

Stručni rad

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## **CRNOGORSKO-ENGLESKI/ ENGLESKO-CRNOGORSKI FUDBALSKI RJEČNIK**

This Montenegrin-English/English-Montenegrin football dictionary (ISBN 978-9940-709-02-0) was compiled by Milovan Djukanović and published by the Football Association of Montenegro (FAM) in 2016.

Mr Djukanović is not only the Head of the International Department of the FAM, but he also has a solid background in Linguistics: he is a graduate in English Language and Literature from the Faculty of Philosophy at Nikšić, as well as a certified court interpreter.

With his multi-level knowledge of Linguistics and football, his passion for the game and his considerable experience of teaching and interpreting, it is no wonder that he was able to compile such an innovative and high quality dictionary. To have produced single-handedly such a pioneering work over a period of five years is somehow reminiscent of Dr Johnson's accomplishment in another part of Europe over 250 years ago.

The dictionary counts over 5,500 entries and is lavishly illustrated in colour throughout its 180 pages. It is a specialised dictionary, though strictly speaking not a technical one, as the entries do not cover only the specific terms relating to the rules of the game and those necessary to describe accurately the events on the field of play during a fixture. Indeed, also covered are areas such as training, sports injuries, football management and the football industry. The entries have clearly been compiled with a broad audience in mind: the players themselves, of course, but also trainers, referees, managers, medics, sports commentators and football fans. The author's aim is to provide all those involved in the game with the vocabulary they need to communicate effectively in speaking and in writing, as well as when reading and listening.

One of the most useful features of this dictionary is its treatment of collocations, i.e. the way some words are often used together to produce natural-sounding speech and writing. For example, knowing the English word *effort* on its own is of little value if you do not know that we say *make an effort*, and not *\*do an effort*. Similarly, while in Montenegrin one can speak of *jaka kiša* and *jak vjetar*, in English one speaks of *heavy rain* and *strong wind*, not *\*strong rain* or *\*heavy wind*.

A knowledge of these frequent word combinations is essential if we want to express ourselves clearly, naturally and more effectively.

In this dictionary, if you look up the word *skinuti*, you will find the collocations *skinuti dres* and *skinuti kaznu* with their respective English translations *take off one's shirt* and *revoke a sanction*. Under *foot*, you will find *foot of the table* (*dno tabele*) and *foot skills* (*nožne vještine*). The entry for *team* counts 21 collocations, while the one for *udarac* counts no fewer than 25. Such information is absolutely invaluable.

However, a future edition of the dictionary would greatly benefit from a more consistent organisation of the collocations and of all the headwords more generally. For example, while it is useful to have one entry for *catch* used as a verb and another one for *catch* used as a noun, one wonders why the verb and the noun *challenge* are a single entry.

Likewise, if someone had to look up the word *breakthrough*, they might not expect to find it under *break* (again, a single entry for the verb and the noun), let alone to have to go through ten bullet points in order to find it.

Inevitably, there are other areas where improvements can be made. For example, although the majority of users are not likely to be linguists or language students, many would probably welcome information about pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet, as well as information about parts of speech and example sentences from authentic texts.

As regards the illustrations, their value would be greatly enhanced if they had captions, as their relevance to the surrounding headwords will not be immediately obvious to all users.

It is also recommended that all galley proofs should be more rigorously checked before printing, as unfortunately typos abound in this first edition.

All in all, this specialised dictionary will be of great practical use to speakers of Montenegrin in particular who wish to increase their football vocabulary in order to communicate more effectively, whether it be because they are involved in football in one way or another, or because they are simply lovers of the beautiful game.

It is to be hoped that the FMA and other stakeholders will realise how much potential this pioneering dictionary has and will support a new edition in due course. A dictionary is always a work in progress because languages never stop evolving. Both Montenegrin and English are living languages, and both have a vibrant lexis: old words acquire new meanings, new words and phrases are coined, while some other words fall into disuse. As the author himself humbly acknowledges in his foreword, a future, augmented edition should reflect those changes.

It is also realistic to say that a dictionary app for both Android and iOS

is likely to be even more successful than a print version, and this too should be borne in mind.

Finally, as teamwork is essential to both football and lexicography, one could also realistically imagine Montenegro taking the lead in an international publishing venture involving several countries where South Slavic languages are spoken. Milovan Djukanović's work would be the ideal foundation on which to set up a multi-national project of this kind.