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**SEMANTIC FIELDS IN SPORT NEWS:
A CORPUS BASED STUDY**

**SEMANTISKIE LAUKI SPORTA ZIŅĀS:
UZ KORPUSU BALSTĪTS PĒTĪJUMS**

BACHELOR THESIS

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ANOTĀCIJA

Bakalaura darbā tiek pētīti semantiskie lauki sporta ziņās. Sporta ziņās, autori izmanto dažādu valodu, lai padarītu savus rakstus daudz interesantākus un saistošākus priekš lasītājiem. Valodu sporta ziņās pirms tam ir pētījuši daudzi pētnieki, piemēram, Beard (1998), Charteris-Black (2004), Fabiszak (2007), Lewanowski (2008) un daudzi citi pētnieki; tomēr, semantiskais aspekts Angļu valodas izmantošanu sporta ziņās netika pietiekami pētīts. Tāpēc, pašreizējais darbs koncentrējas uz to vārdu idintificēšanu, kas sporta ziņās tiek iedalīti no citiem semantiskajiem laukiem. Bakalaura darba mērķis ir izpētīt noteikto vārdu izmantošanu sporta ziņās. Galvenā izmatotā metodē pašreizējā pētījumā ir kontentanalīze, kas palīdz identificēt mērķa vārdus, gramatisko formu un to nozīmi. Pētījuma rezultāti parāda, ka visbiežāk izmantotie vārdi un to atvasinājumi ir no semantiskā lauka Karš (cīņa/kauja). Autors secina, ka sporta ziņu tekstos vārdi kuri apzīmē karu un cīņu tiek izmantoti bieži, tomēr, autors iesaka turpināt pētīt kuri semantiskie lauki tiek izmantoti sporta ziņu tekstos, tāpēc ka apkopojot lielāku teksta krājumu ar sporta ziņas tekstiem varētu dot lielāku skaidrību konkrētajā tēmā.

Atslēgvārdi: semantiskie lauki, sporta ziņu pārraides, kontentanalīze, krājums

ABSTRACT

The present Bachelor thesis investigates semantic fields in sports news. In sports news writers use different language in order to make their stories more interesting and entertaining for readers. The language in sports news has been studied by various researchers, for example, Beard (1998) Charteris-Black (2004), Fabiszak (2007), Lewandowski (2008) and other researchers; however, the semantic aspect the English language use in sports news has not been sufficiently studied. Therefore, the present Thesis focuses on identifying those words which in sports news fall into different semantic fields. The purpose of the thesis is to study use of those words in sports news reporting. The main method applied in the present research is content analysis which helps identify target words, their grammatical category and meaning. The research findings show that the most frequently used words and their derivatives are denoting semantic field of WAR (battle/ fight). The author concludes that in sports news texts the words denoting war and battle appear frequently however, the author suggests to continue to study semantic fields which are used in sports news reporting as a larger corpus could give more clarity in the given field.

Key words: semantic fields, sports news reporting, content analysis, corpus

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADJ	adjective
NN	noun, singular
NNS	noun, plural
VB	verb, base form
VBD	verb, past tense

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INTRODUCTION

In the present BA thesis the author has taken up the theme 'semantic fields in sports news'. In sport news, it is not all about who won the game and by what margin the winning team had won it. Many researchers have noticed that sports news is more than just telling a result of a particular game. Therefore, many researchers started to study the language in sports news. Most notable researchers include: Beard (1998), Charteris-Black (2004), Fabiszak (2007) and Lewandowski (2008). As we may have noticed, in sports news, the writers often use emotional and colorful language in which express their thoughts on the game. Also, those who everyday read sports articles may have noticed that in sports news specialized vocabulary related to sport appear, but also in sports news can see words which belong to the different domain or field.

Therefore, the undertaken theme is important in finding from which semantic field words in the sports news appear. Further, the study of the theme will help identify those words in sports news, and would be useful for further investigation in the concrete field.

The **goal** of the Bachelor thesis is to find words which represent different semantic fields in sport news.

In order to achieve the goal the following objectives have been set:

- To Study the literature on semantics, language of media and corpus based studies
- To apply theories about specified theme
- To collect corpus on sport news
- To use word frequency software in helping counting lexical words
- To draw relevant conclusions

Hypothesis: the most significant semantic fields in sports news reporting are the fields of war and battle.

The research method

- 1) The method applied in the present BA thesis was content analysis by Huckin (2004) which helped the author reveal the semantic fields on the news items.

Outline of the BA thesis

The first chapter consists of theoretical background on the history of semantics, further, definition of semantic field and their characteristics. It also includes language features in sports news and strategies on how to write sports articles. Furthermore, the theory on conceptual metaphor is

described and examples from the field of sport are given. Finally, sports metaphors and semantic field analysis were described.

The second chapter describes the research method applied and the research corpus and computer tool.

Third chapter presents empirical findings on semantic fields in sport news. Furthermore, the third chapter presents the discussion on findings, suggestions and recommendations for further investigation of the theme “semantic fields in sport news”.

1. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND ON HISTORY OF SEMANTICS, SEMANTIC FIELDS, SPORTS NEWS REPORTING, CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR AND SPORTS METAPHORS

The first chapter is devoted to the analysis of theoretical sources on the history of semantics, semantic fields, sports news reporting, conceptual metaphor and sports metaphors. The chapter provides the description of the history of semantics, also defines what semantic fields are and how they are organized. Further, the author presents the language which is used in sports news reporting, and many other strategies in sports news.

1.1. Semantics and semantic fields

In order to study the semantic fields in sports news, it is important to define what semantics and semantic fields are. Therefore, the history of semantics in the first subchapter will be presented. Furthermore, description of semantic fields and their characteristics are provided. Additionally, the language which is used in sports news, that includes conceptual metaphor and sports metaphors are discussed. Finally, evaluation of semantic fields is presented in the last subchapter.

1.1.1. The definition and brief history of semantics

According to Palmer (1981), ‘semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and, since meaning is a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics’ (Palmer, 1981: 1). However, according to Palmer (1981) since the word ‘meaning’ covers variety of meanings in the language it is difficult to properly integrate it into semantics (ibid).

Semantics was added to the English language only in the previous century, although there were rumours that semantics appeared much earlier than in the twentieth century for example, the word ‘*semantick*’ occurred in the seventeenth century in the phrase ‘*semantick philosophy*’, which means ‘‘divination’’ (ibid). It is believed that semantics for the first time in printed paper appeared in the ‘American philological Association’ in 1894 (ibid). According to Palmer (1981) French word ‘*semantique*’ was primarily taken from Greek by M Breal. At first, the word had nothing to do with meaning, but later the word helped develop another important term which

nowadays is known as ‘historical semantics’ (ibid). In 1900 appeared first Breal’s book about semantics – *Semantics: studies in the science of meaning*. It is believed that this was the first book which considered semantics as part of ‘science’ study of meaning (ibid: 2). Other popular books which came out in the previous century about semantics were: *The meaning of meaning* by C.K. Ogden and I. A. Richards which was published in 1923, then *The problem of meaning in primitive languages* by Malinowski (1923) and *The shape of things to come* by H.G. Wells and many more (ibid).

Palmer (1981) explains that ‘there is unfortunately, a use of the terms *semantic* and *semantics* in popular language, especially in newspapers, that bears only slight resemblance to our use’ (ibid). From this, the author can conclude that in the previous century newspaper writers and not only they, did not know how to apply or use the word ‘semantics’. However, Palmer (1981) believed that ‘The terms are used to refer to the manipulation of language, mostly to mislead, by choosing the right word’ (ibid). In 1971 in *The Guardian* newspaper appeared first headline which involved word ‘semantics’, however, the words in the newspaper described two different contexts. The first, “Semantic manoeuvres at the Pentagon” and “Homelessness reduced to semantics” (ibid). In first case, the meaning according to Palmer (1981) meant “retreat” while in the second case the meaning was that the amount of homeless people had become less (ibid).

Semantics has much to do with linguistics, because as the author at the beginning of the chapter mentioned, if there is study of word meaning in a language, then linguistics play an integral role of studying that meaning. Palmer (1981) is of an opinion that ‘semantics is a component or level of linguistics of the same kind as phonetics or grammar (Palmer, 1981: 5). Therefore, semantics is as much important to the linguistics as phonetics and grammar. Furthermore, almost all linguists are of opinions that ‘semantics is at one “end” and phonetics at the other end, with grammar somewhere in the middle’ (ibid). However, there is no evidence, that they are classified according to these three levels of criteria. According to Palmer (1981) language is a ‘communication system’ which helps people deliver the message to the people by using different strategies, for example, signs and symbols (ibid). There are numerous examples available in a communication system, for example, traffic lights which drivers use in order to signal message to the opposite driver or kind gesture for letting past him. The same is with animals that use noise in order to communicate with each other.

However, there are many reasons why we should not consider that language is a communication system, because there are findings which prove otherwise. Firstly, in the language it is difficult to notice the message, because not always what people say has some concrete message or meaning (Palmer, 1981: 6). Secondly, the relationship between ‘signs’ and ‘message’ is even more complex, because they both consist of two different levels of communication system (ibid). It is believed that in the English language it is easier to understand the message than in other languages, for example, in English language word *red* means stop (ibid).

Many theorists consider that linguistics is a scientific study of a language. Therefore, if the study of language is scientific, then it should be empirical and there should be possibilities of testing of how language works. According to Palmer (1981) it is much easier apply empirical study to phonetics than semantics, because in phonetics study can describe how certain vocal organs work and so on (Palmer, 1981: 7). In semantics case, it is difficult to define from which place certain meanings are coming and what are criteria’s of defining them. Recent scientific studies on semantics have been unsuccessful, which means that there is need to change an approach of studying semantics (ibid). Palmer (1981) further stresses that ‘difficulty with semantics is that meanings do not seem to be stable but depend upon speakers, hearers and context’ (ibid). Therefore, if linguistics wants to make progress in the given field, then researchers should take wider approach to the study, but not with specific cases (ibid). Also, other researchers gave their opinions about the drawbacks of the system that includes De Saussure in 1919 and 1959 between *language* and *speaking*, and Chomsky in 1965 in his *competence* and *performance*. Palmer (1981) adds that ‘Chomsky differs greatly from de Saussure on the nature of the linguistic system within language or competence, but the theoretical distinction is the same’ (ibid). For de Saussure and Chomsky, language and competence is considered to be an idealised system without any significant empirical base (ibid).

However, the most recognizable distinction in sentence meaning and utterance meaning was made by Lyons in 1977. In the sentence meaning all the grammatical and lexical features were related, but in utterance meaning ‘all secondary aspects of meanings, especially those related to context’ (ibid). This was the distinction which allowed us to say one thing, but mean something different (ibid). Therefore, next subchapter focuses on defining semantic fields and their features.

1.1.2. Semantic Fields and their features

Semantics is the study of word meaning, but semantic fields are a place where all common words are put into one family group. In the world are represented many semantic fields, for example, emotions, parts of body, colour, beverages, war and battle. In linguistics' the divisions are known as semantic fields' (Baker, 1992: 18). In some aspects it is difficult to understand the concept of semantic fields. Large numbers of semantic fields are found almost in every language and according to Baker (1992) almost all languages have fields of 'distance, size, shape, time, emotion, beliefs, academic subjects and natural phenomena' (Ibid: 18). All words which stand under each field are called lexical sets. In the semantic field each group has sub-divisions, and after them more sub-divisions and lexical sets, for example, in English language the semantic field of speech has many sub-divisions, for example, speak, say, whisper, mumble and more. Baker (1992) believes that 'the more detailed a semantic field is in a given language, the more different it is likely to be from related semantics fields in other languages' (ibid). From this we can conclude that the more complex system in each language is the more difficult it would be to understand how semantic fields are created and according to which criteria. Also there are problems for many languages to find similar words for the easiest words, but for the difficult ones find them easier, which is not good for the language. However, there are suggestions that it largely depends on each of languages environment. According to Baker (1992) it could be dependent on 'physical, historical, political, religious, cultural, economic, legal, technological, social or otherwise' (ibid).

Baker (1992) is of opinion that 'semantic fields are arranged hierarchically, going from the more general to the more specific' (p: 19). In semantic fields the general word is known as 'superordinate' but the specific one is known as 'hyponym'' (ibid). To show a good example of superordinate word we will take a word from the semantic field of Vehicle. In the semantic field *vehicle* is a superordinate, but bus, car and truck are all hyponyms to vehicle. In this case we can conclude that 'any propositional meaning carried by a superordinate or general word is, by necessity, part of meaning of each of its hyponyms, but not vice versa' (ibid).

In conclusion, when encountering with semantic fields, we should take into consideration, that words meanings nowadays change quickly and, because of that there are sometimes difficulties in defining into which semantic field goes one or another word. The next subchapter deals with discussion on language features in sports news.

1.2. Language features in sports news

In order to attract readers to read newspapers, writers use different strategies to achieve their goal.

In sport news ways of writing are various, for example, starting from game reporting and ending with columns. When starting to write a game report, it is important that the author of the text mentions the date of the fixture, place, and most important –result. In columns case, writers usually give their opinions of why the result is the way it is, but apart from that he also gives further analysis about how that bad result could have been avoided. According to De Kantzow (2000), entertainment such as photographs, amusing and exciting stories plays an important role in attracting reader attention (De Kantzow, 2000: 60). The structure of news reporting is: starting from the first important news, then second important news and finally least important news. However, columns structure differs from news reporting, for example, in columns, the columnist start with key sentence, in order to attract reader's attention, after that he writes about his thought on concrete topic.

In sport news are other interesting types of texts, apart from reporting and columns. Information board which includes: scoreboard, player profile, list of fixtures and results. In other sections short highlights of a game or interview are given. However, important game of any sport is given a different kind of information, for example, form, past meetings, and also predictions of who have more chances to win the game.

The most important aspect of any news, not only in sport is language. Language in sport news always had an important role, because in sport news used language differs from everyday language. Writers of sport news use special technical terms and jargons, for example, dribbling. They also use language of war, religion, and battle, for example, *survive, 6 months in hell* and many more. Also in sport news is often used quoting, for example, quoting players and coaches thoughts on the game and result. Another well-known feature in sport news is figurative language usage, with plenty of adjectives, adverbs, active voice and many more.

In conclusion, there are many ways of how to write sport news, which language to use in order to make the text more interesting for reader to read. Therefore, next subchapter discusses sports reporting and writing in detail.

1.3. Sports news reporting and writing

In the sports especially in writing about sports certain rules exist which should take into consideration when playing on the field or when writing sports news texts. In sports writing are grammar, punctuation and spelling rules, the same as they are in sport events (Kathryn T. S., James R. S. and B. A. Rosenthal, 2009: 105). In sports news reporting and writing also are penalties, if the editor of the text publishes his written text with mistakes.

Apart from the rules to learn, there is need to master idioms when writing or reporting sports news. Sports idiom according to Kathryn T. S., James R. S. and B. A. Rosenthal (2009) is ‘a language spoken by insiders and somewhat familiar to followers’ (Ibid: 105). In sports news we encounter with special sports terminology, clichés and overused idioms, which nowadays have become a natural part of sports writing and reporting. The well known idioms which are used in different disciplines of sports are the following: *That’s par for the course, to strike out, touch base, photo finish* in horse racing, then in motorsport – *make a pit stop, spin your wheels and win by nose* and many more can be found in the sports news (2009: 106).

Many sports news reporters and writers take their ‘language rules very seriously’, because they know their audience and to make good impression on them, they will write reports, e-mails, script writes columns, blogs in a professional manner (Ibid: 106). Another important aspect when writing a story is to make it interesting and entertaining for readers.

In sports news reporting there are many ways of writing the story. Basic sports news stories give information and facts about the events. Also in the sports news reporting we can see short ‘subject-verb-object sentences’ and short paragraphs with precise words (Ibid: 106). Usually sports stories do not include reporters’ thoughts, because giving opinion about concrete subject is written in other section – columns or blog. In some way sport writers are narrators, because they are people who wrote and who told the story (Matthew Nicholson; 2007; 95). In order to show difference between fact and opinion here are the two examples from Kathryn T. S., J. R. Schaffer and B. A. Rosenthal (2009: 107):

Fact: *the game went two extra innings, during which the Cubs changed pitchers three times.*

Opinion: *The game went two extra innings because the Cubs’ manager made three questionable pitcher changes.*

According to Kathryn T. S., Schaffer J. R. and Rosenthal B. A. (2009) facts are 'verifiable', but opinions are often expressed in more emotional language usage (2009: 108) It is also advisable to check three or more times resources, because in sports writings there are such situations, when the authors of stories had written false statements about the concrete event.

Writing for broadcasting is a different thing, because broadcasting is a more conversational thing. Also when writing for broadcasting all the basic rules, that is, grammar, spelling and punctuation are considered. However, the main difference when writing for broadcasting and for the internet published stories is that stories in broadcasting time are much shorter and therefore each word 'has to pack so much power'. (Ibid: 112). Spelling and grammar is especially vital when writing for broadcasting, because in broadcast time people are doing it on air, and if there is a 'misspelled word or incorrect subject-verb agreement can make the reader hesitate or stumble' (ibid). In broadcasting usually words which are not familiar to the speaker are put in brackets and with words pronunciation (ibid).

In broadcasting, when writer writes a story for the speaker, he uses 'single sentence paragraph, short sentences and short phrases connected with ellipsis' (Ibid). According to Kathryn T. S., Schaffer J. R. and Rosenthal B. A. (2009) this method helps 'sportscaster deliver the story while appearing not to be reading from a script or promoter' (ibid). The format of script style in television or radio will vary from station to station (ibid). The script styles usually are divided in columns with the technical things in one side and the text on the other side. There are certain traditions in writing script style, for example, All- caps format, sentence- style capital, and lowercase letters (2009: 114). However, when writing for specific stations with their own style, then writers should try and write them in their respective style.

Writing any article, the writers perhaps could not do it without using any adverbs, nouns, modifiers and other related things to language. The first related things to language will be action verbs. Action verbs or descriptive nouns help readers to visualize the situation which happened at certain game. According to Kathryn T. S., Schaffer J. R. and Rosenthal B. A. (2009) 'the verb implies an action not indicated by the rest of the image, it interrupts the reader's expectation and makes the listener pause' (2009: 115). Examples from soccer and tennis show different action verbs – *sprint*, *stretch*, *bound*, *leap* and *swing*. In soccer are the following action verbs, for example, *race*, *run*, *sprint*, *kick* and many more. It proves that in sports news without action verbs writers cannot properly write game reports. Descriptive nouns and adjectives also help the

readers understand the written stories better, because nouns help describing, for example, teams current form. Adverbs can also show how they played - *well* or *badly* (adverbs).

Here are some more examples of action verbs in sports news

1. Wayne Rooney *runs* towards the goal.
2. Paolo Di Canio *kicked* the ball at the opponent.

In sports reporting collective nouns help describe more than one person, for example, *class*, *committee*, *team*, *group* and more (2009: 118). The advantage of collective nouns in sports writing is that with one word we can count all the members of a team, because in the team could be more than 100 people. However, if in the team are individuals who act separately then ‘team uses a plural verb or pronoun, for example, *The team are expected to work out for an hour each day sometime between noon and 6pm*’ (Kathryn T. S., J. R. Schaffer and B. A. Rosenthal; 2009; 118). The same method is applied when talking about the name of teams, for example, *Miami won its season opener*. Also, ‘if the team is referred to mascot or name, it represents the individuals and uses a plural verb or pronoun, for example, *The Dolphins won their season Opener*’ (ibid). In sports reporting and writing mascot names are often used, because they serve as a metonymy for concrete team.

In sports writing are situations, when a sports writer not intentionally puts modifiers in the wrong place. This could have a large impact on the whole story, not just one sentence, because reader will not completely understand what the writer wrote (2009: 119). There are two possible variants if in the story are misplaced modifiers. The first one would be confusing, but the second one comical, which means that no one of these two variants are good (ibid). In sports news, in the headlines are seen ‘dangling participles’ which is a ‘fancy name given to modifying phrases beginning with an ‘-ing’ verb bumping up against the wrong noun or pronoun’ (ibid). In sports news they make the following examples: ‘Complaints about NBA officials growing ugly’ and ‘Aging expert joins coaching stuff’ (ibid). Nowadays in the sports news using this kind of headlines has become even more fashionable. However, in sports writing are words who do not give any sense to the story and they are called ‘weasel words’ (2009: 120). Weasel words are: *fun*, *great*, *very*, *a lot*, *various*, *few*, *numerous*, *good* and *some*. Description of weasel word: ‘ranks right up there with winning Olympic gold medal; holding a winning lottery ticket’ (2009: 120). In sports writing words which add no meaning to the text are quotes. Another example of the use of the word *great* is ‘It was a great game’

Clichés is another important feature which is used in sports news reporting and writing. Nowadays in sports news reporting and writing are used many clichés and most well known are: *put the final nail into the coffin, throw in the towel, snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, turn the tide of the game, records are made to be broken* and many more can be seen in sports news (2009: 121). According to Kathryn T. S., J. R. Schaffer and B. A. Rosenthal (2009), ‘Clichés are someone else’s expressions, often described as trite and overused, repeated by speakers and writers but understood, literally or historically, by few’ (P; 121). However, the authors think that everyone who is somehow involved in all sports disciplines will understand these clichés, because in truth they are not so complicated not to understand them. According to Kathryn T. S., J. R. Schaffer and B. A. Rosenthal (2009) the more people use clichés ‘the less power it has to engage people’s imaginations’ (2009: 122). Also apart from clichés in sports news appear ‘redundant terms’, for example, *a team of 12 players, completely outplayed, totally destroyed, future draft choice* and many more. All these expressions can be used in any discipline of sport, because they fill in well, for example, the expression *completely outplayed* can be used in soccer, basketball and ice hockey which mean that the winning team with ease outscored their opponents. Term – *future draft choice*- means that the person will likely be draft’s first choice, that he may become future star.

Finally, the most important feature reporting or writing sports news is to try avoiding the language use of –isms: Sexism, Racism and Ageism. Kathryn T. S., J. R. Schaffer and B. A. Rosenthal (2009) are of opinions that ‘–isms have changed the language significantly in the last five decades’ (2009: 126). All the white people in United States were privileged to black people in written documents. ‘Two constitutional amendments and more than two centuries later, women and minorities are still struggling against sexism and racism [...]’ (ibid). However, sport is the only place where women and those minorities have succeeded, although there are suggestions that it may not be completely true. Furthermore, in order to avoid any problems involving the language of –isms, the writers and reporters are recommended to write or report ‘straightforward, factual writing devoid of descriptive adjectives and stereotypical allusions, or labels that indicate that a person is a member of a specific gender, race or age group’ (P; 128). Further, next subchapter gives theoretical look on conceptual metaphor.

1.4. Conceptual Metaphor Theory

In cognitive linguistics metaphor is understood as the use of one conceptual domain instead of another conceptual domain. Kovecses (2002) provides the following examples of conceptual domains: “when we talk about and think about life in terms of journeys, about arguments in terms of war, about love also in terms of journeys, about theories in terms of buildings, about ideas in terms of food” and many more.(2002: 4). According to Kovecses (2002), conceptual metaphor “consists of two conceptual domains, in which one domain is understood in terms of another”; he adds that ‘conceptual domain is any coherent organization of experience’ (ibid). From these quotations we can conclude that in order to understand words which are used in different contexts, there must be some knowledge about them and experience is vital in understanding them.

According to Kovecses (2002) conceptual domain from which people take metaphorical expressions to address and understand other domain is called **source domain** while the domain which is understood by these metaphorical expressions is called **target domain** (2002: 4). From this we can conclude that words like: *arguments, life, ideas* and *love* belong to the **target domain** while *journey, war, food* and *plants* belong to **source domain** (ibid).

Normally **target domain** is the domain which we try to understand through the help of **source domain**.

Here are some classic examples from Lakoff and Johnson’s *Metaphors We Live By*:

AN ARGUMENT IS WAR

Your claims are indefensible.
He attacked every weak point in my argument.
I demolished his argument.

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (1980: 124)

THEORIES ARE BUILDINGS

We need to construct a strong argument for that.
The theory will stand or fall on the strength of that argument.
Is that the foundation for your theory?

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (ibid: 125)

IDEAS ARE FOOD

I just can’t swallow that claim.
That’s food for thought.

He devoured the book.

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (ibid)

According to Kovecses (2002)

We can state the nature of the relationship between the conceptual metaphors and the metaphorical linguistic expressions in the following way: the linguistic expressions (i.e., ways of talking) make explicit, or are manifestations of, the conceptual metaphors (i.e., ways of thinking). To put the same thing differently, it is the metaphorical linguistic expressions that reveal the existence of the conceptual metaphors. The terminology of a source domain that is utilized in the metaphorical process is one kind of evidence for the existence of conceptual metaphor.

Kovecses (2002: 6)

The main idea of conceptual metaphor is that **target domain** usually employs more abstract concept while **source domain** employs more physical concept (2002: 6). For example, *war*, *journey* and *plants* are more physical concepts while *argument*, *idea* and *love* are more abstract concepts. Therefore, in order to understand one of these concepts, people should use more concrete concepts, which help better understand one or another idea (ibid).

In conceptual metaphors **mapping** plays an important role of helping transform **source domain** into **target domain**. Usually mapping is employed in order to go from more concrete concept to the more abstract. Therefore, next subchapter discusses conceptual metaphor in the context of football.

1.5. Conceptual Metaphors in Sports

This section compares sports discipline of football to battlefield using conceptual metaphors. According to José Luis Otal (2011), the world of sport starting from players' positions, skills, tactics and playing field is full of metaphorical expressions (2011: 116). In any discipline of sport war metaphors are commonly used to portrait teams who are battling each other. It is believed that in the world of sports metaphors are so overused that sometimes it is difficult to distinguish them. According to José Luis Otal (2011), this makes it difficult to understand from which concrete source domain metaphors are coming, therefore, making confusion (ibid: 116). However, sports and metaphors work two-way, because not only sports take metaphorical expressions from other fields, but also sport is the place where many new metaphors are invented, and which later are used in different domains, for example, politics and economics (ibid).

According to José Luis Otal (2011), the discipline of football in the professional sports is often compared to the battlefield or fighting between the two teams, which therefore makes the mapping between the domain of football and the domain of fighting easier (ibid: 117). It is believed that this mapping helps save “image- schematic structure” of the source domain, because it helps transfer image from source domain onto the target domain (ibid). In sport activities players are fighting, struggling, suffering and battling with each other and their opponents in the sport are often called enemies, while players in the team are often described as *warriors, soldiers, fighters* and so on (ibid). Also each of the team follows the strategy that is, attacking, counterattacking and defending. The outcome of the respective strategies could be the following; the team win the game, draws it or lose it. Either of the results would be reflected differently in the sports news media that is, using words which refer to war and battle.

The examples of how in football are used conceptual metaphors with words **victory** and **defeat** are provided by below:

1. ‘Manchester City **sails** past Newcastle to hold on second place’ (Online 24).
2. ‘Bayern **destroy** Barca again, cruise to final’ (Online 25).

Further, José Luis Otal (2011) provide example where conceptual metaphor is used in **tactics** “A much cooler *battle of wits*” (ibid: 118) and examples where conceptual metaphor is used in words of **attacking** and **defending** – ‘It will be a long time before we see a team *assaulted* as frenetically as they were [...]’ and ‘In a breathtaking sequence of *raids*’ (ibid: 119)

Examples from the internet and from José Luis Otal research (2011) shows that in sports news writing words denoting war and battle are used frequently.

Another researcher M. Lewandowski (2008) studied conceptual metaphors in Polish and English sports football reporting. Lewandowski likewise José Luis Otal thought that football is War. It is believed that in football reporting and writing war metaphors are more excessively used than others metaphors. According to Lewandowski (2008) many media writers consciously use those war metaphors in their reports, match previews in order to make respective team fans exciting. Writers especially streaked up those teams whose countries fought in real war, for example, Germany and England. Lewandowski (2008) present the following examples of WAR metaphors.

1. “Diego Maradona got his World Cup **campaign** off to a flier thanks to Gabriel Heinze”.
2. “At full-time in Cape Town, South Africa, the first of two semi-final **clashes** has ended 3-2 to the Netherlands”. Lewandowski (2008: 90. 91)

According to Lewandowski (2008) create mappings between the field of war and football is relatively easy, because football matches itself involve battle, clash, encounter and many other aspects. In football those games which have more significance, for example, World Cup qualification or domestic league or Champions League in the sports is called as a *campaign*. Therefore, under these circumstances football match is compared to battlefield, because each team or country battle for prize, that is, going to World Cup or winning the league or Cup. Here is example from Lewandowski's research:

1. Heskey, the big, unglamorous football **soldier**, stayed on the **battlefield** until England were three goals clear.

Further Lewandowski (2008) gives examples of other notable conceptual metaphors which are used in sports news reporting. According to Lewandowski (2008), a defeat in sports means death:

1. *Dutch fightback **buries** Brazil.*
2. *Germany **demolished** Diego Maradona's star-studded Argentina to march into the World Cup semi-finals.*

According to Lewandowski (2008) in football reporting word *defeat* is often compared to word *death*, the reason of comparing *defeat* to *death* is that in football reporting writers use emphatic language(*ibid*: 94). Another word which is used in the meaning of *death* is word *kill*, for example, in football when a team scores three quick goals the commentators or writers often say and write that they killed the game off. However, in Lewandowski's work (2008) there was no evidence of using of word "kill" in the sense of defeat in football reporting (*ibid*).

Next, conceptual metaphor which Lewandowski discusses in his research is that 'A SOCCER MATCH IS A BOXING BOUT'. Here is example from Lewandowski's (2008) research:

1. "Tonight at the Weserstadion **the bell** rings again, pitting the two northern **heavyweights** together for the second of four meetings in the space of 19 days".

According to Lewandowski (2008) in British football reporting boxing metaphors are seen more predominantly than in Polish football reporting (*ibid*: 96).

Final conceptual metaphor which Lewandowski (2008) discusses in his research is "ATTEMPTING TO SCORE IS HUNTING".

1. "Podolski was **hunting** for a hat-trick. He sent the ball over the bar".

According to Lewandowski (2008) metaphor of hunting structures only certain aspects of the game, that is, attempt to score a goal while war and boxing metaphors add more significance to the news reporting as with war and boxing metaphor are described team players, form, positions, the class of a team and many more aspects.

Therefore, the author concludes that in sports news can be found many different conceptual metaphors, which make newspapers more interesting for readers.

1.6. Sports Metaphors across varieties of English

In the world each country has her own sports discipline which represents respective country's culture, history and help shape nation's image, for example, In England it is football, in Wales and New Zealand it is rugby and in the United States it is baseball (M.Callies: 2011: 58).

Therefore, people in each of the respective countries could use those sports metaphors to express their thoughts or views on politics, economics or world views (ibid: 59).

According to Callies (2011) when mapping happens in 'natural language' then conceptual metaphors can be 'potentially universal or can be near universal on a generic level' (ibid: 63). There exist two types of metaphors, the first is 'primary' metaphor which is more based on the abstract experience while the second metaphor 'simple' is more based on humans physical experience (ibid). From 'primary' and 'simple' metaphors emerge complex conceptual metaphors. According to Callies (2011) conceptual metaphors are more influenced by different cultures and therefore, have more chances of 'cross-cultural variation' which means that conceptual metaphors can appear in those cultures when concrete sport does not represent country's culture, history and image (ibid). For example, *Politics is Sport* in American English and Chinese (ibid). However, there are differences between these two countries of which kinds of sport they represent to compare politics to sport; for example, in American English the specific domain is baseball, American football and boxing, while Chinese have volleyball, football and ping-pong as source domains in using sports metaphors in political and everyday discourse (ibid). The difference between conceptual metaphor and metaphorical expression is shown in Figure 1:

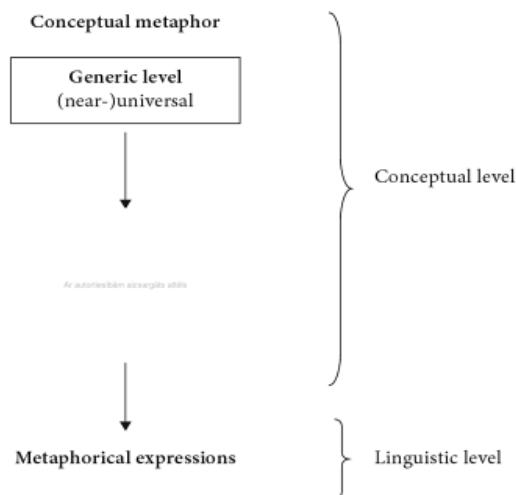


Figure 1 The locus of variation in conceptual metaphor by M.Callies, W.R. Keller, A. Lohöfer (2011: 63)

M Callies (2011) writes that:

The types and aspects of variation outlined earlier can also apply to different varieties of only one language. The kinds of variation for the metaphor POLITICS IS SPORT or LIFE IS A GAME in American English and Chinese sketched above [...] are likely to be found in (sports) metaphors across varieties of the same language, e.g. English. Football (soccer) is clearly more popular in Britain than in the US, and the two main varieties are likely to differ in the degree of productivity and conventionality of football-based metaphorical expressions.

M.Callies (2011: 65)

M. Callies (2011) in his work wrote that on the basis of Charteris-Black's (2004) analysis of the use of metaphors in sports reporting it is possible to conclude that conceptualization which appears in varieties of English is that each variety has her own 'national' sport from which conceptual metaphors are drawn (ibid: 66). Therefore, 'generic-level' conceptual metaphors in England is Football is War, in Wales and New Zealand Rugby is War and in the United States Baseball is War, however, how these metaphors are realized both 'conceptually' and 'lexically' depends on which of the disciplines of sport are most predominant in the concrete variety of English (ibid). Therefore, the author concludes that the more distinguished source domain is in a given variety of English, the more chance is to its flexibility of creating idiomatic expressions which are based on conceptual metaphor (ibid: 70). Next chapter present the difference between war metaphors used in true competition and decompetition

1.7. Difference of War Metaphor in true competition and decompetition

In sports, war metaphor help identify the differences between competition and decompetition in sports contests. According to D.L. Shields, J Brenda L Bredemeier (2009) a great example of metaphors when thinking about contests is George Lakoff's and Mark Johnson's book *Metaphors We Live By* (2009: 29) In the book the authors wrote that metaphors help build 'thinking, feeling and acting' (ibid). In previous centuries metaphors solely belonged to the novelists and poets, but nowadays it all has changed, because metaphors have become properties of our everyday lives, because consciously or unconsciously humans use them, for example, *time is money, spend your time* and many more (ibid). According to D.L. Shields, J Brenda L Bredemeier (2009) "metaphors provide a mental model, a cognitive map, of how something is to be thought about (ibid: 30). Therefore, metaphors play an important role in human lives as they help create an image of certain things and how we understand them.

Metaphors help distinguish two similar features of the two things, while features which are not similar are placed in 'cognitive shadow' (ibid). In this case, sports contests provide great opportunity of how metaphors could be interpreted. It is believed that defining root metaphors in the case of competition and decompetition is vital, as metaphors have a big impact on participants understanding of how important certain contest is (ibid). In decompetition, root metaphor is defined as a war or battle between the opponents, therefore for contestants it is important to win the game. When root metaphor is defined in true competition the result of the game or event is less important, however, the strength of the opponent is vital in order to improve skills. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that in the decompetition the worse opponents' ability the better, while in true competition it is the other way (ibid).

In sports, the team's most dangerous players are often called *assassins, killers* while opponents are called *enemies*, therefore we can conclude that language of sport is filled with military terms (ibid). Also in sports contests often are involved words like: battle, fight, struggle and tension which belong to the semantic field of war and battle. However, in true competition also can be seen those aspects, but they have smaller importance than in decompetition. According to L. Shields, J. Brenda, L. Bredemeier (2009), war metaphors in sports news reporting hide the real action which happened on the playing field, while root metaphor helps identify what exactly happened in the playing field. Therefore, we can conclude that although war metaphor adds spark to the sports news reporting, however, metaphor sometimes work the

other way, that is, obscure the real picture (ibid). Shields, L. Brenda, J Bredemeier, L (2009) define how war and root metaphors work in sports contexts: ‘war metaphor is based on a view of competition as *striving against* ‘ while ‘in contrast, true competition is guided by a metaphor that reveals how contests involve *striving with* one’s opponent’ (ibid). This means that under the war metaphor contestants consider their opponents as enemies while under the true competition metaphor contestants consider them as challengers that help improve their ability.

In conclusion, war metaphor in sports is important; however, when used too frequently, it has a negative impact, as it hides the real battle of the concrete game.

2. METHODOLOGY

In Chapter 2, the author describes the research method applied in the study. First, the corpus which was used for the analysis in the study is described. Furthermore, the frequency software which was used in helping counting the words is presented. Finally, the author describes the research procedure in the applied method.

2.1. Research Method

The research method applied to the study of the semantic fields in sports news was content analysis. Bazerman and Prior (2004) have defined content analysis as follows ‘... is the identifying, quantifying, and analyzing of specific words, phrases, concepts, or other observable semantic data in a text or body of texts with the aim of uncovering some underlying thematic or rhetorical pattern[...].’ (2004: 14).

Eight different disciplines of nineteen sports news articles were collected and added to the Excel document. In the excel file, the author wrote the nationality of the source, for example, British and American, then date when the all the texts had been accessed. Further, the author had made links to each of the texts in case if the converted ones would be lost. Finally, the name of publication was written. Then, the author from the original sources had moved the texts to the HTML format, where he had numbered them. Further, the author had looked through the articles and had underlined those target words of the study. The author then had used specialized software to analyze identified words. The author further had categorized the identified words according to their grammatical categories in the texts. After that, the words were put in a table according to their meaning.

2.2. The Research Corpus in the present study

The present research corpus is directly connected with *World Wide Web*, because the author of the Thesis collected the texts from the internet published articles. The investigation is based on sports corpus. All the articles were taken from the most popular leading sports websites that include: The Guardian, BBC, The New York Times, Reuters and Sky Sports. The collected corpus represents eight different disciplines of sport, for example, football, tennis, rugby, horse

riding, boxing, motorsport, athletics and cricket. In general, the amount of collected texts were nineteen and overall corpus contained 10 352 words. The most articles in the collected corpus are from discipline of football, athletics, horse riding and tennis. Collected texts differ in types, for example, some of them are post-match texts, but others informative and descriptive. The difference between post-match article and informative is that they not only differ in length ,but also the way they are written, for example, in post-match reporting authors more use citations of players and coaches, but in informative they use less them, but give more detailed view and sometimes their own opinions. In descriptive texts the authors are more like storytellers or narrators and also do not use so many quotes. However, one thing in common in all the articles is that, the authors use words with metaphorical meaning which makes the texts more vivid and interesting to read.

All the collected articles were all recently added, as to make the research corpus as close to the popular stories as possible.

2.3. Computer Software Applied

In the research method the author uses *Word List Expert* software which is available on (mechanicwords.com). The program is capable of analyzing frequency of letters, symbols, words and many other features. Also we can sort counted words not only by frequency, but according to alphabet, percentage and rank.

2.4. Research Procedure

In order to reach the goal of the thesis and study of the semantic fields in sports news and provide a list of most frequently used words associated with other fields, the following procedure was undertaken.

Firstly, the author read theoretical background on the specified theme, that is, semantic fields and the ways of reporting in sports news. This was done in order to increase the knowledge about the undertaken theme and also to see whether there are any unanswered questions or “gaps” in the literature. After that, the author posed a research question about specified problem.

Secondly, the author was able to select the appropriate body of texts which corresponded to the research question. Further, the author from the collected corpus identified the words which were selected as the target words at the beginning of the study.

Thirdly, the author determined appropriate text features. The author categorized the identified text features according to their grammatical and semantic meaning.

Fourthly, after all the text features were defined, identified and counted, the author gathered all the necessary data together. Finally, the author analyzed all the collected data and made relevant conclusions.

Chapter Summary

The applied method in this research has been presented. The corpus which is used in this Bachelor thesis has been described. Also used computer software in helping counting word frequency has been presented. Finally, the procedures in order to achieve research goal have been described.

In the next chapter results of the research and discussion on findings will be presented.

3. RESEARACH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In Chapter 3 the author presents the results of the study. First, the frequency of words representing semantic field of war and battle in the research corpus will be presented. Then, the author will analyze them in detail.

3.1. Research Results

The research results indicate the most frequently used semantic field words denoting war and battle. The words in the corpus represent different disciplines of sports, for example, athletics, boxing, football, tennis, motorsport and others. The analysis was devoted to group most frequently used words according to their grammatical, semantic field and meaning.

In order to discover words associated with war and battle in sports news, the author identified them in the study corpus. The first step of the research after identifying words, the author calculated words using frequency software *Word List Expert*. The analysis identified most frequently used target words in the corpus. The results are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 The frequency of semantic field words denoting war and battle in the corpus.

	Word	Frequency Per 10 352 w
1.	Won	16
2.	Win	13
3.	Victory	7
4.	Fight	7
5.	Winning	5
6.	Compete	5
7.	Winner	4
8.	Shots	4
9.	Losing	4
10.	Competition	4

11.	Beat	4
12..	Warriors	3
13.	Fighting	3
14.	Competitive	3
15.	Attack	3
16.	Winners	2
17.	Struggled	2
18.	Lost	2
19.	Hard- fought	2
20.	Clinical	2
21.	Clash	2
22.	winnings	1
23.	Rout	1
24.	Ripped	1
25.	Loss	1
26.	Defeat	1
27.	Defeated	1
28.	Attacked	1
29.	Command	1

Majority of these words in sports news appear regularly. However, some of these words, for example, attacked, lost, ripped, rout, defeated, beat, win, struggled and many more could be repeated more frequently in game reporting texts, where more are used these words. Thus, the author has chosen these words to show how they are used in sports news.

3.2. Identified Semantic Fields

The current sub-chapter presents the results of the analysis of words representing semantic field of war and battle. They were analyzed according to their frequency in sports reporting.

From the selected words which represent war and battle word – **won** was used more frequently (see Table 1) together with its derivatives – **win, winning, winner, winners, winnings**.

Definition of **won** is provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (online)

Won (Verb, past tense) - to be the best or most successful in a competition, game, election etc.

Verb and noun **win** and derivatives **winning, winner, winners and winnings** are also provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Win (verb) - to be the best or most successful in a competition, game, election etc.

Win (noun) - a success or victory, especially in sport;

Winning (Adjective) Winnings (Plural, Noun) - the winning person or thing is the one that wins or makes you win a competition or game;

Winner (Noun) and Winners (Plural, Noun) - a person or animal that has won something.

The results of frequency count for **won** and derivatives are displayed in Table 1.1

Table 1.1 Results of frequency for ‘won’ and its derivatives.

	Results	Frequency
1	Won(VBD)	16
	<p>St Helens, <u>who</u> had won on their three previous league outings, had plenty of field position but were unable to register any points in the first period.</p> <p>Jamaican superstar Bolt, 26, won three gold medals at London 2012 - setting an Olympic record in the 100m and helping his team-mates create a new world record in the 4x100m relay.</p> <p>Shaun Wane's side had won three of the four fixtures with Saints in 2012 and they would claim the bragging rights again in their first meeting of 2013.</p>	
2	Win(VB)	10
	<p>Sunderland have failed to win any of their previous seven Premier League games [...]</p> <p>But Vettel ignored the command and went on to win for the 27th time</p>	
3	Win (NN)	3

	...the team and you completely ignore what they say, and it costs your team-mate a win – that's big.	
4	Winning(ADJ)	5
	After winning the opening game on his serve at love Tuesday, Querrey was ahead by 30-0 in the third game before hitting four straight forehands long. ...Monterosso is reunited with winning jockey Mickael Barzalona.	
5	Winner(NN)	4
	...Joel Rosario, rushed him prematurely and then dueled with the multiple Grade 1 winner Point of Entry before losing. The last Kentucky Derby winner to contest the World Cup was Silver Charm [...].	
6	Winners(NNS)	2
	.. Animal Kingdom possesses a high cruising speed and explosive turn of foot over a course of ground, both hallmarks of recent World Cup winners .	
7	Winnings(NNS)	1
	It is 45 years since his father, Barry, landed a colossal punt in the Lincoln with Frankincense when he was assistant to John Oxley, with the winnings giving him[...]	

According to Table 1.1, word **won** in the corpus is used as past tense and past participle. In the corpus word **won** often appears with pronoun – **who**. In overall, word **won** in the corpus occurred 16 times, which is the most frequent appearance out of all other words denoting war and battle. Word **win** in the corpus is used both as a noun and verb. In the corpus it occurred 13 times (see Table 1), but 10 times as a verb and only 3 times as a noun (Table 1.1). Also, when word **win** is used as a verb it is often accompanied with preposition *to*. Furthermore, **winning** in the corpus is used as an adjective and it appears 5 times, also plural form is created **winnings**, but in the corpus it occurred only one time.

Finally, word **winner** in the corpus appears 4 times, and in the text it is used as a singular noun, but plural form of a noun is created – **winners**, which appeared fewer times than **winner**, that is, 2 times.

In the next table, the author will present the frequency of word **fight** and its derivatives – **fighting, hard- fought** and **fought**. Definitions of word are provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*. (Online)

Fight (Verb) and Fought (Verb, past tense) - to take part in a war or battle.

Also; to take part in a boxing match

Fight (Noun) - a situation in which two people or groups hit, push etc each other;

Fighting (Noun) - when people or groups fight each other in a war, in the street etc;

Hard – Fought (Adjective) - a hard-fought game, competition etc involves two opposing sides who are trying very hard to defeat each other.

The results of frequency count for **fight** and derivatives are displayed in Table 1.2

Table 1.2 Results of frequency for ‘fight’ and its derivatives.

	Results	Frequency
1	Fight(VB)	3
	<p>David Haye is to fight an as-yet unnamed opponent at the Manchester Evening News Arena on 29 June.</p> <p>The former WBA heavyweight champion also expects to fight again later this year to put himself in a mandatory position [...]</p>	
2	Fight(NN)	3
	<p>Haye's last fight was in July 2012 when he defeated_his fellow British heavyweight Dereck Chisora at Upton Park</p> <p>...Hayemaker, will promote his comeback fight in June and his trainer, Adam Booth, confirmed talks are ongoing to find a suitable opponent.</p>	
3	Fighting(NU)	3
	<p>Meanwhile, the Australia full-back Kurtley Beale has been suspended indefinitely and fined £15,000 for fighting with Melbourne Rebels team-mates on a coach in Durban last weekend.</p> <p>He is fighting his way into position.</p> <p>While we have no reason to dispute the media reports which are without doubt made for the right reasons of fighting racism [...]</p>	
4	Hard-Fought(ADJ)	2
	<p>Wigan Warriors saw off a second-half revival from St Helens to claim a hard-fought Good Friday victory over their local rivals.</p> <p>The second seed and world No3 won 6-4, 6-3 in an hour and 42 minutes, with the scoreline not representative of a hard-fought match.</p>	
5	Fought(VBD)	1

	Paul Clough, Francis Meli and Tommy Makinson all crossed for the visitors as they fought back bravely in the second period.
--	--

According to Table 1, word **fight** in the corpus occurs 6 times. However, in Table 1.2 word **fight** occurs 3 times as a verb and 3 times as a noun. The word mainly was used in the sports discipline of boxing. In the corpus **fighting** is used as an uncountable noun, when describing people actions. It occurs 3 times in the corpus. **Hard-fought** in the corpus is used as an adjective; it was mainly used in the disciplines of Tennis and Rugby. The last word in Table 1.2 is past tense verb – **fought** which appeared only one time in the corpus.

In the next table, the author will present the frequency of word **losing** and its derivatives – **lost and loss**. First, all the definitions of discussed words will be presented. Definitions of words are provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Lose (verb) - to fail to win, gain, or obtain

Losing (Adjective) - Failing to win, as in a sport or game;

Lost (verb, past tense) - to not win a game, argument, election, war etc;

Loss (noun) - The act or an instance of losing

The results of frequency count for **losing** and derivatives are displayed in Table 1.3

Table 1.3 Results of frequency for ‘lost’ and its derivatives.

	Results	Frequency
1	Losing(ADJ)	4
	He never recovered after being broken and broke his racket in frustration after losing the first set [...] Animal Kingdom’s rider, Joel Rosario, rushed him prematurely and then dueled with the multiple Grade 1 winner Point of Entry before losing .	
2	Lost(VBD)	2
	Isner, whose ranking has fallen this year to 23rd from 13th, lost his third-round match Monday to Marin Cilic despite serving 20 aces to Cilic’s 2.	
3	Loss(NN)	1
	Querrey’s Loss Completes a U.S. Shutout	

According to Table 1.3 **losing** is more frequently used from those three. In the corpus it functions as an adjective. It occurs in the text 4 times. **Lost** in the corpus functions as a past tense verb and

it occurs 2 times in the corpus. Finally, **loss** in the corpus occurs only 1 time. Finally, all the three words appeared in the discipline of Tennis.

In the next table, the author will present the frequency of word **attack** and its derivatives – **attacked, attacking**, but before presenting the table the author will give definitions of each of these words. All the definitions for words are provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Attack (noun) - an act of violence that is intended to hurt a person or damage a place;

Also; an attempt by a player or group of players to score goals or win points and the players in a team that are responsible for trying to score goals or win points;

Attacked (verb, past tense) - to deliberately use violence to hurt a person or damage a place;

Attacking (adjective) - disposed to attack.

The results of frequency count for **attack** and derivatives are displayed in Table 1.4

Table 1.4 Results of frequency for ‘attack’ and its derivatives.

	Results	Frequency
1	Attack(NN)	3
	Jesse Ryder: Second man arrested after attack on New Zealander Sunderland manager would be to switch Stéphane Sessègnon from a deep-lying role to outright attack	
2	Attacked(VBD)	1
	He has admitted in the past that alcohol has contributed to his off-field problems and it was confirmed that he was drinking with his Wellington team-mates in the bar before he was attacked .	
3	Attacking(ADJ)	1
	Having sold Fraizer Campbell to Cardiff in January when he also released Louis Saha, O'Neill's attacking choices are limited [...].	

According to table 1.4 **attack** in the corpus is used as a noun, but in two different senses. In the first sense, the word is used in violence, which according to *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* is given as first explanation. In the second sense, word is used in sports, however, the (LDCE) gives sport only as seventh meaning, the first and second meaning was violence and war. In the corpus **attack** is used 3 times, while derivatives are used by one time.

Attacked and **attacking** in the corpus are used as past tense verb and adjective. The word appeared in the disciplines of athletics and football.

In the next table the author will present words denoting failure to win, that is, **defeat, defeated, rout and ripped**. Before presenting the table the author will give definitions of those words. The definitions of **defeat, rout and ripped** were provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, while **defeated** is provided by *thefreedictionary.com*

Defeat (Noun) - failure to win or succeed;

Defeated (participle) - beaten or overcome; not victorious;

Rout (Noun) - a complete defeat in a battle, competition, or election;

Ripped (past tense, verb) - to tear something or be torn quickly and violently

The results of frequency count for **defeat, defeated, rout, ripped** and derivatives are displayed in Table 1.5

Table 1.5 Results of frequency for ‘defeat, defeated, rout, ripped’.

	Results	Frequency
1	Defeat(NN)	1
	Murray, favourite for the title following Novak Djokovic's defeat by Tommy Haas on Tuesday [...]	
2	Defeated (ADJ)	1
	Haye's last fight was in July 2012 when he defeated his fellow British heavyweight Dereck Chisora at Upton Park [...].	
3	Rout(NN)	1
	Maria Sharapova reached the women's final with a 6-2, 6-1 rout of Jelena Jankovic in an hour and four minutes	
4	Ripped (VBD)	1
	We get ripped a lot for not having a lot of guys in the top 20 and the top 10, but, you know, we won our first-round Davis Cup	

Table 1.5 shows that in the corpus all the words appeared one time, nevertheless they contribute to the study greatly, because they represent the semantic field of war and battle. In the corpus all these words function differently. **Defeat** in the corpus functions as a noun, while its derivative

defeated as a participle. Then **rout** in the corpus functions as a noun, while **ripped** in the corpus functions as a past tense verb. **Ripped** is a derivative from the original form of **rip** and in the corpus that defeat is compared to death.

Next table will present the frequency and definition of word **victory**.

Victory (Noun) - the overcoming of an enemy or antagonist (*Merriam Webster Dictionary*)

The results of frequency count for **victory** and are displayed in Table 1.6

Table 1.6 Results of frequency for ‘victory’

	Results	Frequency
1	Victory(NN)	7
	Needing a victory in the Texas event to leapfrog Woods, McIlroy's round got off to a poor start [...]. U.S.-based horses, once perennial favorites on the night, have amassed a dismal record of one victory in 26 races. [...] both faced an FA charge of misconduct after a scuffle as McManaman left the pitch at the interval in Wigan's 2-1 victory .	

According to table 1.6 **victory** in the corpus appears seven times. In the corpus it functions as a noun. **Victory** represents both semantic fields of war and battle and in sports context using word victory is a common case.

Next table will present the word **compete** and its derivative – **competition** and **competitive** all the definitions are provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Compete (VB) - to take part in a competition or sports event;

Competition – (Noun, uncountable) - the people or groups that are competing against you, especially in business or in a sport;

Competitive (Adjective) - ability to compete well

The results of frequency count for **compete** and its derivatives are displayed in Table 1.7

Table 1.7 Results of frequency for ‘compete’ and its derivatives.

	Results	Frequency
1	Compete(VB)	5
	India this week to compete for the Delhi Daredevils in the Indian Premier League. Pistorius should not be allowed to leave the country if he was invited to compete abroad.	

2	Competition(NN)	4
	[...] when a return to competition was not discussed.	
3	Competitive(ADJ)	3
	It would be nice to see him get himself together and get back on the track to be successfully competitive .	

According to table 1.7 **compete** in the corpus appears 5 times and is mainly used as a verb. **Competition** also is used as a noun in the corpus and appears 4 times, while **competitive** is used 3 times and in the corpus is used as an adjective. All the words in a way represent battle because in the competitions it is necessary to try and win it, and where is a prize in the given event; therefore, it may associated with the battle or war.

Next table will present the frequency and definition of **shot** which in the corpus was used in two different cases. Definition is provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Shots (Plural, noun) - an act of firing a gun or an attempt in sport to throw, kick, or hit the ball towards the place where you can get a point

The results of frequency count for **shot** and its derivatives are displayed in Table 1.8

Table 1.8 Results of frequency for 'shots'.

	Results	Frequency
1	Shots(NNS)	4
	<p>[...]so I just went down and tried to commit to my shots more on the back nine and it seemed to help.</p> <p>The Australian, who is currently ranked 50th, had three penalty shots in his round of 73.</p> <p>We all want to win, but he drives for Red Bull, and they have to call the shots.</p> <p>There were still a couple of loose shots here and there but it was a tricky day and if I could have got it back to even par I would've been pretty happy.</p>	

According to table 1.7 **shots** frequency in the corpus is 4 times and it is mainly used as a plural noun. However, the data shows that **shots** is used in two different cases, in the first it is when a player tries to score a point, while in the second about making the right decisions. Also, according to *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (LDCE) the word's **shot** first meaning is associated with a gun, then second meaning with bullets and only the third meaning is

associated with an attempt to score. We can conclude than in this case it is used in metaphorical sense, although shot in sports discipline is common term. But in the second case shots is said as a critical remark which in (LDCE) is eleventh meaning, thus we can conclude that in this case it is also used in metaphorical sense.

In the next table the author will present the frequency and definition of word **Beat**.

Beat (verb) - to get the most points, votes etc in a game, race, or competition

The results of frequency count for **beat** and its derivatives are displayed in Table 1.9

Table 1.9 Results of frequency for ‘beat’.

	Results	Frequency
1	Beat(VB)	4
	Vitali's brother, Wladimir, beat Haye in Hamburg in 2011 to add the WBA title to his IBF, WBO and Ring magazine crowns and now Haye wants another shot at one of the Ukrainians. Wigan went top of Super League with the win, although Huddersfield will return to the summit if they beat bottom club Salford later on Friday.	

According to table 1.9 **beat** in the corpus appears 4 times and it is mainly used as a verb. It was used in the sports disciplines of rugby and boxing. Also according to *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* beat first meaning is associated with the competition, thus making it no metaphorical in this sentences, nevertheless it still represents semantic field of war and battle.

Next table will present the frequency and definition of word **Warriors**. The definition was provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Warriors (Noun) - a soldier or fighter who is brave and experienced - used about people in the past

The results of frequency count for **warriors** and its derivatives are displayed in Table 1.10

Table 1.10 Results of frequency for ‘warriors’.

	Results	Frequency
1	Warriors(Noun)	3
	Wigan Warriors 28-16 St Helens Wigan Warriors saw off a second-half revival from St Helens to claim a hard-fought Good Friday victory over their local rivals.	

	A mix-up between Tomkins and Ben Flower inside the in-goal area earned Saints a set of six on the Wigan line, and when referee Richard Silverwood penalised the Warriors for offside
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According to table 1.10 Warriors in the corpus occur 3 times. In the corpus Warriors is used as a plural noun that represents team's name. Also word **warrior** according to (LDCE) is associated with military or in other words with soldiers which represent the field of war. The word appears in the post-match reporting which often includes full team names or nicknames, score and line-up.

The next table will present the frequency of word **Clinical** derived from the word **clinic**. However, in the case in which the word was used in the corpus, the meaning is rather metaphorical: 'analytical or coolly dispassionate' (*Meriam Webster Dictionary*).

The results of frequency count for **clinical** and its derivatives are displayed in Table 1.11

Table 1.11 Results of frequency for 'clinical'.

	Results	Frequency
1	Clinical(ADJ)	2
	The foundation for their success was laid in a first half in which they were simply more inventive and more clinical than their opponents. Murray was far from clinical , taking only six of his 18 break points	

According to table 1.11 Clinical in the corpus appears 2 times. In the texts it is used as an adjective. Thus, we can conclude that the author used this word in metaphorical way as to express his feelings towards the mentioned events.

Next table will present the frequency and definition of word **clash**. Definition is provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Clash (Noun) - a short fight between two armies or groups

Also; an argument between two people or groups because they have very different beliefs or opinions

The results of frequency count for **clash** is displayed in Table 1.12

Table 1.12 Results of frequency for 'clash'.

	Results	Frequency
1	Clash(NN)	2

	Carver and Barrow, who were sent to the stands following the clash on March 17, both faced an FA charge of misconduct [...]. Newcastle and Wigan Assistants Fined for Clash .
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Table 1.12 shows that **clash** in the corpus appears 2 times. In the corpus it is used as a noun. Definitions of **clash** indicate that there are possibilities of using both those meanings with an argument and a short fight.

In the next and final table the author will present the frequency and definition of word **command**. Definition is provided by *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

Command (Noun) - the control of a group of people or a situation

Also; an order that should be obeyed

The results of frequency count for **command** is displayed in Table 1.13

Table 1.13 Results of frequency for ‘command’.

	Results	Frequency
1	Command (NN)	1
	But Vettel ignored the command and went on to win for the 27th time.	

According to table 1.13 **command** in the corpus is used one time. In the text it functions as a noun. According to (LDCE) word –**command** belong to the field of military.

3.3. Discussion on Findings

The findings have shown that most of the found words belong to the semantic field of war and battle. Most of those words are commonly used in sports reporting, for example, *win, lose, defeat, beat* are words which are seen most frequently in sports news, although in this collected corpus some of them appeared less than expected, nevertheless the study has brought valuable results. Most of the texts which were collected were of different kind and from different disciplines of sports to add representativeness to the corpus. Many of words can be grouped not only by their grammatical category but also by their meaning. Also in order to understand all the words related to battle and war, there must be some knowledge about them.

The study has a number of limitations. Although the goal of the thesis has been achieved, that is, identifying words which denote semantic field of war and battle, it was sometimes difficult to distinguish which of the words are from semantic field of war and which belong to battle. In

addition, due to insufficient time to study semantic fields in sports and other important aspects which would have helped distinguish words from different semantic fields, the author finds it difficult to compare the results with the findings of previous researchers.

CONCLUSIONS

The present section is devoted to the presentation of the conclusions drawn after the research has been carried out. The present research was carried out in order to fill in the gap in knowledge of the semantic fields which appear in sports news reporting. The goal of the Bachelor thesis was to identify words which represent different semantic fields in sport news and provide a list of frequency of those words which represent respective semantic fields.

Firstly, the author of the Thesis can conclude that there is sufficient literature available about the undertaken topic “semantic fields in sports news”. Literature review showed that sports news represent semantic fields of war and battle. Literature review showed that writers in sports news reporting use different strategies in order to make the story more emotional and entertaining. Literature review also showed that in sports reporting and writing metaphors especially of war can play both positive and negative way. The negative feature of the war metaphor which is used in sports news is that it hides the real performance of a team, while positive is that war metaphors help writers better express their thoughts about concrete event. In sports news writers use special language which differs from everyday language. They often use language of war, religion, battle, for example, survive. Also in sport news often are used quoting, for example, players, coaches their thoughts on game and result.

Next, the author has applied content analysis in order to identify quantitative frequency of words representing different semantic fields in the corpus. Findings reveal most dominant used words from the semantic fields of war and battle. The collected data in the course of analysis is used to set the frequency of those words and further describe the findings. All the most frequently used words denoting war and battle have been classified in respective groups according to their meanings.

Further, the empirical findings of the study has revealed that the following words in the sports corpus appear most frequently: *won, win, victory, winning and compete*. The following words represent the semantic field of war and battle. From collected corpus, the author can conclude, that the following words in the different sports disciplines appear frequently. In the corpus most of those words denoting semantic field of war and battle in the corpus functions as verbs, nouns, adjectives.

The research method has been successfully employed, and the results were used to validate the hypothesis of the Bachelor thesis: the most significant semantic fields in sports news

reporting are the fields of war and battle. Thus, the results of the thesis support the theoretical assumption that in sports news reporting are used words from the field of war and battle.

Finally, the author considers the research on the “semantic fields in sports news” useful as research discovered number of gaps which appear in the linguistics study of language of sport. However, the research results reveal only small amount of most frequently used words denoting war and battle in sports texts. Thus, the author suggests further investigation of topic, because collecting larger amount of corpus will reveal more important cases in the given field.

THESES

1. The study of available literature on the topic has showed that there have been sufficient studies on the current topic, for example, Beard (1998), Charteris-Black (2004), Fabiszak (2007) and Lewandowski (2008).
2. In semantic fields words are arranged in the order of going from more general one to the more specific. However, as nowadays words meanings changes rapidly, it is sometimes difficult to decide to which semantic field belong one or another word.
3. In sports news writers use special technical terms and jargons, for example, dribbling. They also use language of war, religion and battle, for example, survive, 6 months in hell. Another well known feature in sport news is figurative language usage, with plenty of adjectives, adverbs, active voice and many more.
4. In sports news reporting writers use subject-verb-object sentences and short paragraphs with precise words. Also sports news reporting could not do without clichés, for example, put the final nail into the coffin, and throw in the towel which helps make sports news reporting more interesting.
5. Conceptual metaphor helps understand one domain instead of another domain. Experience plays vital part in understanding from source domain to target. Mapping is another important process which transforms source domain to target domain.
6. Conceptual metaphor in sport is used frequently especially in sport discipline of football. Conceptual metaphor in sports is used as: Football is War, defeat is death, soccer match is boxing bout and attempt to score is hunting. Therefore, in sports news are used metaphorical expressions from different semantic fields.
7. War metaphors in sport have both positive and negative features. Positive is that t aloud sports writers express they thought on particular game in more emotional language, but negative features, that it hides the real performance of particular team, player etc.
8. The empirical findings of the study has reviled that the following words in the sports corpus appear most frequently: *won, win, victory, winning and compete*, and they all represent the semantic field of war and battle.
9. The research results reveal only small amount of most frequently used words denoting war and battle in sports texts. Thus, the author suggests further investigation of topic, because collecting larger amount of corpus will reveal more important cases in the given field.

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APPENDIX 1

Analysed sports text disciplines in the BA Thesis

Football

1. “Newcastle and Wigan assistants Fined for Clash”
2. “Rio stadium roof problems serious, say engineers”
3. “World Cup – “FA seeking evidence of racist claims against Ferdinand brothers”
4. “ Sunderland’s Steven Fletcher and Lee Cattermole ruled out for season”

Horse riding

1. “Dubai World Cup: World's richest race ready to run at Meydan”
2. “Great Expectations for a Convention-Bucking American Colt”
3. “Captain Bertie bids for Lincoln glory for trainer Charlie Hills”

Athletics

1. “Usain Bolt could now compete at London 2012 Anniversary Games”
2. “Oscar Pistorius faces athletics snub after bail conditions relaxed”
3. “Istanbul 2020 bid leaves "excellent impression"

Tennis

1. “Querrey’s Loss Completes a U.S. Shutout”
2. “Andy Murray overcomes Marin Cilic to reach semi-finals in Miami”

Cricket

1. “Jesse Ryder: Second man arrested after attack on New Zealander”
2. “Leicestershire: Shakib Al Hasan joins for FL t20”

Rugby

1. “Wigan Warriors 28-16 St Helens”
2. “Northampton tell Wales wing George North not to rush decision on move”

Motorsport

1. “Maverick behaviour has damaged Sebastian Vettel, says Jenson Button”

Golf

1. Houston Open: Rory McIlroy falters as DA Points uses mother's putter

Dokumentārā lapa

Bakalaura darbs „Semantic fields in sport news (A corpus based study)” (Semantiskie lauki sporta ziņās(uz korpusu balstīts pētījums) izstrādāts LU Humanitāro zinātņu fakultātē.

Ar savu parakstu apliecinu, ka pētījums veikts patstāvīgi, izmantoti tikai tajā norādītie informācijas avoti un iesniegtā darba elektroniskā kopija atbilst izdrukai.

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