

**РОМАНО-ГЕРМАНСЬКІ МОВИ**

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[vseallright2016@gmail.com](mailto:vseallright2016@gmail.com)<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1665-0692>**THE DYNAMICS OF TERMINOLOGIZATION IN ENGLISH  
MARITIME VOCABULARY: A LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVE**

Terminologization is the process of transition of a linguistic unit from general usage to the category of a term that has a specialized, strictly regulated meaning within a specific field of knowledge or professional activity. As a result of terminologization, the lexeme acquires the characteristics of systemicity, unambiguity, and functional limitation, which makes it suitable for precise and effective communication in a scientific or technical environment (Cabr , 1998).

This process is particularly significant in the context of the formation and development of maritime terminology. The maritime sphere encompasses a wide range of areas such as shipbuilding, navigation, maritime law, oceanography, and naval activities. Each of these fields has its own specialized conceptual apparatus, formed both through the borrowing of existing words that have undergone terminologizing and through the creation of new terms. However, this process is far from always unified, giving rise to a number of problems of both linguistic and practical nature.

At the present stage, a significant stratification of maritime terminology is observed: archaisms, regionalisms and ambiguous lexemes that do not have a stable terminological status continue to be used along with established terms. This hinders interdisciplinary communication, complicates the translation of maritime documentation and instructions, and reduces the effectiveness of international cooperation in the maritime industry. In addition, the question of the boundaries between the general lexical and terminological use of many maritime units remains incompletely studied, which hinders the construction of a holistic and hierarchically organized system of terms.

The consideration of the processes of terminology in maritime vocabulary is of great importance both for theoretical linguistics and for solving applied problems such as standardization of terms, creation of multilingual terminology databases, improvement of professional translation, and ensuring safety of navigation through accurate and unambiguous transmission of information (Ohienko, 2024). Thus, the study of the terminology of maritime terms is a relevant area of scientific analysis, located at the intersection of linguistic and practice-oriented disciplines.

The problem of maritime terminology is a topic of interest to both Ukrainian and international researchers. Several leading areas of research can be identified: the study of terminology models, corpus-based studies of maritime vocabulary, standardization initiatives, and translation issues.

Ukrainian authors analyze the structural and semantic features of the formation of maritime terms, identify productive word-formation models (Varynska, Kornodudova, 2019), and also draw attention to the role of borrowings and adaptation of foreign units in the national terminology system (Korolova, Smahliy, Yukhimets, 2024). The works of these researchers form the foundation for the formation of the Ukrainian terminological tradition and normative approaches.

In the international context, corpus-based methods have been actively developed, providing an empirical description of the use of maritime terms in multi-genre texts and the creation of electronic glossaries (Borucinsky, Pritchard, 2022; Zhang, Liu, 2023). The standardization of maritime communications, which led to the formulation of Seaspeak and Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP) (Trenkner, 2005), is also important. These documents laid the foundation for the unification of broadcasting at the international level to prevent accidents and improve shipping safety (Bocanegra Valle, 2011).

Special attention in the studies is given to translation problems: a significant number of errors arise due to calques and polysemy, which necessitates the creation of bilingual terminological databases and corpora with examples of real usage (Biel, 2014).

Thus, the modern scientific tradition forms a multi-level approach to the study of maritime terminology: from national descriptive studies (Ukraine) to interdisciplinary and standardization practices (foreign countries). This creates a reliable theoretical and methodological basis for further research and practical implementation of the results in maritime education and translation.

Despite the existence of a significant body of international research devoted to English maritime terminology, a number of aspects remain insufficiently explored.

Firstly, although standardized documents exist (in particular Standard Marine Communication Phrases and Seaspeak), the issue of their actual integration into the professional discourse of English maritime terminology requires a more in-depth analysis. The scientific literature has not sufficiently studied how consistently standardized communication formulas function with the live speech of seafarers in different genres of texts and practical communication situations.

Secondly, the problem of variability and polysemy of English maritime terms remains understudied. Many terms have multiple meanings depending on the context (technical, navigational, legal, everyday), which leads to the risk of ambiguity in professional communication.

Thirdly, although corpus-based methodology is actively developing in English-language science, large, balanced corpora reflecting the current state of English maritime vocabulary in various genres (instructions, scientific articles, international conventions, oral communication) are still lacking in maritime terminology. The need to create and systematize such resources is extremely urgent.

Fourth, the translation potential of English maritime terminology remains understudied. Despite numerous dictionaries and reference books, the complexities of interpreting terms across languages are not always taken into account, especially in cases of ambiguity, loan translations, or discrepancies in legal and technical documentation.

Thus, this article focuses on the identified unresolved aspects: (1) the analysis of the interaction of standardized and natural communicative practices in the field of Maritime English; (2) the study of variability and polysemy of English maritime terms; (3) justification of the need to create a corpus base of modern English maritime terminology; (4) identification of translation difficulties and ways to overcome them.

The aim of the article is to comprehensively analyze the processes of terminology of English maritime vocabulary, taking into account its structural and semantic features, standardization practices and translation aspects, as well as to identify ways to optimize the use of maritime terminology in professional communication.

To achieve these goals, the following tasks are planned:

1. To analyze the current state of research into English maritime terminology and identify the main areas of study.
2. To reveal the structural and semantic features of the processes of terminologisation in the field of Maritime English.
3. To determine the role of standardized documents (Standard Marine Communication Phrases, Seaspeak) in the formation and functioning of the English maritime terminology system.

4. To study the variability and polysemy of English maritime terms in different genres and types of discourse.

5. To justify the need to create a corpus database of English maritime terminology and its practical possibilities for researchers, teachers and translators.

6. To identify the main difficulties in translating English maritime terms and suggest ways to overcome them.

In the course of the research, a set of complementary methods was used, providing a multidimensional analysis of English maritime terminology.

1. The descriptive method was used to systematize and generalize existing terms, as well as to clarify their structural and semantic characteristics.

2. The comparative method made it possible to identify differences in the functioning of maritime terms in standardized documents (SMCP, Seaspeak) and in real texts of professional discourse.

3. Corpus analysis involved processing English-language text corpora and specialized maritime subcorpora, which made it possible to establish the frequency of use of terms, their collocation relationships, and contextual features.

4. The statistical method was applied for quantitative processing of the results of corpus analysis in order to identify productive models of terminology and patterns of term application.

5. The method of component analysis was used to determine the semantic structure of polysemantic terms and to identify polysemic and metaphorical shades.

6. Translation analysis allowed us to identify the main difficulties in transferring English maritime terms into other languages and to determine possible ways to overcome them.

The use of these methods in combination made it possible to combine descriptive, quantitative and comparative approaches, which ensures the integrity and reliability of the results obtained.

English maritime terminology is a multilayered and heterogeneous system, combining borrowed elements, indigenous terms, and new developments (Korolova, Smahliy, Yukhimets, 2024). The following models are the most productive:

- composite terms (lifeboat station, engine room, cargo hold) denoting specific objects or spatial zones;
- derivational formations with suffixes and prefixes (seaworthy, overboard);
- abbreviations and acronyms (AIS – Automatic Identification System, IMO – International Maritime Organization) typical of technical and legal discourse;
- metaphorical units, where figurative meanings are transformed into terminological ones (for example, deadweight – load – bearing capacity).

Polysemy and variability of meanings are typical: a single term can have different interpretations depending on the context (for example, “draft” as “ship's draft” and as “draft document”). This creates conditions for distinguishing specialized and general meanings.

In the field of Maritime English, international standards (Standard Marine Communication Phrases (SMCP) and Seaspeak) are applied. Their goal is to minimize communication misunderstandings in a multilingual environment. However, in practice, a gap is observed between the codified formulas and the actual speech of seafarers: simplified or mixed forms are often used instead of standard phrases. This requires a more detailed analysis of actual practice and the potential updating of standards in line with modern conditions.

Corpus technologies enable systematic study of term usage across various genres: from official international documents to textbooks and radio broadcasts (Zhang, Liu, 2023). A number of specialized corpora have already been created in the English-speaking world, but they are not always open or representative of all genres (Borucinsky, Pritchard, 2022). A need was identified for a multi-genre corpus encompassing texts from international conventions, technical instructions, ship logs, and

actual communication records. Such a resource would allow for the study of frequency, collocations, syntactic patterns, and developmental trends in Maritime English.

One of the most challenging aspects is the adequate translation of maritime terms into other languages (Biel, 2014). The main difficulties include:

- ambiguity of terms (draft, log, berth);
- calques without regard for industry specifics, which leads to errors;
- inconsistency of national terminology systems, as a result of which one term in English may have several potential correspondences in another language.

To overcome these problems, it is advisable to create bilingual and multilingual glossaries with contextual examples, as well as to use corpus resources in translation practice.

A study of English maritime terminology demonstrates the need to further combine traditional descriptive approaches with statistical and corpus-based methods. An important goal is to harmonize terminology with international standards and implement the findings in Maritime English teaching and translation.

The conducted research allowed us to establish that English maritime terminology constitutes a complex and multi-component system, constantly developing under the influence of both intra-linguistic and extra-linguistic factors. It has been established that the process of terminology in this area is carried out through composite formations, derivation, abbreviation and metaphorization, and is also characterized by a high level of polysemy and variability (Varynska, Kornodudova, 2019; Ohiienko, 2024).

An analysis of current international standards (SMCP, Seaspeak) revealed that, despite their significant role in ensuring secure communication, there is a gap between codified norms and the actual verbal practices of seafarers (Bocanegra Valle, 2011; Trenkner, 2005). This highlights the need to improve and update these standards to reflect new communication conditions.

The corpus-based approach has proven its effectiveness for studying the frequency, collocation, and contextual use of terms, but has demonstrated the limitations of available resources. A promising direction is the creation of an open, multi-genre corpus of English maritime terminology.

The translation of English maritime terms remains a significant practical challenge. The ambiguity, polysemy, and inconsistency between national terminology systems necessitate the development of bilingual and multilingual glossaries, supplemented by examples from authentic texts (Biel, 2014).

Therefore, the research results can be used in several areas:

- improving the theoretical foundations of terminology;
- improving the quality of professional communication in the field of Maritime English;
- improving translation practices for specialized texts;
- optimizing Maritime English teaching methods in higher education institutions.

Prospects for further research are seen in the development of electronic lexicographic resources, the harmonization of the English maritime terminology system with international standards, and the study of the dynamics of terminology in modern genres of maritime discourse.

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### **Огієнко М. Д. Динаміка термінологізації англійської морської лексики: лінгвістична перспектива**

Статтю присвячено комплексному аналізу процесів термінологізації англійської морської лексики, що постає важливим об'єктом сучасних лінгвістичних досліджень. Актуальність теми зумовлена зростанням ролі англійської мови як *lingua franca* міжнародного мореплавства, де чіткість і однозначність термінології є визначальною умовою безпечної та ефективної комунікації. Мета роботи полягає у з'ясуванні структурно-семантичних, стандартизаційних, корпусних і перекладацьких аспектів функціонування морських термінів англійської мови.

У статті окреслено коло попередніх досліджень українських і зарубіжних учених, які заклали основи сучасного підходу до вивчення морської термінології. Зокрема, увагу приділено словотвірним моделям, особливостям запозичень, фразеологічним структурам, а також використанню корпусних технологій для системного аналізу професійного мовлення. Автор акцентує увагу на наявності невирішених проблем, серед яких – розрив між кодифікованими стандартами (*Standard Marine Communication Phrases, Seaspeak*) та реальною мовленнєвою практикою, а також труднощі перекладу, спричинені багатозначністю й міжмовною невідповідністю термінів.

Методологічну основу дослідження становить поєднання описового, порівняльно-зіставного, корпусного, статистичного та компонентного аналізу, що забезпечує комплексне бачення процесів термінологізації. Результати аналізу свідчать про динамічний характер англійської морської терміносистеми, її схильність до деривації, композитотворення та метафоризації. Водночас наголошено на необхідності гармонізації термінології з міжнародними стандартами, створення відкритого багатожанрового корпусу морської англійської та укладання двомовних і багатомовних глосаріїв із контекстуальними прикладами.

Отримані результати мають як теоретичне, так і практичне значення: вони розширюють уявлення про закономірності термінологізації англійської морської лексики та можуть бути використані в термінологічних студіях, перекладацькій практиці й методиці викладання морської англійської у закладах вищої освіти.

*Ключові слова:* англійська морська термінологія, термінологізація, структурно-семантичний аналіз, стандартизація, переклад.

### **Ohiienko M. D. The dynamics of terminologization in English maritime vocabulary: a linguistic perspective**

The article offers a comprehensive analysis of the processes of terminologization in English maritime lexis, which represents an important object of contemporary linguistic research. The relevance of the study is determined by the growing role of English as the *lingua franca* of international shipping, where clarity and unambiguity of terminology are crucial for safe and efficient communication. The purpose of the research is to explore the structural-semantic, standardization, corpus-based, and translational aspects of English maritime terminology.

The paper outlines the scope of previous studies conducted by Ukrainian and foreign scholars, who have laid the foundation for current approaches to maritime terminology research. Special attention is given to word-formation models, borrowings, phraseological structures, as well as the use of corpus technologies for systematic analysis of professional communication. Unresolved issues are emphasized, including the discrepancy between codified standards (*\*Standard Marine Communication Phrases, Seaspeak\**) and actual communicative practices, the limited availability of corpus resources, and the challenges of translation caused by polysemy and cross-linguistic asymmetry of terms.

The methodological framework integrates descriptive, contrastive, corpus-based, statistical, and componential methods, ensuring a multidimensional perspective on terminologization processes. The

results demonstrate the dynamic character of English maritime terminology, its reliance on derivation, compounding, and metaphorization. At the same time, the study highlights the need for harmonization of terminology with international standards, the development of an open multi-genre corpus of Maritime English, and the creation of bilingual and multilingual glossaries with contextual examples.

The findings of the study have both theoretical and practical implications: they contribute to a deeper understanding of the principles of terminologization in English maritime lexis and can be applied in terminology studies, translation practice, and the methodology of teaching Maritime English at the tertiary level.

*Key words:* English maritime terminology, terminologization, structural and semantic analysis, standardization, translation.

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