

THE SPECIFICS OF USING MARITIME IDIOMS IN THE APPROPRIATE CONTEXT

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The relevance of the specifics of using maritime idioms in the appropriate context is highlighted in the article. First, the importance of the English language in the modern world is rather considerable that many people in the entire globe strive to master English in spite of different negative events which take place in our life today. The English Language opens a lot of possibilities for young specialists not only in Ukraine but also abroad. Secondly, profound knowledge of modern English is impossible without a confident command of idioms. Third, maritime English has its specifics. On the one hand, the specialization of maritime English is very narrow and seafarers should know the meaning of each term and convey necessary information precisely if they want to avoid misunderstanding among the members of the crew and, of course, not to expose their life to danger. It has been proved that seafarers must also have a clear understanding of the use of maritime idioms in the appropriate context if they want to make their English speech more lively, bright and expressive and also to know English at a fairly high level and speak like a native speaker. The article depicts the essence of using maritime idioms in the appropriate context. The place of idioms in English is determined; the original meaning of maritime idioms is identified; their use and scope of distribution in modern English is considered. It was proved that idioms (not the matter if maritime or not) help acquaint with the historical and cultural experience of people and comprehend it. The same concerns maritime English if seafarers aspire to improve their knowledge not only in the field of technical and navigational maritime terminology but adds a touch of uniqueness and expressiveness to their speech owing to using various idioms.

Keywords: *maritime idioms, context, maritime English, phraseological unit, set phrases, term, seafarers.*

Introduction. Nowadays English, without a doubt, remains the most popular language in the entire globe. Everyone knows that English is widely spoken all over the world, therefore, knowing this language, you can easily communicate with people from different countries. This will allow you to make useful contacts, talk and correspond with foreign friends and partners, and learn a lot of new and interesting information. In our age of digital technologies, anyone who wants to learn English can do it via Skype without even leaving home. It is very convenient for those people who are used to save their time. Even such global events as pandemics and martial law throughout the country cannot slow down the study of English by representatives of many professions. Creative people, business people, they all strive to master English in spite of anything. The English language opens up many opportunities for young professionals both in our country and abroad. In turn, it is precisely this factor that encourages many young people to master the English language, even despite very significant difficulties.

When learning a language, we often come across set expressions that can be very difficult to

translate. These expressions are called idioms or phraseological units (from the Greek ἴδιος – own, characteristic). This is an indivisible phrase inherent in any language, the meaning of which does not follow from the meanings of its constituent components. This is why idioms are almost never translated literally, but only by meaning. The term «idioms» was first introduced by the English linguist L.P. Smith. He stated that the word idiom is used in English to represent the French term «idiotisme», namely to indicate the structure of combinations characteristic of the English language, although very often the meanings of these combinations cannot be explained from a logical point of view. Many people have known the expression «it's raining cats and dogs» since school meaning «it's raining like buckets». If a phraseological unit manages to find a literal analogue, as a rule, this means that in both languages it arose from the same source. For example, the expression «Sword of Damocles», which is explained as a constant threat looming over someone despite apparent prosperity, originated from Greek legend. The same thing can be applied to the set phrase «to be green with envy». Again, the Greeks believed that

jealousy and envy caused a person to secrete bile, causing him to «turn green». Phraseologisms very colorfully reflect the uniqueness of the way of life, accumulate the uniqueness of the culture and mentality of a people in themselves, a unique way of their imaginative thinking and create their linguistic picture of the world.

Each phraseological unit, if it contains cultural meaning, contributes to the overall structure pictures of national culture. However, not all phraseological units are culturally specific in their meaning. Many idioms are based on expressions that once actually had a literal meaning. For example, «to let your hair down» – act at ease, relax. This expression comes from centuries when women wore elaborate updo hairstyles. It took a lot of effort to create and maintain this hairstyle throughout the day. In the evening, before going to bed, you could finally let your hair down and relax.

Another expression associated with ancient realities: «to give someone a cold shoulder» – to give a cold welcome, to be indifferent. «Shoulder» in English means not only the shoulder of a person, but also the shoulder of a meat carcass (a shoulder of lamb has always been a popular English dish). The British served hot, fresh food to their welcome guests. If the guest appeared at the wrong time and inappropriately, he had to be content with a cold shoulder blade, that is, «cold shoulder».

One more unflattering expression also deserves our attention. «Chew the fat» means to spread rumours, to gossip over somebody, to slander about somebody. This expression came to us from seafarers. In the 17th-18th centuries, during long voyages, each ship was loaded with huge supplies of food, most of which had long-shelf life. This is about salted lard. Good perishable food quickly ran out, and until the end of the voyage the entire crew was forced to eat lard. If in the first days it seemed like normal food, then after a while the monotonous food seemed disgusting. But there was no way out and the poor members of the crew had «to chew the fat». This idiom originates from the analogy and association with disgusting food.

The fundamental element of the idiom is an effective figurative plan, which not only promotes expressiveness and increases emotiveness of the statement, but is also an effective method of reducing information. An idiom allows you to create a laconic figurative description that provides the opportunity to briefly formulate a complex thought, or evaluate a certain state of affairs, people's actions, etc.

Here are a few phraseological units that appeared already in the 20th century. E.g. «*back-seat driver*» is explained as an uninvited advisor

or a person who criticizes everything and everybody around him but does not do anything. Those who drive a car are probably familiar with this type of passenger who likes to constantly give advice. Such category of people also firmly believes that they know better than the driver how to steer. This idiom appeared in the English language precisely owing to these unbearable people.

«*Fly by the seat of one's pants*» means to act without a plan, to navigate on the go. This rather curious phrase has a very serious backstory as it is associated with early aviation, when airplanes had almost no instruments and pilots had to listen to the behavior of the aircraft and rely on their feelings. And the place where the pilot has the greatest contact with the aircraft is, of course, the seat in which he sits.

It is possible to state the same meaning about the idiom «smoke and mirrors» which depicts concealing the truth, throwing dust in the eyes. This phrase is especially often used in a political context. Its origin is quite simple because smoke and mirrors were often (and still are) used in the tricks of illusionists.

There are also a lot of idioms in the English language that have maritime origins. And this is no coincidence, because the history of Great Britain – an island state – has always been closely connected with the conquest of the seas. Some of these idioms are particularly interesting and caught our attention. That is why we will analyze the specifics of using maritime idioms in the appropriate context.

Analysis of the recent research and publications. The prominent British linguist McCarthy M. dedicated proficient time to idioms study. He believed that idioms are expressions, which have meaning that is not obvious from the individual speech and words. He also added that the best way to understand an idiom is to see it in context (McCarthy, 2010, p. 60). He paid a lot of attention to the idioms of various categories closely related to such current topics as health, happiness, angry, work, money, having problems etc. The issue of the importance of teaching the vocabulary of the English maritime language in accordance with the professional needs of students was devoted to the research of such Ukrainian scientists as Kudryavtseva V. F. (2009), Shepitko S. V. (2019), Khrolenko O. A. (2020), Savvatieieva V. D. (2020). The well-known foreign scientists Olaru I. (1996), Squire D. (2006) have also been involved in this significant problem.

The purpose and the tasks of the research. Due to the stated above, the **purpose** of this research is important and relevant. It is connected with the identification of the specifics of using maritime

idioms in the appropriate context. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to accomplish several **tasks** of the research:

1) to determine the place of idioms in English;

1) to identify the original meaning of maritime idioms;

2) to consider their use and scope of distribution in modern English

The main material presentation. English ambiguous words, a great variety of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, phrasal words, proverbs, sayings, set phrases attract many people and immerse them into the «wonderful world» of language learning. Absolutely all idioms, including maritime ones, make speech lively, bright, and precise. Therefore, if a future specialist wants to know English at a fairly high level and speak like a native speaker, he needs to devote time to studying phraseological units. In addition, idioms give us an idea of the way of thinking, the culture of English-speaking citizens and their mentality. Polysemy, homonymy, synonymy and antonymy are phenomena related to semantic processes occurring in language. Typically, polysemy is understood as the expression by one term of several meanings, various phenomena, social relations, objects and their characteristics. In this case, it is advisable to pay attention to the meanings associated with navigation and shipping (Khrolenko, 2020; Savvatieieva, 2020, p. 158). E.g. deviation has a lot of meanings and it is translated as *девіація (магнітної стрілки), відхилення, відхилення від договірнього рейсу. Deviation clause* means пункт у фрахтовому контракті, що передбачає захід судна до іншого порту, крім порту призначення. There are also a number of words in the English language that have the same morphological structure but classified differently. They belong to different parts of speech and perform various functions. It witnesses such phenomenon as homonymy. E.g. *run* – *рух/run* – *потік*; *current* – *потік (газ, рідина)/current* – *електричний струм*; *sail* – *вітрило/sail* – *плавання*. Taking into account the large number of synonymous words in the field of navigation which differ in sound and spelling it is necessary to consider the fact that they are very close in lexical meaning. E.g. *marine* – *nautical (морський)*; *gangway* – *gangplank (тран/поручень)*. The phenomenon of antonymy creates polar meanings. E.g. *tailwind* – *head wind (супротивний/зустрічний вітер)*; *short wave* – *wide wave (коротка хвиля на морі/широка хвиля на морі)*.

It is known that mastering lexis remains one of the main directions in learning any foreign language, especially for achieving a professional goal because no communication is possible without

words. Of course, on the one hand, future seafarers should be able to use English in all areas of maritime communication (e.g. radio communication and correspondence on the ship, etc.), therefore when students begin to study maritime English they acquire a large amount of specific professional vocabulary related to their narrow specialization (e.g. *hull, hold, bow, stern, tank, dry cargo ship, liquid cargo ship, wing tank, tank top, double bottom tank, derrick, forecastle, poop* etc). Such lexis is necessary to convey information and, if interpreted incorrectly or literally, can lead to misunderstandings during communication or even endanger the safety of crew members or cargo. That is why the lexis that seafarers use for communication must be precise. However, despite this, seafarers must also have a clear understanding of using maritime idioms in the appropriate context.

As mentioned above, navigation has long been developed in Britain, so it is no coincidence that many idioms in the English language are of maritime origin. Let us plunge into the maritime topic (very relevant for us), learn and analyze several idioms in the appropriate context.

The idiom «*to give a wide berth*» means to keep your distance, to go around a mile away. Nowadays, the word «*berth*» stands for a *pier*, a place where a ship is moored, but in the 17th century it also meant space for a ship to maneuver. Thus, «*to give something a wide berth*» meant literally «to pass at a sufficient distance from it». E.g. ***When my sister is out of spirits, it's better to give her a wide berth.***

«*By and large*» means in general. Thus, to get to the heart of this English idiom, you need to understand a few nautical terms. Large wind is a tailwind, or «full» wind, blowing towards the stern of the ship. It is easiest way for a sailing ship to sail in such a wind. In its turn, *by the wind* means heading towards the wind (close-hauled). Not every ship (and not every crew) was able to cope with it. Initially, *by and large* meant the ability to control a ship in any wind. In the modern sense this phrase is explained as to consider the issue from different angles.

E.g. ***I'm satisfied, by and large, with your project but you have to rewrite an introduction a bit.***

«*Miss the boat*» is implied to be late, to be short of time or even to show off late. All this can be replaced with simple three English words, namely we need to hurry up, otherwise we will miss our boat.

The idiom «*happy as a clam*» has a positive connotation. Its meaning witnesses about a very satisfied (happy, joyful) person. E.g. ***When I passed my maritime English I was happy as a clam.***

Conclusions and perspectives for further research. As a result of the study the place of idioms in English was determined; the original maritime meaning of idioms was identified; their use and scope of distribution in modern English was considered. Thus, the translation system has many features related to the translation of set expressions from English into Ukrainian. In order to preserve the colorfulness of the original text, the interpreter is allowed to make various adjustments to the text. Despite the difficulty of understanding and translating idioms, their study is a necessary component of mastering the English language. After all, without knowledge of set expressions, it is simply impossible to understand English speech, watch films and read books in the original. The use of English idioms in speech indicates a deep

understanding of the language. By encountering an idiom, we can feel the historical and cultural experience of a people and comprehend it. The same applies to the maritime industry. In addition, the correct and appropriate use of set expressions gives English speech a unique originality, expressiveness and conciseness. It is precisely because Maritime English is replete with a huge amount of special vocabulary, so necessary for the brilliant career of future specialists, that it will be appropriate for students to complete tasks that are aimed at learning set expressions and, especially, their use in context. That's why the differences in the use of phraseological expressions related to maritime activities in English and Ukrainian languages will be the perspective of our further research.

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СПЕЦИФІКА ВИКОРИСТАННЯ МОРСЬКИХ ІДІОМ У ВІДПОВІДНОМУ КОНТЕКСТІ

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У статті висвітлено актуальність використання морських ідіом у відповідному контексті. По-перше, значення англійської мови в сучасному світі є настільки великим, що досить значна кількість людей на всій земній кулі прагне оволодіти англійською мовою, незважаючи на різні негативні події (військовий стан та пандемія), які сьогодні, на жаль, мають місце в нашому житті. Англійська мова відкриває безліч широких можливостей для молодих спеціалістів не лише в Україні, а й за кордоном. По-друге, глибоке знання сучасної англійської мови неможливо без впевненого володіння ідіомами. По-третє, морська англійська мова також має свою специфіку. З одного боку, спеціалізація морської англійської мови дуже вузька, і моряки повинні досконало розуміти значення кожного терміна і точно передавати необхідну інформацію, якщо вони прагнуть уникнути непорозумінь серед членів екіпажу і, звичайно, не наражати себе та інших колег на небезпеку. Було доведено, що моряки також повинні мати чітке розуміння щодо використання морських ідіом у відповідному контексті, якщо вони бажають зробити свою англійську мову більш живою, яскравою та виразною, а також знати її на досить високому рівні і говорити як справжній носій мови. У статті відображено сутність використання морських ідіом у відповідному контексті. Визначено місце ідіом в англійській мові; виявлено своєрідне значення морських ідіом; розглянуто їхнє використання та сферу поширення в сучасній англійській мові. Було доведено, що ідіоми (не має значення, морські чи ні!) сприяють ознайомленню та осмисленню історичного і культурного досвіду людей. Те ж саме стосується і морської англійської мови, якщо моряки справді прагнуть вдосконалити свої знання не тільки в області технічної та навігаційної морської термінології, але й додати нотку унікальності, виразності, емоційності та експресивності своєму мовленню завдяки використанню різноманітних сталих виразів та ідіом.

Ключові слова: морські ідіоми, контекст, морська англійська мова, фразеологізми, усталені фрази, термін, моряки.