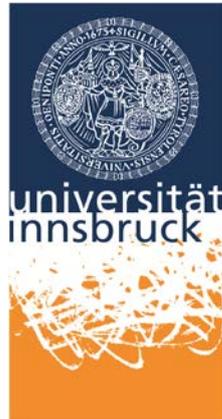


Leopold-Franzens-University of Innsbruck
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**The Football and Language Bibliography Online:
Origin, Development and Future Perspectives**

Bachelor's Thesis

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Many special and warm thanks to Univ.-Prof. Dr. Eva Lavric for her precious and constant help and support in all these years. She has always been and will continue to be a very important point of reference, a solid pillar and a brilliant lighthouse for me.

Preface

The subject I chose for my thesis concerns an in-depth analysis of language communication in the sports field.

First of all I would like to explain the origin of this research.

When I heard in 2007 about the existence and activities of the “Football Research Group” at the University of Innsbruck, I was immediately enthusiastic about becoming part of it. I saw in this group the possibility of combining my two biggest passions: languages – I graduated in Foreign Language and Literature from the renowned University of Venice Ca’ Foscari – and the world of sport and of football in particular, which has always been the driving force of my emotions.

The main focus of the “Innsbruck Football Research Group” was the study of language communication inside multilingual football teams or in mass media during international football events such as the European and the World Championships.

One of the group’s first studies was for instance the analysis of emotions in the voices of sports commentators covering the 2006 FIFA World Cup Final Italy – France. The analysis focused in particular on the episode of Zidane head-butting Materazzi in the chest and the respective commentaries in six languages. In this study my tasks were various and ranged from translating newspaper articles to co-organizing seminars and workshops, in which I participated actively: I was especially in charge of inviting guests and providing them with the best assistance, interpretation service included.

Among the events organized by the “Innsbruck Football Research Group”, particularly worth of mentioning is the International Football Workshop “Language and Football”, which took place in October 2007 in Innsbruck with the participation of many experts on the topic. It was a fruitful and interesting exchange of ideas and experience and – as it always happens – from the contribution of many personalities something interesting and innovative arises.

1. Introduction

1.1. Origin and development of the project

The different presentations held at the workshop “Language and Football” in October 2007, gathered with much attention and accuracy, produced the publication *The Linguistics of Football*¹ in 2008.

The bibliography I compiled and edited for the above mentioned work contained not only the titles of the presentations held by the invited guests at the workshop, but also their bibliographical indications and a series of further references we had found in linguistic bibliographies.

The “Language and Football” event with the following publication of the anthology *The Linguistics of Football* made more people aware about the activity of the “Innsbruck Football Research Group” and since then we have been considered as pioneers in this field. Many new researchers have contacted us willing to collaborate on further research and activities, and, above all, have sent us their bibliographical references in the field.

By establishing these new relationships, it became clear to our mind that the existing bibliography was no longer sufficient and that instead an online bibliography – a “self-making” one – would be much more adequate.

According to this new idea, visitors of the website – people interested in the topic because they operate in the sector on a daily basis – could add by themselves titles they consider pertinent and in this way the “body” of the bibliography could grow gradually.

On the other side we would still be able to edit the content of the website and, in case we would find an item not pertinent, we could erase it without any problem.

On the basis of this idea, in 2012 funds were asked for and kindly granted by the University of Innsbruck. The E-Learning Project “Vervollständigung der Informationsgrundlage der Fußball- und-Sprache-Bibliographie” (“Completing the information base of the Football and Language Bibliography”) was realized in cooperation with the “Information Technologies Services – Department of New Media and Learning Technologies” of the Innsbruck University.

¹ Lavric, Eva / Pisek, Gerhard / Skinner, Andrew / Stadler, Wolfgang (eds.) (2008): *The linguistics of football*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag

Thanks to the help of the “Department of New Media and Learning Technologies” for the IT aspect, the “Football and Language Bibliography Online”, of which I compiled and edited the contents by developing the ones from 2008, was created in June 2012.

The “Football and Language Bibliography Online” was presented in August 2012 at the 19th Sociolinguistics Symposium in Berlin. The presentation served as a further springboard for our research: new “friends” joined us, showing deep interest in our activity. The fostering of our existing relationships and the extension of our network led to an increase in the bibliography’s body.

The seminar course “Deux domaines de spécialité: le sport et le vin. Discours entre experts et non-experts” held by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Eva Lavric during the fall semester 2012/2013 brought a further development to the project as well, by adding new titles. Works, articles and websites about fan culture and fan chants, which were particularly examined during the course, were included in the bibliography in April 2013.

This first augmentation of the bibliography since June 2012 will surely be followed by further ones. More content and new topics will likely be added and bring new lifeblood once the bibliography is promoted on specific websites such as “The Linguist List (International Linguistics Community Online)” etc.

1.2. Founding principles of the Bibliography

The bibliography is compiled and published in English, since this is par excellence the language in international communication.

The principle according to which a title was included or not is based on the interest of the user, that is of the person, who deals daily with language aspect in football.

The bibliography has been divided into the following thematic fields:

1. Football (literature on football in general);
2. Football and Language (literature on language aspect in football);
3. Football and Mass Media (literature on the relationship between football and mass media, for instance titles about sports commentary...);
4. Multilingualism in football teams;
5. Football and Other Disciplines (literature on football from the view point of other disciplines, i.e. sociology...);
6. Sport (literature on sport in general);

7. Sport and Language (literature on language aspect in sport);
8. Sport and Mass Media (literature on the relationship between sport and mass media);
9. Language Contact (Anglicisms, Loan Words, Internationalisms) in Sport and in Football;
10. Sport and Other Disciplines (literature on sport from the viewpoint of other disciplines);
11. Dictionaries
12. Websites

It is important to state that we didn't include all items we found for all our titles. We rather privileged the fields essential to us, namely *Football and Language*, *Football and Mass Media*, *Multilingualism in football teams*, for which we tried to be exhaustive; the other parts are considered complementary and do not aim at exhaustivity.

A further principle on which the bibliography is based is repetition. The same title can appear in different sections, as in the case of football chants, which are listed in the *Football and Language* part for the language aspect as well as in the *Football and Other Disciplines* section for the socio-cultural aspect.

As far as the two last sections are concerned, *Dictionaries* and *Websites*, we have tried to be more exhaustive in the list of dictionaries (divided into those ones referring to football and those ones to sport in general and then furthermore into monolingual and multilingual). However, concerning the websites, we have decided to present only a selection, since it would be impossible to mention all existing websites on the topic.

Some sections, as *Football and Language* and *Football and Mass Media*, are more extended, since many studies in these fields have already been done, above all concerning the analysis of sports commentary and of football terminology. Other topics instead, especially the one on *Multilingualism in football teams* – which is particularly interesting to us – are achieving only now resounding success and general interest thanks to our initiative and the new approach we have opened. We are very proud to have been the first ones who wanted to study in depth this sector and who gave the idea for further research to other colleagues².

For those sections for which no proper “scientific” literature exists, we focused on newspaper articles and websites to fill the existing void.

² Taborek, Janusz / Tworek, Artur / Zielinski, Lech (eds.) (2012): *Sprache und Fußball – im Blickpunkt linguistischer Forschung* (Philologia. Sprachwissenschaftliche Forschungsergebnisse 169). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač

1.3. Recurring Authors

Even at a general quick glance it can be noticed that some authors repeatedly appear in one or more sections. At this point a clarification is necessary, since a name can occur many times for various reasons:

1. The author has published various works on a same topic. In this case we have listed all of them in the same section;
2. the author has written many works with different contents, which therefore have been listed in different sections;
3. the author has written a publication with a complex content giving analysis opportunities valid for different sections (as the case of works about football chants).

For the realization of the “Football and Language Bibliography Online” it is worth mentioning in particular following researchers, who have most contributed to the present work or appear most frequently as authors of publications:

- Jesús Castañón Rodríguez: Professor and writer, member of international working groups and scientific groups on communication and sport, in charge of the homepage “Idioma y deporte”³ (“language and sport”), author of many articles and publications about Spanish language and football, who contributed many references to our bibliography, especially about Spanish;
- Georg Spitaler, University of Vienna, Austria: Politologist and Professor Assistant at the Department of Political Sciences, editor of the football magazine “Ballesterer”. Main focus field: Political Theory, Sport and Policy, Cultural Studies, Political Culture Research, Football History;
- Uwe Wiemann: Member of the “Deutsche Akademie für Fußballkultur”⁴ (“German Academy for Football Culture”), main focus field: Didactics of German Language and Culture. In cooperation with the German football team Bayer Leverkusen, author of *Deutsch für Ballkünstler. Lehrmaterial für den Deutsch-Unterricht mit*

³ See: <http://www.idiomaydeporte.com/>

⁴ See: <http://www.fussball-kultur.org/>

*ausländischen Fußballspielern*⁵, the first complete language course (German) for football players;

- Thomas Schmidt: Among other publications, author of *The Kicktionary*⁶, a multilingual electronic dictionary of the language of football (German – English – French);
- Janusz Taborek, Institute of German Studies, UAM Poznań, Poland: Author of many articles and publications, main focus field: German Grammar, Contrastive Grammar German-Polish, Corpus Linguistics, Corpus-based Grammar, Lexicology and Bilingual Lexicography. Great interest in football linguistics: in this regard, realization of a Football German-Polish and Polish-German Dictionary⁷ and of the collective work *Sprache und Fußball – im Blickpunkt linguistischer Forschung*⁸, the second collection of articles (after *The Linguistics of Football*) about language and football from a linguistic research point of view;
- Jan Chovanec and Alena Podhorná-Polická: Our cooperation partners at the Brno University, Czech Republic, and, among other publications, authors of an article about multilingualism in football teams⁹;
- Wolfgang Settekorn: Professor at the Institute of Romance Studies at the University of Hamburg, Germany. Main focus field: Linguistics, Communication and Media Studies. Author of articles¹⁰ and works about the relationship between football and mass media¹¹;
- Joachim Born: Professor at the Institute for Romance Linguistics at the University of Gießen, Germany. Author of different articles and publications about sports language in the Romance languages¹².

⁵ Wiemann, Uwe (2003): *Deutsch für Ballkünstler. Lehrmaterial für den Deutsch-Unterricht mit ausländischen Fußballspielern*. Private publication

⁶ Schmidt, Thomas (2006): *Kicktionary* [a multilingual electronic dictionary of football (soccer) language], available at <http://www.kicktionary.de>

⁷ Taborek, Janusz (2006): *Piłka nożna. Słownik niemiecko-polski polsko-niemiecki / Fußball. Deutsch-polnisches polnisch-deutsches Wörterbuch*. Zielona Góra: Kanion

⁸ Taborek, Janusz / Tworek, Artur / Zielinski, Lech (eds.) (2012): *Sprache und Fußball – im Blickpunkt linguistischer Forschung* (Philologia – Sprachwissenschaftliche Forschungsergebnisse 169). Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovač

⁹ Chovanec, Jan / Podhorná-Polická, Alena (2009): *Multilingualism in football teams: Methodology of fieldwork*. In: *Language and literature. European landmarks of identity* 5/1, 186–196

¹⁰ See for instance: Settekorn, Wolfgang (2003): *La construction médiatique de l'événement. Le cas du football*. In: Rehbein, Boike / Saalman, Gernot / Schwengel, Hermann (eds.) (2003): *Pierre Bourdieu's Theorie des Sozialen. Probleme und Perspektiven*. Konstanz: UVK Verlagsgesellschaft, 131–155

¹¹ Settekorn, Wolfgang (ed.) (2007): *Fußball – Medien / Medien – Fußball. Zur Medienkultur eines weltweit populären Sports*. *Hamburger Hefte zur Medienkultur (HHM) 7*, Institut für Medien und Kommunikation des Departments SLM I der Universität Hamburg (IMK)

¹² See for instance: Born, Joachim (ed.) (2008): *Sportsprache in der Romania*. Wien: Praesens

The bibliography, divided into sections to offer the user the possibility of a quick and targeted consultation according to the field of interest, wants to be a useful instrument “in continuo fieri” for all those sharing the same passion.