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LEXICAL FEATURES OF FOOTBALL TERMS IN ITALIAN, ENGLISH AND SERBIAN**

Abstract: The paper aims to provide a contrastive analysis of the most salient terms used in the field of football within three different languages: Italian, English and Serbian. The research is based on a corpus consisting of 398 terms extracted from various dictionaries and glossaries in the three aforementioned languages. The selected terms are those used to describe player positions, game officials, club staff, styles of play, types of kicks, rules of the game, parts of the playing field, parts of the match as well as spectator and fan terms. Our analysis aims to investigate the primary lexical features of football terminology in all three languages. Therefore, our intention is to discover which processes of word formation are most frequently used in creating football terms, which percentage of terms is borrowed from other languages and whether there is a common etymology for the loanwords. Furthermore, we paid particular attention to exploring the potential parallels and discrepancies between the lexical tendencies observed within the bounds of football terminology in the three linguistic systems in question and attempted to offer a detailed description of the ways in which they influence one another.

Keywords: football terminology, lexical analysis, Italian, English, Serbian

1. INTRODUCTION

The language of football is a complex subsystem aimed at denoting all the concepts necessary to engage with the game of football in the role of a player, a referee, a manager, a sports journalist or a fan. Seeing as the most relevant feature of any specialistic language is considered to be its terminology

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(Szemberska 2020, 1), we have chosen to make exactly that the main focus of our research. With this aim in mind we created a corpus containing football terminology of three languages – English, Italian and Serbian.

As football is not only considered a worthy pastime, but is also ranked highly on the cultural ladder and boasts a dedicated following among the speakers of all three languages, our principal objective was that of comparing the aforementioned three terminological systems in order to see how they relate to one another. Thus we aimed to establish a comparison on the structural level, by means of word formation and morphemic analysis, and on the etymological level, through the consideration of the origins of the terms present in our corpus. Given that England is considered to be the birthplace of modern football (Kholtbutaevich 2023, 25), it is to be expected that English has accumulated the largest number of specialized terms related to the game. Therefore another aim of our study was to examine the possible consequences of the impact of English terminology on the formation of corresponding terminologies in the other two languages and to establish whether there are ways in which Italian and Serbian have affected the football terminology of English in return.

2. MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOTBALL TERMINOLOGY

In order to engage adequately with any sphere of human activity, one must first be well versed in the corresponding terminology. This terminology consists of a system of lexemes charged with denoting each concept related to a specific field of interest with a high level of precision and clarity, providing a neutral yet expressive description which is able to function both independently of a wider context and within it (Paviluk et al 2022, 17–18). The boundaries of such a system are never fixed but expand as necessary to accommodate the development of various aspects of the activity they are bound to describe (Sageder 2010, 126). In order to fill the newly formed semantic gaps the language usually resorts to structural derivation, metaphorization and lexical or semantic borrowing (Szemberska 2020, 1; Paviluk et al. 2022, 17).

Within the domain of football, the relevant terms are those used to describe the various actors of the game and their corresponding roles and positions, the types of actions, movements or rules performed or followed by them, the pieces of equipment required to play, the temporal components of a match or a season, the spatial organization of the field of play and the hierarchical structure of different competitions (Paviluk et al. 2022, 22, 27–28). In short, football terms are the words any follower of the game would need to know to fully understand it. However, one could claim that in any given football match, the action is not contained only to what is happening on the pitch. It is instead complemented by the activities of the fans in the stands and commentators in television or radio booths or even the sports journalists covering the games for the newspapers (Guerra 2014, 61). Therefore, the language of football is not only a self-contained

sublanguage, but also one that, due to the variety of speakers who use it and given the diverse mediums of communication it employs, often interacts with other jargons, subvarieties and technolects, which is evident in its terminology. In addition, within the wider field of sports terminology, football terms cannot always be considered in isolation, as many of them appear concurrently in many different sports disciplines or have even been borrowed from everyday language (Budinčić 2022, 112).

Throughout its long history the game of football has developed significantly from both a technical and a social point of view (Kholbutaevich 2023, 26). On the one hand, a consequence of football's continued technical development is a corresponding need to introduce new terms into its already existing terminological system, in order to provide an apt description of all its innovative minutiae (Paviluk et al. 2022, 18). On the other hand, however, it is of note that many new terms originate within the fan groups, which often consist of adolescents and members of lower and middle classes (Guerra 2014, 64), who are generally considered to be the main innovators and propagators of linguistic innovations in any society (Hickey 2012, 18; Labov 2001, 360). Therefore, another important feature of the language of football is its dynamic nature, mirrored in the constant generating of neologisms (Guerra 2014, 68). New terms are introduced into the language of football in two ways: through various mechanisms of word formation or through processes of semantic change. The frequency with which different morphological mechanisms are employed depends on the general characteristics of the language in question, the features of the existing semantic lacunes and, in many cases, of the wider context in which the processes occur. The most widespread patterns of semantic change can be subsumed under two general processes – specialization and metaphorization. Specialization refers to a process in which an already existing neutral word gains a narrower meaning, functional exclusively in specific contexts related to the semantic field of football. Metaphorization pertains to the abstraction of meaning which allows words to function in new, previously inaccessible contexts. In both cases the processes are gradual and, if completed, can produce standardized football terms, which often become a part not only of football terminology but also of everyday vocabulary (Paviluk et al. 2022, 20).

At times, instead of utilizing established semantic or morphological mechanisms in order to transform the existing linguistic material so as to create terms describing new concepts, the speakers will resort to borrowing terms from other languages (Szemlerska 2020, 1). These terms can often be imported together with the concept or object they refer to and they usually originate in the source language and carry a strong cultural significance. The influx of loanwords can also be socially motivated, occurring as a result of the presence of foreign players within the teams or foreign fans in the stands, as well as contact between fan groups belonging to different language communities (Guerra 2014, 68). Some loanwords can even become omnipresent in football terminologies in different

languages, due to their source language's prevalence in the media dedicated to the topic of football (Kholtbutaevich 2023, 26). The presence of loanwords in a language can be noticeable both on the orthographic and the morphological level, especially if they are relatively newly established. Such loanwords are often marked in texts by the use of italics or quotation marks (Szemberska 2020, 4). In many cases their introduction into a language, especially within the bounds of the language of newspapers, can also be motivated by the need to create a colorful, evocative and appealing linguistic expression aimed at capturing the readers' attention (Budinčić 2022, 120). However, not all loanwords become a permanent part of football terminology, and their longevity in a given language is contingent upon many factors, such as semantic necessity, morphological functionality and cultural relevance.

3. CORPUS AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The corpus upon which this research is based consists of 398 football terms in English, Italian and Serbian. The initial point of reference in compiling the list was the available dictionaries of sporting terms in all three languages. Given that the relevant literature on English terms was by far the most comprehensive, it was decided that our starting point would be the English football terminology. We therefore collected 276 terms, selected through a careful examination of the existing dictionaries and the extraction of solely those terms that are essential to the game of football (Leigh, Woodhouse 2004; Room 2010). By consulting four additional bilingual and monolingual dictionaries we aimed to find equivalents for all the selected terms in the remaining two languages (Bonanno 1988, Ragazzini 1998; Marini 2004; Milić, Panić Kavgić and Kardoš 2022). In order to ascertain that the list of terms we had produced was as exhaustive as possible, we chose to also consult various online resources, such as sports magazines and official, semi-official and fan-made glossaries and lexicons. By examining them we found that they contained more up-to-date material than would be available in most dictionaries (Franceschi 2023, 22), and realized it was necessary to expand our initial selection of terms.

Once we had established a final version of our corpus, we encountered another issue. After consulting all the literature at hand in the process of finding adequate equivalents in all three languages, we came to the conclusion that the dictionaries themselves, which although comprehensive, were in some cases either relatively outdated or dedicated to sports terms in general and consequently not as informative on the topic of football as we would have hoped, would not be enough to complete such a task. Thus, to complement them, we turned our attentions to the available online resources, such as glossaries and artificial intelligence, verifying all the obtained results by examining how the found equivalents were used in authentic sports texts in all three languages. Our work on the corpus elucidated on the fact that there is a clear need for

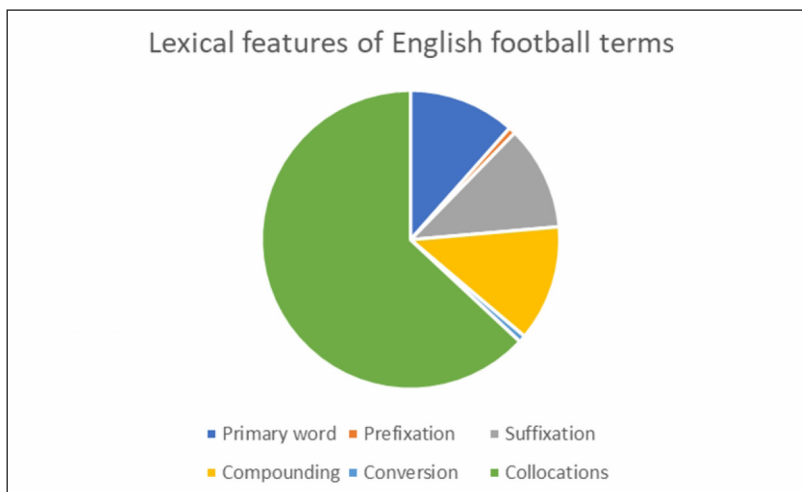
establishing modern online dictionaries of different sports terminologies, which would not only update the linguistic material present in printed dictionaries, but also rely on modern technologies to provide adequate definitions and illustrations, making the technical side of the sport easier to grasp and studies of this type less challenging to conduct (Franceschi 2023, 26).

Once we had established a final list of equivalents, we proceeded with the analysis. Our main aim was to examine the terminological systems of the three individual languages – English, Italian and Serbian. Given that all three language communities consider football a culturally and socially significant pastime, boasting prolific subcultures dedicated to the game of football, we sought to determine whether this is also reflected in the features of their terminologies and if we could perceive any interlinguistic influence between them. With this aim in mind we conducted a threefold analysis, examining their football terminologies' formal, semantic and etymological features so as to establish how closely the three systems correspond to one another.

4. LEXICAL FEATURES OF FOOTBALL TERMS

4.1. Lexical features of English football terms

Our analysis of the formal characteristics of the English terms present in our corpus has revealed that the most prevalent category is collocations, found in 63 percent of all examples, followed closely by compounds, primary words and derivatives by suffixation, which constitute approximately 12.5, 11.5 and 11.3 percent of all cases respectively, as presented in Graphic 1. The categories least present in the corpus are the derivatives by prefixation and nouns formed by conversion (0.75 percent each).



Graphic 1. Lexical features of English football terms

Within the category of collocations, the most frequent structural patterns are the following: Noun + Noun (38% of examples): *aggregate score, scissors kick, boot room, bicycle kick, chip pass, cup run, elevator team, phoenix club*; Adjective + Noun (36%): *Big four, dead ball, European night, golden goal, passive offside, travelling army*; Verb + Noun (7.5%): *draw a foul, gain possession, kill the ball* and Noun + Preposition + Noun (6%): *ball in play, game in hand, group of death, man of the match*. Other, less frequent combinations include: Number + Noun (*third man, triple crown*) and Adjective + Adjective (*deep lying*).

In our corpus, we have found examples of open, closed, and hyphenated compounds, generally observing the following models: Noun + Noun (*armband, crossbar, goalkeeper, half-time, handball, hat-trick*); Adjective + Noun (*freestyle, free kick*); Adverb + Noun (*offside, overlap*), Verb + Adverb (*dugout, kick-off*), Adjective + Adverb (*fullback*), Preposition + Noun (*on-side, through-ball*) and Noun + Preposition (*throw-in*), with the first one being the most productive.

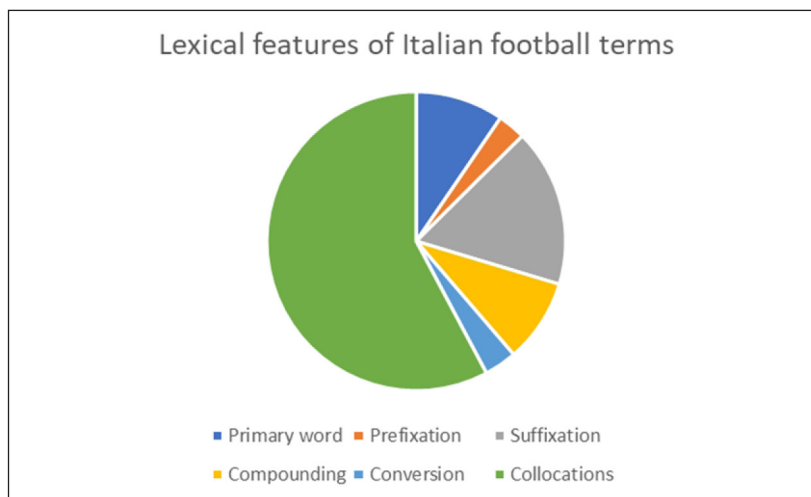
Among derivatives formed by suffixation the most prolific ones are nouns with the suffixes *-er* (*attacker, defender, manager, stopper, keeper, winger*), *-ing* (*booking, diving, pressing*) and *-ion* (*formation, deflection, obstruction, promotion, relegation*), derived most often from verbal roots and thus denoting the person who performs a certain action or the result of such action (Paviluk et al. 2022, 25). On the other hand, there is only a handful of examples derived by prefixation (*preseason*) or conversion (*substitute* by elipsis from *substitute player*, exemplifying a frequent phenomenon in English sports terms (Ćirić-Duvnjak 2013, 67–68).

4.2. Lexical features of Italian football terms

Within the domain of Italian football terms the most numerous group of lexemes are once again collocations, with 57.8 percent of all examples present in the corpus. They are followed by suffixed lexemes, with 17% of all cases, primary words and compounds, with 9.5% and 9% respectively. The least productive word formation mechanisms continue to be conversion and prefixation, but, compared to English, in the Italian terminology, they are slightly more frequent (3.5% and 3%).

Our results show that the most productive structural models for collocations differ significantly from those noted while analyzing English terms. Most examples in our corpus, amounting to 46 percent of all examples found, follow the pattern Noun + Preposition + Noun: *tiro a banana, gol di consolazione, lega dei contadini, pallone da Hollywood, trappola del fuorigioco calcio dello scorpione, partita d'addio, gol da urlo*. The second most prevalent model (27.6%) is Noun + Adjective: *passaggio corto, palla incrociata, tempi supplementari, piede alto, porta vuota, rimessa laterale*, followed by Verb + Noun (7.1%): *procurare un fallo, perdere punti, riconquistare il possesso* and Adjective + Noun (3.7%): *ultimo uomo, massima divisione*. The rest of the models, based on the structural

patterns Preposition + Noun (*in trasferta*), Number + Noun (*quarto ufficiale*, *prima squadra*) and Noun + Adverb (*tiro rasoterra*), are significantly less prolific.



Graph 2. Lexical features of Italian football terms

Within the domain of compound words, the most frequently present models are Adjective + Noun (*mezzala*, *lungolinea*), Verb + Noun (*parastinchi*, *raccattapalle*), Adverb + Noun (*fuorigioco*) and Noun + Adverb (*centravanti*). We have also found some examples of special types of compounds, such as prefixoid compounds (*autogol*, *autorete*), lexical conglomerates (ital. *conglomerati* (Samardžić 2011, 169): *il dai e vai*) and binominal compounds (*calciatore girovago*, *uomo partita*, *squadra ascendente*, *recupero palla*). Whereas the differences between the results concerning Italian and English terminology, such as the prevalence of binomial structures with or without the inclusion of a preposition or the prepositioning or postpositioning of the adjective in relation to the noun can mostly be explained by the preferences ingrained in the linguistic systems of the two languages, some findings, for instance the relative frequency of the model Noun + Noun in Italian could be an indication of the influence of the English terminology on its Italian counterpart.

Suffixed derivatives are both more frequent and more varied in this part of the corpus, presenting multiple productive suffixes denoting *nomina agentis* (-ante/-ente: *assistente*, *attaccante*, -tore/-sore: *allenatore*, *difensore*, -iere: *canniere*, -ista: *trequartista*, *regista*, -ino: *terzino*, -aro: *panchinaro*, -ano: *capitano*) and verbal nouns (-aggio: *vantaggio*, *salvataggio*, *passaggio*, -zione: *ostruzione*, *ammonizione*, *deviazione*). It is also of note that we have encountered a relatively large number of examples derived with suffixes -accio (*catenaccio*), -etto/-etta/-etti (*palonetto*, *scudetto*, *fischietto*, *braccetto*, *dopietta*, *tacchetti*), -one

(*traversone*), typically tied to the formation of diminutives, augmentatives and pejoratives. Prefixed derivatives (*anticalcio*, *prestagione*, *retropassaggio*) and examples of conversion (*gli europei*) continue to be fairly rare in this part of our corpus.

4.3. Lexical features of Serbian football terms

In the Serbian part of our corpus, the situation is markedly different. The largest part of the terminology is still constituted by collocations (77.6%), but the rest of the examined football terms belong to the categories of derivatives formed by suffixation (9.8%), primary words (7.3%), compounds (3.3%) and prefixed lexemes (1.9%). No examples of conversion were found.



Graphic 3. Lexical features of Serbian football terms

Within the category of collocations, the most productive structural patterns were as follows: Adjective + Noun (42.5%): *pomoćni sudija*, *zadnja stativa*, *utešni gol*, *mrtva lopta*, *klizeći start*, *visoka noga*, *zimski šampion*; Noun + Noun (19.7%): *skupljač loptica*, *osvajanje lopte*, *skraćivanje ugla*; Verb + Noun (14.4%): *voditi loptu*, *iznuditi faul*, *preseći loptu*, *umiriti loptu*; Noun + Preposition + Noun (14.1%) *lopta u igri*, *gužva u šesnaestercu*, *šut na gol*, *udarac iz ugla*, *gol iz igre*; Number + Noun (3.1%): *prva postavka*, *četvrti sudija*, *treća linija*. Whereas the characteristics of the examined collocations align with the structural patterns prevalent in the Serbian language, some examples, such as *feniks klub*, *fen tretman* and *duh gol*, depict the use of a noun as a premodifier for another noun, a use which is highly unusual in Serbian and is therefore likely to be an example of transference of English structural properties (Budinić 2022, 112).

The suffixed lexemes in this part of the corpus are generally derived with the use of suffixes utilized in the formation of *nomina agentis* (-ač: *napadač, igrač, skupljač, čistač*), verbal nouns (-nje: *obaranje, prebacivanje, prigovaranje, bacanje, izjednačenje, odugovlačenje, markiranje, proigravanje*) or verbs (-ati: *driblati, -irati: faulirati*). Compound words tend to observe the models Noun + Verb (*centaršut, kostobran*) and Number + Noun (*prvoligaš*), and there are some examples of hyphenated compounds, mostly of English origin (*gol-aut, het-trik, aut-linija*). Examples of prefixed words remain relatively scarce (*kontranapad, poluvreme, predsezona*).

5. ETYMOLOGICAL FEATURES OF FOOTBALL TERMS

5.1. Etymological features of England football terms

Given that the modern iteration of football owes its worldwide popularity largely to English football, it is expected that the English language would exert a significant influence on the formation and the dissemination of football terms in different languages (Szemberska 2020: 2). Therefore it is not surprising that the percentage of loanwords in the English part of our corpus amounts to only 2.7%.

Among these terms the most prevalent ones are italianisms (*catenaccio, curva, libero, panna, tifo, zona mista*), followed by hispanisms (*tiki taka, rabona*), gallicisms (*ultras*) and bohemisms (*panenka*). The mentioned terms generally refer to different players' roles, types of kicks, styles of play or fan activities, which have originated or are strongly tied to the countries they come from. On the phonological and morphological level they remain unadapted to the target language system and are thus generally invariable.

5.2. Etymological features of Italian football terms

Within the Italian part of our corpus the percentage of loanwords found is slightly higher, amounting to 8.5 percent. Among the examples found, 88% were lexemes of English origin. The loanwords in question were predominantly unadapted (*assist, box-to-box, derby, freestyle, mister, manager, playoff, pressing, tackle, treble, jolly, poker*). This is especially true of the more recently borrowed terms (Szemberska 2020, 4). In rare cases, the words are found to have been subjected to morphophonological alterations necessary to obtain a higher level of functionality within the Italian system (*dribblare* from engl. *dribble*, *tripletta* from engl. *triplet*). Most of them are not motivated by necessity, given that in many cases it is possible to find an adequate Italian equivalent (for example: *foul/fallo, tackle/contrasto, lob/pallonetto, tunnel/busta*). In a significant number of examples, it is not only the English word that is borrowed, but entire constructs are translated into Italian, creating calques: *falso nove* (*false nine*), *palla incrociata* (*crossed ball*), *squadra ascensore* (*elevator team*), *uccisione del gigante* (*giant-killing*), *terzo uomo in corsa* (*third man running*), *uomo partita* (*man of the match*), *ala* (*winger*), *centrocampo* (*midfield*).

Loanwords from other languages are limited to hispanisms (*golazo/gollazzo/gollonzo, tiki taka/tiqui-taca, goleador, rabona*), which, as can be seen, present forms with various levels of structural adaptation.

5.3. Etymological features of Serbian football terms

Compared to the previously analyzed parts of our corpus, the Serbian terminology paints a slightly more varied picture. Approximately 9.3 percent of all examples in this section of the corpus belongs to the category of loanwords, with around three quarters of them being anglicisms. However, contrary to our findings concerning the characteristics of English loanwords in Italian, in Serbian anglicisms are consistently adapted to the prevalent morphological and phonological patterns of the language and are generally fully functional at the syntactic level. Such examples include the following: *korner, derbi, driblati, faul, fristajl, pas, selektor, ofsajd, plejmejker, plejof, stoper, gol-aut, het-trik, aut-linija, volej*. Examples of unadapted or partially adapted loanwords are few (*build up faza, fan park, fider klub*), but the influence of English structures is, as we had already mentioned, visible in some binominal structures with a noun functioning as a premodifier (*lift tim, feniks klub, gol razlika*) (Budinčić 2022, 114–115).

About fifteen percent of all loanwords in this part of the corpus are of Italian origin (*finta, katenáo, libero*), while the remaining ten percent contains lexemes borrowed from Hispanic languages, French (*ultrasi, baraž*) and Czech (*panenka*).

6. EQUIVALENCE OF FOOTBALL TERMS IN ENGLISH, ITALIAN AND SERBIAN

In the course of our research we came to the conclusion that although it was possible to find adequate equivalents for most of the terms selected as part of our corpus, the morphological systems of English, Italian and Serbian are significantly different. Cases in which the three languages presented independently formed separate words that functioned as complete semantic equivalents were few if not nonexistent. In fact, most examples could be considered cases of partial equivalence, characterized by the existence of multiple lexemes (usually in Italian or Serbian) that together covered the entire spectrum of meaning of a given English term. A good example, noticed by Zaripov, Sadykova and Lovtsevich (2017, 309), but also present in our corpus, is that of the English term *playmaker*, which has three Italian equivalents – *regista, trequartista* and *fantasista*, neither of which corresponds entirely to its meaning. Another similar example is the Italian term *mezzala*, whose possible equivalents in English would be *inside forward, central attacking midfielder* and the newly coined *half winger*. As can be seen, the reason behind such cases is the continued evolution of the game and the increasing specificity in the interpretation of the roles of different players.

In around half of all analyzed examples, the type of equivalence established between the terms in the three languages was explanatory, wherein Italian and

Serbian provided a more substantial and semantically transparent structure to convey the meaning of the English terms. For example, the English term *low shot* can be translated as *tiro rasoterra* in Italian and *lopta upućena po tlu* in Serbian, while *flat back four* is translated as *difesa a quattro in linea* and *četrorka u liniji* respectively. The same method is often used in cases of zero equivalence, where it is impossible to find an apt lexeme which would convey the same meaning in the target language (Vrbinc & Vrbinc 2017, 524). Such cases are most frequent with culturally marked words and expressions, which are often very colloquial in nature and require a certain measure of encyclopedic knowledge to be understood. A good example is that of the Italian term *in zona Cesarini*, usually translated as *in the last minute/in the dying minutes* or *u poslednjim minutima* (Franceschi 2023, 19). Aside from this example, similar ones in our corpus are: *doing a Leeds*, *Fergie time*, *hairdryer treatment*, *handbags at dawn*, *Roy of the Rovers stuff*, *dribbling Aurelio*. However, in order to avoid such methods of resolving the lack of acceptable equivalents, which may provide linguistic items that can be perceived as too cumbersome, the speakers often turn to alternative solutions, resorting thus to direct borrowing in the form of loanwords and calques, resulting in a constant increase in the number of borrowed terms (Szemlerska 2020: 8).

Our comparison of the terminological systems of English, Italian and Serbian brings us to the conclusion that, although the individual characteristics of the three language system have a significant influence on their structure, English more often than not serves as a source language for the other two, providing original terms which are then transferred into the target languages through direct borrowing or manifested through loan translations or encyclopedic explanations. There are of course some examples of the same process happening with originally Italian terms being transferred into English, albeit on a much smaller scale. It is also of note that there are differences in the frequency with which Italian and Serbian implement different methods of borrowing English terms. For instance, Italian generally resort to direct borrowing of terms, without any morphophonological adaptations, while Serbian tends to adjust all loanwords to the rules of its grammatical system. Also, whereas Italian has a clear tendency to create its own versions of terms, forming frequent semantic and structural calques, Serbian shows a marked preference for using paraphrases.

7. CONCLUSION

Our analysis has shown that, all thing considered, English, Italian and Serbian have a rich football lexicon, but go about building it using different resources, influenced by both the tendencies inherent to the singular language systems and to sociocultural elements of influence. Such differences are especially visible on the structural level, in the English preference for compounding over derivation, and the Italian and Serbian tendency to favour derivation over all other types

of word formation. It is also interesting that all three languages boast a large number of collocations, which are generally considered the fastest growing category in the formation of new terms at the global level (Pavliuk et al. 2022, 23).

The impact of English on the other two languages is made clear by considering the etymological characteristics of the three examined terminologies. Such a result was to be expected, given that anglicisms are the most prevalent type of loanwords in most spheres of human activity due to many factors, some of them being the status of English as a global language, the number of its speakers worldwide and its sociocultural prestige in various cultural, political and economic areas (D'Achille 2006, 81). English football terms are generally imported into a language both by professionals in a given field, who prefer them for being concise and are not hindered by their relative opaqueness, and by followers of the sport, motivated by the desire to show themselves capable connoisseurs of the topic (D'Achille 2006, 81; Guerra 2014, 68–69; Budinčić 2022, 108). In addition to that, English loanwords are often disseminated further through the means of journalistic texts, television and radio broadcasts and online podcasts, potentially becoming so ingrained in the terminological systems of the target languages to become standardized (D'Achille 2006, 236; Pavliuk et al. 2022, 20).

This is exactly what has happened with the many English terms found to be integral parts of the Italian and Serbian football terminologies in our corpus and what may happen with many more that can be found in the online forums where fans discuss the results of their favourite teams' matches daily, on the banners presented in the stands every match day or the chants echoing from the home and away crowds. Of course, it is important to indicate that such methods of expansion of football terminology do not only concern the influence of English, but also the impacts made by other languages, as exemplified by various italianisms, bohemisms, gallicisms and hispanisms found in our corpus. Football terminologies function as a sort of identity card for the community that uses them, revealing all their opinions, values, preferences, grievances and histories. As such, they tell us much of the past development of the game of football in their communities but also make us wonder about its current and future growth exemplified in a constantly changing and expanding lexical landscape that surely warrants a deeper examination and a greater attention.

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CARATTERISTICHE LESSICALI DEI TERMINI CALCISTICI IN ITALIANO, INGLESE E SERBO

Riassunto

Il presente articolo mira a fornire un'analisi contrastiva dei termini più salienti utilizzati nel campo del calcio in tre lingue diverse: italiano, inglese e serbo. La ricerca si basa su un corpus composto da 398 termini estratti da vari dizionari e glossari nelle suddette lingue. I termini selezionati sono quelli usati per descrivere le posizioni dei giocatori, gli ufficiali di gara, il personale del club, gli stili di gioco, i tipi di calci, le regole del gioco, le parti del campo da gioco, le parti della partita, nonché i termini relativi a spettatori e tifosi. La nostra analisi ha cercato di esaminare le principali caratteristiche lessicali della terminologia calcistica in tutte e tre le lingue. Pertanto, la nostra intenzione è stata di scoprire quali meccanismi di formazione delle parole vengono utilizzati più frequentemente nella creazione dei termini calcistici, quale percentuale di termini è presa in prestito da altre lingue e se esiste un'etimologia comune per i prestiti linguistici. Inoltre, abbiamo prestato particolare attenzione all'esplorazione dei potenziali parallelismi e discrepanze tra le tendenze lessicali osservate all'interno della terminologia calcistica nei tre sistemi linguistici in questione e abbiamo cercato di offrire una descrizione dettagliata dei modi in cui si influenzano a vicenda.

Parole chiave: terminologia calcistica, analisi lessicale, italiano, inglese, serbo