

## COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH TERMS IN ATHLETICS

## КОМПОНЕНТНИЙ АНАЛІЗ ТЕРМІНІВ ЛЕГКОЇ АТЛЕТИКИ В АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

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The article deals with the topical issue of English terminology in athletics. The analysis of recent research and publications reveals much attention being focused on the numerous issues of sports, as well as the relevant aspects. The sphere of the scholars' interest involved sports and innovative sports technologies, fitness, recreation and physical education, language analysis and terminology, etc. Sport of athletics has also been the central point of scientific consideration on a regular basis. Various researchers concerned the fields of defining athletes and exercisers, virtual athletes and e-sports, elite athletes, terminology, nutrition for athletics, biological determinants, and many others. Still, the English terms of athletics have not been explored enough.

Considering the actuality of researching and standardization of sports terminology, and the international popularity of athletics, the paper is aimed at exploring the components of English terms structure in this common kind of sports. Evident impossibility to convey all concepts and phenomena of this long cultivated sport with one-component terms generated the formation of complex terms. It is the task of our research to compare the structural features and identify the quantitative ratio of components in athletics terms. Consequently, the object of research is English terminology in athletics, and the subject concerns the components peculiarities of the English terms in this sport. Methods of research: literature analysis, comparative method and method of componential analysis. The material under research is represented by the sample of English terms in athletics from the printed and internet resources.

The three predominant groups of English terminological units in athletics are distinguished to comprise one-component, two-component and three-component terms of this sport. Two-component terms appear to prevail in English terminology of athletics, being naturally predetermined by the commonly recognized requirements of the terms conciseness and precision. The evident tendency of substantive component to be the most productive in English terms of athletics is due to the fact that substantive is one of the most widespread part of speech in any field terminology, sports in particular. Further prospects in the research area suggest the study, comparative analysis and advanced systematization of athletics terminology in the English and Ukrainian languages.

**Key words:** athletics, sports terminology, systematization, componential analysis, English terms.

У статті розглянуто актуальне питання англійської термінології легкої атлетики. Аналіз останніх досліджень і публікацій свідчить про велику увагу вчених до численних аспектів галузі спорту та пов'язаної із нею проблематики. Сфера інтересів науковців охоплювала спорт та інноваційні спортивні технології, фітнес, рекреацію та фізичне виховання, мовний аналіз і термінологію тощо. У центрі уваги дослідників також постійно перебуває легкоатлетичний спорт. Багато вчених займалися дослідженням проблематики атлетів, віртуальних атлетів, елітних атлетів, термінології, харчування легкоатлетів, біологічних детермінант і багатьох інших аспектів легкої атлетики. Однак англійська термінологія легкої атлетики досі залишається недостатньо дослідженою.

Зважаючи на актуальність дослідження та стандартизації спортивної термінології, а також міжнародну популярність легкої атлетики, метою статті є вивчення та аналіз структурних компонентів англійських термінів цього поширеного виду спорту. Очевидна неможливість передати однокомпонентними термінами всі поняття та явища цього давно культивованого виду спорту спонукала творення складних термінів. Завданням нашого дослідження є порівняння структурних особливостей та виявлення кількісного співвідношення компонентів термінів легкої атлетики. Відповідно, об'єктом дослідження є англійська термінологія легкої атлетики, а предметом – структурні особливості англійських термінів цього виду спорту. Методи дослідження: літературний аналіз, порівняльний аналіз та метод компонентного аналізу. Досліджуваний матеріал представлено вибіркою англійських термінів легкої атлетики з друкованих та інтернет-ресурсів.

Виділено три найпоширеніші групи англійських термінологічних одиниць у легкій атлетіці, які складають однокомпонентні, двокомпонентні та трикомпонентні терміни цього виду спорту. В англійській термінології легкої атлетики переважають двокомпонентні терміни, що природно зумовлено загальноновизнаними вимогами до лаконічності та точності термінів. Очевидна тенденція субстантивного компонента щодо його найбільшої продуктивності в англійських термінах легкої атлетики пов'язана із тим, що субстантив є однією з найпоширеніших частин мови у будь-якій галузевій термінології, спортивній зокрема. Перспективи подальших досліджень передбачають вивчення, порівняльний аналіз і поглиблену систематизацію термінології легкої атлетики в англійській та українській мовах.

**Ключові слова:** легка атлетика, спортивна термінологія, систематизація, компонентний аналіз, англійські терміни.

**Problem statement.** The sport of athletics is one of the most diverse sports on the globe, both culturally and athletically. At the highest level, there are athletes of all shapes and sizes from every culture and socioeconomic background. Athletics gets us to realize the world is much bigger and more diverse, to unite and appreciate our diversity and different skill sets, to find a common purpose. The sport pulls together individuals of different ethnicity, backgrounds, countries, and cultures.

Athletics, a variety of competitions in running, walking, jumping, and throwing events. Although these contests are called track and field in the United States, they are generally designated as athletics elsewhere. They are the oldest forms of organized sport, having developed out of the most basic human activities – running, walking, jumping, and throwing. Athletics have become the most truly international of sports, with nearly every country in the world engaging in some form of competition [1].

In the globalized world of today, the significance of the English language in sports communication cannot be underrated. English is viewed as the lingua franca of the modern world, and this is no different in the field of sports. The need to communicate effectively in English is an essential skill for the athletes, coaches and other sports officials, as the widespread use of English helps them stay informed and engaged.

English is the most used language in the sports world and it is widely used during competitions, technical meetings, refereeing, press conferences and other related activities. English is necessary in order to communicate with other players and coaches, to master the environment during the training courses and the competitions abroad, in particular for the high-level sports persons who are the ambassadors of their country during international competitions [2].

Sports are written about and discussed a lot, and so have generated a great deal of colourful, special-

ized vocabulary [3]. There are many terms in sports unfamiliar to the average person. Specific sport-related terms are essential for participants or viewers to understand a game. This can help individuals communicate more effectively with others who share their interest in sports. Moreover, learning sports vocabulary can also improve an individual's language skills and develop a better understanding of the cultural and social aspects of sports. Thus, sports terminology is an essential aspect of sports research.

**Recent research and publications.** The analysis of recent research and publications reveals much attention being focused on the numerous issues of sports and healthcare, as well as the relevant language aspects. The sphere of the scholars' interest involved sports and innovative sports technologies [4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9], fitness, recreation and physical education [10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15], language analysis and terminology [16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21], etc.

Sport of athletics has also been the central point of scientific consideration on a regular basis. The researchers such as McKinney J., Velghe J., Fee J., Isserow S., Drezner J. A. [22]; Jenny S. E., Manning R. D., Keiper M. C., Olrich, T. W. [23]; Swann C., Moran A., Piggott D. [24]; Yurko N. A., Styfanyshyn I. M., Protsenko U. M., Romanchuk O. V. [25]; Stellingwerff T., Morton J. P., Burke L. M. [26]; Zaras N., Stasinaki A. N., Terzis G. [27] concerned the fields of defining athletes and exercisers, virtual athletes and e-sports, elite athletes, terminology, nutrition for athletics, biological determinants, and many others. Still, the English terms of athletics have not been explored enough.

**Purpose of the article.** Considering the *actuality* of researching and standardization of sports terminology, and the international popularity of athletics, the paper is **aimed at** exploring the components of English terms structure in this common kind of sports.

Evident impossibility to convey all concepts and phenomena of this long cultivated sport with one-component (meaning one root stem) terms generated the formation of complex (two- and more component) terms. It is the **task** of our research to compare the structural features and identify the quantitative ratio of components in athletics terms.

Subsequently, the **object** of research is English terminology in athletics, and the **subject** concerns the components peculiarities of the English terms in this sport. **Methods of research:** literature analysis, comparative method and method of componential analysis. The **material** under research is represented by the sample of English terms in athletics from the printed and internet resources [28; 29; 30; 31; 32].

**Main material.** The first issue to be examined is quantitative ratio of the studied terms components. It is noteworthy that root morphemes, prepositions and conjunctions, but not articles were considered as components. Results of the material analysis appear to be the following:

- one-component terms – 34.2% (*anchor, arch, base, baton, board, circle, circuit, dash, dip, discus, fail, field, foul, flex, grip, hammer, hurdles, javelin, jogging, jumper, kick, lane, lap, leg, lifting, marathon, marks, medley, pace, passer, pit, pole, receiver, relay, repetitions, rest, rhythm, ringer, runner, scissors, sector, set, shot, skip, spikes, sprint, stance, step, stride, swing, tape, track, tempo, thrower, tow, vault, walk, wall, weight, etc*);

- two-component terms – 58.5% (*athletic shape, arm swing, back straight, break-line, bell lap, blind pass, boxed in, broad jump, closed position, crash mat, crouch start, danger line, dead heat, date pace, distance runner, drive leg, exchange zone, false start, field events, finish line, following wind, foot race, foot strike, front runner, guide runner, half marathon, hammer throw, head wind, high hurdles, high jump, interval running, jumping pole, lead leg, long jump, metric line, muscle power, no-jump, over distance, personal best, pole vault, power foot, push pass, quarter-miler, race walking, red flag, relay race, road race, run-up, runner's high, scissors jump, scratch line, season's best, shot put, staggered start, starting blocks, stroke volume, take-off, toe-board, triple jump, tying up, ultra-marathon, visual pass, victory lap, warm-up, water jump, white flag, wind sprint, etc*);

- three-component terms – 6.9% (*center of gravity, cross-country running, four-minute mile, hitch and kick, lead-off leg, long distance race, middle distance race, on your marks, take-off board, take-over zone, track and field, etc*).

English terminological units of athletics with more than three components are rather occasional

and account for less than one percent of the research material sample.

The above data clearly illustrate the predominance of two-component English terms in athletics, which is noticeably shown in Table 1. Such an obvious prevalence is naturally predetermined by the commonly recognized fact that terminological units with less components are the most optimal by quantity, as the term requirements contradiction in its conciseness and precision are the least peculiar for them.

Table 1

**Quantitative ratio of the English terms components in athletics**

Quantity of term components	Ratio (%)
one-component terms	34.2
two-component terms	58.7
three-component terms	6.3
abbreviations with more components	0.8

Thus, the structural patterns of this numerous group English terms in athletics will now be analysed further. The research outcomes suggest that two-component terms of athletics tend to be formed as follows:

- N+N – 61.4% (*e.g. anchor leg, arm swing, back straight, break-line, bell lap, crash mat, crouch start, danger line, date pace, distance runner, drive leg, exchange zone, field events, finish line, foot race, foot strike, guide runner, hammer throw, head wind, hip rotation, jumping pole, muscle strength, personal best, pole vault, power foot, race walking, relay race, road race, runner's high, scissors jump, scratch line, season's best, shot put, stroke volume, track events, toe-board, victory lap, water jump, wind sprint*);

- Adj+N – 26.2% (*e.g. athletic shape, blind pass, broad jump, closed position, dead heat, false start, following wind, front runner, high hurdles, high jump, interval running, long jump, metric line, red flag, staggered start, triple jump, visual pass, white flag*);

- N+Prep – 6.8% (*e.g. jump-off, run-up, turn-over, tying up, warm-up*);

- Prep+N – 1.6% (*e.g. over distance*);

- Adj+Prep – 1.3% (*e.g. boxed in*);

- others – 2.7% (*e.g. no-jump*).

Hence, there is an apparent tendency of substantive component to be the most productive in the structural patterns of English terms in athletics, being comprehensively illustrated in Table 2. Further componential analysis of the research material within the other major distinguished groups of one-component and three-component terms in the English

terminology of athletics revealed their substantive component to be the most productive as well. The reasonable explanation for this tendency lies in the fact that substantive is one of the most widespread parts of speech in any field terminology, notably in sports.

Table 2  
Structural patterns of two-component English terms in athletics

Structural pattern of term components	Productivity (%)
N+N	61.4
Adj+N	26.2
N+Prep	6.8
Prep+N	1.6
Adj+Prep	1.3
others	2.7

Conclusions. Grounding on the presented research findings and the componential analysis outcomes, it is reasonable to conclude as follows.

Notwithstanding the great research interest in sports terminology, and the international popularity of athletics, the components of English terms structure in this common kind of sports have not been explored enough.

The three predominant groups of English terminological units in athletics are distinguished to comprise *one-component*, *two-component* and *three-component* terms of this sport.

*Two-component* terms appear to prevail in English terminology of athletics, being naturally predetermined by the commonly recognized requirements of the terms conciseness and precision.

The evident tendency of substantive component to be the most productive in English terms of athletics is due to the fact that substantive is one of the most widespread part of speech in any field terminology, sports in particular.

Further *prospects in the research area* suggest the study, comparative analysis and advanced systematization of athletics terminology in the English and Ukrainian languages.

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