

Mira Milić*

*Faculty of Sport and Physical Education
University of Novi Sad, Serbia
mmilic@uns.ac.rs*

THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH ON SERBIAN SPORTS TERMINOLOGY

Abstract

In the light of the fact that nowadays the source language of sports terminology is English, the aim of this paper is to provide an exhaustive analysis of the influence of English on term formation processes in Serbian sports terminology. The analysis, based on the corpus of sports terms compiled from several glossaries and dictionaries, has indicated that English-Serbian language contacts in the field of sport are not only limited to the transfer of new forms with their inherent semantic content from English into Serbian, but that they also include taking over new English-based meanings, clippings and compound forms with non-inflectional modifiers. The findings indicate that the number of English borrowings could be lower than already stated if the creation of new terms was immediately followed by the process of standardisation which, from the aspect of language contacts, is a matter of linguistics rather than sport.

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Key words

English, lexicology, Serbian, sport, terminology.

* Corresponding address: Mira Milić, Fakultet sporta i fizičkog vaspitanja, Lovćenska 16, 21000 Novi Sad, Srbija.

Sažetak

Budući da se sportski termini danas preuzimaju iz engleskog jezika, cilj našeg rada je da prikaže temeljnu analizu uticaja tog jezika na procese tvorbe termina u sportskoj terminologiji u srpskom jeziku. Analiza izvršena na korpusu sportskih termina prikupljenih iz nekoliko rečnika i glosara ukazuje na to da englesko-srpski jezički kontakti u domenu sporta ne nastaju samo kao posledica preuzimanja novih oblika sa sebi svojstvenim semantičkim sadržajem, već i novih značenja pod uticajem engleskog, skraćenih oblika i složenih oblika sa nepromenljivim modifikatorima. Rezultati pokazuju da bi udeo pozajmljenica iz engleskog jezika mogao biti manji kada bi tvorba novih termina bila praćena procesom standardizacije, koja sa aspekta jezičkih kontakata predstavlja pre pitanje lingvistike nego sporta.

Ključne reči

engleski, leksikologija, srpski, sport, terminologija.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sport is nowadays practised internationally, which is why there is a need for a system of equivalent concepts and their names in languages of participants in sports competitions coming from different language communities. Owing to the fact that international sports competitions are governed by a unique set of rules it may be assumed that there is a high-level equivalence of sports concepts across different language systems. Given that there is a cross-linguistic equivalence of sports concepts, it is logical to assume that the difference between terms in different languages is reflected at the level of form rather than semantic content. Names of concepts are formed by adding new meaning to existing words, changing the morphology or grammatical class of established resources, as well as by borrowing from other linguistic systems (cf. Dubuc, 1997: 131). Due to the fact that the official language of sport is English it is quite likely that non-English sports terminologies include a considerable number of lexical borrowings from English. Since sports terminology in Serbian is currently being created by the adaptation of English terms through transshaping and translation, lexical borrowing from English is expected to be one of the most frequent processes in term creation. The term 'transshaping' involves a new form with its inherent content taken over from English, which is adapted to the orthographic and semantic standard of Serbian (cf. Prčić, 2005: 124). This analysis is based on Prčić's definition of anglicisms because

of the fact that the borrowed units in sports terminology are not only the lexical ones but also translated lexical and syntactic units that comply with the lexical standard of English. Thus, according to Prčić (2005: 145), anglicisms are lexical units (words and affixes) borrowed from English (SET < *set*) or nativised (mostly Latin) lexical units in Serbian with a higher frequency of use and/or semantic modification under the influence of English (BONUS¹ < *bonus*), as well as translated lexical and syntactic units (words, phrases and collocations) in Serbian, which comply with the lexical standard of English (GUBITAK POSEDA LOPTE < *loss of possession of the ball*, as opposed to Serbian standard equivalent IZGUBLJENA LOPTA). In respect of the above, the aim of this analysis is to find out to what extent Serbian sports terminology borrows English words and what the nature of this borrowing is. This was done on the corpus of sports terms compiled from an English-Serbian dictionary of sports terms (Milić, 2006), *English-Serbian glossary of terms in aerobic gymnastics* (Milić, 2007) and an online glossary of tennis terms in English. Due to the fact that there is no lexicographic source of tennis terms in Serbian, the number of transshaped tennis terms from English into Serbian has been determined in cooperation with postgraduate students and professors of the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education in Novi Sad.

2. TERM FORMATION PROCESSES IN SPORTS TERMINOLOGY

This section follows Dubuc's (1997: 131) conclusion that "terms are created by adding new meaning to existing words, changing the morphology or grammatical class of established resources and borrowing from other linguistic systems". Given that the conclusion is based on English terminology, and that English and Serbian have different linguistic systems (non-inflectional versus inflectional), this section is organised in line with the predominant term formation processes registered in Serbian. They are: (1) adding new meaning to existing words, (2) combination, which includes phraseology and word-formation processes (affixation and compounding) (Lipka, 1992: 80), and (3) borrowing from English. Owing to the fact that sports terminology in Serbian is created by adaptation of English terms by transshaping and translation, term formation processes are denoted in both languages by italics for English and small capitals for Serbian. Less transparent terms are accompanied with the definition of meaning in footnotes. Symbols and abbreviations used in this paper are: < (in Serbian from English), > (from English into Serbian), Adj (adjective), Gen (genitive), Comp (compound), Instr (instrumental), N (noun), Phr (phrasal), PresP (present participle), PastP (past participle), Prep (preposition), Semi-comp (semi-compound), and V (verb).

¹ Advantage gained by a team in a basketball match when each fouled player gets an opportunity for a free throw (Milić, 2006: 36).

3. TERMS CREATED BY ADDING NEW MEANING TO EXISTING WORDS

The sports register in both languages includes a lot of terms which have developed their meanings by adding new meaning to existing words, mainly by means of metaphor. According to Dubuc (1997: 132), metaphors and analogy, which have long been used to create terminology, are now receiving attention in special languages. However, the analysed corpus includes only a few borderline instances of terms formed by analogy, e.g. REKORDER < *record holder*, and TENISER < *tennis player*, which could have been formed by analogy with other English borrowings with agentive suffix *-er*, e.g. TRENER < *trainer*. In contrast, there are numerous terms that developed their meaning by means of conceptual metaphor. The conceptual metaphor, according to Cruse (1986: 41), implies a structure “which induces the hearer (or reader) to view a thing, or state of affairs, or whatever, as being like something else, by applying to the former linguistic expressions which are more normally employed in references to the latter”. As Raad (1989: 134, quoted in Dubuc, 1997: 132) says, terms with metaphor-based meanings “use the very imprecision and suggestiveness of language to enhance communicative effectiveness”. New conceptual metaphor-based meanings added to existing words are predominantly borrowed from English for which reason most of them are dealt with in Section 5. In spite of the predominant English-based metaphorical meanings in Serbian, a fewer number of terms in Serbian have developed metaphorical meanings independently of English. Examples include terms with metaphor-based meaning in Serbian that match terms with non-metaphorical meaning in English, e.g. volleyball terms PECANJE (source domain: fishing) < *contact with the net*, and KUVANJE (source domain: cooking) < *tipping*, or those which include different source domains, e.g. ZLATAN GOL (source domain: metallurgy) < *(sudden) death*² (source domain: living organisms). Owing to the fact that most Serbian terms have developed new metaphor-based meanings that have been borrowed from English, it can be concluded that the Serbian sports terminology is highly affected by English in terms of adding new meaning to existing words.

A considerable number of terms are eponyms which acquired terminological meaning by being named after a person, ethnic group or country with which they are associated. A wider range of proper names which underwent the process of sense-acquisition in sports terminology is based on the definition by Crystal (2001: 107) that eponym is “[t]he name of a person after whom something (such as an invention, or the title of a book or film) is named”. Examples are: DEJVIS-KUP < *Davis Cup* (International, annual men’s tennis competition named after one of the four Harvard players, Dwight F. Davis, who designed a tournament format), KOZAČKI SKOK < *cossack jump* named after an ethnic group, and KANADA < *canada* (1 arm

² A type of extra time in a tied sports contest in which a match is won as soon as one team or player scores (Milić, 2006: 181).

straddle support 1/1 turn 1 leg vertical) named after a country. However, the most frequent eponyms are derived from the name of the athlete who created a certain tournament or performed an exercise at an international competition for the first time. Due to the fact that the source language of sports terminology is currently English, eponyms are first adapted following the linguistic standard of English, wherefrom they are borrowed by other linguistic systems and adapted accordingly. Consequently, eponyms in Serbian sports terminology are almost exclusively created by lexical borrowing from English, which is dealt with in Section 5.

4. TERMS CREATED BY COMBINATION

As already pointed out above, this section includes complex terms and phrasal terms. According to Lipka (1992: 80), the former are created by word formation processes – affixation and compounding whereas the latter belong to phraseology. As far as phraseology is concerned it needs to be pointed out that multi-worded units are usually referred to as syntagms. However, in accordance with Lipka (1992: 74) and Lyons (1977: 23), they are treated as phrasal lexemes in this paper, due to the fact that they represent multi-word names for a single concept. For stylistic reasons, these terms are further referred to as ‘phrasal terms’ since they belong to the terminological system while the term ‘phrasal lexeme’ denotes multi-word lexical units of the general lexicon.

4.1. Affixation

Affixation is by far the most productive process in Serbian. Although suffixation is predominant and prefixation less frequent, occasionally, both processes are used. Even though nouns are the most frequent grammatical class formed by affixation, denoting an agent, action or state, verbs are also formed by this process.

Prior to discussing agentive nouns, we need to point out Bauer’s (1983: 286) claim that the term ‘agentive nominalisation’ is a misnomer because such forms do not always denote an agent but also an instrument, experiencer or patient, e.g. *examiner, opener, lover*. For this reason this author proposes a new term ‘subject nominalisation’ although this label will cover more than just –er suffixation. However, as both terms are insufficiently transparent, preference is given to the term ‘agentive’ due to the fact that it is more frequent in literature. Agentive nouns in Serbian sports terminology are derived from verbal bases with a highly productive suffix –AČ and a less productive one –AC, which correspond to –er in English, e.g. BACAČ < *thrower*, BORAC < *fighter*, IGRAČ < *player*, PLIVAČ < *swimmer*, SKAKAČ < *jumper*, TRKAČ < *runner*, etc. Along with nouns derived with the Serbian agentive suffixes –AČ and –AC, a certain number of terms in Serbian ending in the

English suffix *-er* are created by borrowing the same form from English rather than by affixation. These are: MENADŽER < *manager*, ŠUTER < *shooter* and TRENER < *trainer*. A certain number of nouns are also derived from nominal bases (names of sports), with an international suffix *-ist/-ist* which is used in Serbian and English alike, e.g. RAGBISTA < *rugbist*. However, *ist*-suffixed forms in Serbian are not necessarily *ist*-suffixed in English and vice versa, e.g. GIMNASTIČAR < *gymnast*, SPORTISTA < *athlete* and VATERPOLISTA < *water polo player*.

Action nouns are predominantly derived from verbal bases and the suffix *-nje* and *-ing* in Serbian and English respectively. Using verbal bases from the above examples gerund nouns can be derived from all English and Serbian verbs (BACANJE < *throwing*, BORENJE < *fighting*, IGRANJE < *playing*, PLIVANJE < *swimming* SKAKANJE < *jumping* and TRČANJE < *running*). In addition to the formation of gerund nouns by the above mentioned Serbian-based suffixation, a certain number of gerund nouns have been adapted by transshaping the source English gerund forms. These are: BODIBILDING < *bodybuilding*, DRIBLING < *dribbling*, TRENING < *training*, etc. The infinitive forms of these nouns in Serbian, except DRIBLING, generally correspond to the infinitive forms of transshaped English verbs with Serbian suffixes *-irati* and *-ovati* (BILDOVATI < *build*, TRENIRATI < *train*) (cf. Klajn, 2003: 241).

While a considerable number of state nouns in English have the same form as verbs as a result of conversion, their translated/transshaped equivalents in Serbian have different forms as a result of class-changing suffixation with *-ti*, *-iti/irati*, *-ovati*. To illustrate, these are: *fight* (V: *fight*) > BORBA (V: BORITI SE), *foul* (V: *foul*) > FAUL (V: FAULIRATI), *jump* (V: *jump*) > SKOK (V: SKOČITI), *play* (V: *play*) > IGRA (V: IGRATI), *serve* (V: *serve*) > SERVIS (V: SERVIRATI). State nouns in Serbian are also created by prefixes of spatial relationships, and they correspond to phrasal nouns in English, e.g. ZAKLON < *back bend* and PRETKLON < *forward lean*. Rare cases of English phrasal nouns adapted by suffixation from verbal bases in Serbian are also found, e.g. PRODUŽETAK < *extra time*.

In the light of the fact that the founder of the International Olympic Committee and the man who is considered the father of the modern Olympic Games was a French aristocrat Pierre de Coubertin, a certain number of nouns in sports terminology are French borrowings (some of which are originally latinisms) in Serbian and English alike, e.g. *association* > ASOCIJACIJA, *federation* > FEDERACIJA, *formation* > FORMACIJA, *tournament* > TURNIR,³ etc. Even though these might be treated as derivatives made from verbal bases and the international suffix *-acija* and *-ation* in Serbian and English respectively, they, in fact, show the process of borrowing from Romance rather than English/Serbian word formation (cf. Bauer, 1983: 221). However, rare cases of French borrowings in either of the two

³ This term is treated as a French borrowing in this paper (cf. *Rečnik srpskohrvatskoga književnog jezika* [1967-1976(6): 344] due to the fact that the source language of sports terminology used to be French as well as that it is a French borrowing in English too (Middle English *turnement*, from Anglo-French *turneiement*, from *turneier*), even though, according to a recent reference source (cf. Klajn & Šipka, 2006: 1278) it is a lexical borrowing from German *turnier*.

languages are also found, e.g. nativised French word 'EKIPA' in Serbian versus the English local word *team*. With reference to this example, it needs to be said that TIM < *team* has also been recently borrowed from English into Serbian. However, it seems that this anglicism has higher frequency of use in non-sports registers and general use.

Owing to the need for terms to be concise, a number of Serbian verbs in gymnastics have developed unique forms by means of nominal bases denoting extremities and prefixes of spatial relationships, which correspond to multi-word phrasal units in English. These are: ISKORAČITI < *step out*, ODNOŽITI < *lift leg laterally*, OTKORAČITI < *step laterally*, PREDRUČITI < *bring arms forward*, RAZRUČITI < *bring arms sideward*, RAZNOŽITI < *straddle*, UZRUČITI < *bring arms up*, ZANOŽITI < *lift leg upward*, ZANOŽITI < *raise leg*, and ZARUČITI < *bring arms backward*.

In the light of the fact that the Serbian forms are often derived by affixation in a very creative manner, the above discussion offers a solid ground for the conclusion that English has little influence on affixation in term formation in sports terminology. A small number of borrowed English *-er* and *-ing* suffixes in Serbian are predominantly the constituents of borrowed terminological units as a whole.

4.2. Compounding

Most compounded terms in both languages are formed from two nouns the first of which is a modifier. Examples include: ČETVRTFINALE < *quarterfinal*, GOL-RAZLIKA < *goal-average*, POLUVREME < *halftime* and SKOK-ŠUT < *jump-shot*. A number of compounded terms in Serbian are transshaped anglicisms in which the pattern is the same as in English, e.g. PLEJMEJKER < *playmaker* and TAJBREJK < *tie-break*. Compounded terms can also include constituent words of other grammatical classes which do not necessarily match in English and Serbian, e.g. PLEJOF(Borrowed)/DOIGRAVANJE(Affixation) < *playoff*_(N+Prep). However, there are also cases in which a compounded Serbian term corresponds to a phrasal term in English. Examples include: FER-PLEJ(Semi-comp N) < *fair play*_(Phr N), DUGOPRUGAŠ(Comp N + -AŠ) < *long distance runner*_(Phr N), GOL-SUDIJA(Semi-comp N) < *goal referee*_(Phr N), OLSTAR-TIM(Semi-comp N) < *all star team*_(Phr N), PIVOT-NOGA(Semi-comp N) < *pivot foot*_(Phr N), SET-LOPTA (Semi-comp N) < *set ball*_(Phr N) and VATERPOLO (Comp N) < *water polo*_(Phr N). With reference to the above examples, it needs to be pointed out that most of them belong to ball game terminology that has undergone the process of standardisation, owing to which they do not deviate from the Serbian inflectional standard. However, the original form of some terms, prior to the process of standardisation, included non-inflectional nominal modifiers, e.g. GOL SUDIJA, OL-STAR TIM, PIVOT NOGA, PLEJ-OF, SET LOPTA. Accordingly, it can be concluded that there is a tendency towards taking over English non-inflectional nominal modifiers into Serbian.

Even though most compounds and semi-compounds in Serbian are formed from local or nativised words, the fact is that the original compound form is

established in English wherefrom it is copied into Serbian using predominantly word-for-word translation equivalents. As according to Prčić (2005: 145) this is considered an anglicism, it seems that the influence of English on compounding in Serbian sports terminology is a matter of borrowing English-based compound forms which often include non-adapted nominal modifiers.

4.3. Phraseology

Phrasal nouns occur in a wide range of patterns, ranging from two-word ones to as many as nine-word patterns. Essentially, the number of words depends on the complexity of the concept signified by a specific term. In ball game terminology, the predominant phrasal nouns are usually those related to foul play penalised by officials. Gymnastic performance includes a number of elements and each element is named separately, which is why a complete exercise is a concept denoted by a set of words for each individual element.

Two-word terms in Serbian that correspond to the English patterns N+N, Adj+N, PresP+N, PastP+N and compound nouns consist of an adjective and a noun or two nouns, the second of which, functioning as a modifier, is in an oblique case, except in the case of anglicisms, where the pattern is the same as in English provided that noninflectional lexical borrowings from English functioning as noun modifiers and nouns they modify are written hyphenated or as a compound noun (Vasić, Prčić, & Nejgebauer, 2001: 11). Examples include: CENTRALNA LINIJA_(Adj+N) < *center line*_(N+N), DOBIJENA UTAKMICA_(PastP+N) < *won match*_(PastP+N), FER-PLEJ_(Adj+N) < *fair play*_(Adj+N), IZGUBLJENA LOPTA_(PastP+N) < *turnover*_(V+Prep), POČETNO PODBACIVANJE_(Adj+Gerund) < *tip-off*_(V+Prep), PREDSEDNİK KLUBA_{(N+N(Gen))} < *club president*_(N+N), SET-LOPTA_(N+N) < *set ball*_(N+N), SLEPO DODAVANJE_(Adj+N) < *blind pass*_(Adj+N), STRELAC_(Affixation) < *scoring player*_(PresP+N), ŠUT IZ TRČANJA_{(N+Prep+N(Gen))} < *running shot*_(PresP+N) and UDARAC GLAVOM_(N+Ninstr) < *flick header*_(N+N). Judging from the above examples, it can be concluded that English exerts influence only through phrase forms taken from this language, even though grammatical form of constituent words is adapted according to the standard of Serbian.

Three-word phrasal nouns are predominantly those that include numerical modifiers, e.g. ½ SUNOŽNOG KOLA < *double-leg ½ circle*, LINIJA SEDMERCA < *7 meter line* and SKOK SA 1 ½ OKRETA < *1 ½ air turn*. In spite of the fact that these terms in both languages include common numerical modifiers, phrasal terms as a whole are only functionally equivalent, which means that both languages have language-specific resources available for the formation of complex terms. Functional equivalent stands for the resultant form of a translation process called 'functional approximation', which according to Prčić (2008: 418) "involves expression of L₁ content with L₂ lexical resources, so as to reflect as closely as possible the function of the referent, either by keeping or changing the original conceptualisation." The difference between English and Serbian in the above examples is reflected in the

use of different word formation processes of a phrasal unit constituents ($\frac{1}{2}$ SUNOŽNOG_(Affixation) KOLA < *double-leg*_(Semi-comp) $\frac{1}{2}$ *circle*), as well as a changed conceptualisation (7M SHOT versus *7m line* – LINIJA SEDMERCA < *7 meter line*; FROM JUMP TO TURN versus *turn above ground* – SKOK SA $1 \frac{1}{2}$ OKRETA < $1 \frac{1}{2}$ *air turn*).

Finally, there are multiple-constituent phrasal terms which denote combined actions and officials' signals in ball games or complex performance elements in gymnastics each of which is assessed separately by officials. Essentially, these phrasal nouns consist of a head noun and multiple-word modifiers, most of which are phrasal units themselves. Owing to the fact that English is an analytical language whereas Serbian is inflectional, the position of individual words in a phrasal unit and their syntactic functions are different in the two languages. Generally, English noun modifiers correspond to adjectival modifiers in Serbian or nouns in an oblique case, whereas phrasal modifiers predominantly have identical phrasal forms in both languages, even though syntactic functions of their constituent words are different. Examples include: *charging with the ball*_(Gerund+PhrAdj) > PROBIJANJE LOPTOM_{(Gerund+N(Instr))} (illegal attack penalised by officials); *game lost by forfeit*_(N+PhrAdj) > UTAKMICA IZGUBLJENA BEZ BORBE_(N+PhrAdj) (a team loses a match as a penalty for failing to appear in a basketball match); *sagittal balance free support*_(PhrN+PhrAdj) > RAVNOTEŽA U PREDNOŽENJU BEZ UPORA RUKAMA_(PhrN+PhrAdj) (complex performance of sagittal balance in gymnastics); and *high V support reverse straddle cut to push up*_(PhrN+Prep+PhrN) > POVRATNI PREMAH IZ VISOKOG V-UPORA U SKLEK_(PhrN+Prep+N) (a complex straddle cut performance in gymnastics).

To sum up, in contrast to compounding, which seems to be considerably affected by English at the level of compound forms, the influence of English on Serbian sports terminology seems to be of minor significance when it comes to phraseology, owing to a greater number of functional equivalents of English phrasal terms in Serbian. Generally, it can be said that the influence of English on Serbian weakens with the increase in the number of constituent words of phrasal terms, due to the fact that the process of borrowing is essentially a matter of lexis rather than syntax.

5. TERMS CREATED BY BORROWING FROM ENGLISH INTO SERBIAN

Lexical borrowings from English into Serbian result from lexical gaps or the need for language economy. Term borrowing also includes added semantic nuances of existing Serbian words that typically involve English-based metaphorical transfer of meaning.

Lexical borrowings from English are usually, but not necessarily, the result of a lexical gap in Serbian, e.g. *ace* > AS, *backhand* > BEKHEND, *blocker* > BLOKER, *club* > KLUB, *deuce* > ĐUS, *challenge* > ČELINDŽ, *doubles* > DUBL, *final four* > FAJNALFOR, *forehand* > FORHEND, *game* > GEM, *goal* > GOL, *kick serve* > KIK-SERVIS, *lob* > LOB, *net*

service > NET-SERVIS, *passing shot* > PASING-ŠOT, *playoff* > PLEJOF, *play-out* > PLEJAUT, *rookie* > RUKI, *slice* > SLAJS, *server* > SERVER, *singles* > SINGL, *smash* > SMEČ, *spin* > SPIN, *timeout* > TAJMAUT, *tie-break* > TAJBREJK, *topspin* > TOPSPIN, *winner* > VINER, etc. As most of these terms belong to the ball games terminology and tennis terminology, it is worth mentioning that in the ball game terminology the number of English borrowings in Milić (2006) is 113 out of the total of approximately 1300 lexical entries whereas in the glossary of tennis terms it is 81 out of the total of 254. A rather small number of anglicisms in Milić (2006) compared to the other glossary can be explained by two reasons. Firstly, ball game terms in Serbian have been standardised according to the model developed by Milić (2004) and secondly, tennis has not been popular for a long time in Serbia. The process of standardisation does not only control the influx of English borrowings into Serbian, but it also prevents potential semantic shifts of anglicisms and pushing aside local words with the same meaning. The former is illustrated by a borrowed sports term TAJMAUT < *timeout* with the meaning “a temporary break in a ball game”, which has acquired a new meaning in informal use in Serbian – “a break after any (non-sports) activity”. Even though the new meaning is not affected by English (cf. Vasić, Prčić, & Neugebauer, 2001: 250), it broadly matches the second meaning of the English word (cf. *Collins Cobuild English Dictionary*, 1995: 1755). The latter, i.e. the protection of local words against being pushed aside, is illustrated by a sports term ŠAMPIONAT/PRVENSTVO < *championship*. The two forms have been differentiated semantically in such a way that the former (PRVENSTVO) implies an athlete’s effort to win whereas the latter (ŠAMPIONAT < *championship*), originally French/Latin borrowing in both languages, additionally implies a performance which includes mastership and top-quality (cf. Šipka, 2007: 212). Whether or not semantic differentiation between the two terms is a result of standardisation, the fact is that the local word has remained intact in the process of lexical borrowing.

As already pointed out above, the other reason that explains a great number of English borrowings in tennis compared with that in ball games is the popularity of the two sports. Owing to the fact that ball games were popular before the 30-year-long period of intensive English-Serbian language contacts, the number of anglicisms in this register is much lower, whereas the register of tennis is created predominantly by lexical borrowing from English since this sport has gained popularity only since the mid-1980s.⁴ In addition to popularity, it can also be assumed that the greater share of English borrowings is due to a current trend among Serbian linguists that a term should fulfil the criterion of internationality (cf. Šipka, 1998: 129) or a currently widespread belief that a real term is only the one which is borrowed from English (cf. Prčić, 2005: 120; Silaški, 2012: 23). Such a trend/belief results in a number of unjustified English borrowings, since they do not fill any lexical gaps in Serbian. These borrowings coexist with the local words

⁴ This comes from the sports achievements of popular Serbian tennis players Slobodan Živojinović and Monika Seleš and currently Novak Đoković.

with a tendency to push them aside. Examples are: KORNER/UDARAC SA UGLA < *corner kick*, PENAL/JEDANAESTERAC < *penalty kick*, PIVOT-NOGA/STAJNA NOGA < *pivot foot*, TIM/EKIPA < *team*, etc. What makes the number of English borrowings in Serbian sports terminology higher than expected is the very existence of terms with parallel adaptation in Serbian (transshaping and translation), among which the most frequently used ones are predominantly anglicisms.

As already commented in Section 3, eponyms are a special group of terms that might be treated as lexical borrowings since they do fill lexical gaps in Serbian. These terms are most frequent in aerobic and artistic gymnastics. Examples include: KANADA < *canada* (1 arm straddle support 1/1 turn 1 leg vertical), KOZAČKI SKOK < *cossack jump*, MARČENKOV < *marchenkov* (1/1 turn straddle jump to 1 arm push up), NEZEZON < *nezezon* (scissors leap 1/1 twist to push up), ŠUŠUNOVA < *shushunova* (frontal prone split jump to push up), TAMARO < *tamaro* (sagittal scale 1/1 twist airborne to push up) and CUKAHARA < *tsukahara* (half turn off the springboard onto the vault). With regard to the fact that only two terms listed above are not derived from the names of athletes but from a toponym (kanada < *canada*) and an ethnic group (kozački skok < *cossack jump*), it can be concluded that eponyms derived from the names of athletes are predominant.⁵

A number of clippings are also borrowed from English into Serbian, even though some of them were originally French borrowings in English. These are acronyms, i.e. names of the international sports federations: FIBA (*Fédération Internationale de Basketball Amateur*), FIFA (*Fédération Internationale de Football Association*), FIG (*Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique*), FINA (*Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur*), etc. Some of these acronyms are made from initial letters of French words which originally included the word 'amateur', due to the fact that Pierre de Coubertin believed that the ancient Olympics encouraged competition among amateur rather than professional athletes. But the word 'amateur' lost its meaning in the twentieth century since sports competitions have become 'professional'. Irrespective of this, these acronyms are borrowed as such into English and subsequently, from English into Serbian. English initialisms predominantly correspond to the identical forms in Serbian which are sometimes even pronounced in the same way as in English. Examples include: IHF (*International Handball Federation*) > IHF [ihaef], MVP (*Most Valuable Player*) < MVP [emvipi] and UEFA (*United European Football Association*) > UEFA [uefa]. Even though clippings are borrowed from English, full names of these forms are predominantly their translation equivalents in Serbian, e.g. MEĐUNARODNA ORGANIZACIJA ZA KOŠARKU (FIBA), MEĐUNARODNA ORGANIZACIJA ZA FUDBAL (FIFA), MEĐUNARODNA ORGANIZACIJA ZA GIMNASTIKU (FIG), MEĐUNARODNA ORGANIZACIJA ZA PLIVANJE (FINA), MEĐUNARODNA ORGANIZACIJA ZA RUKOMET (IHF), NAJVREDNIJI IGRAČ

⁵ *Marchenkov* is named after a Russian gymnast Stanislav Marchenko, *nezezon* after the Rumunian gymnast Andrei Nezezon, *shushunova* after the Russian gymnast Yelena Shushunova, *tamaro* after the Ukrainian gymnast Tamaro Yerofeeva, and *tsukahara* after the Japanese gymnast Mitsuo Tsukahara.

(MVP) and UDRUŽENJE EVROPSKIH NACIONALNIH FUDBALSКИH SAVEZA (UEFA). In addition to these terms in which clipped forms are borrowed while their full names are translated, Serbian borrowed several phrasal terms from English which include clipped constituents without the full name, e.g. *Fed Cup* (from *Federation Cup*) > FED-KUP, or *Euroleague* (from *European League*) > EVROLIGA. Language economy, which gives preference to the shortest form possible, dictates that the object of borrowing is a clipped form and not its full name.

As already discussed in the previous section a new metaphor-based terminological meaning added to existing words is also mostly borrowed from English. Terms created by means of conceptual metaphor are predominantly but not necessarily constituents of phrasal terms in Serbian and English alike. Examples in sports terminology include: ANTENA < *antenna*⁶ (source domain: telecommunications in both languages); GOL (borrowed with terminological meaning) < *goal* (added new meaning to the general lexical unit); HET-TRIK (borrowed with terminological meaning) < *hat trick*⁷ (source domain: cricket [cf. Šipka, 2007: 111]), KOŠ < *basket* (source domain: household container in both languages); MRTVA (LOPTA) < *dead (ball)* (source domain: living organisms, in both languages); KRILO < *wing* (source domain: birds, in both languages), SLAJS (borrowed with terminological meaning) < *slice*⁸ (source domain: food); ZAKUCAVANJE < *slam (dunk)*⁹ (source domain: civil engineering, in both languages); and ŽIVA (LOPTA) < *live (ball)* (source domain: living organisms, in both languages). However, as conceptual metaphors can be culturally bound, some meanings of Serbian terms follow a different path, which was exemplified and discussed in Section 3. The most interesting example of a language-specific formation of sports terms is REKORDER (probably the result of lexical borrowing and blending of the two-word term from English) < *record holder* (source domain of *record* from Latin *recordari* is a top achievement in the competition in memorising things) (cf. Šipka, 2007: 118). However, due to the fact that there is no transparent analysis of the morphs of the blended term, it is not certain whether the borrowed form REKORDER is the result of English-based blending in Serbian (*record* + *holder*) or English-based analogy (*record* + *-er*, as in *train +-er*).

In conclusion, it seems that the number of English borrowings which fill lexical gaps in Serbian sports terminology is rather low. However, it is not the case in sports that have gained popularity only recently, during intensive English-Serbian language contacts. In light of the fact that the number of justified lexical borrowings from English is rather low in ball game terminology because it has undergone the process of standardisation, it may also be assumed that the influx of borrowed units that actually or potentially have translation equivalents in Serbian

⁶ A constituent part of a volleyball net (Milić, 2006: 23).

⁷ A series of three consecutive goals scored by the same player (Milić, 2006: 98).

⁸ A shot with underspin (backspin), or a serve with sidespin (Glossary of tennis terms)

⁹ A situation in basketball when a player near the basket jumps in the air and manually throws the ball downward through the basket (Milić, 2006: 64).

could be reduced if the process of term creation was immediately followed by the process of standardisation. A proper codification of dual terms (borrowed and translated), which says that the borrowed units have a clear terminological meaning or different implications compared to the local words, is the best way to control potential semantic shifts of English borrowings and pushing aside local lexical units with the same meaning.

6. CONCLUSION

Our analysis has shown that English-Serbian language contacts in the field of sport are not only limited to taking over new forms and their semantic content from English into Serbian, but they also include taking over semantic content without form, as well as clipped and compound forms from English into Serbian. Consequently, the influence of English on Serbian extends beyond lexical borrowing to new English-based metaphorical meaning of existing Serbian words, clippings and compound forms including non-inflectional modifiers. However, this influence seems to be almost negligible when it comes to affixation and phraseology. The fact that a number of concepts are named by using two terms in Serbian (one of which is borrowed while the other is translated) strengthens the belief that the actual need for Serbian to do lexical borrowing from English is not outstanding. It can also be stated that this need would be even less strong if the creation of new terms was immediately followed by the process of standardisation. However, as the borrowed units cannot be pushed aside due to their high frequency, they should be differentiated semantically from their synonymous Serbian equivalents, so that they function as supplements rather than substitutes for the existing Serbian words. The process of terminological standardisation is essentially a matter of linguistics rather than sport. This conclusion is supported by the fact that the boundaries of terminological concepts in sport are sharply outlined in terms of cross-linguistic approach as a result of agreement and convention as well as close language contacts.

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MIRA MILIĆ is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, University of Novi Sad, Serbia, where she teaches ESP at undergraduate and graduate studies. Her professional interests include contrastive English-Serbian studies, terminology and ESP. Her MA thesis (2004) deals with contrastive analysis of sports terminology in English and Serbian and her doctoral dissertation (2011) is about anglicisms as synonyms in Serbian literary and journalistic texts. In addition to research papers, she published *English-Serbian dictionary of sports terms* (2006), ESP textbook for graduate students of sport (2012) and a book on anglicisms as synonyms in Serbian (2013).