina* (*NESRST*, 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> edition), *Srpski rečnik novijih anglicizama* (*SRNA*, 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> edition), and *Englesko-srpski rečnik sportskih termina* (*ERST*, 2006, 1<sup>st</sup> edition). During the design process, the authors analyzed all the English nouns included in the aforementioned dictionaries and selected only those whose translational equivalents contained an Anglicism, and which had a monolexemic or polylexemic Serbian equivalent, in order to analyze their comparability in terms of frequency of use. All the nouns included in the questionnaire are monosemic, which is congruent with sports terminology pertaining to a single sport, rather than multiple ones.

The respondents were given a forced-choice elicitation task: they were asked to select the sports term they favored out of a sequence of two or three (one Anglicism and one or two Serbian equivalents). The data obtained were analyzed primarily qualitatively, but a quantitative element was also present.

What follows are the 60 sets of synonymous Anglicisms (60 in sum) and their Serbian equivalents (76 in sum), alphabetized based on the first Anglicism in the set, as they were presented to the respondents in the questionnaire. Even though the original English language sports terms were not included in the questionnaire, they are illustrated below for clarity:

1) baseliner<sub>ENG.</sub> – bejslajner<sub>SER.</sub>, igrač sa osnovne linije<sub>SER.</sub>; 2) baseline cut<sub>ENG.</sub> bejslajnkat<sub>SER.</sub>, utrčavanje uz čeonu liniju<sub>SER.</sub>; 3) back door<sub>ENG.</sub> – bekdor<sub>SER.</sub>, prolaz iza leđa odbrane<sub>SER.</sub>, pritajeni napad<sub>SER.</sub>; 4) beach volleyball<sub>ENG.</sub> – bičvolej<sub>SER.</sub>, odbojka na peskuser.; 5) blockeng. - blokser., rampaser., izblokiran šutser.; 6) boostereng. buster<sub>SER.</sub>, navijač-sponzor<sub>SER.</sub>; 7) visor<sub>ENG.</sub> – vizor<sub>SER.</sub>, kačket bez temena<sub>SER.</sub>; 8) winner<sub>ENG.</sub> – viner<sub>SER.</sub>, direktan poen<sub>SER.</sub>; 9) goal<sub>ENG.</sub> – gol<sub>SER.</sub>, pogodak<sub>SER.</sub>; 10) goalgetter<sub>ENG.</sub> – golgeter<sub>SER.</sub>, najbolji strelac<sub>SER.</sub>; 11) double-double<sub>ENG.</sub> – dabldabl<sub>SER.</sub>, dvostruki dvocifreni učinak<sub>SER.</sub>; 12) double-footed<sub>ENG.</sub> – dablfuter<sub>SER.</sub>, igrač koji koristi obe noge<sub>SER</sub>, igrač koji dobro igra obema nogama<sub>SER</sub>; 13) downhill<sub>ENG</sub>. – daunhil<sub>SER</sub>., spust<sub>SER.</sub>, slobodni spust<sub>SER.</sub>; 14) dribbling<sub>ENG.</sub> – dribling<sub>SER.</sub>, vođenje lopte<sub>SER.</sub>, vođenje lopte sa fintom<sub>SER.</sub>; 15) dribbler<sub>ENG.</sub> – dribler<sub>SER.</sub>, igrač koji je prevario protivnika<sub>SER.</sub>; 16) drop shot<sub>ENG.</sub> – drop-šot<sub>SER.</sub>, skraćena lopta<sub>SER.</sub>; 17) add-out<sub>ENG.</sub> – ed-aut<sub>SER.</sub>, prednost primača servisa<sub>SER.</sub>; 18) add-in<sub>ENG.</sub> – ed-in<sub>SER.</sub>, prednost servera<sub>SER.</sub>; 19) L-grip<sub>ENG.</sub> – elgrip<sub>SER.</sub>, izvrnuti hvat<sub>SER.</sub>; 20) carving skis<sub>ENG.</sub> – karving skije<sub>SER.</sub>, skije sa izraženom bočnom geometrijom<sub>SER</sub>; 21) cutman<sub>ENG.</sub> – katmen<sub>SER</sub>, osoba zadužena za posekotine i povrede<sub>SER.</sub>; 22) kicker<sub>ENG.</sub> – kiker<sub>SER.</sub>, rampa za skokove, skakaonica na stazi<sub>SER</sub>; 23) coaching<sub>ENG.</sub> – koučing<sub>SER</sub>, savetovanje tokom meča<sub>SER</sub>; 24) cross step<sub>ENG.</sub> – kros-step<sub>SER.</sub>, iskorak ka lopti<sub>SER.</sub>; 25) matchmaker<sub>ENG.</sub> mečmejkerser., ugovarač mečaser.; 26) knee lifteng. – niliftser., korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjem<sub>SER.</sub>; 27) pass<sub>ENG.</sub> – pas<sub>SER.</sub>, dodavanje<sub>SER.</sub>; 28) playmaker<sub>ENG.</sub>

plejmejker<sub>SER.</sub>, kreator igre<sub>SER.</sub>; 29) play-off<sub>ENG.</sub> – plejof<sub>SER.</sub>, doigravanje<sub>SER.</sub>; 30) reserve<sub>ENG.</sub> – rezerva<sub>SER.</sub>, rezervni igrač<sub>SER.</sub>, zamena<sub>SER.</sub>; 31) record<sub>ENG.</sub> – rekord<sub>SER.</sub>, najbolji rezultat<sub>SER.</sub>; 32) rival<sub>ENG.</sub> – rival<sub>SER.</sub>, protivnik<sub>SER.</sub>, protivnički igrač<sub>SER.</sub>; 33) return<sub>ENG.</sub> – ritern<sub>SER.</sub>, vraćen servis<sub>SER.</sub>, povratni udarac<sub>SER.</sub>; 34) sidecut<sub>ENG.</sub> – sajdkat<sub>SER.</sub>, bočni luk skije<sub>SER.</sub>; 35) side step<sub>ENG.</sub> – sajd-step<sub>SER.</sub>, bočni korak<sub>SER.</sub>, korak u stranu<sub>SER</sub>; 36) serve<sub>ENG</sub>. – servis<sub>SER</sub>., početni udarac<sub>SER</sub>.; 37) slice<sub>ENG</sub>. – slajs<sub>SER</sub>., zasečena lopta<sub>SER.</sub>; 38) snowboarding<sub>ENG.</sub> – snoubording<sub>SER.</sub>, skijanje na dasci<sub>SER.</sub>; 39) sparring<sub>ENG.</sub> - sparing<sub>SER.</sub>, vežbanje sa partnerom<sub>SER.</sub>; 40) split step<sub>ENG.</sub> - splitstepser., međukorakser., pripremni korakser.; 41) steeplechaseeng. – stiplčejsser., trka sa preponama<sub>SER</sub>; 42) striker<sub>ENG</sub>. – strajker<sub>SER</sub>, centarfor<sub>SER</sub>; 43) tie-break<sub>ENG</sub>. – tajbrejk<sub>SER.</sub>, peti set<sub>SER.</sub>; 44) tweener<sub>ENG.</sub> – tviner<sub>SER.</sub>, udarac kroz noge<sub>SER.</sub>; 45) team<sub>ENG.</sub> – tim<sub>SER.</sub>, ekipa<sub>SER.</sub>, grupa igrača<sub>SER.</sub>; 46) triple-double<sub>ENG.</sub> – tripldabl<sub>SER.</sub>, trostruki dvocifreni učinak<sub>SER.</sub>; 47) fan club<sub>ENG.</sub> – fan-klub<sub>SER.</sub>, navijački klub<sub>SER.</sub>; 48) foul<sub>ENG.</sub> – faul<sub>SER</sub>, greška<sub>SER</sub>, prekršaj<sub>SER</sub>; 49) fair play<sub>ENG</sub> – fer-plej<sub>SER</sub>, korektna igra<sub>SER</sub>; 50) finish<sub>ENG.</sub> – finiš<sub>SER.</sub>, završetak utakmice<sub>SER.</sub>; 51) feint<sub>ENG.</sub> – finta<sub>SER.</sub>, varka telom<sub>SER</sub>; 52) floater<sub>ENG.</sub> – flouter<sub>SER</sub>, šut sa visokim lukom<sub>SER</sub>; 53) freestyle<sub>ENG.</sub> – fristajl<sub>SER</sub>, slobodan stil<sub>SER</sub>; 54) futsal<sub>ENG</sub> – futsal<sub>SER</sub>, mali fudbal u dvorani<sub>SER</sub>; 55) hot shot<sub>ENG</sub> - hotšot<sub>SER</sub>, spektakularan udarac<sub>SER</sub>; 56) challenge<sub>ENG</sub> - čelendž<sub>SER</sub>, protest<sub>SER</sub>, osporavanje sudijske odluke<sub>SER</sub>; 57) jumping jack<sub>ENG</sub>, – džamping-džek<sub>SER</sub>, poskok raznožno<sub>SER.</sub>; 58) shot clock<sub>ENG.</sub> – šotklok<sub>SER.</sub>, sat za servis<sub>SER.</sub>, štoperica za servis<sub>SER.</sub>; 59) shooter<sub>ENG.</sub> – šuter<sub>SER.</sub>, strelac<sub>SER.</sub>; 60) shooting<sub>ENG.</sub> – šutiranje<sub>SER.</sub>, upućivanje lopte ka goluser, pucanjeser.

The list of English language sports terms, given in alphabetical order, along with the corresponding Anglicisms and their Serbian equivalents, can be found in the Appendix section of this paper, presented in table form (Table 1).

### 3. THE RESULTS

In the following two subsections we analyze the Anglicisms and their Serbian equivalents separately, based on which ones were predominantly selected by the respondents, and provide a morpho-syntactic analysis of the provided responses. Of the 60 sets of sports terms included in the questionnaire, the respondents selected the Anglicism 33 times (in 55% of the cases), and a Serbian equivalent 27 times (in 45% of the cases).

### **3.1.** The Anglicisms predominantly selected by the respondents over to their Serbian equivalents

Of these 33 sets, one Anglicism and two Serbian equivalents were provided in 7 of them (21%), while the remaining 26 sets consisted of just one Anglicism and one equivalent (79%). The percent of responses obtained for the Anglicisms ranged from 51.3% (koučing) to 92.3% (fer-plej). The range for their Serbian equivalents is from 0.9% (grupa igrača) to 48.7% (savetovanje tokom meča). In each instance a strong predilection for the Anglicism is evident, based on the high percent values, which also speaks in favor of their entrenchment. What follows is a list of these Anglicisms, in descending order, based on the recorded responses:

fer-plej (92.3%) – korektna igra (7.7%); sparing (91.5%) – vežbanje sa partnerom (8.5%); plejmejker (89.7%) – kreator igre (10.3%); šutiranje (88.9%) – upućivanje lopte ka golu (9.4%) – pucanje (1.7%); plejof (88%) – doigravanje (12%); finta (87.2%) – varka telom (12.8%); servis (85.5%) – početni udarac (14.5%); gol (84.6%) – pogodak (15.4%); dribler (83.8%) – igrač koji je prevario protivnika (16.2%); faul (83.8%) – prekršaj (13.7%) – greška (2.6%); futsal (83.8%) – mali fudbal u dvorani (16.2%); snoubording (82.9%) – skijanje na dasci (17.1%); tripldabl (81.2%) – trostruki dvocifreni učinak (18.8%); dribling (79.5%) – vođenje lopte (12.8%) – vođenje lopte sa fintom (7.7%); karving skije (76.9%) – skije sa izraženom bočnom geometrijom (23.1%); čelendž (76.9%) – osporavanje sudijske odluke (16.2%) – protest (6.8%); pas (76.9%) – dodavanje (23.1%); dabldabl (76.1%) – dvostruki dvocifreni učinak (23.9%); drop-šot (70.9%) – skraćena lopta (29.1%); fristajl (70.9%) – slobodan stil (29.1%); slajs (70.1%) – zasečena lopta (29.9%); tajbrejk (69.2%) – peti set (30.8%); vizor (68.4%) – kačket bez temena (31.6%); rekord (67.5%) – najbolji rezultat (32.5%); ritern (64.1%) – vraćen servis (22.2%) – povratni udarac (13.7%); blok (61.5%) – rampa (22.2%) – izblokiran šut (16.2%); viner (60.7%) – direktan poen (39.3%); mečmejker (59%) – ugovarač meča (41%); tim (58.1%) – ekipa (41%) – grupa igrača (0.9%); džamping-džek (54.7%) – poskok raznožno (45.3%); flouter (54.7%) – šut sa visokim lukom (45.3%); finiš (53.8%) - završetak utakmice (46.2%); koučing (51.3%) – savetovanje tokom meča (48.7%).

The widely selected Anglicisms were mostly monolexemic terms (such as gol, futsal), with the exception of the syntagm  $karving\ skije$ . They took the following forms: hyphenated words, gerunds, and nouns ending in the derivational suffix -er (nomina agentis, i.e. nouns referring to individuals performing the activity indicated by the verb they were derived from, such as  $player_{ENG}$ . and  $plejer_{SER}$ .). The equivalents were rarely monolexemic nouns (ekipa). Only in the case of faul-prekršaj-greška, pas-dodavanje, <math>gol-pogodak, plejof-doigravanje did the Serbian equivalents solely take the form of single words (nouns). All the remaining items were syntagms: the most frequently occurring were nominal phrases with premodification such as  $Adj^1 + N$  ( $direktan\ poen, korektna\ igra)$ , followed by syntagms which include postmodification such as N + N ( $grupa\ igrača, varka\ telom$ ), N + PP ( $skijanje\ na\ dasci, skije\ sa\ izraženom\ bočnom\ geometrijom$ ), participial phrases with an (occasional) direct object, such as  $upu\acute{c}ivanje\ lopte\ ka\ golu$ , or a N + RC ( $igrač\ koji\ je\ prevario\ protivnika$ ).

The Serbian equivalents to the gerunds (*dribling*, *koučing*, *snoubording*, *sparing*) also predominantly took the form of postmodified noun phrases, but mostly with the addition of a PP (*vođenje lopte sa fintom*, *savetovanje tokom meča*, *skijanje na dasci*, and *vežbanje sa partnerom*, and one instance of a N + N structure: *vođenje lopte*).

The equivalents to the nomina agentis (*dribler*, *mečmejker*, *plejmejker*) were a relative clause (*igrač koji je prevario protivnika*), and N + N syntagms (*ugovarač meča*, *kreator igre*), respectively. For the three remaining terms ending in the derivational suffix *-er*: *flouter* (a type of serve in tennis), *viner* (a type of point scored in tennis), and *vizor* (a part of the apparel worn in golf), the Serbian equivalents also included the structure of modification, either as N + PP (*šut sa visokim lukom* for *flouter*, *kačket bez temena* for *vizor*) or Adj +N (*direktan poen* for *viner*).

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$  The following abbreviations were used in the paper: Adj – adjective, N – noun, V – verb, PP – prepositional phrase, i.e. a combination of a preposition and a noun, and RC – relative clause.

The hyphenated terms, *drop-šot*, *džamping-džek*, and *fer-plej*, were selected over the Serbian equivalents that took the form of modified NPs (two instances of premodification: *korektna igra* for *fer-plej* and *skraćena lopta* for *drop-šot*, and one of postmodification: *poskok raznožno* for *džamping-džek*).

Among the Anglicisms there were also terms which indicated signs of compounding: dabldabl, fristajl, mečmejker, plejmejker, plejof, snoubording, tajbrejk, tripldabl. Two of the compounds, mečmejker and plejmejker, were of a more complex structure, as the process of compounding (to make a match - match making - matchmaker i.e. mečmejker and to make a play - play making - playmaker i.e. plejmejker) was also accompanied by the process of further derivation through the addition of the derivational suffix -er. In these two instances, the compounds were derived from a V + N combination. This is reflected in their Serbian equivalents, which are evidently descriptive definitions (ugovarač meča and kreator igre). A similar example is tajbrejk, (breaking a tie – tie break i.e. tajbrejk). Its Serbian equivalent shows evidence of this structure: peti set. Snoubording may be treated as a similar example. Due to the addition of the inflectional suffix -ing to the compound consisting of snow + board, we have yet another example of a complex-compound term, whose Serbian equivalent is in the form of a descriptive definition: skijanje na dasci. Of the remaining compounds, dabldabl and tripldabl are examples of a compounding process that involves adjectives and in the former example, even the process of reduplication. The Serbian equivalents are in this instance more of a descriptive definition rather than anything else (dvostruki dvocifreni učinak and trostruki dvocifreni učinak). However, the presence of premodification is evident. The structure of modification was also replicated in the example fristail and is reflected in its Serbian equivalent: slobodni stil. Plejof appears to be the only example of its kind that was the result of a compounding process involving a phrasal verb (to play off). It, however, has a Serbian equivalent, doigravanje, which led certain authors to conclude that it is in fact an unjustifiable Anglicism (Radojković, 2018).

It comes as no surprise that the selection of Anglicisms was predominant in the aforementioned examples, considering that the terms mostly originated from English-speaking countries (with the exception of sports terms pertaining to karate, wrestling, and skiing). Innovations, developments, and the broadcasting of matches and games in these sports cascade into other languages via English and are adopted for ease of communication. The general sports terms which were at the same time Anglicisms and which were most often selected by the respondents included džamping-džek – poskok raznožno, fer-plej – korektna igra, finiš – završetak utakmice, finta – varka telom, koučing – savetovanje tokom meča, rekord – najbolji rezultat, tim – ekipa – grupa igrača. These too came as no surprise, due to once again their widespread use and recognized status. In this instance, frequency of occurrence, even in everyday language, may have played a defining role.

## **3.2.** The Serbian equivalents predominantly selected by the respondents over the corresponding Anglicisms

Of the 27 sets, one Anglicism and two Serbian equivalents were provided in 9 of them (33.33%), while the remaining 18 sets consisted of ne Anglicism and just one equivalent (66.67%). In those cases where an Anglicisms was accompanied by two equivalents, we calculated the sum of the percentages of both equivalents as the dominant choice. The percent range of individual equivalents in this section is from 18.18% (*rezervni igrač*) to 87.2% (*utrčavanje uz čeonu liniju*), and for the Anglicisms from 9.4% (*kiker, dablfuter*) to 47%

(*šuter*). For ease of comparison with the previous lists, what follows are the Serbian equivalents the respondents selected over the provided synonymous Anglicism, presented in descending order, whereby the first term is always the corresponding Anglicism:

bejslajnkat (12.8%) – utrčavanje uz čeonu liniju (87.2%); tviner (15.4%) – udarac kroz noge (84.6%); bejslajner (17.1%) – igrač sa osnovne linije (82.9%); bičvolej (17.1%) – odbojka na pesku (82.9%); stiplčejs (17.1%) – trka sa preponama (82.9%); strajker (18.8%) – centarfor (81.2%); fan-klub (18.8%) – navijački klub (81.2%); nilift (21.4%) – korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjem (78.6%); elgrip (22.2%) – izvrnuti hvat (77.8%); buster (23.1%) – navijač-sponzor (76.9%); golgeter (25.6%) – najbolji strelac (74.4%); ed-in (26.5%) – prednost servera (73.5%); ed-aut (27.4%) – prednost primača servisa (72.6%); hotšot (32.8%) – spektakularan udarac (67.2%); kros-step (34.2%) – iskorak ka lopti (65.8%); sajdkat (34.2%) – bočni luk skije (65.8%); katmen (35%) – osoba zadužena za posekotine i povrede (65%); split-step (23.9%) – međukorak (60.7%) – pripremni korak (15.4%); rival (28.2%) – protivnički igrač (14.5%) – protivnik (57.3%); šuter (47%) – strelac (53%); bekdor (29.1%) – prolaz iza leđa odbrane (52.1%) – pritajeni napad (18.8%); daunhil (12.8%) – spust (51.3%) – slobodni spust (35.9%); kiker (9.4%) – rampa za skokove (47.9%) – skakaonica na stazi (42.7%); dablfuter (9.4%) – igrač koji dobro igra obema nogama (47%) – igrač koji koristi obe noge (43.6%); sajd-step (29.1%) – korak u stranu (42.7%) – bočni korak (28.2%); šotklok (29.1%) – sat za servis (42.7%) – štoperica za servis (28.2%); rezerva (46.2%) – zamena (35%) – rezervni igrač (18.8%).

Monolexemic equivalents which were selected over the Anglicisms are not frequent, and include the following nouns: *centarfor*, *međukorak*, *protivnik*, *spust*, *strelac*, *zamena*. On the other hand, syntagms consisting of a N + PP combination are more frequent (*odbojka na pesku*, *trka sa preponama*, *udarac kroz noge*), as are those with an Adj + N structure (*izvrnuti hvat*, *najbolji strelac*, *navijački klub*), while N + N combinations are infrequent (*prednost servera*). The only hyphenated item among all the selected equivalents was *navijač-sponzor*.

The Anglicisms not selected over their Serbian equivalent, and which are also derivatives, are predominantly nomina agentis (specifically *buster*, *golgeter*, *strajker*, *šuter*), while one Anglicism each refers to a movement (*tviner*) and an object (*kiker*).

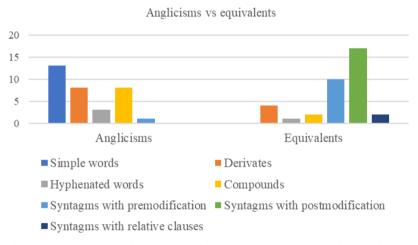
Anglicisms in the form of hyphenated words which the respondents did not select included ed-aut, ed-in, fan-klub, kros-step, sajd-step and split-step, whereby their Serbian equivalents mostly took the form of syntagms: prednost primača servisa for ed-aut, prednost servera for ed-in, navijački klub for fan-klub, iskorak ka lopti for kros-step, korak u stranu for sajd-step, but also compounds: međukorak for split-step.

In the case of thirteen compound nominal Anglicisms, which are predominantly motivated by nominal syntagms in English, the respondents still selected the polylexemic Serbian equivalents, contrary to the conclusions of Milić et al. (2019) and Tomić (2018). The Anglicisms in question are bejslajnkat, bekdor, bičvolej, dablfuter, daunhil, elgrip, hotšot, katmen, nilift, sajdkat, stiplčejs, šotklok.

Non-motivated Anglicisms in Serbian are *rezerva* and *rival*, which originate from French and German, respectively, whereby the replacements for *rezerva* are the terms *zamena* (35%) and *rezervni igrač* (18.8%) and for *rival* are the terms *protivnik* (57.3%) and *protivnički igrač* (14.5%).

A special case are those sets where the Anglicisms had two Serbian equivalents, where the respondents predominantly (over 50%) selected one of the equivalents, as in the case of the equivalents medukorak (60.7%), protivnik (57.3%), prolaz iza leda odbrane (52.1%), spust (51.3%). In the remaining cases, both equivalents were selected more often than the Anglicism, specifically rampa za skokove (47.9%) and skakaonica na stazi (42.7%), igrač koji dobro igra obema nogama (47%) and igrač koji koristi obe noge (43.6%), korak u stranu (42.7%) and bočni korak (28.2%), sat za servis (42.7%) and stoperica za servis (28.2%), zamena (35%) and rezervni igrač (18.8%).

A graphic representation of the results for both types of sports terms, the most frequently Anglicisms and their Serbian equivalents, listed side-by-side, can be found in Graph 1.



**Graph 1** The morpho-syntactic analysis of the Anglicisms and Serbian equivalents most frequently selected by the respondents

### 4. DISCUSSION

At a time when English dominates the field of international sport (in terms of names of associations, championships, sports journalism in general), it is understandable that the entry of English language words into numerous languages might make lexicologists more concerned about the standardization of sports terminology in non-English speaking communities, about determining whether L1 words (equivalents) are the norm, or whether this label now belonged to Anglicisms. An increased occurrence of Anglicisms in sports terminology may be expected (Tomić, 2018), both as translational equivalents, but also as denotational supplements rather than substitutes (Milić, 2013b, 77). It may happen that a single Anglicism has more than one equivalent, which are usually mutually interchangeable. Dudurgova (Дудургова, 2017), for example, concluded that Anglicisms are not always adopted to the same extent, and are therefore mastered, semi-mastered, or unmastered terminology. Combined with the fact that not all Serbian L1 speakers understand Anglicisms to the same extent (Panić Kavgić, 2006), an opportunity presented itself to re-evaluate the

objective lexical selection between Anglicisms and their Serbian equivalents in a population of trained athletes and students of sports and physical education.

With that in mind, the analyses of the formulated hypotheses are presented below.

Sports terms in the form of Serbian equivalents, which were derived from descriptive definitions of Anglicisms, can in fact become the norm in Serbian terminology, despite opinions to the contrary. Evidence confirming this hypothesis was found among the Serbian equivalents which were selected over the corresponding Anglicisms. This indicates the gradual transition from the Anglicism to the vernacular, as described in Klegr and Bozdechova (2019). A definite, albeit not dominant, trend was noted in this segment of the student population towards Serbian equivalents (45%). Tomić (2018) made the claim that this speaks in favor of the entrenchment of certain terms in the vernacular, among other reasons due to exposure as indicated in Ayakulov (2019), which renders the adoption of Anglicisms unjustifiable. In our case, illustrative examples of this kind include: utrčavanje uz čeonu liniju; udarac kroz noge; igrač sa osnovne linije; trka sa preponama; korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjem; izvrnuti hvat; najbolji strelac; prednost servera; prednost primača servisa; spektakularan udarac; iskorak ka lopti; bočni luk skije; osoba zadužena za posekotine i povrede; prolaz iza leđa odbrane; rampa za skokove; and skakaonica na stazi.

The respondents will, adhering to linguistic economy, more often select monolexemic Anglicisms than their Serbian equivalents which take the form of syntagms. The claim for linguistic economy, which will not affect the semantic component of a term, was made not only by Tomić (2018) but also by Milić (2013a, 81). The monolexemic Anglicisms predominantly selected in this study are: dabldabl, dribler, dribling, finiš, finta, flouter, fristajl, futsal, koučing, mečmejker, plejmejker, rekord, ritern, servis, slajs, snoubording, sparing, tajbrejk, tripldabl, viner, vizor. As they make up one-third of all the Anglicisms included in this study, these findings provide support for hypothesis two.

The hypothesis that morphologically simple Anglicisms will be preferred by the respondents over their Serbian equivalents, while the Serbian equivalents will be preferred over morphologically more complex Anglicisms has been confirmed. The predominantly selected morphologically simple Anglicism include: dribling (vođenje lopte – vođenje lopte sa fintom), finiš (završetak utakmice), finta (varka telom), futsal (mali fudbal u dvorani), gol (pogodak), koučing (savetovanje tokom meča), pas (dodavanje), rekord (najbolji rezultat), ritern (vraćen servis, povratni udarac), servis (početni udarac), slajs (zasečena lopta), sparing (vežbanje sa partnerom), vizor (kačket bez temena). The predominantly selected Serbian equivalents compared to the morphologically more complex Anglicisms include: bočni luk skije (sajdkat), igrač koji dobro igra obema nogama and igrač koji koristi obe noge (dablfuter), izvrnuti hvat (elgrip), korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjem (nilift), odbojka na pesku (bičvolej), osoba zadužena za posekotine i povrede (katmen), prolaz iza leđa odbrane (bekdor), sat za servis (šotklok), spektakularan udarac (hotšot), trka sa preponama (stiplčejs), and utrčavanje uz čeonu liniju (bejslajnkat).

The derived Anglicisms which were predominantly selected by the respondents over their equivalents in the form of syntagms include *dribler*, *flouter*, *šutiranje*, and *viner*, while the structure of the equivalents which were selected over the Anglicisms, such as *buster*, *kiker*, *strajker*, *šuter*, and *tviner*, varied considerably (it included syntagms, monolexemic equivalents, and hyphenated words).

In total, 9 hyphenated items were included in the questionnaire. In line with hypothesis three, the respondents selected Anglicisms in the form of hyphenated items (*drop-šot*,

džamping-džek, fer-plej) over Serbian equivalents in 33% of all cases. The Anglicisms that the respondents predominantly did not select included: ed-aut, ed-in, fan-klub, kros-step, sajd-step, and split-step; they selected their Serbian equivalents in the form of syntagms in 67% of all cases. The percent of compound Anglicisms selected over their Serbian equivalents made up a considerably small percent of all the compounds included in the study, 38.1%. In other words, in 61.9% of the complex nominal Anglicisms, the respondents gave an advantage to the polylexemic Serbian equivalents. The examples include the following Anglicisms: bejslajnkat, bekdor, bičvolej, dablfuter, daunhil, elgrip, hotšot, katmen, nilift, sajdkat, stiplčejs, šotklok. Thereby, hypothesis three was confirmed.

Despite their complex morphological makeup (in three instances there was additional derivation added on to the compounding process), the fact that Serbian equivalents were selected by the respondents with a high rate of frequency indicates the considerable entrenchment of these compounds in Serbian sports terminology. Neither language economy, nor a shift to the vernacular seem to have played a considerable role in this instance, as the equivalents themselves were mostly of the same level of complexity as the Anglicisms. This may be evidence of de-anglicization in Serbian sports terminology (a term borrowed from Klegr and Bozdechova (2019)), whereby the status of a sports term in a linguistic system is inextricably linked to the popularity of the sport in question, and the length of its presence in the target (L1) culture. In the aforementioned examples, it may be that neither the level of popularity nor the presence of these terms was sufficient to warrant a preference for the Anglicisms. It is difficult to determine whether linguistic economy will win over entrenchment, or vice versa, and it may be a decision that has to be made on a case-to-case basis. However, considering the strong cultural significance of sport in the Serbian linguistic environment, it is necessary to re-assess the progress of these two factors at regular intervals.

In the *NESRST* dictionary the authors point out that numerous sports terms in the English language have more than one translational equivalent, and that they have therefore been listed in the dictionary based on prominence which includes congruence with the principles of standardization: the first term listed is unambiguous, motivated, congruent with the standards of the Serbian language, is the shortest, and the most frequent (Milić, 2006, 57-90; Milić, 2015a). The data obtained in the questionnaire indicated a more objective view of the frequency of use of Anglicisms in sport, as well as their equivalents, compared to the list of equivalents provided in existing terminological dictionaries. Specifically, a 40% difference was noted (in 24 of the 60 sets) in the order in which the synonymous sports terms were listed, that is, differences in the noted frequency of use compared to the suggested level of standardization in the selected dictionaries.

The two/three part sets of Anglicisms and their equivalents where a difference was noted in the order of the respondents' frequency of use of the sports terms compared to that of the analyzed dictionaries of Serbian sports terms are the following:  $\check{c}elend\check{z}_1^2$  (76.9%) – osporavanje sudijske odluke<sub>3</sub> (16.2%) – protest<sub>2</sub> (6.8%);  $tim_2$  (58.1%) –  $ekipa_1$  (41%) – grupa  $igra\check{c}a_3$  (0.9%);  $fristajl_2$  (70.9%) –  $slobodan\ stil_1$  (29.1%);  $viner_2$  (60.7%) –  $direktan\ poen_1$  (39.3%);  $me\check{c}mejker_2$  (59%) –  $ugovara\check{c}\ me\check{c}a_1$  (41%);  $kou\check{c}ing_2$  (51.3%) –  $savetovanje\ tokom\ me\check{c}a_1$  (48.7%);  $utr\check{c}avanje\ uz\ \check{c}eonu\ liniju_2$  (87.2%) –  $bejslajnkat_1$  (12.8%);  $udarac\ kroz\ noge_2$  (84.6%) –  $viner_1$  (15.4%);  $odbojka\ na\ pesku_2$  (82.9%) –  $bi\check{c}volej_1$  (17.1%);  $trka\ sa$ 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The subscripts indicate the order given in the analyzed dictionaries of sports terms, mainly the *Novi englesko-srpski rečnik sportskih termina*.

preponama<sub>2</sub> (82.9%) – stiplčejs<sub>1</sub> (17.1%); navijački klub<sub>2</sub> (81.2%) – fan-klub<sub>1</sub> (18.8%); korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjem<sub>2</sub> (78.6%) – nilift<sub>1</sub> (21.4%); najbolji strelac<sub>2</sub> (74.4%) – golgeter<sub>1</sub> (25.6%); bočni luk skije<sub>2</sub> (65.8%) – sajdkat<sub>1</sub> (34.2%); osoba zadužena za posekotine i povrede<sub>2</sub> (65%) – katmen<sub>1</sub> (35%); strelac<sub>2</sub> (53%) – šuter<sub>1</sub> (47%); međukorak<sub>1</sub> (60.7%) – splitstep<sub>3</sub> (23.9%) – pripremni korak<sub>2</sub> (15.4%); protivnik<sub>2</sub> (57.3%) – protivnički igrač<sub>3</sub> (14.5%) – rival<sub>1</sub> (28.2%); spust<sub>1</sub> (51.3%) – slobodni spust<sub>2</sub> (35.9%) – daunhil<sub>3</sub> (12.8%); skakaonica na stazi<sub>3</sub> (42.7%) – rampa za skokove<sub>2</sub> (47.9%) – kiker<sub>1</sub> (9.4%); igrač koji dobro igra obema nogama<sub>3</sub> (47%) – igrač koji koristi obe noge<sub>1</sub> (43.6%) – dablfuter<sub>2</sub> (9.4%), korak u stranu<sub>2</sub> (42.7%) – sajd-step<sub>3</sub> (29.1%) – bočni korak<sub>1</sub> (28.2%); sat za servis<sub>1</sub> (42.7%) – šotklok<sub>3</sub> (29.1%) – štoperica za servis<sub>2</sub> (28.2%); rezerva<sub>2</sub> (46.2%) – zamena<sub>3</sub> (35%) – rezervni igrač<sub>1</sub> (18.8%).

The Serbian equivalents tended to take various forms in terms of syntagmatic structure and included examples of premodification (in the form of Adjs), or postmodification (mostly PPs, RCs, or Ns). In cases when the respondents to a greater extent selected equivalents in the form of syntagms, 10 instances showed signs of premodification (35.71%) in the form of adjectivals, while 18 instances showed signs of post-modification (64.29%) including clauses, nominals, NPs, and PPs. Therefore, we can conclude that when an Anglicism has not been fully adapted into the lexical system of the Serbian language (for example, *nilift, elgrip, stiplčejs*), there is a greater likelihood that a syntagm containing postmodification will be used than one containing premodification. In the case of Anglicisms which were the respondents' primary choice, the Serbian equivalents did not differ considerably in terms of the presence of pre-modification (14 items or 52%) and post-modification (13 items or 48%). The remaining items excluded from analysis were examples of pre-modification and post-modification, as well as hyphenated words. The syntactic structure of the Serbian equivalents was apparently more significant in those instances when they were selected over the corresponding Anglicism.

Finally, membership in a particular sports terminology has not proven to be a deciding factor. The selected terms were mostly Anglicisms from ball sports, while the equivalents were from tennis, or belonged to general sports terminology.

### 5. CONCLUSION

The prevalence of synonyms in Serbian sports terminology in the form of adapted Anglicisms and their Serbian equivalents is the outcome of several factors: the dominance of the English language in the globalization processes, the development of new sports, the distribution of sports-related information via Anglicized media, sports commentators, ease of communication on a global scale and attempts to avoid miscommunication, as well as existing gaps in the terminology or mental lexicon, inter alia.

The paper aimed to analyze the current and objective lexical selection between Anglicisms and their equivalents in Serbian sports terminology. These sports terms were subjected to a morpho-syntactic analysis, so that their use from the point of view of the respondents could be further determined. The paper analyzed the responses that 117 students of sport and physical education provided for 60 sets of sports terms, which were combinations of Anglicisms and their equivalents. In general, the respondents may have tended to select Anglicisms more frequently, but only slightly. The morpho-syntactic analysis of the responses indicated that an increase in the complexity of the morphological

structure of the Anglicisms (ranging from simple and derived, to hyphenated and finally compound Anglicisms) was likely to lead to a Serbian equivalent in the form of a syntagm (which mostly includes postmodification) being used in its stead. In the case of Anglicisms with a simpler morphological structure, language economy and brevity seem to play a more significant role, leading the respondents to select the Anglicism. At the same time, entrenchment was also determined to be a factor of some importance, while particular types of sport were not.

The limitations of the study refer to the sample of respondents and the questionnaire itself. Despite the responses not varying across respondents from all four years of study, it is possible that their uneven distribution impacted the results, along with the fact that our sample was extracted from a single population of students attending one university and one field of study. Furthermore, the impact of the level of proficiency of the respondents was not analyzed as a factor that may have impacted the recorded responses, considering that the respondents had not been tested on their knowledge of the English language, and only provided self-reported levels of proficiency. In terms of the questionnaire, it is possible that the responses might have been different had the questionnaire been more open-ended, rather than a forced-choice elicitation task.

Future studies should focus on a potential re-evaluation of the standardization of Serbian sports terms, as included in the relevant dictionaries, which would take into account the ongoing impact of the English language in the field of sport, as well as the actual use of sports terms in everyday language among professional athletes. In addition, these changes should also be reflected in the teaching process in educational institutions that cater to athletes and students of sport and physical education, while the findings may provide insight for the field of ESP.

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### ISTRAŽIVANJE LEKSIČKIH IZBORA U SPORTSKOJ TERMINOLOGIJI NA PRIMERU STUDENATA SPORTA I FIZIČKOG VASPITANJA

Predmet rada je konkurentnost anglicizama i njihovih pandana u srpskom jeziku u oblasti sporta. Cilj nam je da na uzorku studenata sporta i fizičkog vaspitanja pokažemo trenutne tendencije u upotrebi sinonimnih sportskih termina. Onlajn-upitnik popunilo je 117 ispitanika, pri čemu je upitnik sadržao 60 nizova sastavljenih od jednog anglicizma i jednog ili dvaju njegovih pandana. Dobijeni podaci podvrgnuti su kvalitativnoj analizi, pri čemu je frekventnost upotrebe termina kod ispitanika iskazana procentualno. U svetlu postavljenih hipoteza, na osnovu morfo-sintaksiče strukture anglicizama, broja leksema u okviru pandana u srpskom jeziku i morfo-sintaksičke strukture sintagmi, pokazali smo da su anglicizmi prostije tvorbene strukture prihvatljiviji među sportskim terminima (poput gol, servis, slajs, sparing, faul), a oni složenije strukture potisnuti su višeleksemskim pandanima u srpskom jeziku, vrlo često sa nekongruentnim atributom (igrač sa osnovne linije, korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjem, trka sa preponama, udarac kroz noge, utrčavanje uz čeonu liniju). Rezultati ovog istraživanja nisu samo leksikografski, već su značajni za engleski u profesionalne svrhe, u smislu procene upotrebe anglicizama ili njihovih ekvivalenata među studentima sporta i fîzičkog vaspitanja, što je pokazatelj trenutnih tendencija u oblasti sportske terminologije. Takođe, dobijeni rezultati primenu mogu naći i u nastavi engleskog kao stranog jezika namenjenoj studentima sporta i fizičkog vaspitanja kao i u korišćenju sportske terminologije u svakodnevnoj nastavnoj praksi na različitim fakultetima sporta i fizičkog vaspitanja.

Ključne reči: sportska terminologija, anglicizmi, prevođenje, konkurentnost među terminima, srpski jezik

### **APPENDIX**

Table 1 A list of the English language sports terms, corresponding Anglicisms, and their Serbian equivalents

	English Language	Anglicisms	Equivalent(s)
	Terms	in Serbian	in Serbian
1	add-in	ed-in	prednost servera
2	add-out	ed-aut	prednost primača servisa
3	back door	bekdor	prolaz iza leđa odbrane, pritajeni napad
4	baseliner	bejslajner	igrač sa osnovne linije
5	baseline cut	bejslajnkat	utrčavanje uz čeonu liniju
6	beach volleyball	bičvolej	odbojka na pesku
7	block	blok	rampa, izblokiran šut
8	booster	buster	navijač-sponzor
9	carving skis	karving skije	skije sa izraženom bočnom geometrijom
10	challenge	čelendž	protest, osporavanje sudijske odluke
11	coaching	koučing	savetovanje tokom meča
12	cross step	kros-step	iskorak ka lopti
13	cutman	katmen	osoba zadužena za posekotine i povrede
14	double-double	dabldabl	dvostruki dvocifreni učinak
15	double-footed	dablfuter	igrač koji koristi obe noge,
	•	•	igrač koji dobro igra obema nogama;

16	J	J1.:1	
	downhill	daunhil	spust, slobodni spust
	dribbler	dribler	igrač koji je prevario protivnika
	dribbling	dribling	vođenje lopte, vođenje lopte sa fintom
	drop shot	drop-šot	skraćena lopta
	fan club	fan-klub	navijački klub
21	foul	faul	greška, prekršaj
	fair play	fer-plej	korektna igra
	finish	finiš	završetak utakmice
24	feint	finta	varka telom
	floater	flouter	šut sa visokim lukom
	freestyle	fristajl	slobodan stil
	futsal	futsal	mali fudbal u dvorani
28	goal	gol	pogodak
29	goal-getter	golgeter	najbolji strelac
	hot shot	hotšot	spektakularan udarac
31	jumping jack	džamping-džek	poskok raznožno
	kicker	kiker	rampa za skokove, skakaonica na stazi
33	knee lift	nilift	korak sa prednožnim pogrčenjem
34	L-grip	elgrip	izvrnuti hvat
35	matchmaker	mečmejker	ugovarač meča
36	pass	pas	dodavanje
37	playmaker	plejmejker	kreator igre
38	play-off	plejof	doigravanje
39	record	rekod	najbolji rezultat
40	reserve	rezerva	rezervni igrač, zamena
41	return	ritern	vraćen servis, povratni udarac
42	rival	rival	protivnik, protivnički igrač
43	sidecut	sajdkat	bočni luk skije
44	side step	sajd-step	bočni korak, korak u stranu
45	serve	servis	početni udarac
46	slice	slajs	zasečena lopta
47	snowboarding	snoubording	skijanje na dasci
48	sparring	sparing	vežbanje sa partnerom
49	split step	split-step	međukorak, pripremni korak
50	steeplechase	stiplčejs	trka sa preponama
51	striker	strajker	centarfor
52	shot clock	šotklok	sat za servis, štoperica za servis
53	shooter	šuter	strelac
54	shooting	šutiranje	upućivanje lopte ka golu, pucanje
55	tie-break	tajbrejk	peti set
56	team	tim	ekipa, grupa igrača
57	triple-double	tripldabl	trostruki dvocifreni učinak
58	tweener	tviner	udarac kroz noge
59	visor	vizor	kačket bez temena
60	winner	viner	direktan poen