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## ORIGINAL

# FROM SPORT TO DEPORTE. AN ETYMOLOGICAL, SEMANTIC AND CONCEPTUAL DISCUSSION IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE

## DEL SPORT AL DEPORTE. UNA DISCUSIÓN ETIMOLÓGICA, SEMÁNTICA Y CONCEPTUAL EN LA LENGUA CASTELLANA

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### ABSTRACT

In Spanish, the word deporte (sport) raises a debate that is three-fold: etymological, semantic and conceptual. The study object of this article is to

analyze the historical precedents of the word *deporte* and to trace its evolution up to the present day term, from this trinitarian approach. For this purpose, we based our work on recovering original documentary sources, some of which were unpublished, other were little known or rarely considered. The aim is for these sources to allow us to acquire new knowledge and force us to reinterpret and correct some current claims.

**KEY WORDS:** deport, deporte, sport, Spanish language, etymology, semantics, conceptual discussion.

## RESUMEN

En la lengua castellana la palabra *deporte*, plantea de entrada una triple discusión: de carácter etimológico, semántico y conceptual. Este es el objeto de estudio de este artículo analizar los precedentes históricos de la palabra *deporte* y trazar su evolución hasta desembocar en el término actual, desde este enfoque trinitario. Para ello nos basamos en la recuperación de fuentes documentales originales, algunas de ellas inéditas y otras poco conocidas o consideradas, que nos permitan adquirir nuevos conocimientos y nos obligan a reinterpretar y corregir algunas afirmaciones actuales.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** deport, deporte, sport, lengua castellana, etimología, semántica, discusión conceptual.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The word *sport* found in almost every language of the world is a genuinely ecumenical term, in the double universal and communication sense, among all the human beings in relation to that globalized secular religion that rapidly evokes feelings and a practice, show or lifestyle. For people nowadays, sport is one the unavoidable terms of our global culture and an identifying symbol of our time. Despite multiple attempts to define this unequivocal concept by sport associations, prestigious authors and academic entities, sport remains undefinable due to its symbolic complexity, cultural dimension and social reality (Olivera, 2006).

The word *deporte* in the Spanish language instantly raises an etymological, semantic and conceptual discussion, which is the aim of this study as it sets out from this trinitarian perspective to analyze the historical antecedents of the word *deporte* and trace its development leading up to the current term. In order to unravel this universal phenomenon in the Spanish context we must know its etymology and the semantic variations as well as its different conceptual interpretations during a first period (1892-1932). Thus, we shall be able to date its origin and original motivation, the evolution of the meanings of this show and practice, establish a consistent chronology, know the different conceptual interpretations in a first period and delimit the concept in its context until the first third of the 20th century.

Through the etymological analysis of the term, the study of the variety of meanings and the analysis of its conceptual interpretations in the Spanish language, we will be able to locate and identify the evolution and development of the agonistic, physical and recreational activities in Spain during the life period of the voice *deporte* and related activities (Olivera, 1993).

## 2. THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD SPORT

Maximiano Trapero (1994) urges us to dispose of the idea that sport is a unique fact of our time (p.79), although this claim was already made by other important studies about medieval sport. Johan Huizinga (1994), in *El Otoño de la Edad Media* (1919), interpreted that the atmosphere during certain medieval sport events such as jousting and tournaments was mainly characterized by an erotic and dramatic liturgy. He also claimed that such a perception and unique values of the medieval tournament are still found in modern sport. The same comment had already been made by the writer Emilia Pardo Bazán (1896) who, after attending various polo tournaments, described the game as a virile *sport* of female excitement: “Besides, Polo has something that reminds us of the ancient tournaments: the presence of women, their approval, their applause” (p.446).

Afterwards, Huizinga (1957) in *Homo Ludens* (1938), developed the thesis that the social foundations of modern culture were validated through the evolution of the game as a recreational and festive element since the time of ancient civilizations.

José Lladanosa (1953) described in Lérida the scenes of festivities, tournaments or jousting where “athletes” of the 15th century practiced fencing, horse racing, running, swimming or crossbow shooting. Similarly, he pointed out some information about the ball game in its different modalities –*les bitlles, la rutlla, el triquell*- and its popularity among the games in the medieval Lérida. The case of this city should be used as a sample in order to illustrate the sport context reached at that time by other populations of similar proportions (Ramírez, 2007). Similarly, the illustrator Melchor Gaspar de Jovellanos (1812) presented *La memoria sobre las diversiones públicas* (1796), which according to the historian Miguel Piernavieja (1965) historically set the first antecedents of Spanish sport. Previously, the same Piernavieja (1960) and other contributions like that of José Hesse (1967), referred to the presence of physical exercise and sport through the testimony of Spanish literature.

In the past, the concept sport was not socially perceived as it is nowadays. The terminological and semantic expression changed through time and certain confusion was even produced. Words like *juego* (game), *recreación* (recreation), *ejercicio coporal* (coporal exercise), *gimnástica* (gymnastics), *solaz* (solace), etc. were also conceptualized in the semantic context of sport. According to Betancor and Vilanou (1995), there is a strong general belief that the term *deporte* (sport) is a borrowing from the English language. In addition, these authors claim that recent philological studies have revealed that the word

*deporte* (sport) came from Roman languages. However, that information was already common knowledge among the builders of the first Spanish sport Language (letter without a stamp, 1902).

Piernavieja (1960) proved that the word *deporte* in the Spanish language already had full meaning in physical and recreational activities. Thus sport (*deporte*) was associated with hunting, ball game, horse riding, bathing, field running or other games and corporal recreations. The word and concept remained alive throughout various centuries despite relatively changing its meaning on occasions. This is what Piernavieja reiterated (1966) and Saúl García confirmed (1994):

As a matter of fact, the word *deporto* already existed in the first years of Castilian with the meaning of distraction and game. There are many references in the Spanish literature of that time to how people went outside the city in order to enjoy themselves, play and perform physical exercise (García, 1994, p.65).

According to the studies conducted by Corominas (1956), the word *depuerto* was used in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which derived from *de-deportare* and which meant to go outside the city gates, in other words, to go outside the city walls. Subsequently, Corominas (1983) wrote the following entry for *Deporte*:

*Deporte*: pleasure, entertainment; back in 1440 approximately (and *depuerto*, 13<sup>th</sup> century). Derive from the old word *deportarse*: to entertain, to rest, around 1260; which in turn derived from the Latin *deportare*: to transfer, to transport (maybe in the sense of distracting the mind); in the modern sense of “an outdoor activity in order to do physical exercise” (Corominas, 1983, p.205).

Similarly, the contributions of Piernavieja (1966) referred to the word *deporte* with the Latin *de-portare* as its etymological root meaning “to transport” or “to transfer”. He reaffirms that *deporte* used to be associated with the meaning “to go outside the city walls, to go outside the city gate (porta) in order to enjoy oneself, walk in the countryside, do exercise, look for distraction, breathe fresh air, etc. ”. Other studies linked to the medieval Castilian language led to these results. Martin Alonso (1986) identifies in *Mío Cid* (circa 1140) the verb *deportar* which was also used to describe the recreation in corporal exercise or games “luego toman armas e tomanse a deportar” (p.877). In the *Diccionario Medieval español* (Medieval Spanish Dictionary), Alonso (1986) also refers to the adjective *deportoso/sa* to indicate the meaning of funny, cheerful or festive. Similarly, the prose of Alfonso X includes the word *deporte* in connection with the practice of hunting (circa 1250) as well as the word *deportoso* (circa 1254) in the expression mentioned earlier (Kasten and Nitti, 2002, p.602).

In search of the origin of the word in the Castilian language, Piernavieja (1966) examined important Romance Philology studies (by prestigious philologists like Manuel Millá and Fontanals, Martín de Riquer o Ramón Menéndez Pidal) and found the first written reference of the term in the word *deport* which appears in the Provençal language (Language of Óc) with the meaning of “amusement” in a poetic text from the 12<sup>th</sup> century written by William VII (1071-1127), Count of Poitou, Duke of Aquitaine (William IX) and author of the oldest conserved troubadour compositions. This noun and the verb *se deporter* are practically always interpreted with the meaning “amusement”, “leisure”, “pleasant free time”. He identified in the Castilian language the verb form *deportarse*, which first appears in the poem *Mío Cid* (1140) with the meaning “to enjoy oneself”, “to rest”. He therefore maintained the hypothesis that the first conceptual interpretation of the word *deporte* substantially refers to “amusement” and notably over the meaning “physical exercise” and clearly in opposition to the current meaning. However, as suggested by Trapero (1994), the semantic expansion before the 15<sup>th</sup> century was far greater than that of sport nowadays (p.92) since the concept of *depuerto* meant “recreation”, which was commonly used to refer to many typical actions during that period such as physical exercise and all kinds of games and entertainments (including love pleasures). According to analyzed studies (Corominas, 1956; Piernavieja, 1966; Trapero, 1979) the Castilian term *depuerto* in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century was replaced by the word *deporte*, a derivation from the Provençal term *deport*, although this change did not alter the polysemy of the concept whatsoever. It was commented in the texts from that period that the favorite sports of Henry IV (1423-1474) “walking in the mountains and hunting were his favorite sports” and that the Court of Madrid “most of the time was divided into jousting, banquets, dinner parties, spear games and bullfighting to such an extent that the courtiers considered them their greatest sports” (Enriquez, 1787, pages 22 and 38).

Through time the term gained other meanings related to the change of mood or spirit. Thus *deporte* (sport) was used to express a different situation from the usual activity or fatigue, moving the spirit to a distraction or some rest that produced entertainment or pleasure. But still this change of corporal and mood situation frequently meant an association with outdoor physical exercise. Games and healthy physical exercise were part of the meaning *deporte* (Salvador, 1994).

In other Romance languages, similar lexical items derived from the latin word *deportare* were formed initially adopting the form *deport* in the Provençal language which historically became *deport* in Catalan, *disporto* in Italian, *desporto* in Portuguese, *desport* in French and *deporte* in Castilian. All these terms were interpreted in the sense of “recreation, amusement, entertainment”. In 13<sup>th</sup> century’s French the word *deport* and its variant *desport* were in use and they conveyed the concepts of “entertainment, amusement and recreation”. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when England was somewhat politically and culturally dominated by France, the French variant *desport* was introduced into the English language as *disport*. It was one of a series of Gallicisms which were introduced in England during that period. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century an apheresis of the term occurred and it transformed from *disport* into *sport*. In 1523 the New

English Dictionary for the first time defined the meaning of *sport* as “a game or particular form of passing the time” in which *sport* is referred to as a game or a particular type of hobby (Alvar, 2009). Later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the English term *sport* modified its meaning as it then referred to some rather competitive outdoor recreational and physical activities (Viada, 1903).

Since its birth in the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the term *deporte* capriciously appears and disappears in the Castilian literary language until the 18<sup>th</sup> century when it is recorded by the Dictionary of Authorities (1726-1739). We will see the context in which and the concept of the word *deporte* in use through the revision of some of the Castilian texts between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries for the first time.

We found the following Latin-Spanish entry in the prestigious bilingual Latin-Spanish Dictionary of Antonio de Nebrija published in 1492: “*Deporto, as, aui*: to bring something from a place” or “to banish someone to a certain place” (Nebrija, 1516, p.53). Entry and equivalence which is close to the term *depuerto*, a term prior to *deporte*, for its form and meaning since *depuerto* meant in the 13<sup>th</sup> century “to go outside the gates of the city” usually in order to enjoy oneself and have fun.

The other masterpiece of our academic dictionaries, origin of the current Dictionary, is the *Tesoro de la lengua castellana o española* of Sebastián Covarrubias which was published in 1611 (Covarrubias, 1943). We checked the entries *deporte*, *depuerto*, *deportarse* or similar ones and we did not find anything. The term disappears in an official compilation book which attempted to reveal the meaning and use of the words from our language during that period. However, in other texts like that of Fray Pedro de Cobarrubias (1543) in *El remedio de jugadores*, it is mentioned that games y sports are very important in human life (p.39). They also mentions that “the game invented for rest and sport to stimulate the strengths of the body or ingenuity” (p.21) had to be continuous after work since “it is important to entertain the spirit in the human life with games, sport and hobbies” (p.6).

Another proof for the persistence of the term is the description made by the Augustinian friar Jerónimo Román (1595) in which he referred to the indigenous populations of the New World as follows: “they also had dances and games as their sport for specific days, they played with a ball” (p.174). Quoting the works of Aristotle, it was commented that the hobbies which “are these vulgar sport games, hunting and other similar exercises and recreations: which are not the real happiness but ways of cheering oneself up in order to better carry on with work” (Simon, 1584, p.259). Hunting was commonly referred to as one of the healthiest sports practiced by all the princes:

Through the practice of hunting the limbs are strengthened, health is preserved and the mood is entertained. Mithridates, Adriano, Carlo Magno, Henrico Primero and Alberto Emperors considered hunting as a way to relieve their sorrows. Trajano

did not want any other relief but hunting to go come back stronger to his efforts and fatigues (Mendo, 1662, p.104).

Furthermore, as Trapero points out (1994):

“Other recreational exercises of the period were also considered *sport*: hunting and all types of riding, jousting and the tournaments, banquets and dinner parties, spear games and bullfighting, bowling, horseshoes, spears, throwing bars, sticks or stones, ballgame, *chueca* (short stick with both ends sharpened)” (Trapero, 1994, p.94).

However, as Ortega y Gasset (1924) or Gallego Morell (1969) mentioned, the word *solatz* or *solaz* (solace) also existed to define the concept derived from the game or the corporal exercise: spear games, tournaments, jousting, dances, etc. But the word later also meant pleasure, entertainment, happiness, amusement, etc.

Trapero (1994) reveals to us that he could not find the word *deporte* then in texts from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries although he acknowledges that the word remained alive in speech. Certainly, we can find in the 18<sup>th</sup> century text in the Castilian language with the word *deporte* to express activities related to recreation, physical exercise and even health.

There is nothing better than resorting to the Dictionary of Authorities (1732), the first dictionary of the Spanish Royal Academy, where we can find as meaning of the word *deporte* the concept of physical exercise included in the expression “fatigue”, although subordinate to entertainment, relief and leisure time:

DEPORTE. f. m. Entertainment, ease, hobby. It consists of the preposition *De* and the word *Porte*: it means to carry or transfer or move things from one place to another, it could also mean that one disposed of absolutely everything that was fatigue and stress in order to enjoy oneself better (Spanish Royal Academy, 1732, p.75).

Another example of the use of the term appears at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century when it was advised that there should be recreations in convents for nuns to practice “decent sport”, play and relax from their duties (Arbiol, 1776, pages 457-460). We found another use of the word in some verses published in the *Semanario de Zaragoza* “full entertainment, the jolly mountain dance, the peaceful game that encourages friendship in sport” (Poesía, 1798, p. 372). In the *Diccionario Castellano con las voces de Ciencias y Artes de Terrenos* (1786-1793) we can find the verb *deportarse* with the meaning “to enjoy oneself” or “to go for a walk”, even though it had a limited use. We can also find the word *deporte* referring to “entertainment”, “ease” as well as “mockery” or “vanity” (p.610).

However, Trapero (1994) claims that “medieval *depuerto* or a part of medieval sports became exercise, gymnastics and physical education in the 19<sup>th</sup> century” (p.99). This significant semantic change is explained by the presence of certain precedents since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when the term *corporal exercise* began to have a medical-hygienic conception that was linked to the strengthening and improvement of health, to the influence of medical sciences and the appearance of gymnastic currents in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Méndez, 1553). The *Diccionario Castellano* (Castilian Dictionary) (Terreros, 1787) in which we find the definition “Gymnastics: art of exercising the body. Horse riding, the spear, the sword. The same word is used for the part of Medicine which deals with body exercises as regards health” (p.389).

The origin of the expression physical education is linked to the Swiss doctor Jean Ballexserd (1726-1774) who was the first authority to coin it in the title of a paper: *Dissertation sur l'éducation physique des enfants, depuis leur naissance jusqu'à l'âge de la puberté* (Dissertation on physical education in children since birth until puberty) (1762). In this book, Ballexserd used the meaning of physical education referring to its hygienic-pedagogical aim, which separated gymnastics from the exclusive competence of medicine.

Ballexserd's work was translated and published in 1765, 1769 and 1787 but the meaning “physical education” was translated and/or frequently replaced by the word “physical breeding” since it dealt with hygienic and educational concerns of the infancy. From these dates, the first local works were published including the modern concept regarding hygienic and pedagogical precepts about the education of childhood (Amar, 1790; Domínguez, 1786). The conceptual impact of physical education in Spain developed in the various 19<sup>th</sup> century contributions, which through the approval of gymnastic exercises or corporal games in the pedagogical, hygienic and military context, culminated in the appearance of *sport* or *deporte* and the institutionalization of school physical education in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Torrebadella, 2009). However, during the whole 19<sup>th</sup> century the terminological and conceptual use between the expressions gymnastics, corporal games, corporal exercise or physical education will prove utterly confusing. For instance, the concept of gymnastics had a series of definitions and as quoted by Juan Bautista Amorós (1893), the understanding of the word was subject to numerous perceptions:

The word Gymnastics has remained intact throughout the various civilizations, scientific breakthroughs and costumes; and currently it does not precisely convey a specific and clear idea. Therefore, there are multiple definitions of Gymnastics since they include the costumes of the period, scientific development, and they were on occasions subject to the preferences of the authors (Amorós, 1893, pages 204-206).

With the introduction of the word *sport* or *deporte* in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the conceptual conflict created greater confusion. And at the end of the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, sport had become highly popular, especially with football, at that time the Frenchman Georges Cavia (1925) mentioned in a book



with great impact in Spain that it was necessary to clarify the conceptual differences between *Physical Education*, *Sport* and *Gymnastics*:

First of all, a clear distinction between Sport, Physical Education and Gymnastics should be established. When dealing with such matters, confusion regarding their meaning commonly arises and irrelevant discussions are held as a result of a lack of good definitions that allow everyone to know exactly what each of the terms used means (Hébert, 1925, p.19).

To sum up, we can affirm that the first origin of the word *deporte* that we know comes from the word *deport* in the Provençal language which is documented in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries with the meaning of “recreation”, “amusement”, “entertainment”. From here, the other Romance languages that evolve from Latin produce derived forms with the same meaning that historically develop into the Catalan *deport*, the Italian *disport*, the Portuguese *desporto*, the French *desport* and the Castilian *depuerto* and later *deporte*.

The noun *deporte* is found in the Castilian language approximately in 1440 with the meaning of “pleasure, entertainment”, a word that came from another noun *depuerto* (13<sup>th</sup> century). This term comes from the ancient verb *deportarse*, in 1260, with the meaning of “to enjoy oneself, to leave to rest” and this one in turn comes from the Latin *deportare* “to transfer, to transport” (maybe to distract the mind). From the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the noun *deporte* appears and disappears capriciously in the texts, although it manages to survive and it enters the *Dictionary of Authorities* (1732) with the medieval concept of “amusement, rest and leisure time” but implying the component “fatigue” (physical exercise aimed at entertainment and relief or relaxation). With the introduction of the Anglicism *sport* in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there is a setback and abandonment of the term *deporte* which will last for most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3. THE INFLUENCE OF SPORT

Following the expansion of the British Empire and the administration of British colonies in territories over the five continents, the influence of the English language spread over large regions of the planet. Thus, in approximately the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century this influence echoed and appeared in the western European cultures: France, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy and Spain.

Before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the concept of *sportsmen* was already mentioned in the Spanish press referring to the English *dandies* and their interests in corporal games and horse races (Variedades, 1847, p.3). For example, it is worth pointing out that in Barcelona Juan Sureda already suggested that the Anglicisms *sportman* and *sport* should be accepted:

In an era like ours where there seems to be a general interest in horse riding and other gymnastic exercises, why not taking the word *sportman* from the English language since it means the man who is fond of horses, hunting and other similar pleasures as well as the adjective *sport* expresses the set of such exercises (Sue, 1844, p.121).

It was mentioned that *Sportsman* was the first specialized sport newspaper published in London in 1852; a title which a couple of years later was absorbed by *Sporting Life* (1859). However, an incipient sport press was already noticeable earlier in London in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Mason, 1994). In 1800, the *Sporting Magazine* was launched, which dealt with rural sports such as boxing fights and some news about football and cricket was delivered. This type of publications kept growing into the weekly newspapers that represented the powerful hunting industry, horse riding and horse races: *The Sportsman's Cabinet* (1832), *Sporting Magazine* (1834) or *The Sportsman* (1836). The change originated from *The Sporting World or Life in London & the country*, a weekly newspaper whose first edition appeared in March 15<sup>th</sup> 1845, and it extended the sport arena with the constant presence in its pages of boxing apart from other *sports* like horse races, fishing, hunting, swimming, sailing, rowing, fencing, cricket or archery and some news about *football*.

These and other monographic publications about English games and sports were common knowledge among the exiled Liberals in London who, following their return in Spain during the Regency of Maria Christina, imported all this gymnastic and sport atmosphere which was produced in England. Subsequently, the permanent contact with the acquaintances and friends made in England during their exile maintained a constant flow with the news that happened there.

The press of Madrid used to publish the news of the English *sport* in connection with the horse racing events held in the new racecourse of the capital. In *El Español* (Madrid, 1846) the debate over the European leisure model was fueled and attempts were made to distinguish the English *sport* from the Spanish counterpart, genuinely represented by the bulls:

Sport is a word of modern use and, therefore, weak and ill-defined in England, home to sport, it is used to refer to any break or playtime that consists of corporal exercise, which requires strength or skill and is accompanied by some kind of danger. Provided something is English, it will spread beyond seas and reach the whole world (El hipódromo, 1846, p.2).

This influence meant a noticeable range of meanings for the imported word *sport* since if we check the dictionary of that period, the Anglicism could be translated or interpreted as game, joke, toy, amusement, hobby, mockery, hunting, fishing, bull fighting, horse race, country entertainments or recreational activities (Neuman and Baretti, 1840; Seoane, 1849). The recreational literature

which was introduced both in France and Spain reflected the snobbery that characterized the social meetings of the English bourgeoisie, where sport stood out as a recreational and entertaining element.

Fencing is a sport. So is the ball game, ancient boxing, cockfight, rowing and jokey are equally understood through the use of this British term, which can be applied to any human entertainment in which strength or dexterity play any role (Grandeville, 1852, pages 126-134).

The concept *sport* in Spain during the Elizabethan era identified the leisure activities of the elegant French and English societies. Thus, *sport* was associated with activities like horse riding, horse races, bull fighting, skating, hunting, fencing, ball game and sailing regattas.

The *Gaceta del Sport* was most probably, the first newspaper publication whose heading revealed the word sport (Madrid, 1873). Later on other publications such as *El Sport Español* (Cádiz, 1876), which considered themselves as the first Spanish sport magazine, followed suit (Altabella, 1987). This publication contained activities like pigeon shooting, ball game, velocipedes or regattas. In Madrid, *El Campo* (1876-1881), described itself as an agriculture, gardening and sport fortnightly magazine. During that time, the concept *sport* was already perfectly linked to physical recreations according to the press: “Besides, *El Campo* is the Spanish sport newspaper”; As a matter of fact, it provided news about horse races, pigeon shooting events, bull fighting competitions, hunting, regattas and the appearance of new *sports* like lawn tennis and croquet (Ecos de Madrid, 1878, p.1). The sections “News of Paris”, in which some trendy *sports* chronicles appeared, were frequent in the press.

In the last twenty years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the model of the Anglo-Saxon *sportsman* was socially reproduced in the atmospheres of the Spanish bourgeoisie and aristocracy mainly as a result of their political leadership as well as cultural and social vitality. The international news of the press and lifestyle magazines spread elitist practices of *sport* that revealed the glamour corresponding to the European high society (Torrebadella-Flix and Olivera-Betrán, 2013). Subsequently, the first sport clubs connected to sailing regattas, rowing, horse races and competitions or velocipede appeared in Spain (Torrebadella, 2011). However, we must mention that the English *sport* practiced in Spain was mixed up with the country’s own “traditional” recreations or games such as ball game, fencing, hunting, pigeon shooting, dancing, running, throwing, regional wrestling games or tug of war. The daily newspaper *La Ilustración Española y Americana* offered in that year news about the English trendy *sports* and mentioned:

Everybody is aware of the great attention paid to physical education in England, where pupils’ games during school breaktime almost always consist of gymnastic exercises. Moreover, the English corporal games have another particular

circumstance in the sense that although they are invented for youngsters, they get under the control of more serious people and later becomes the favourite entertainment of the European high aristocracy (Recreos Campestres, 1880, pages 51-52).

Around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the new phenomenon of *sport* was progressively introduced in the civil life of European societies. It established new cultural links and contributed to the introduction of many Anglicisms into the European languages modifying every language's specific semantic aspects. In Spain, that influence also originated in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, long before what some authors had sustained, even though the first magazines with the heading *sport* were edited three decades later (1873). Initially, the imported word *sport* and its conceptual etiquette referring to the imported English recreational and corporal activities were adopted. However, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Anglicism *sport* started to be replaced by the Castilian term *deporte* amid linguistic discussion in favor of the recovery of the pertinent noun in Castilian language. Similarly in Catalonia, in the early 1920s, the term *esport* was adopted to name these activities from Britain instead of the English word *sport* (Torrebadella and Planas, 2011).

#### 4. THE RECOVERY OF THE WORD *DEPORTE*

During almost all the 19<sup>th</sup> century the word *deporte* remained in general disuse. But the word was not forgotten in the dictionaries of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries of the Academia Española which maintained the authorized entries of the 1791 edition: "Deporte. Singular. Masculine. The same as recreation, hobby, pleasure, entertainment", where we checked the introduction of two new words, recreation and pleasure (p.295). Similarly, the verb *deportar* was maintained and the adjective "Deportoso, adjective. The same as funny or entertained" (p.295), and it could be understood as an expression related to a funny or entertaining person –or entertaining act- or a person who knew how to *deportarse* –to enjoy oneself, to have fun etc.-, derived from the verb *deportar*, which the same dictionary defined as "to enjoy oneself".

The fact that the word *deporte* remained alive is confirmed in an item of news from the *Eco Republicano de Compostela*, where it was surprising to find the word *deporte* as referring to the sailors of an English cargo ship anchored in the port of Villagarcía who practiced *foot-ball* in their spare time using "*the regulations of this sport*". The piece of news also commented: "This sport has become very popular among us" (Puerto de Villagarcía, 1873, p.1). The exceptional presence in this piece of news of the word *deporte* to refer to foot-ball, makes it one of the first contemporary authorized references to replace the English word *sport* (Torrebadella-Flix and Nomdedeu-Rull, 2013).

The word *deporte* never disappeared from dictionaries. In the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the RAE (Royal Spanish Academy) dictionary (1884) included the etymological root meaning "(From Provençal *deport*) masculine. Recreation, hobby, pleasure,

entertainment”, although it had practically been removed from the popular language (p.348).

In 1881 the Minister of Development José Luis Albareda, in response to the preliminary speech of the law proposal declaring the official teaching of the hygienic gymnastics that was presented by the deputy Manuel Becerra -31 October 1881-, which then led to the creation of the Central School of Gymnastics Teachers, the first Law of our physical education (9 March 1883), stated that:

The trivialized English word *sport*, and I use this word because no other substitute word has been found, is the combination of life and country activities, and represents, in my view, not a trend nor a vulgar entertainment, but a means of civilization, progress, development of the individuals who make up society (Escuela Central de Profesoras y Profesores de Gimnástica, 1887, p.XX).

Nicolás Estevanez (1838-1914) voiced the same opinion some years later wondering “Do we not have the necessary terms in our language or mother tongue to express ourselves in English?” He rightfully mentioned that “is unconceivable that, having such a rich and abundant language, we say *sport*” (Estévanez, 1892, p.1).

Various studies attribute the paternity in the recovery of the word deporte (Blanco, 1994; Castro, 1967; Trapero, 1994) to the writer Emilia Pardo Bazán (1851-1921). The first two refer to the references made in 1896 in *La Ilustración Española y Americana* (Castro, 1967). Luis Álvarez-Borbón – pseudonym of Antonio Viada- (1896) mentioned in the “Notas de Sport” of this weekly publication that:

Sports, as called today, with timely archaism resuscitated by the novelist Emilia Pardo Bazán, are today sociologically acknowledged, therefore backing the Greeks in the sense that they prolong life, strengthen the body and free the mind (Álvarez, 1896, p.25).

Antonio Viada (1896, 1903) voiced the same opinion on various occasions, who in 1896 contributed to the “convenience of rendering the *sportiva* terminology into Spanish” and therefore suggested using the archaism *deporte*:

The word sport has turned universal in all the languages since it is used, apart from the English, by the French, the Germans, the Italians and the Spanish, and it proves now difficult to remove from our language. However, we have the word *deporte*, refined by Pardo Bazán, with which we could make the words *deportista* instead of *sportsman* or *sportswoman*, and *deportivo* instead of *sportivo*. Furthermore, the meaningless

words did not meet success, and there is no other choice than sticking with the popular trend, which prefers the exotic but universal word *sport* although it is absolutely anti-Spanish to pronounce the liquid s, which we naturally transform into es when pronouncing the word (Viada, 1896, back cover).

Trapero (1994) mentions that the word *deporte* “has a novel, *La Sirena Negra*, the first text in which it is documented between 1891 and 1896” (p.100). However, this novel remained unknown until the edition of 1908, a time when the word *deporte* was already fully used. Nevertheless, we need to highlight the fact that the references to *deporte* mentioned by Emilio Pardo in *La Sirena Negra* do not confirm the general interpretation of sport at that time as a recreational physical exercise (Pardo, 1947). The same idea was found in one of his stories when he stated that: “to dream about sports and running round the green field” (Pardo, 1895, p.2). Similarly, we have checked how the writer frequently used the term *sport* in the chronicles of the “Contemporary life” published in the *Ilustración Artística* between 1896 and 1911. On most occasions, the acceptance of the term did not correspond to the game of physical exercise, but rather to the replacement archaic concept *deporte*. Here are some examples: “You create postcards, they arrive exactly the same way as sealed letters; neither do they get lost, nor does anybody dedicate themselves to the *sport* of reading them” (Pardo, 1900, p.362); “The type of lady who goes out shopping for pleasure and fun just does not exist in Madrid. In Paris, however, going shopping really is a *sport*” (Pardo, 1911, p.110). Emilia Pardo was inclined towards attending *sport* events venues. The relation between *sport* and the aristocracy led the scholar to the composition of some social chronicles. When Emilia Pardo dealt with matters in connection with the popular corporal exercises and games of that time, she did not write with the word *deporte* but she preferably used the word *sport* (Pardo, 1896, p. 466). Later on, Antonio Viada (1903) once again acknowledged in the *Manual del sport* that the word *deporte* was resuscitated from an archaism by Emilia Pardo in approximately 1895 and used again “to indicate the same sense of the meaning of the English word *sport*, that is to say as outdoor physical recreation” (p.11).

Following our investigations we want to amend the repeated statement about the paternity of Emilia Pardo concerning the inclusion in the Castilian language of the word *deporte*, as semantic validation for *sport*, since we notice serious contradictions between what she claims and what she writes in her books. Subsequently, we must re-interpret Corominas (1980) when he states that the term “*deporte* was resuscitated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to translate the English word *sport*” (p.205). In this study we defend the figure of the writer and journalist Mariano de Cavia (1855-1920) as the first person to promote an active, coherent and continuous propaganda in favor of the use of the word *deporte* instead of the Anglicism *sport* (Torrebadella, 2009; Torrebadella-Flix and Nomdedeu-Rull, 2013).

Between 1887 and 1888 Mariano de Cavia with the pseudonym “Sobaquillo o de Portal de Belem” already used in the bullfighting chronicles the Spanish word

*deporte* with reference to the English translation of the word *sport* (Cávia, 1887; Sobaquilla, 1888). In 1891 Mariano de Cávia in an article seized the opportunity to remind the reader again that “*sport* is *deporte* in Castilian” (Cávia, 1891b, p.6). This is how he considered the “Basque *deporte*” to refer to the Basque ball game (Cávia, 1891a, p.1), or “beautiful sports of skills and strength”, to deal with the corporal Basque games (Portal de Belem, 1891, p.3). In 1894 Mariano de Cávia undertook once again the terminological discussion claiming that “*Sport* is called *deporte* in Castilian; clean, pure and genuine word”. He similarly suggested that the equivalence *sportmen* (men of sport) should be accepted and that the word *deportistas* should be admitted (Cávia, 1894, pages 1-2). In 1895 “Sobaquillo” already included the derivation *deportista* in his articles and underestimated or trivialized the adoption in the Castilian language of the Anglicisms *sport* and *sportmen*. With reference to the accidents in racecourses and velodromes, he mentioned: “These sports are very healthy, hygienic and for learned people; but the athlete risks being moved out forever” (Sobaquillo, 1895, pages 1-4).

However, some authors continued to mention that the word *sport* did not have any “translation in our language, the practice of all those exercises that aim to develop muscular strength, skill, courage, especially when there is an emulation component” (Sea sports, 1902, p.8). The frequent use of the English words led Mariano de Cávia to keep insisting on the aggression caused to the language (Cávia, 2008). Therefore, whenever he could, he referred to expressions that continuously repeated the correct use of the words such as the one referring to “the sport newspapers –or *sportivos*, also said in a barbarous way” (Cávia, 1903, p.1). On occasions, he would deal with the matter with an ironical and trivial tone, without disrespect, but always with the idea of linguistically normalizing Spanish sport (Cávia, 1904).

Throughout the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the arbitrariness of the word *deporte* versus that of *sport* kept alternating indistinctly and ambiguously in the press, with some references occasionally coming up concerning the foreignization of the sport lexis and consequently that of the Castilian language (Alaguero, 1919). It was thus mentioned that in the case of the word *sport*, it was introduced into England through the French culture since “the word *desport*, *desporter* were used in old French in the sense of recreation in a verse from the 18<sup>th</sup> century that says: *Pour déduire, pour desporter. Et pour son corps recouporter*” (La palabra sport, 1904, p.438).

José Elías Juncosa introduced into the *Enciclopedia ilustrada Seguí* what could possibly be the first non-academic definition of the term *deporte*, claiming its Provençal root as origin “the Castilian language has derived the word *deporte*, which translates the very old English word *sport*, used universally today”. Moreover, it included the words *deportista* (athlete), *deportivamente* (sportwise) and *deportivo* (sport, adjective). In this sense and regarding the innovation of the technical sport words in the Castilian language, Josep Elías was ahead of the *Diccionario de la Real Academia*:

Deportista, masculine. Although underused, strictly and effectively means a person who is fond of various or all the sports; using very frequently, however, the English word sportman instead of the Spanish one (Seguí, 1911-1921, pages 201-202).

In 1934 he continued to insist on the use of Anglicisms in sport and the lack of linguistic up-to-date data:

It is shocking that those who reject the unanimously accepted term *sport* because it is foreign and instead advocate the word *deporte* make a tremendous mistake since neither is the later word Castilian, nor does it directly come from Latin since it is another transformation from the Provençal word *deport* (De-las-Casas, 1934, p.6).

However, we are aware that, despite the efforts of these authors and undeniable progress in the sensibility and the awareness of the Spanish media, the word *deporte* did not take over the word *sport* until the end of the 1920s in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 5. THE PRESS OF *DEPORTE* VERSUS THE PRESS OF *SPORT*

*Crónica del Sport* was a fortnightly illustrated publication (1893-1896) which established itself as a magazine about *hobbies* in which the most common sport news came from abroad (Seoane and Saiz, 1996). Some of these news items in the form of brief chronicles referred to practically unknown sports in Spain: football, lawn-tennis, boxing, swimming or athletics. The most frequent and prominent reviews about sport practices were chronicles about hunting, fencing and velocipedes, although articles about regattas, horse riding, ball game, bowling, cockfights, pigeon shooting, gymnastics, children's sport (corporal games), theater and bullfighting were also found.

*Crónica del Sport* was first edited in Madrid in 1893 and was one of the popular sport magazines in our country. But there were many other publications at that time with the title *sport* in their headings (Torrebadella-Flix and Olivera-Betrán, 2013), from the pioneering *Gaceta del Sport* (Madrid, 1873) and *El Sport Español* (Cádiz, 1876) until a series of publications which are edited at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the Anglicism: *El Correo del Sport* (Madrid, 1881), *El Sport* (Madrid, 1887), *Veloz Sport* (Madrid, 1892), *Madrid Sport* (1896) or *Barcelona Sport* (1897).

But the sections that appeared in the general newspapers were as important as the sport press. The specialized press only reached the *sport* fans, but conventional press covered a far greater portion of the population. In Madrid, newspapers like *La Iberia* (1887), *El Liberal* (1890) or *La Época* (1891) included



occasional sections called “Notes of Sport” which almost always dealt with events related to horse races.

In Barcelona, the *sport* sections of newspapers such as *La Dinastía* or *La Vanguardia* were the first to aim at stimulating the incipient local presence of all the corporal practices related to physical education. In these *sport* sections, apart from stimulating and encourage the sport assotianism, the journey leading up to the future specialized sport press was initiated.

On 3 November 1892, *La Dinastía* –daily newspaper about politics, literature, trade and notifications- presented in its section “International Sport” a column written by E. Font Valencia who addressed the newspaper’s readership in order to spread the great benefits of physical education and *sport*, following the same tradition as in other European countries (Font, 1892). Subsequently, *La Vanguardia* included on the 26 October 1894 a section called “Crónica de sport” (sport chronicle), directed and edited by Franco who initially followed the “the habit of first revising the most important issues that occurred abroad”. From 1898 this column or section was signed by Alberto Serra, who eventually stood out as one of the most influential and important sport critics at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In *La Vanguardia* the word *deporte* started to gain popularity in 1897. Thus, expressions about “Basque sport”, “velocipede” (1897), “sport hobby” (1897) or the “sport commission” (1898) appeared. At that time, news concerning the next launching of *Barcelona Sport* “new weekly newspaper which would exclusively deal with sport in its different manifestations” (Cycling news, 1897, p.2). The news item “*Los Deportes*, will start to be published shortly as the title of an illustrated magazine aiming at representing in the press various important *sport* centers” (Noticias locales, 1897, p.2).

The press in Madrid considered the Castilian word *deporte* and they subsequently referred to it as their own expression: “It refers to hunting, races and other *sports* or *deportes*” (Noticias, 1894, p.2) Between 1894 and 1895, the term *deporte* appeared on some occasions to sometimes refer to expressions like “equestrian sport”, “velocipede sport”, “modern sport”, “popular sport”, “fashionable sport”, “gymnastics and sport”, “hygienic sport” or “hunting sport” (*El ejercicio del tiro al arco*, 1894; Tolosa, 1895).

The campaign launched by Mariano de Cavia (1895) mentioned in *El Imparcial* that “the Latin world struggled to learn from the Anglo-Saxon world”, but yet a “*Spanish sport*” needed to be created, which became popular in Madrid with the publication of the magazine *El Deporte Velocipédico* (1895). This magazine owned and directed by José María Sierra, used for the first time the word *deporte* in the heading (Viada, 1903).

The usual generalization of the word was particularly admitted with the publication of the biweekly illustrated magazine from Barcelona called *Los Deportes* (1897-1910), which represented in Barcelona the official Spanish

Federation of Gymnastics and which was initially led by Narciso Masferrer (1867-1941). That was when Antonio Viada (1902b) decided to collaborate with the publication *Los Deportes* on systematically making the Anglo-Saxon sport vocabulary Spanish (Torrebadella-Flix and Nomdedeu-Rull, 2013). Viada analyzed in the *Manual del Sport* (1903) the origin of the words *sport* and *deporte*, pointing out that the *Diccionario de la Academia* did not include the words *sport* and *sportman* in contrast to the French and German dictionaries. Moreover, it mentioned on this matter that:

Nowadays, regardless of whether the royal academy keeps maintaining the meaning that the word *deporte* could have had many years ago, the word is not used in another sense except that of *sport*; a word, which despite having been and now being used a lot in Spain, is not considered natural because it fails to adapt to the structure and the inflexions of the Castilian language. When the adjective *deportivo* is used frequently and has replaced the exotic word *sportive*. The noun *deportista* however failed to establish itself and proscribe the the use of the English noun *sportman* or *sportsman* and its plural forms *sportmen* or *sportsmen* (Viada, 1903, pages 11-12).

In Barcelona, Narciso Masferrer, was the first to use headings with the adjective *deportivo* in the press: weekly publication called *Vida Deportiva* (1903) and *El Mundo Deportivo* (1906). Thus, he effectively contributed to the spreading of the sport terminology in the Spanish language since other headings continued to use the the English word except *Sevilla Deportiva* (1901) or *Bilbao Deportivo* (1903).

Funnily, the rest of the sport press continued to use the Anglicism *sport* in their headings. In Madrid, the *Heraldo Sport* (1902), *Revista del Sport* (1903), *Sport Español* (1905), *Sport Universal* (1906) or *Los Sport* (1910) were very significant. And in Barcelona: *Sports. Revista catalana d'educació física* (1908), *Eco Sports* (1909) o *El Sport* (1910). Similarly, we can find the sections "Notas de Sport" that reported about the national sport in newspapers like *La Correspondencia de España* (1900), *El Liberal* (1942) or *El País* (1907). In contrast, in Barcelona, *La Dinastía* (1901) already used the section with the title "Notas deportivas" (Sport Notes). As regards the content at that time, the Anglicisms derived from the word *sport* continued to switch with the Castilian terms derived from the noun *deporte*.

Alberto Serra, journalist of *La Vanguardia* and manager of the section "Crónica de sport", was one of the strongest advocates of the use of the Anglicism *sport* at the expense of the Spanish term *deporte* (claimed by Mariano de Cavia, Antonio Viada, Narciso Masferrer, Miguel Salvador or José Elías). According to Serra the English expression *sport* implies "an advanced stage of physical education", which was not included into the term *deporte* since its meaning in the *Real Diccionario de la Lengua Española* refers to "recreation, entertainment, hobby". Therefore, the word *deporte* as defined by the royal dictionary did not

cover the aim of *sport*, which includes “hygiene, physical growth, which is perfectly combined with the mindset of the individual” (Serra, 1902, p.7). At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the first Spanish sport magazines are launched and the vast majority uses the term *sport* in their headings. Similarly, the main general daily newspapers of that time also use the word *sport* to name the sections about these new practices. However, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the term *deporte* started to be preferred in the headings of the new sport magazines, since the pioneering magazine with the title *El Deporte Velocipédico* (Madrid, 1895) to *Vida Deportiva* (Barcelona/Madrid, 1903), *El Mundo Deportivo* (Barcelona, 1906) or even the names turned into Spanish for the sport sections of the major Spanish daily newspapers of that time. The magazine *Los Deportes* (1897-1910) played a key role in the etymological change since it was, because of its title, editing policy and collaborators, the main written means of communication which contributed to the normalization of the Castilian word *deporte* and its derivations in the Castilian language (Torrebadella-Flix and Olivera Betrán, 2013).

However, until the late 1920s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the situation would remain the same with the predominance of the word *deporte* and its Castilian derivations over in relation to *sport* and the convoluted English words connected with this Anglicism. In that linguistic crusade, not only did the establishment of the word *deporte* or the Anglicism *sport* dissolve, but also the need for turning into Castilian all the English terms derived from the sports that were entering our country (Viada, 1920a).

## 6. FIRST DEFINITIONS OF THE CONCEPT SPORT (1892-1932)

During the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the semantic question regarding the concept *sport* or *deporte* provoked a certain epistemological seduction which left some interesting papers to us. In this study, we want to analyze the first attempted definitions by various authors from different fields of research from 1892 until 1932 who edited their proposals in the written press of our country. Thus, they contributed to the enrichment of the semantic field of the concept trying to answer the question “what is sport?”.

In 1895, we found another new definition of *sport*, which would correspond at that time to the possibility of using in Castilian the term *deporte* referring to “Recreation, hobby, pleasure or entertainment”.

Sport is an English word that means game, entertainment, pleasure and can apply to all special distractions that the human being gets through different means, hence the expression velocipede sport or quick sport, the pleasure and distraction or riding a velocipede; equestrian sport, horse riding; *sports* can also mean fishing, hunting, sailing, within certain limits, and in general, all the activities that are carried out as distractions and hobbies, with that word having become almost

natural in every language (Dos compañeros del pedal, 1895, p.1).

Consequently, the doctor David Ferrer (1897) analyzed the meaning of “sport or the corporal games in use” in *Los Deportes*:

Sports are the practical way of satisfying a need. Therefore, we see that reason is linked to the instinct in order to make us carry out the different forms of pleasant movement. With them we attend the multiple aim of the necessary movement, rest, intelligence and its development in an unconscious was most of the time, expression of the noble feeling, manifestation of will, learning of a useful job, individual's general satisfaction, in a few words: the aim of health, bravery, power and virtue (Ferrer, 1897, pages 34-35).

Between these first definitions of the word *deporte* from the 19<sup>th</sup> century we find that offered by Doctor García Fraguas (1897) which during some time was accepted by the physical Education teacher Marcelo Sanz (1915).

*Sport* or *deporte*, is a set of normalized and practiced physical exercises in order to train for entertainment for the sake of vanity or personal physical activity without paying attention to its effects nor social importance like dancing, horse riding, cycling, canoeing, stilts, skates, sleighs, boxing, fencing, hunting, archery, gymnastic acrobatics of the industrial establishments, etc. (G-Fraguas, 1897, p.2).

For Antonio Viada, author of the *Manual del Sport* (1903), *deporte* was “outdoor physical exercise that is practiced on impulse as entertainment” (p.9). Another definition is found in a book on physical education called “*Nociones de ejercicios corporales*” (1909), where it was explained that “*Sport* or *deporte* is the set of regulated and practiced exercises in order to train during a specific recreation or training session without paying attention to the educational consequences or individual nor social aim” (*Nociones de ejercicios corporales*, 1909, p. 9). However, the Reverend Félix Sardá (1908) conceptualized the word *sport* in the sense corresponding to the old Castilian expression *deporte*, which meant recreation or relaxation of the mind. Thus he suggested various types of sport: gymnastic sport, literary sport, photographic sport, musical sport and excursion.

In the *Enciclopedia ilustrada Seguí* (1911-1921) José Elías defined the word *deporte* like this:

Any physical exercise mainly performed outdoor, aiming at, although superficially, a hygienic purpose, and which is practiced either on impulse or as a recreational means. Any outdoor game, entertainment or amusement is also accepted

into that list nowadays, whose many words had no other reason to exist but the caprice or fashion that words undergo according to the time periods (Seguí, 1911-1921, pages 201-202).

During that period the Spanish Dictionary (*Diccionario Español*) re-define *deporte* as “to entertain, relax, have fun”. Nevertheless, Marcelo Sanz thought that the definition of the word *deporte* by the Spanish Dictionary did not express nor satisfy the meaning of modern sports. Therefore, Marcelo Sanz (1913), borrowed the English word *sport* claiming that “it is necessary to admit the word *sport*, which better expressed all these sports in the sense that they all imply some kind of danger when practiced” (p.1). Two years later, this Physical Education teacher commented that:

*Sports* are worthless for schools from both the educational and hygienic concept viewpoints. They might be socially significant as they entertain and amuse the individual, but free people are equally entertained by the collection of stamps or other items (Sanz, 1915, p.134).

Another definition offered by the journalist José Elías (1917) described the word *deporte* as “a set of muscular exercises and games that is aimed at exercising or fulfilling a person’s physiological life, improving the human body so that it becomes as highly perfect as possible from the physical viewpoint” (p.3). Dr. César Juarrós (1925, p.130), one of the most rebellious critics about the process of social institutionalization of the word *sport*, offers the following definition of *deporte*: “it is a means through which we can happily consume the remaining physical energy at our disposal, keeping the muscular mechanisms active and ready, but sport is neither physical education nor its method”. F. J. Fernández Trapiella (1933), a Gymnastics teacher at the Central School of Toledo and author of an important book on physical education, shared the same opinion.

Other definitions were given by authors from the Catholic Church such as Father Ruiz Amado (1924, p.258), for whom sport corresponds to “game or entertainment, which is now being used to refer to what the English people call *sports* or games and physical exercises aimed at the development of the body as well as the relaxation of the mind”. Others came from the medical and naturalist fields like the one offered by the naturalist doctor Eduardo Alfonso (1925, p.230) for whom sports were defined as “complex physical movements or exercises carried out with or without special equipment, whose objective is to entertain and relax the body as well as the mind, the teaching of certain abilities and sometimes practicality”. It was during that time when the phrase “generally practiced outdoors” was added to the entry of the word *deporte* in the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Dictionary of the Royal Academy of Language* (1925).

In the 1930s the conceptual ambiguity produced very unusual definitions. For Dr. Mollá (1931), sport is the “organic activity controlled by intelligence and improved through distraction and whose objective is to heighten the somatic

power of the body, which is undermined by overpopulation in big cities” (pages 5-6). For Marcel Sanz (1932), sports and games were simply a motivating gymnastic application:

Games and sports, or applied gymnastics consisting of the synthesis of movements and the emotions from pleasure, or the importance of satisfying with free and not systematically regulate movements, which make up sport” (Sanz, 1932, p.20).

The first definitions corresponding to the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are basically descriptive. They attempt to list the sport practices of that time imported from the English *sport*, which have a recreational, entertaining and amusing aim, but without any other use. However, at the beginning of the last century, with authors like A. Viada, the feature “outdoor physical exercise” is added, but always with the purpose of a hobby and entertainment.

In 1911, with the definition of José Elías in the *Enciclopedia Ilustrada Seguí*, a change in the purpose of sport is noticed when it is defined as “physical exercise, mainly practiced outdoors, with a hygienic aim and practiced as a recreational activity” (Seguí, 1911-1921, pages 201-202). In 1917, the same author repeats the previous definition adding the concept of “improvement”. On the other, the 1914 edition of the Dictionary of the Royal Academy of Language maintains a definition of *deporte* in accordance with its etymology “to entertain, relax, have fun”.

From 1925, possibly as a result of the influence of the important book *El sport contra la educación física* de Hébert (1925), there is an attempt to differentiate physical education from sport. Some authors (F-Trapiella, 1933; Juarrós, 1925; Sanz, 1915) assign to physical education an educational purpose with important training and hygienic advantages and support its institutionalization in schools. In contrast, they deny these values for sport and object its social institutionalization, although they acknowledge that it has a certain social function in terms of distraction and entertainment of the individual who uselessly consume the superfluous energy.

At this stage, we enter a phase of conceptual ambiguity and a certain confusion in which doctors, naturalists, physical education teachers, soldiers and priests from the Catholic Church would disagree about the concept of *deporte* from their different approaches without any consensus. The Royal Academy Dictionary of the Spanish Language in its 15<sup>th</sup> edition (1925) introduces the phrase “generally practiced outdoors” in its entry for *deporte*.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

The term *deporte* is a refined word since it corresponds to the same form from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, but as far as the content is concerned it is a semantic plagiarism of the English word *sport* with the meaning of the first definition of the

Dictionary of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language (22th edition, 2001): “physical activity carried out as a game or competition, whose practice involves training and compliance with rules”; in the second definition, it reveals a meaning that is much more in accordance with its etymology than the previous “recreation, hobby, pleasure, entertainment or physical exercise, generally practiced outdoors”.

The etymological origin of *deporte* appears in the Provençal language (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries) with the word *deport* and the meaning “entertainment, pleasant hobby” that in Spanish takes the verbal form *deportarse* (1260) and the noun form *depuerto* until the appearance of the term *deporte* in 1440 which is a Provençal word derived from *deport* and with the same meaning.

The noun *deporte* survives until the Dictionary of Authorities (1726-1739) of the Royal Spanish Academy, in which it keeps the same medieval meaning with the additional meaning of “fatigue” and interpretation of physical exercise for better entertainment. In the successive editions of the Dictionary, the entry is maintained although it was overshadowed by the Anglo-Saxon term *sport* throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The introduction of the emerging Anglicism *sport* in Spain in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the meaning recreation, hobby, pleasure, entertainment or physical exercise that gave its name to a series of new practices and events from England further contributed to the disuse of the term *deporte* even though its entry had never disappeared from the Dictionaries of the Royal Spanish Academy.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there is a linguistic confrontation between journalists, authors and editors, the most remarkable of whom were Mariano de Cavia, Narciso Masferer and Antonio Viada, famous writers like Emilia Pardo Bazán and even politicians who oppose the massive use of the term *sport* and all the foreign words derived from it and urge people to use a Spanish word instead and to turn all the Anglicisms derived from the term *sport* into Spanish. The covers of the new magazines with titles including the word *deporte* such as the pioneer *El Deporte Velocípedo* (Madrid, 1894) and especially the relevant magazine *Los Deportes* (Barcelona, 1897-1910) and also *Sevilla Deportiva* (1901), *Bilbao Deportivo* (1903) or *El Mundo Deportivo* (Barcelona, 1906) contributed to using and generalizing the term *deporte* as well as the use of the Spanish-rendered sport vocabulary, although the rest of the sport press continued to use the term *sport*. During this period, the titles of the most famous edited sport books of the national bibliography do not help in this purpose and keep using the more popular and elitist English term (Torrebadella y Olivera, 2012): *Manual del sport* (1903) by Antonio Viada, *Football asociación* (1914) by José Elías and *El «sport» en España, amateurs y profesionales* (1930) by Pedro Rico. However, there are also publications of works by relevant authors who use a term derived from *deporte* (José Ortega y Gasset in 1924 with his book *Origen deportivo del estado*).

Eventually, in the middle of the 1920s of the last century the popularity of the old Provençal word *deporte* successfully restored and the 15th edition of the Dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy (1925) included its derivational forms

*deportismo*, *deportista* (sportsman/sportswoman) and *deportiva* (sport, feminine adjective) (p.399). Finally, after many years, the *deporte* defeated the word *sport*.

From the conceptual viewpoint, we analyzed about 20 definitions offered between 1892 and 1932. The first contributions are descriptive and listing definitions of the imported English practices which have a recreational aim. At the beginning of the second decade of the 20th century, the features "physical exercise" and "outdoors" are provided and will later be included into the Dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy (1925 edition) and sport is assigned a hygienic purpose through recreation. From the remarkable book by G. Herbert (1925), there is a search in the definitions of the difference between physical education and sport. The first one is assigned an educational purpose whereas the second one is given a certain social entertaining function of the individual but without any other use. In these years, given the lack of sport experts, scholars and regulating institutions, a heterogeneous group of authors from different fields of research disagree about the nature of sport with different results, which leads to a certain conceptual ambiguity with frequent confusing points.

These definition attempts continued until the 1970s when José María Cagigal Gutiérrez, historical reference for the Spanish knowledge on sport, claimed that it is undefinable (1971) accounting for the growing complexity of the phenomenon, its universal social dimension and its representativeness as a cultural symbol of our era (Olivera, 2006). Nowadays sport is considered undefinable.

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