

PATTERNS AND FORMATION OF SURFING TERMINOLOGY IN ROMANIAN

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INTRODUCTION

Emerging specialized languages reveal themselves to be sometimes highly complex in structure, and therefore cannot be fully described in a single study. This paper advances on a research previously carried out regarding the emergent terminology within the field of surfing (Varga&Grigore 2024), terminology that reveals the unexpected capacity of the Romanian language to integrate and create terms in a sports field that is not widely practiced in our country. It carries on the insights provided by data previously published, which showed that even though surfing is not very well known to the general Romanian public, the language of this sport consists of a majority of 67% Romanian terms, while only 33% of the terminology inventory is formed of Anglicisms. Furthermore, it was possible to establish in the same study that 56.44% of the Anglicisms have at least one equivalent in Romanian, indicating a highly dynamic language that adapts to new realities.

With regard to the structure of the specialized language of surfing, the research undertaken has illustrated with examples that there are categories of complex terms such as: Anglicisms, Romanian terms, orthographic and morphological adaptations of Anglicisms, and hybrid terms. These terms demonstrate different levels of integration of Anglicisms into the Romanian language. A further aspect that has already been studied includes hybrid terms, representing 8.28% of the terminological inventory, and numeral-containing terms, representing 1.66% of the surfing language. All these data point to the current state of the specialized language of surfing in

Romanian, although they are partial and need to be completed in order to provide a comprehensive overview of this linguistic phenomenon.

Taking as a starting point the data already published, in the present paper, our main goal is to focus on the different means of lexical enrichment within the language of surfing. At the outset, particular attention will be given to the internal means, after which the discussion will turn to the external means, namely, recent borrowings from English. Attention will then shift to Romanian terms already established in the language that have either been transferred from other specialized domains—some closely, others only tangentially related to surfing—or have only recently acquired surfing-specific meanings. Finally, the study will examine several terminological locutions, which have also developed specialized meanings within the surfing domain. As will be shown, the terminology employed in Romanian surfing offers valuable insights for the present paper, from both quantitative and qualitative perspectives.

Bearing in mind that this article elaborates on the description provided in a previously published study (Varga&Grigore 2024), the same theoretical framework will be used, namely: Guilbert (1973, 1974); Rey (1976); Boulanger (1979a, 1979b); Diki-Kidiri&Joly&Murcia (1981); Tournier (1990); Ciobanu (1996); Avram (1997); Humbley (2000); Pruvost&Sablayroles (2003); Gómez Capuz (2004, 2009); Díaz Hormigo (2007); Guerrero Ramos (2013); Llopart Saumell&Freixa Aymerich (2014); Vega Moreno (2016); Sablayroles (2019); Varga (2024).

The authors address this study to terminologists, translators, professional interpreters, professors, and students interested in the subject of emerging terminology in the world of sports in Romanian.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The present study is based on the idea that language is constantly evolving in response to the communicative needs of speakers. Therefore, language innovates, creates, and assimilates lexical units that reflect the realities of the time, namely, events such as social movements, pandemics, wars, technological advances, activities, sports, and so on. When they occur in a specialized field, these events have an impact on the vocabulary of a given professional group, leading to the creation of new, implicitly neological, terminological units, representing, from a linguistic point of view “une unité nouvelle de nature lexicale, dans un code linguistique défini” (Rey 1976: 4).

The internal and external means of vocabulary enrichment involved in the development of specialized languages are based on concepts such as *linguistic borrowing* and *typology of neologisms*. The *linguistic borrowings* are defined from many theoretical perspectives, including: “unidad léxica tomada de otro sistema lingüístico” (Vega Moreno 2016: 283), that considers borrowing as an element

belonging to a linguistic system, a movable element that can be taken up and adapted by the speaker of a particular language, perspective enhanced by Gómez Capuz (2009): “elemento lingüístico apunta a la idea de la transferencia directa de un elemento de una lengua a otra”.

As far as *the typology of neologisms* is concerned, one of the most relevant categories is that of linguistic borrowings, of which, currently, in the Romanian language, the most noticeable are Anglicisms. Even though their presence is recognizable in written and spoken Romanian today, their linguistic emergence was already spotted a century and a half ago (Avram 1997: 7). Nevertheless, it was not until the 1960s that the first linguistic studies on Anglicisms in Romanian were published, and along with these, the first definitions of Anglicisms in our specialized literature. In the present work, the definition of Anglicism given by Avram (1997: 8) will be taken into account: “a linguistic unit (not only a word, but also a formant, phraseological expression, meaning, or grammatical construction)... of English origin”.

Needless to say, once in use in Romanian, most Anglicisms will eventually be adapted by speakers over time to fit the language system. Thus, depending on the features that an Anglicism acquires through its use in Romanian, its degree of assimilation or fixation in the language can be assessed, including spelling adaptation, phonological/semantic adaptation, hybridization, and so on. Those Anglicisms that are not assimilated will eventually be replaced by other competing terms and will cease to be used by speakers, whereas a small number of Anglicisms will retain their original form and only when this is compatible with the pronunciation, spelling, and the grammatical system of the Romanian language.

A comprehensive description of neologisms’ assimilation into a language (i.e., as a three-stage process) is provided by Gómez Capuz (2004: 14-27). The first stage, *linguistic implantation*, is illustrated by the occasional and isolated use of foreign terms by speakers who do not have an equivalent terminological unit in their language. These terminological units need to be explained because they are not always understood by speakers; at this stage, a linguistic borrowing may lose some of its original connotations. The second stage involves *the formal adaptation* of linguistic borrowings, namely, orthographic, phonetic, morphological, and semantic assimilation. During this stage, linguistic borrowings can become specialized or lead to the creation of new terms. In the author’s view, the third stage is the one at which a lexical unit is perfectly adapted to the language into which it has been implanted and becomes productive, being able to generate new terms through derivation or syntagmation.

As regards the structure of neologisms, it is noteworthy the typology proposed by Maria Teresa Cabré Castellví (2006). The author distinguishes the following categories of terminological neologisms: *formal neologisms* (suffixation, prefixation, syntagmation, cultured syntagmation, lexicalization, syntactic conversion, phrase, acronym, abbreviation, and variation), *syntactic neologisms*, *semantic neologisms*, and *borrowings*.

The present paper will develop within this theoretical framework and will continue the analysis of different classes of surfing terms. The resulting typological classification will illustrate the ways in which Romanian accommodates and reshapes emergent terminologies.

METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

The methodology of research employed in this paper consists of a process comprising several stages of work. First, the terminology inventory was drawn from the glossary of *Vocabulaire panlatin du surf* (Labadie&Sauvage 2024), whose initial list of 174 French terms was compiled by terminologists of the Délégation générale à la langue française et aux langues de France. This inventory was based on a French text corpus developed in collaboration with World Surf League head judges, former editors-in-chief of *Surf Session Magazine*, and professional surfers (Labadie&Sauvage 2024: 4). The 174-term list in the primary working language was then supplemented with equivalents in several Romance languages (Castilian, Catalan, Galician, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian), as well as English as a contrastive language. These equivalents were provided by members of the Panlatin Terminology Network (REALITER), who contributed to the project.

The terminological equivalents in Romanian were documented on the basis of a corpus which included authentic and thematically representative texts written in Romanian and focused on this subject area. The texts which form the documentation corpus of surfing terms were mostly electronic documents covering a wide variety of text genres, such as: press releases, sports commentary, surfing courses, surfing school websites, blogs of professional surfers, travel company websites, and sports equipment catalogs. A significant number of terms of a general nature, already documented in Romanian, were available in the second edition of *The Explicative Dictionary of Romanian* (Ro. *Dicționar explicativ al limbii române*, DEX₂).

In this paper, each surfing term has been examined from a structural and formation viewpoint, using the abovementioned theoretical framework, which defines and classifies neologisms (Rey 1976; Avram 1997; Gómez Capuz 2004; Cabré Castellví 2006; Díaz Hormigo 2007: 33-54, and Guerrero Ramos 2013: 119-120).

TERMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Building on the theoretical framework outlined earlier, this study proceeds with the analysis of the Romanian inventory of surfing terms. The analysis begins with internal processes, then moves on to recent English borrowings, followed by established Romanian terms that have been transferred from other fields or have

recently gained surfing-specific meanings. Lastly, it considers several terminological locutions that have developed specialized uses in this domain.

To illustrate the findings more clearly, the paper will provide examples following the model devised in Varga&Grigore (2024: 208-222). Due to space constraints, three examples will be presented for each category and/or subcategory. Nevertheless, in cases where a category or subcategory contains fewer than three terms, all available terms will be listed¹.

Moreover, the surfing terms will be accompanied by their specialized English equivalents. All English equivalents will be taken from *Vocabulaire panlatin du surf*, whose development, as noted above, stemmed from collaboration between terminologists and various surfing experts (Labadie&Sauvage 2024: 4).

Since most surfing terms belong to the lexical and grammatical class of nouns, their gender will be indicated in brackets, using the abbreviations *m.n.* (masculine noun), *f.n.* (feminine noun), and *n.n.* (neuter noun), in accordance with the Romanian language system. To a lesser extent, some surfing terms appear as verbs, adjectives, or locutions. In these cases, grammatical information will be marked as *v.*, *adj.*, or *loc.*, following the notations used in the Panlatin glossary.

In the course of elaborating the Panlatin surf glossary (Labadie&Sauvage 2024), a total of 302 Romanian terminological variants were recorded as equivalents for the 174 English source units. The disparity between source and target inventories can be explained by the distribution of correspondences: while 80 units are represented by a single Romanian equivalent, the remaining 222 exhibit intralinguistic variation, with two or more competing forms attested for the same conceptual unit.

Of these 302 units, no fewer than 142 result from internal processes of vocabulary enrichment. These terms and variants account for 47.02% of the total, that is, nearly half of all Romanian units (see *Figure 1. Surfing terms*). With regard to external processes of lexical expansion, 107 Anglicisms represent 35.43%, or roughly one third of the total. This distribution can be readily attributed to an extralinguistic factor, namely, the fact that surfing originated in the Anglo-American cultural space, which makes the high proportion of Anglicisms unsurprising.

In addition, Romanian surfing terminology includes 30 Romanian terms originating from other specialized domains (which are more or less related to surfing), along with 11 semantic neologisms and 12 syntagmatic neologisms. These categories represent 9.93%, 3.64%, and 3.97% of the total inventory, respectively. When combined with the 142 terms and variants that exemplify internal enrichment, the total reaches 195 units, or 64.57%. Taken together, these figures indicate a considerable effort on the part of the Romanian language to accommodate the conceptual universe of surfing through its own resources.

¹ Even though this paper discusses only a limited set of examples, the complete inventory of Romanian surfing terms is available for consultation on the website of the French Ministry of Culture (<https://www.culture.fr/franceterme/Nos-publications/Sports-olympiques-et-paralympiques/Voculaires-panlatins-langues-romanes-et-basque>).

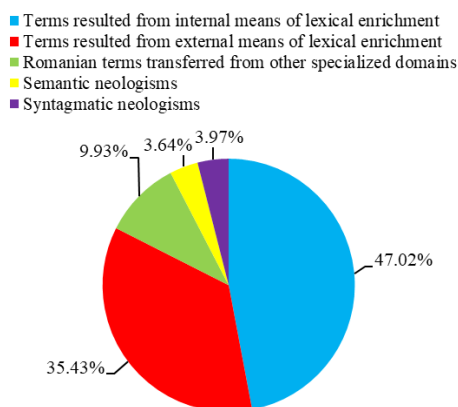


Figure 1. Surfing terms.

1. INTERNAL MEANS OF LEXICAL ENRICHMENT

Within the category of 142 terms formed through internal means, the analysis identified examples illustrating *primary*, *secondary*, and *mixed* methods of lexical expansion. The former methods comprise subtypes such as *derivation*, *syntagmation* (Cabr  Castellv  2006: 231), and *conversion*, whereas the latter two categories are each limited to a single subtype—*shortening* and *abbreviation*, respectively. Given that the inventory includes only one case of shortening and two of abbreviation, it can be observed that 139 terms, representing 97.88%, stem from the primary processes of lexical enrichment (see Figure 2. *Primary means of lexical enrichment*). More precisely, 1 is a derived term (0.72%), 137 are syntagms (98.56%), and 1 is the result of conversion (0.72%). With respect to parts of speech, all terms are nouns except for the one derived through conversion, which is an adjective.

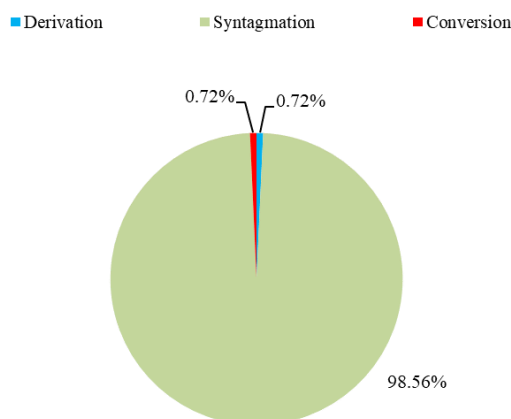


Figure 2. Primary means of lexical enrichment.

1.1. Primary means of lexical enrichment

1.1.1. Derivation

Derivation is not a particularly productive means of lexical enrichment in Romanian surfing terminology, being represented by only a single example: *surfist* (m.n.) and its feminine counterpart *surfistă* (f.n.), both meaning “surfer” in English. Despite this singular occurrence, it is worth mentioning that the term (formed through suffixation) designates a key concept within the lexicon—namely, the individual (whether a professional athlete or a talented amateur) who performs various artistic maneuvers while riding the waves.

The formation of *surfist* is due to the Romanian agentive suffix *-ist*, a highly productive morphological marker used to designate practitioners of activities or professions, as well as supporters of ideologies or sports clubs (e.g., *tractorist* “a person who uses a tractor”, *gândirist* “an adherent of the Romanian Gândirist literary movement”, *rapidist* “a supporter of the Romanian football team Rapid București”). Accordingly, through its derivational suffix, *surfist* follows a native morphological pattern.

1.1.2. Syntagmation

With 137 instances recorded in the inventory, representing 98.56% of the 139 terms, *syntagmation* emerges as the most productive internal means of vocabulary enrichment within Romanian surfing terminology. This productivity also translates into a high diversity of patterns of organization: the analysis identified 23 distinct types, although syntagmatic terms are not evenly distributed among them. Out of the 23 patterns, 17 are based on internal morphological syntagmation—some incorporating syntactic elements such as prepositions or genitives and thus having a primary status, while others represent secondary patterns derived from the primary ones. The remaining 6 patterns are hybrid forms that involve Anglicisms.

With regard to the patterns based on internal morphological syntagmation, the most productive primary pattern is *noun + preposition + noun in the accusative*, which accounts for 40 examples. This large category further subdivides by preposition, yielding seven subclasses determined by the specific preposition employed. The most frequent are *de* (“of”, 24 instances), *în* (“in”, 5 instances), and *pe* (“on”, 4 instances). In contrast, *cu* (“with”), *dinspre* (“from, out of”), and *pentru* (“for”) are less frequent, each occurring only twice. Even rarer is *din* (“from, of”), which appears in a single instance.

What is particularly noteworthy is that each preposition conveys a distinct semantic value, which is subsequently extended to the entire structure. *De* encodes several relations: type – *coadă de liliac* (“bat, star tail”, f.n.), *coadă de pește*

(“fish”, f.n.), *serie de valuri* (“set”, f.n.); location – *val de plajă* (“beach break”, n.n.), *val de recif* (“reef break”, n.n.), *zonă de spargere* (“impact zone”, f.n.); and purpose – *frânghie de tractare* (“tow rope handle”, f.n.), *responsabil de clasamente* (“tabulator”, m.n.), *zonă de concurs* (“competition zone”, f.n.).

The threefold semantic range characterizing the preposition *de* is not observed in the case of the next two most frequent prepositions, *în* and *pe*, each of which is restricted to either a locative or a manner interpretation. The former preposition indicates location, as in *răsucire în aer* (“air reverse”, f.n.) or *surfing în butoi* (“tube riding”, n.n.), or manner, as in *surf în genunchi* (“kneeboarding”, n.n.), *surfing în genunchi* (“kneeboarding”, n.n.), and *surfer în tandem* (“tandem surfer”, m.n.). The latter preposition is primarily locative, a usage exemplified by the term *răsucire pe val* (“slash back, slashback”, f.n.). Nevertheless, syntagmatic terms such as *surf pe burtă* (“bodysurfing”, n.n.), *surfing pe burtă* (“bodysurfing”, n.n.), and *surf pe plajă* (“skimboarding, skimming”, n.n.) highlight its manner interpretation.

Concerning the remaining four prepositions (*cu*, *dinspre*, *pentru*, and *din*), the analysis shows that each is associated with a specific semantic value. *Cu* is related to equipment features, as in *frânghie cu mâner* (“tow rope handle”, f.n.) and *surf cu velă* (“windsurfing”, n.n.). By comparison, *dinspre* is confined to directional descriptors of wind, exemplified by the syntagmatic terms *vânt dinspre mare* (“onshore, on-shore”, n.n.) and *vânt dinspre uscat* (“offshore”, n.n.). The preposition *pentru* again conveys purpose, as illustrated by *loc pentru surf* (“spot”, n.n.) and *placă pentru acrobații* (“wakeskate board”, f.n.). Finally, *din*, attested only once, is nonetheless notable, since the unit *vâslitul din picioare* (“standup paddleboarding, SUP, paddling”, n.n.) expresses manner.

There are 5 secondary patterns of organization derived from the primary pattern *noun + preposition + noun in the accusative*, comprising a total of 12 syntagmatic terms. Displaying varying degrees of complexity, these patterns signal domain specificity and revolve around a noun functioning as the head of the entire noun phrase, regardless of its internal structure.

The most productive secondary pattern is *noun + preposition + noun in the accusative + preposition + noun in the accusative*. With 6 occurrences, this pattern is characterized by additional prepositional phrases—most often introduced by *de*—that express various meanings, such as feature, in *val în formă de A* (“A Frame”, n.n.), location, in *placă de surf pe plajă* (“skimboard”, f.n.), or typology, in *producător de plăci de surf* (“shaper”, m.n.).

Apart from being derived from a primary pattern, the next 2 patterns share a similar frequency in Romanian surfing terminology, each being represented by 2 instances. The syntagmatic terms exemplifying the pattern *noun + preposition + noun in the accusative + adjective* are differentiated by the preposition selected—either *cu*, as in *surf cu tractare motorizată* (“tow-in surfing”, n.n.), or *pe*, as in *surfing pe valuri mari* (“big wave surfing”, n.n.). These syntagms convey, respectively, the semantics of instrument + feature and location + feature.

The criterion of the preposition that individualizes the syntagm is also preserved in the secondary pattern *noun + preposition + noun in the accusative + noun in the genitive*. The only notable difference lies in the choice of prepositions, which in this case are *la* (“at”), as in *întoarcere la baza valului* (“bottom turn”, f.n.), and *pe*, as in *întoarcere pe creasta valului* (“top turn, off the top”, f.n.). Semantically, both syntagmatic terms provide precise locational descriptions, referring to maneuvers and wave morphology.

The last 2 derived patterns of organization are characterized by low productivity, as each is represented by only 1 instance. The pattern *noun + preposition + numeral + preposition + noun in the accusative* is illustrated by *rotire de 360 de grade* (“forward spin 360, 360°, belly”, f.n.), which illustrates standard measurement expressions in Romanian. By contrast, the pattern *noun + preposition + preposition + noun in the accusative*, exemplified by *trecere pe sub val* (“duck dive”, f.n.), demonstrates how the stacking of prepositions (i.e., *pe sub*) indicates a locative meaning, precisely marking the surfer’s trajectory beneath the surface of the wave.

The second most productive primary pattern of organization is *noun + adjective*, attested in 30 instances. This high number is of no surprise bearing in mind that it follows the typical Romanian attributive construction where the adjective is postposed after the noun, which functions as the head of the entire construction, and it agrees in gender, number and case with the noun. As a matter of fact, 21 syntagmatic terms are feminine singular, such as *coadă ascuțită* (“pin tail”), *manșă decisivă* (“surf-off”), or *margină rotundă* (“soft rail”), only 1 is feminine plural, namely, *aripioare duble* (“twin fin”), while 8 are neuter singular, such as *surf acrobatic* (“wakesurfing”), *val îndepărtat* (“outside”), or *vârf rotunjit* (“rounded pin”).

From a semantic perspective, 5 of the syntagms denote parts of equipment, such as *aripioară unică* (“single fin”, f.n.), *înotătoare dublă* (“twin fin”, f.n.), and *înotătoare simplă* (“single fin”, f.n.). These syntagmatic terms illustrate two successive internal means of lexical enrichment: first, derivation, second, syntagmation. For instance, *aripioară* (plural *aripioare*, see above) is a diminutive of *aripă* (“wing”), whereas *înotătoare* is derived with the instrumental suffix *-tor*.

The same two-phase process applies to *rotire dublă* (“720”, f.n.). Although this term does not designate a piece of equipment but rather an artistic maneuver performed on the board, it was initially formed through derivation—with the addition of the abstract suffix *-(i)re*—and only later through syntagmation, by attaching the adjective *dublă*.

Another 5 syntagmatic terms describe wave characteristics. Some of them originate in fields closely related to surfing, as in *val mic* (“inside”, n.n.), a term also used in ocean and maritime navigation, while others are specific to surfing, such as *val moale* (“weak wave”, n.n.) and *val tubular* (“barrel”, n.n.).

Of particular interest are the 7 syntagmatic terms that denote tail shapes and the 2 that refer to types of boards. The first subcategory includes *coadă asimetrică* (“asymmetrical tail”, f.n.), *coadă pătrată* (“square tail, chop tail”, f.n.), and *coadă*

rotundă (“round tail”, f.n.). Other relevant examples within this group are the 3 homonyms expressed by *coadă rotunjită* (“rounded square”, “squash tail”, “thumbnail”, f.n.), which designate different board types whose tails are shaped as rounded square, squash, or thumbnail. The second subcategory includes 2 homonyms, that is, *placă bidirecțională*¹ (f.n.), meaning “a twin-tip board”, and *placă bidirecțională*² (f.n.), meaning “a wakeboard”.

Finally, 10 syntagmatic terms denote states or qualities. Representative examples include *manșă decisivă* (“surf-off”, f.n.), *mare calmă* (“glassy”, f.n.), and *vestă gonflabilă* (“inflatable life vest”, f.n.). Another significant example is *rășină epoxidică* (“epoxy”, f.n.), which illustrates a specific case in which the adjective identifies the chemical nature of the substance. This syntagmatic term highlights the adaptability of Romanian morphological processes in accommodating specialized terminology.

The primary pattern of organization *noun + adjective* further develops into 2 secondary patterns. Apart from their common origin, both derived patterns share a similar level of productivity, each being represented by only 2 syntagms in Romanian surfing terminology—a detail that suggests their limited integration into the language (Gómez Capuz 2004: 14-27). On the one hand, the secondary pattern *noun + adjective + preposition + noun in the accusative* appears in the pair *Liga Mondială de Surf* (“WSL, World Surf League”, f.n.) and *Liga Mondială de Surfing* (“WSL, World Surf League”, f.n.), where the nouns preceded by the preposition *de* function as modifiers, adding domain specificity. On the other hand, the secondary pattern *noun + adjectival syntagm* occurs in the pair *val dinspre dreapta* (“right”, n.n.) and *val dinspre stânga* (“left”, n.n.), in which the prepositional phrase introduced by *dinspre* denotes direction.

The third most productive pattern of organization is *noun + noun in the genitive*, identified in 11 instances. These genitival constructions are built around a head noun whose genitival determiner conveys two main types of relational semantics. On the one hand, in 5 syntagms belonging to this category, the semantic relation is part-whole, since the head noun refers to a part of the wave that is metaphorically associated with the human or animal body, such as *buză a valului* (“lip”, f.n.), *coamă a valului* (“shoulder, face”, f.n.), *creastă a valului* (“peak”, f.n.). On the other hand, in another 4 syntagms, the semantic relation is typological, as illustrated by *director al competiției* (“competition director, contest director”, m.n.) and its feminine counterpart *directoare a competiției, președintele juriului* (“head judge”, m.n.), and *responsabil al competiției* (“beach marshal”, m.n.).

Unlike the previously discussed items, which remain relatively flexible and not fully stabilized in usage, the term *neacordare a priorității* (“interference penalty”, f.n.) marks a change in approach. This syntagmatic term is a well-established structure in Romanian, as it occurs not only in surfing terminology but also in broader contexts related to transportation and traffic regulation. It denotes the act of failing to yield the right of way—a meaning extended to describe specific situations in surfing.

Nonetheless, this category also includes the syntagm *retragere a valului* (“backwash”, f.n.). Although its literal translation is “retreat of the wave”, it actually designates a specific type of wave—one that, after breaking, moves back toward the open sea and meets another wave coming from the opposite direction². The corresponding terms in other Romance languages, such as Castilian (*ola de resaca*), Catalan (*onada de ressaca*), and Galician (*contraonda*, *onda de resaca*), used in different regions of Spain where surfing is highly popular, confirm this interpretation. The absence of a similar lexical pattern in Romanian (i.e., *retragere a valului* “retreat of the wave”) suggests that its surfing terminology is still in an emergent stage and that it remains uncertain whether *retragere a valului* will eventually stabilize in the language or gradually fall out of use.

The fourth most productive pattern of organization is *noun + noun*, attested in 6 instances. Within this category, a further subdivision is necessary to distinguish between the two types of syntagmation processes: *parataxis* and *hypotaxis*.

Formed through parataxis, the term *arbitru-șef* (“head judge”, m.n.) is a hyphenated syntagm in which the two nouns are coordinated or juxtaposed, with the hyphen signaling a close lexical bond. In contrast, the remaining 5 syntagms are formed through hypotaxis, followed by the ellipsis of a preposition, presumably *de* (“of”) or *pentru* (“for”), as in *ceară surf* (“surfboard wax, surfwax”, f.n.), *încălțăminte surf* (“wakeboarding boots”, f.n.), and *pieptene căară* (“wax comb”, m.n.). In other words, even if the nouns appear juxtaposed, the second noun is semantically subordinated to the first. Moreover, it may be assumed that the prepositions were omitted for reasons of linguistic economy.

While the syntagmatic term formed through parataxis clearly expresses a typological relation, the syntagms based on hypotaxis present a certain degree of ambiguity. The omission of the preposition renders it difficult to determine the precise semantic relation, as both a typological and a purposive interpretation remain equally plausible.

Although recorded in only a few instances, the primary pattern *noun + noun* develops 2 secondary patterns: *noun + noun + preposition + noun* and the more complex *noun + noun + noun + preposition + noun in the accusative*. Each of these derived patterns is represented by a single syntagm in Romanian surfing terminology. The former is exemplified by *ceară placă de surf* (“surfboard wax, surfwax”, f.n.), which extends the previously discussed syntagm *ceară surf* (“surfboard wax, surfwax”, f.n.), formed through hypotaxis followed by the ellipsis of a preposition. In contrast to its simpler counterpart, the syntagmatic term under discussion specifies more precisely the function of the wax used in surfing—namely, improving the surfer’s grip on the board while riding the waves. The latter derived pattern is illustrated by *operator computer tabelă de marcaj* (“scoring computer operator”, m.n.) and its feminine counterpart *operatoare computer tabelă*

² « Vague qui, après son déferlement, repart vers le large et rencontre une autre vague arrivant dans le sens opposé » (Labadie&Sauvage 2024: 29, s.v. *retour de vague*).

de marcaj. Despite the omission of the preposition that would definitively clarify the semantics of this extensive syntagm, it most plausibly expresses a typological relation, denoting a certain computer operator responsible for managing the scoring table.

In addition to the 4 primary patterns of organization analyzed thus far, 3 others are worth mentioning, each revolving around a noun that functions as the head of the syntagmatic term. These patterns are characterized by low frequency in Romanian surfing terminology, the absence of derived forms, and their primarily typological meaning. They include *noun + numeral* (with 2 recorded examples), *noun + adverb*, and *noun + conjunction + noun*, each illustrated by a single instance.

Regarding the *noun + numeral* pattern, the 2 recorded syntagms are *rotire 540* (“540”, f.n.) and *rotire 720* (“720”, f.n.). Both are based on the feminine abstract noun *rotire* (itself a derived term, as previously discussed), to which the numerals 540 and 720 were added. The numerals serve as modifiers of the noun, designating standardized types of maneuvers. From a grammatical perspective, the numerals remain uninflected and function as quantitative markers, a practice commonly found in sports terminology, particularly in gymnastics (see Varga&Grigore 2024: 222).

As for the other 2 primary patterns—those in which the noun is accompanied by either an adverb or a conjunction followed by another noun—the syntagmatic terms exemplifying them are semantically transparent: *salt înapoi* (“backflip”, n.n.) and *o rotire și jumătate* (“540”, f.n.), respectively. Beyond their typological interpretation, each syntagm allows for an extra meaning. In the first case, the adverbial element conveys the direction of the maneuver, whereas in the second, the conjunction and subsequent noun indicate quantification.

Among the 17 patterns of organization based on internal morphological syntagmation, the final one is particularly noteworthy because it does not employ a noun as its head. The pattern *numeral/numeral* describes the edge thickness ratio of a surfboard, and, with only three recorded instances—*50/50* (n.n.), *60/40* (n.n.), and *80/20* (n.n.)—it exhibits low productivity within surfing terminology. Nevertheless, its importance lies in the orthographic convention: the use of the slash replicates the form of international technical notation. This feature underscores the growing influence of globalized surf culture on Romanian terminology and highlights the smooth integration of specialized vocabulary into the general language (Gómez Capuz 2004: 14-27).

Concerning the 6 hybrid patterns of organization that incorporate Anglicisms, it is important to note that several exhibit structural similarities to those based on internal morphological syntagmation. In all these patterns, the head of the syntagmatic term is a Romanian noun, with the sole exception in which the head itself is an English loanword. In terms of organization, 4 patterns are primary, only 1 of which has generated 2 secondary patterns that are both structurally more complex and semantically more specialized. Additionally, 4 patterns—whether primary or secondary—contain prepositions, with *de* emerging as the most frequent.

Mirroring the most productive primary internal pattern observed in syntagmation within Romanian surfing terminology—namely, *noun + preposition + noun in the accusative*, with 40 instances—the most productive hybrid primary pattern is *noun + preposition + Anglicism in the accusative*, recorded 12 times. In this pattern, the borrowed English element remains morphologically invariable and its grammatical gender is determined by the Romanian head noun.

All 12 syntagms refer to items of equipment and thus convey a typological meaning. Out of these terms, 11 employ the preposition *de*, while only 1 uses *pentru*, namely, *placă pentru wakeskate* (f.n.), which designates a wakeskate board. This form terminologically competes with *placă de wakeskate* (f.n.), which belongs to the group of 11 syntagms.

Among the 11 syntagmatic terms built with *de*, 2 designate specific footwear—*pantof de wakeboarding* (“wakeboarding boots”, m.n.) and *pantof de wakeskating* (“wakeskate shoes”, m.n.)—whereas the remaining 9 denote types of surfboards, including *placă de bodyboard* (“bodyboard”, f.n.), *placă de kitesurfing* (“kiteboard”, f.n.), and *placă de wakesurf* (“wakeboard”, f.n.). Significantly, 3 forms refer to the same concept, i.e., *placă de paddle* (f.n.), *placă de stand up paddle* (f.n.), and *placă de SUP* (f.n.), namely, to a paddleboard, offering another example of terminological competition.

The 2 secondary patterns derived from *noun + preposition + Anglicism in the accusative* are each represented by a single instance. First, the pattern *noun + preposition + Anglicism + adjective* appears in *placă de kitesurfing direcțională* (“directional kiteboard, strapless kiteboard”, f.n.), where the adjective *direcțională* agrees with the Romanian head *placă*. Second, the pattern *noun + preposition + Anglicism + preposition + Anglicism* is illustrated by *placă de kitesurfing fără straps* (“directional kiteboard, strapless kiteboard”, f.n.), where *straps* remains uninflected and plural in English. Interestingly, both syntagmatic terms denote the same concept, again signaling terminological competition.

The second most productive hybrid pattern, *noun + Anglicism*, formally corresponds to the internal pattern *noun + adjective*, though the latter is attested in 30 instances and the former in only 9. In these hybrid syntagms, the English element typically remains invariable, lacking Romanian inflection. Nevertheless, Romanian gender assignment applies to the syntagmatic term as a whole (thus, 6 syntagms are neuter and 3 feminine). From a semantic perspective, all exhibit a typological interpretation: the neuter forms refer to several types of waves, such as *val close out* (“close out, closeout”), *val outside* (“outside”), or *val shore break* (“shore break”), while the feminine designate either board types, such as *placă bodysurf* (“bodyboard”) and *placă twin-tip* (“twin-tip board”) or a specific epoxy resin used for enhanced adhesion to fiberglass (*rășină epoxy*, “epoxy”).

The third hybrid pattern, *noun + adjective + Anglicism*, is represented by a single example, *Campionatul mondial Jaws Big Wave* (“Jaws Big Wave World Championship”, n.n.). This proper-name hybrid simply places the English event

title after a Romanian nominal phrase and maintains English capitalization. Therefore, it can be argued that it constitutes a case of name borrowing rather than a productive syntagmatic pattern.

The fourth and final pattern with an English loanword, that is, *Anglicism + preposition + noun in the accusative*, marks a departure from the other syntagms discussed so far. The head of the term is the Anglicism, followed by a Romanian prepositional phrase. Despite its structural significance, the pattern appears accidental, given its extremely limited productivity. It has been attested only in *pad pentru surf* (“pad, tail pad, traction pad”), which has been assigned neuter gender in accordance with the broader tendency for Anglicisms to adopt neuter morphological behavior in Romanian.

1.1.3. Conversion

With regard to *conversion*, this internal mechanism of lexical enrichment proves to be minimally productive in Romanian surfing terminology. In fact, only 1 instance has been identified, namely the adjective *agitat*, together with its feminine counterpart *agitată*. This pair constitutes the Romanian equivalent of the English *choppy* and designates water surfaces—such as oceans, seas, or rivers—characterized by small, irregular waves generated by wind. In this case, conversion consists in the adjectivization of the past participle *agitat*, which acquires a specialized maritime-related meaning also encountered in terminologies associated with oceanographic and nautical contexts.

1.2. Secondary means of lexical enrichment

The noun *kiter* (“kitesurfer, kite-surfer, kiteborder”, m.n.) highlights a unique case in Romanian surfing terminology, because it constitutes the only attested instance of truncation or shortening, as a secondary means of lexical enrichment. Although its form resembles an English agent noun, the term *kiter* did not originate in English but rather resulted from a Romanian shortening mechanism applied to the loanword *kitesurfer*, also spelled *kite-surfer* (see Varga&Grigore 2024: 215-216). Therefore, *kiter* exists in terminological competition with the two loanwords, all three referring to the same concept.

The rapid integration of the truncated term into Romanian is demonstrated by the existence of inflected forms such as *kiterul* (“the kitesurfer”) and *kiteri* (“kitesurfers”), as well as its consistent use in diverse authentic contexts. While the structure and meaning of the term may suggest an English derivation, no occurrences of *kiter* (with the meaning belonging to surfing terminology, namely, “kitesurfer”) appear in English dictionaries³. Consequently, the term *kiter* should be interpreted as

³ According to the online version of *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/kiter>), the term *kiter* is related to the banking domain, a domain which has not been taken into account in the current terminological analysis.

a Romanian innovation, created through shortening to designate a person who practices kitesurfing.

1.3. Mixed means of lexical enrichment

Regarding mixed means of lexical enrichment, Romanian surfing terminology includes only 2 documented cases of abbreviation, both formed through the retention of the initials of syntagmatic terms. These are *Seriile de calificare* (“QS, Qualification Series”, f.n.pl.) and *Turneul campionatului* (“CT, Championship Tour”, n.n.), abbreviated as *SC* and *TC*, respectively. Both abbreviations mirror the model established by their English equivalents, as well as those used in French and other Romance languages (Labadie&Sauvage 2024: 84-85). Their formation therefore reflects a broader convention characteristic of organizational and technical contexts, where initial letters serve to condense frequently used multi-word expressions.

2. EXTERNAL MEANS OF LEXICAL ENRICHMENT

The inventory of 107 Anglicisms identified in Romanian surfing terminology reveals the influence of English as the dominant source of specialized vocabulary in contemporary sports in general (also see Varga&Grigore 2024: 210-216). These units exhibit various borrowing pathways, including simple lexical loans—such as *fish* (n.n.), *foil* (n.n.), and *rocker* (n.n.)—as well as syntagmatic terms, such as *air reverse* (n.n.), *off the lip* (n.n.), and *point break* (n.n.).

From a grammatical standpoint, nouns constitute the most substantial category, with 97 items. These include names of maneuvers (*backflip*, *cutback*, *floater*), equipment (*foil*, *pad*, *thruster*), tail shapes (*diamond tail*, *pintail*, *rounded square*), and sport practitioners (*bodysurfer*, *wakeskater*, *windsurfer*). With the exception of 13 agent nouns denoting athletes—masculine forms containing the suffix *-er*—and *WSL* (f.n.), an abbreviation for *World Surf League*, the remaining 83 nouns are neuter. Furthermore, Romanian surfing terminology features 6 adjectives (e.g., *goofy*, *backside*, *onshore*) and only 4 verbs (e.g., *drop in*, *land*, *switch-foot*).

A significant number of items that enter Romanian are not phonetically and morphologically adapted, functioning as invariable terms. Nonetheless, as previously discussed, nouns referring to athletes often undergo morphological assimilation through Romanian gender assignment and inflection (e.g., *kitesurferul* “the kitesurfer”, *kitesurferi* “kitesurfers”).

The coexistence of orthographic and morphological variants—some hyphenated, others abbreviated—signals an ongoing process of lexical integration and potential future stabilization. This situation is illustrated by pairs such as *kite-surfer* (m.n.) – *kitesurfer* (m.n.), as well as by series such as *close out re entry* (n.n.) – *closeout re entry* (n.n.) – *closeout re-entry* (n.n.); *re entry* (n.n.) – *re-entry* (n.n.) – *reentry* (n.n.), and *stand up paddleboarding* (n.n.) – *stand-up paddling* (n.n.) – *SUP* (n.n.).

Of particular interest is the pair of homonyms *layback snap*¹ (“layback”, n.n.) – *layback snap*² (“snap, snapback, layback”, n.n.). This pair demonstrates how individual English forms can enter Romanian with distinct semantic interpretations, thereby necessitating contextual disambiguation. Moreover, this case points out the fluidity of specialized borrowing and the role of usage context in determining meaning within emerging sports terminologies.

3. ROMANIAN SURFING TERMS TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER TERMINOLOGIES

In addition to the 142 terms formed through internal means of lexical enrichment and the 107 Anglicisms reflecting external borrowing, a further 30 terms attested in Romanian surfing terminology illustrate the contribution of interdisciplinary lexical transfer to the conceptualization of surfing in Romanian. These terms originate in a wide range of specialized fields, closely connected to the natural setting of surfing, including maritime and nautical domains—*carenă* (“bottom”, f.n.), *punte* (“deck”, f.n.), *țărm* (“shore”, n.n.); water movement—*agitație* (“chop”, f.n.), *hulă* (“swell”, f.n.), *spumă* (“white water”, f.n.)—or technical domains: *contur* (“outline”, n.n.), *racletă* (“wax comb”, f.n.), *margină* (“rail”, f.n.).

Taking into account that surfing is ultimately a competitive sport, the terminology further incorporates elements associated with sports organization and evaluation—*antrenor* (“coach”, m.n.), *arbitru* (“judge”, m.n.), *jurat* (“judge”, m.n.)—as well as with media coverage and event broadcasting, such as *crainic* (“beach announcer”, m.n.) and *prezentator* (“beach announcer”, m.n.). Out of these occupational nouns, 5 also display gender pairing, as seen in *antrenor* – *antrenoare*, *crainic* – *crainică*, and *prezentator* – *prezentatoare*.

From a grammatical viewpoint, all 30 elements in this category are simple terms, and, with the exception of the verb *a vâsli* (“to paddle”), they are all nouns. Their gender distribution includes 12 feminine nouns (excluding the 5 feminine counterparts of masculine forms), 9 masculine nouns, and 8 neuter nouns, including *valuri* (“swell”), a neuter plural.

Although originally unrelated or only tangentially related to surfing, these terms have undergone semantic specialization, acquiring domain-specific meanings that anchor them within the surfing context. For example, *vârf* (n.n.) extended its nautical and geographical meaning to describe the nose of a surfing board, while *a vâsli* (v.) develops a technical nuance linked to surfboard locomotion. Particularly noteworthy is the term *serie* (f.n.), which designates either a competition heat or a closely spaced succession of waves—another example of homonymy yielding two distinct surfing-related senses.

4. SEMANTIC NEOLOGISMS

Romanian surfing terminology includes a set of 11 semantic neologisms, mostly nouns (7 neuter, 1 feminine, 1 masculine), alongside 2 verbs. These are terms whose form existed prior to the introduction of surfing in Romania, yet they have developed new, domain-specific meanings. Therefore, this category of terms exemplifies specialization within an existing semantic field, typically achieved through metaphorical extension based on perceptual similarity or semantic narrowing grounded in functional analogy.

Several nouns display metaphorical transfer from physical referents to surfing-specific concepts. In general language, both *butoi* (“barrel”, n.n.) and *tub* (“barrel”, n.n.) denote a hollow cylindrical form, but within surfing terminology they designate the circular interior of a breaking wave. Similarly, *nas* (n.n.) and *coadă* (f.n.) extend anatomical terms (i.e., *nose* and *tail*) to refer to the front and rear sections of a surfboard. Subsequently, they reflect a cross-linguistic tendency to conceptualize equipment through body-part metaphors (cf. French *nez* and *queue*, Italian *naso* and *coda*, Castilian *punta* and *cola*, etc.; see Labadie&Savauge 2024: 51-53).

Additionally, there are terms which exhibit functional reinterpretation. The verb *a padela* (“to paddle”) basically originates in general water-related locomotion. Nevertheless, it gains a technical meaning associated with the arm-powered surfboard propulsion specific to paddleboarding. This semantic shift illustrates the narrowing of a general-use verb to meet a specialized terminological need within the surfing domain.

5. SYNTAGMATIC NEOLOGISMS

Romanian surfing terminology also incorporates a set of 12 syntagmatic neologisms—multi-word expressions that acquire a specialized meaning in surfing-related contexts. These units are formed analytically within the language, often calquing English structures, even though they remain fully compatible with Romanian syntax. Among them, 7 are adjectival locutions, such as *cu trei înotătoare* (“thruster fin, thruster”), *cu piciorul drept înainte* (“goofy”), or *lovit de valuri* (“washing machine”), 4 are verbal locutions, such as *a fura valul* (“to drop in”), *a prinde un val* (“to catch a wave”), or *a schimba piciorul* (“to switch-foot, switch-foot surfing, switchfoot surfing”), and only 1 is a nominal locution, namely, *aterizare pe placă* (“to land”).

From a semantic standpoint, the syntagmatic neologisms can be classified into three groups. The first concerns equipment, particularly fins: *cu o singură înotătoare* (loc.), *cu trei aripioare* (loc.) and *cu trei înotătoare* (loc.), *cu patru aripioare* (loc.). These constructions mirror internationally standardized terms such as *single-fin*, *thruster*, and *quad*. Moreover, the variation between *aripioare* and *înotătoare* highlights an ongoing process of terminological stabilization in Romanian.

The second group pertains to body positioning, specifically which foot is placed forward on a surfboard: *cu piciorul drept înainte* (loc.) and *cu piciorul stâng înainte* (loc.). These syntagms encode postural orientation in a transparent manner, paralleling the English terms *regular* and *goofy*. Nonetheless, through these locutions, Romanian surfing terminology exemplifies native adaptation instead of directly and simply borrowing the English terms.

The third group relates to riding waves and performing technical maneuvers, encompassing the nominal locution *aterizare pe placă*, the adjectival locution *lovit de valuri*, as well as verbal locutions, such as *a fura valul* or *a prinde un val*. These verbal expressions, in particular, illustrate the semantic specialization of general verbs such as *a fura* and *a prinde*, which narrow in meaning to denote surfing-specific actions.

CONCLUSIONS

As a general conclusion to the research conducted on the inventory of Romanian terms in the field of surfing referred to in the Panlatin surfing glossary (Labadie&Sauvage 2024), it can be highlighted with precise, qualitative, and quantitative data several specific aspects of the structure and lexical composition of this specialized language in Romanian.

The Romanian surfing language, which at the time of our research consisted of 174 source terms and 302 terminological variants, is predominantly Romanian, as Anglicisms were estimated to constitute only 35.43% of the total number of terms, while Romanian terminological units constitute 47.02% of the total number of terms. The in-depth analytical description of the structure of surfing language in Romanian allows us to state that it presents a neological structure in which 11 (3.64%) semantic neologisms and 12 (3.97%) syntagmatic neologisms were highlighted. An additional number of 30 (9.93%) terms originate in other specialized domains which are more or less connected to surfing and have acquired a specific meaning in the field under scrutiny.

Regarding the formation of terms, it has been demonstrated that they were formed largely due to the internal means of formation (142 terms), namely, *derivation*, *syntagmation*, and *conversion*, with the most productive way to enrich the vocabulary being *syntagmation* (139 terms, 97.88%). A wide range of terminological syntagmatic patterns appears in surfing language, with 23 distinct types examined in terms of their structure. The most productive category is internal morphological syntagmation, represented by 17 patterns. Of these patterns, it seems that Romanian speakers prefer the structure *noun + preposition + noun in the accusative*, which is the most widely used within this specialized neological language, with 40 attestations. The patterns *noun + adjective* and *noun + noun in the genitive* shortly follow, with 30 and 11 instances, respectively.

This study clearly and accurately describes the current structure of the language of surfing in Romanian, overturns the general opinion that Anglicisms predominate in Romanian in new areas of specialization, and highlights the most productive means of enriching its vocabulary. It further illustrates the linguistic phenomena underlying the dynamics of specialized vocabulary in Romanian, and demonstrates the notable capacity of the language to assimilate and efficiently adapt to emerging realities.

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STRUCTURI ȘI FORMARE ÎN TERMINOLOGIA SURFULUI ÎN ROMÂNĂ

Rezumat

Articolul de față reprezintă o continuare a unui studiu publicat anterior și constituie finalizarea descrierii unei terminologii emergente din domeniul sportului, în speță, terminologia surfului. Pornind de la cercetări bazate pe terminologia neologică, finalitatea acestui studiu este aceea de a trece în revistă mijloacele de formare a termenilor din domeniul surfului în limba română.

Analiza relevă prezența a numeroase structuri terminologice create cu ajutorul mijloacelor interne de îmbogățire a vocabularului, dintre care se distinge, în special, sintagmarea ca modalitatea cea mai productivă în acest limbaj specializat. Contrar celor afirmate în lucrări recente de neologie, majoritatea termenilor nu este formată din anglicisme, ci din termeni românești, unii preluați din alte domenii conexe, alții dobândind sensuri noi. Acest lucru demonstrează capacitatea limbii române de a constitui un bagaj terminologic de referință care să desemneze realități noi ale universului de viață al vorbitorilor.

PATTERNS AND FORMATION OF SURFING TERMINOLOGY IN ROMANIAN

Abstract

This article represents a continuation of a study which was recently published and stands for the closing of a descriptive analysis focused on an emergent terminology in the sports domain, i.e., surfing terminology. Starting from researches based on neological terminology, the aim of this study is to review the formation means of terms belonging to surfing in Romanian.

The analysis emphasizes the presence of numerous terminological patterns created using internal means of lexical enrichment, among which syntagmation prevails as the most productive manner within this specialized language. Contrary to recent neology papers, the majority of the terms does not consist of Anglicisms, but of Romanian terms, some of them being transferred from other related domains, others acquiring new meanings. This aspect points out the ability of Romanian to build up a reference terminology set which designates new concepts specific to the environment of the speakers.