

Book review

Simović, S. & Kesić, D. (2019).
ENGLISH-SERBIAN BASKETBALL DICTIONARY, VOL.1: A-M, VOL.2: N-Z

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Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 546+547 pages
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Throughout its existence, the game of basketball became more and more complex in relation to its original form, causing the communication in English and Serbian to become more and more complex, and increasing the need for it to be as precise as possible. As for Serbian basketball, the sport in which Serbia holds the most trophies, it has also come a very long way since the representative of the American Red Cross, William Willand, demonstrated it to high school students, physical education teachers and Sokol gymnastics coaches in Belgrade in 1923, through the first international appearances in 1945, the golden age of 1970s, the white dream team of the 80s, the 1st place at the European Championships of the 90s, until the 2019 World Cup finals in China. During this entire period, numerous books were published: *Stories of Yugoslav Basketball* by Žarko Dapčević Daba; *60 Golden Years* by Zlatko Čobović et al.; *Basketball Technique and Individual Technique* by Aleksandar Nikolić; *NBA Serbia* by Darko Plavšić; *Jazz Basketball* by Aleksandar Miletić and numerous other authors, who have witnessed the birth, existence and development of basketball in this region.

The first significant linguistic contribution to basketball was made in 1996 by publishing a 223-page long *English-Serbian and Serbian-English Basketball Dictionary* by Prof. Milivoje Karalejić, PhD, and Prof. Slobodan Simović, PhD, who recognized the strong basis the English language offers to the basketball profession.

Here we are today, 25 years later, in a new basketball and communication reality, which is sublimated in the dictionary of the authors Prof. Slobodan Simović, PhD and Prof. Dalibor Kesić, PhD, on 1100 pages and with more than 10,000 words and expressions, which is an immeasurable contribution to basketball and the complete cultural heritage of the region. The Serbian-speaking basketball sports public has been offered a unique contribution in shape of the *English-Serbian Basketball Dictionary*. No such work has been published in our region, although the process of globalization in sports is inevitably underway and thus the need for learning, understanding and harmonizing basketball terms of English and Serbian is increasing.

The dictionary is characterized by an exceptional selection of basketball terms and a whole expressive paraphernalia of basketball communication. This English-Serbian dictionary is divided into two volumes. The first volume includes terms from A to M, and the second from N to Z. As for the very structure of this extensive edition, it includes a preface written by prof. Dr. Nenad Živanović, then the entry list and finally an afterword by Dejan Tomašević and Slađana Golić. What is certainly missing is the word of the authors, in which the readers of the dictionary would be provided with basic explanations, definitions of abbreviations and guidelines for the use of this dictionary. This is something that this dictionary could be supplemented with in its future editions.

As for the authors' approach, their thoroughness in the selection of the entry list is evident on the very first page, in the first term or letter, where the letter A in basketball terminology is explained in two ways as: A (abbreviation of *assistances*) and A (abbreviation of *attempts*) - the number of attempted shots. The next abbreviation ABA – the *American Basketball Association* – the American Professional Basketball League, which is NBA's previous name, indicates that the dictionary will include historical terms, as well as current ones. Just below the phrase: *Abalakov jump* - a test of players' jumping abilities from the semi-squat position with a graphic display, indicates that what we have before us is a work important for the wider sports public, and not just basketball aficionados.

Further analysis of the terms in the first letter of the alphabet will lead the reader to a conclusion that this dictionary includes not only basketball and sports terms, but also personalities, such as Abdul-Jabbar Kareem (New York, April 16, 1947), a professional basketball player who is considered one of the best NBA players of all time and who scored 38,387 points in 20 years, the most in the history of the NBA league at his time, and today right behind Michael Jordan

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and LeBron James. Letter K includes Korać Radivoj - Žučko, under M are Mujanović Razija and Mutombo Dikembe, under Z - Žeravica Ranko, etc. The dictionary, therefore, has encyclopedic value when it comes to important basketball personalities. However, on the other hand, it is not possible to draw a clear conclusion as to which criteria were applied when selecting the persons to include in this publication.

Therefore, it can certainly be concluded that a wide range of terms is covered by this dictionary, although when using it, the question may arise as to which methodological principles the authors followed when processing the entries and organizing the dictionary. The reason for such a question can be found in the great repetitiveness of this dictionary. For example, the noun *ball* covers 688 different collocations and 25 synonyms and antonyms, which is quite impressive; in the graphical explanation for the phrase *ball screen*², we can see all the thoroughness of the authors' approach. However, after listing all 688 phrases under the noun *ball*, the authors decided to repeat dozens of phrases beginning with the noun *ball* as separate entries in the dictionary. Considering that each phrase is listed as many times as the number of words it contains, the reader will very often come across phrases like *ball bounce*, which appears under the noun *ball*, the verb *bounce*, but also as an independent entry *ball bounce*. Alongside a more detailed insight into the methodology, another useful addition in future editions of this dictionary would be the specification of the part of speech for each given entry.

As for the translation, it is obvious at the very first glance that the choice of translation of the given terms is such that it will be clear not only to sports and basketball experts, but also to a wider readership who has a somewhat more superficial knowledge of basketball and sports in general. This proves that for the given English terms there are equivalents, in the form of words or phrases, in the Serbian language, and that the basketball terminology of the Serbian language is much richer than it may seem at first. Although there are also generally accepted loanwords from the English language, such as when talking about the *knock-out phase of the competition*, the terms used in the translation are in most cases originally Serbian words, a fact with which the authors, among other things, pointed to the fact that the Serbian and English languages, in terms of basketball (sports) terminology, share a vocabulary that represents another link between these two languages and cultures.

According to Dejan Tomašević, who wrote the afterword at the end of this publication, this is the first scientific attempt to bring the problem of terminology used in the basketball world closer to all participants in the game of basketball and fill the huge gap we had in sports literature. It may be pretentious, but at this point it can be said that a two-volume English-Serbian basketball dictionary, by Prof. Slobodan Simović, PhD and Prof. Dalibor Kesić, PhD represents "the final whistle" when it comes to English basketball terminology and their Serbian equivalents, and that it very appropriately and accurately leaves a mark on the basketball reality to the delight of the readership, in this case the entire basketball public, where everyone feels the benefits these victories. It is clear that Prof. Slobodan Simović, PhD - a great connoisseur of basketball science, and Prof. Dalibor Kesić, PhD - a great connoisseur of English language and sports terminology, created a significant publication that has invaluablely enriched basketball literature.

Although there is room for improvement of this two-volume dictionary, especially in terms of its organization and methodology when processing the selected entries, there is no doubt that not engaging in its further popularization would be unfair, not only to the authors, but also to the entire sports and basketball public and profession.

Given the extensiveness of the entry list and the ambition of the authors to approach the development of this dictionary in a comprehensive way, publishing this dictionary in electronic form would significantly increase its accessibility to a wider audience, and represent a major step towards further popularization of this subject matter.

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² *Ball screen* - offensive play in which one offensive player screens a defender who is guarding the player in possession of the ball.

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