

UDC 811.111

DOI <https://doi.org/10.52726/as.humanities/2025.2.17>

M. D. OHIENKO

Senior Lecturer at the Department of English in Marine Engineering,

Kherson State Maritime Academy, Kherson, Ukraine

E-mail: vseallright2016@gmail.com

<http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1665-0692>

THE HERITAGE OF THE LANGUAGES OF EUROPE AND LATIN IN MODERN MARITIME ENGLISH

Modern maritime English used on ships and in the maritime industry contains a large number of words and expressions borrowed from European languages, especially Latin and other Romance languages, as well as Anglo-Saxon heritage.

The paper analyzes the distinct features of English maritime terminology focusing on the formation and use of terms to describe maritime concepts. It highlights the importance of mastering this specialized vocabulary for professionals in the maritime field emphasizing its role in clear communication, safety, and operational efficiency. Knowledge of maritime terminology is crucial for anyone working in the maritime industry. This includes professionals like seafarers, ship owners, port authorities, and anyone involved in shipping, navigation, and maritime safety. In turn, English is commonly used as a lingua franca for communication among diverse groups of people, especially in situations where participants may have different native languages. Much of the communication in English within maritime settings including ports, docks, fairways, straits and international sea routes is conducted by non-native English speakers. This is because English has become the global lingua franca of the sea, even though many participants in this communication are learning English as a second language. The navy plays a critical role in a nation's power and prosperity, and the skills of its sailors are highly valued. A strong navy can project power, protect trade routes, and deter potential aggressors contributing to a country's overall security and economic well-being. The professional qualities of sailors including their courage, honor, commitment, and accountability are essential for the navy's success and are highly respected. Therefore, the etymology of the vocabulary of shipbuilding and navigation or maritime terms deserves special attention.

The article describes the origin of maritime terms in the English language. The terminologies of the main European languages develop in close contact; therefore, the comparative study of terminological processes acquires special significance. This is why specific features of the corresponding lexical systems were identified, as well as correlations among the conceptual model of native English speakers within the framework of the studied area of knowledge. The origin of maritime terms in English is considered; the analysis of maritime terms is conducted; their etymology is studied; they are grouped by the languages from which they originate.

Key words: borrowings, sources of borrowings, etymology of maritime terms, maritime terminology, Maritime English.

Problem statement. The vocabulary of modern English has undergone a long path of formation and has a history of more than 1500 years. The quantitative growth and qualitative changes in the lexical composition of the language are associated with the history of the people, the speaker and creator of this language. The leading process in the development of the vocabulary of the English language at all stages was word formation based on the available lexical material. However, no language has ever managed to get by with its own lexical means. Among the processes associated with the expansion of the English language vocabulary, borrowing foreign vocabulary occupies a significant place. This process can be considered as one of the ways of nominating new phenomena, as well as replacing existing names.

The material of the study is English terminology related to maritime transport. The purpose of the article is to study the origin of maritime vocabulary within the English language, to determine their semantic meaning, and to distribute them among the languages from which they were borrowed. The study is based on the teachings of Mouratidis D., Keramanidis K., Kanavos A., Ohienko M., Sandiuc C. about the term. To conduct an etymological analysis of English maritime terms, monolexemic units were written out from the International Maritime Dictionary using the continuous sampling method. The total number of terms was 1104 units. The resulting corpus of English monolexical units was subjected to etymological analysis. The identification of types of terms taking into account

their etymological characteristics was carried out on the basis of lexicographic sources, the most accessible of which are dictionaries. The analysis of the studied material showed that despite all the etymological heterogeneity of English-language maritime terminology two main types of terms are distinguished: original and borrowed from various languages.

Presentation of the main material. Modern English vocabulary is the product of a number of historical periods. The formation of the English vocabulary was influenced by the most significant historical events of Great Britain, and especially by the numerous conquests of the British Isles, first by the Romans, then by the Germanic tribes of the Angles and Saxons, the Scandinavian Vikings and the Normans from northern France. The Hundred Years' War, the growth of England's maritime dominion, colonial conquests, the development of trade and industry were reflected in the formation and development of the vocabulary of the modern English language. The English language had the opportunity to borrow foreign words under conditions of direct contact: first from successive foreign invaders, and later – under conditions of trade expansion and colonial activity of the English themselves. Therefore, borrowing is an integral part of the process of functioning and historical change of language and one of the main sources of replenishment of vocabulary. As a result of the crossing and interaction of languages based on military, cultural and economic ties, the lexical composition of the language was enriched by words from Latin, Greek, French, Italian and Scandinavian languages. In modern English, the number of native English words is about 30%, words of Latin origin – 30%, French – 28%, Scandinavian origin – about 5%, other languages account for about 7% of borrowings [Online].

As an island nation, the realities of the sea have always been of primary importance to Great Britain. The country's economic development, power and prosperity have depended for centuries on the successful development of the fleet, the conquest of new lands, and the transportation of goods by sea. Shipping and navigation have always occupied a predominant place in the life of the English people. It is known that the development of any sphere is inevitably accompanied by the development of the corresponding area of the language. Therefore,

the analysis of maritime terminology allows us to obtain information about the representation of the worldview by native English speakers. From the earliest stages of the formation of the maritime terminology system borrowed words have firmly taken their place in it. Maritime terms like all other terms related to certain areas of knowledge are words and phrases of a special language used to denote logically precisely formulated concepts of a given branch of knowledge.

The calculations made during the study of etymological characteristics show that in English-language maritime terminology, the original terms of Anglo-Saxon origin make up 32% of all terminological units studied. Almost the entire vocabulary is derived from a common Germanic source, since the Angles and Saxons belonged to the West Germanic group of tribes. The following words belong to the original units: *ship* (a large boat for transporting people or goods by sea) < Old English *scip*, *to board* (get on or into a ship) < Old English *bord*, *speed* (the rate at which someone or something moves or operates or is able to move or operate) < Old English *sped*, *water* (a colourless, transparent, odourless liquid that forms the seas, lakes, rivers, and rain and is the basis of the fluids of living organisms) < Old English *wæter*, *rudder* (a flat piece hinged vertically near the stern of a boat or ship for steering) < Old English *roðor*, *hull* (the main body of a ship or other vessel, including the bottom, sides, and deck but not the masts, superstructure, rigging, engines, and other fittings) < Old English *hulu*, *sea* (the expanse of salt water that covers most of the earth's surface and surrounds its land masses) < Old English *sæ*, *mast* (a tall upright post, spar, or other structure on a ship or boat, in sailing vessels generally carrying a sail or sails) < Old English *mæst*, *wave* (a long body of water curling into an arched form and breaking on the shore) < Old English *wafian*, *to moor* (make fast (a boat) by attaching it by cable or rope to the shore or to an anchor) < Old English *mérian*, etc [Cutler : 29, 38, 40, 97, 116, 189, 211].

The borrowed words in the vocabulary of the language can be classified by source and era of borrowing highlighting the main periods:

- 1) borrowings from the Celts who originally inhabited the British Isles;
- 2) Latin borrowings of the first centuries of our era which arrived before the arrival of the Angles

and Saxons to the British Isles (the first stage of Latin borrowings);

3) Latin borrowings in the 6th–7th centuries, i.e. the era of the introduction of Christianity in England (the second stage of Latin borrowings);

4) Scandinavian borrowings from the era of Viking raids in the 8th–9th centuries and the Scandinavian conquest of the British Isles;

5) borrowings from Old French in the 12th–15th centuries caused by the Norman conquest;

6) Latin borrowings in the 15th–16th centuries associated with the Renaissance (the third stage of Latin borrowings);

7) French borrowings of the Middle and later centuries;

8) borrowings from Greek, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, German and other languages conditioned by political, economic and cultural ties with other nations [Mouratidis : 5].

There are significantly more borrowed terms in the industry terminology under consideration than Anglo-Saxon ones – they make up 68% of the entire analyzed material. In the total mass of maritime borrowed vocabulary Latin, Scandinavian and Greek borrowings stand out among the rest [Online].

Most of the units that go back to Latin were borrowed into English not directly from Latin but through Old French, which held a dominant position after the Norman Conquest until the end of the 14th century and had a huge influence on the formation of the English language. The number of such borrowings is 30%. For example, through Old French the following words penetrated into English: *mess* (a dining area, specifically a mess deck or mess hall, where crew members eat and socialize) < Old French *mes* < Latin *missus*, *lizard* (a short length of rope or wire rope with a thimble spliced into the end) < Old French *laisarde* < Latin *laser-tus*, *position* (ship's specific location in three-dimensional space, usually defined by latitude and longitude) < Old French *posicion* < Latin *positionem*, *marine* (relating to or found in the sea) < Old French *marin* < Latin *marinus*, *demurrage* (a charge payable to the owner of a chartered ship on failure to load or discharge the ship within the time agreed) < Old French *demorage* < Latin *demorari* [Sandiuc : 108].

Latin borrowings from the Middle Ages make up 17.4%: *cook* (a seafarer who prepares and serves meals for the crew or passengers on

board a vessel) < Lat. *cocus*, *visibility* (the degree of clarity through the atmosphere, specifically the maximum distance at which prominent objects can be seen or identified) < Lat. *visibilitas*, *transmit* (sending information or signals from one ship to another, or from a ship to shore, or vice versa) < Lat. *transmittere*, *commercial* (used for activities that are undertaken for financial reward) < Lat. *commercium*, *moderate* (average in amount, intensity, quality, or degree) < Lat. *moderatus*, *auxiliary* (providing supplementary or additional help and support) < Lat. *auxiliaries*, *deflection* (the bending or distortion of a ship's hull or other structural components under the influence of external forces, such as the weight of cargo, waves, or dynamic loads) < Lat. *deflexionem*, etc.

Next we can highlight borrowings from Scandinavian countries – approximately 7% of the total amount of maritime shipping terminology studied. These include Old Norse, Danish and later Dutch words: *ballast* (weight (usually water) added to the vessel to improve stability and control, particularly when not fully loaded) < Danish *barlast*, *gear* (the equipment or apparatus used on a ship for various purposes, including cargo handling, steering, and more) < Old Norse *gervi*, *raft* (a basic form of watercraft, essentially a floating platform made by fastening together logs or planks) < Dutch *raptr*, *log* (a ship's logbook, which is a record of important events, and a log or speed log, which is an instrument used to measure a ship's speed through water) < Old Norse *lag*, *to lift* (raise to a higher position or level) < Old Norse *lypta*, *freight* (goods that are transported by a ship) < Dutch *vracht*, *gale* (a strong, sustained wind, typically ranging between 34 and 47 knots (39 to 54 mph)) < Old Norse *gol*, *leakage* (the escape of fluids (like water, oil, etc.) from pipes, tanks, or other parts of the ship's system, often due to damage or defects) < Dutch *leken*, *bulwark* (a structure extending above the main deck, serving to protect the deck from the sea) < Dutch *bulwerke*, or High German *bolwerk* etc. The presence of cognates in almost all Scandinavian languages confirms the theory of a single Germanic source from which all modern languages belonging to the Romano-Germanic group began to develop [Palmer : 218].

Borrowings from Greek account for 4.2% of the material under study. Examples of units

of specialized vocabulary that go back to the Greek source are: *zone* (a geographical area with specific rules or restrictions for navigation, a designated area for safety purposes, or a geographical area used for shipping) < gr. *zone*, *schedule* (a timetable detailing a ship's planned arrivals and departures at various ports) < gr. *skhida*, *anchor* (a device, usually made of metal, that is used to secure a vessel to the seabed, preventing it from drifting due to wind or current) < gr. *ankyra*, *diameter* (the distance a ship's center of gravity travels when turning 180 degrees from its initial course, using maximum rudder angle) < gr. *diametros*, *automatic* (systems and processes that operate without or with minimal human intervention) < gr. *automas*, *diagram* (a simplified drawing showing the appearance, structure, or workings of something; a schematic representation) < gr. *diagramma*, etc. Some Greek words came to English via Latin.

Borrowings from French and German in the area of English under consideration are relatively few (only 3.8 and 2%, respectively), and date back to the Middle Ages and later time periods. These include the following borrowings: *sac* (a hollow, flexible structure resembling a bag or pouch) < French *sac*, *to embark* (go aboard or board a ship, usually to begin a journey) < French *embarquer*, *to maneuver* (skillfully steer or change the direction of the vessel, utilizing its propulsion and rudder systems to navigate and control its path) < French *manoeuvre*, *mate* (a deck officer, typically second or third in command after the captain, who is responsible for various tasks related to navigation, cargo, and deck operations) < German *mate*, *gemate*, *tramp* (a vessel that operates on a voyage-by-voyage basis, without a fixed route or schedule) < German *trampen* [Sandiuc : 110].

The number of terms that come from other languages is small – about 2%. In this group we can highlight the following terms: Celtic origin – *quay* (a land area adjacent to a ship berth, typically on the shore of a harbor or river bank, where ships can dock to load and unload cargo or passengers), *loop* (a sailing route involving multiple port calls, or a closed communication system); Scottish origin – *dredger* (a vessel specifically designed or adapted to remove material from the seabed, typically by using hoppers, suction, or other mechanical devices), *schooner* (sailing vessel characterized by having two or more masts, with the foremast

(the forward mast) generally being shorter than the mainmast), *reliable* (consistently good in quality or performance; able to be trusted); Italian origin – *traffic* (the movement and flow of vessels, or ships, in a specific maritime area, waterway, or port), *zero* (a state of no, or near-zero, emissions, or a state of zero-speed or zero-speed stability), *disaster* (a serious accident or incident involving a vessel at sea that causes significant damage, injury, or loss of life); Spanish origin – *cargo* (the goods transported on a ship), *breeze* (a light to moderate wind, typically coming from the sea and blowing towards the land, causing a refreshing cool air flow), *hurricane* (a type of storm with sustained winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or greater), *stevedore* (a person, company, or firm responsible for loading and unloading cargo from ships in ports); Portuguese origin – *tank* (a sealed compartment used for storing and transporting liquids, like fuel, ballast water, or cargo), *tanker* (a vessel designed to transport or store liquids or gases in bulk); Arabic origin – *hazard* (a condition, situation, or process that has the potential to cause harm, injury, or damage to personnel, property, or the environment) [Skeat : 51, 103, 244, 253, 449, 564].

There are words with multiple borrowings. For example, the word «card» can be considered a word of Egyptian origin, which was borrowed by the Greeks, then passed into Latin and through Middle French passed into English. Another example: the word «skiff» (a small, light boat, typically used for rowing or sailing, and often used as a tender or small boat attached to a larger ship) has a Germanic source but was borrowed from French via Italian. Despite numerous etymological studies, the origin of some lexical units is unclear. For example, *to hamper* (prevent the progress or free movement of a ship), *berth* (a designated location where a ship or boat docks or moors, often for loading or unloading activities), *patch* (a piece of material used to cover or repair a hole or weak spot in the hull), *tab* (adjustable metal plates, typically located on the transom (the rear of the boat), that help adjust the boat's running attitude), *pier* (a structure that extends from the shore into a body of water, typically for the purpose of allowing ships to dock and load/unload cargo) < Latin *pera* of unknown origin [Ohienko : 193].

Conclusions. Thus, we see that modern English vocabulary is a product of a number of eras. Due

to the fact that the development of the vocabulary of a language occurs gradually we find in the vocabulary of modern English words that were formed in different historical eras. Concepts related to the navy and the sea occupy one of the most important places in the development of the English language. The core of maritime terminology is made up of borrowings from a number of European languages and a Latin base.

In addition, it is formed by terms of English origin taken from ancient dialects of a single Germanic source. Modern English maritime terminology retains borrowed vocabulary to a large extent without losing its originality. It is characteristic that at the present stage borrowed terminology has firmly entered the lexical system of the English language, acquiring English paradigms, giving rise to many derivatives already on the soil of English.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Online Etymological Dictionary. URL: <http://www.etymonline.com>
2. Cutler D., Cutler T. Dictionary of Naval Terms. Annapolis : Naval Institute Press. 2005. 272 p.
3. Mouratidis D., Kermanidis K., Kanavos A. Comparative Study of Recurrent and Dense Neural Networks for Classifying Maritime Terms. *2023 14th International Conference on Information, Intelligence, Systems & Applications (IISA)*. 2023. P. 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/IISA59645.2023.10345925
4. Ohiienko M. Basic methods of forming maritime terms in English. *Актуальні питання гуманітарних наук*. 2024. Вип. 75, т. 2. С. 193–198. <https://doi.org/10.24919/2308-4863/75-2-30>
5. Palmer J. Jane's Dictionary of Naval Terms. L. : Macdonald and Jane's. 2010. 342 p.
6. Sandiuc C. Instances of linguistic contact. The impact of French on Romanian maritime terminology. *Scientific Bulletin «Mircea cel Batran» Naval Academy*. 2023. Vol. 26, № 1. P. 107–112. DOI: 10.21279/1454-864x-23-i1-013
7. Skeat W. W. The Concise Dictionary of English Etymology. Wordsworth Editions, Ltd. 1994. 633 p.

REFERENCES

1. Online Etymological Dictionary. URL: <http://www.etymonline.com>
2. Cutler D., Cutler T. (2005) Dictionary of Naval Terms. Annapolis : Naval Institute Press. 272 p.
3. Mouratidis D., Kermanidis K., Kanavos A. (2023) Comparative Study of Recurrent and Dense Neural Networks for Classifying Maritime Terms. *2023 14th International Conference on Information, Intelligence, Systems & Applications (IISA)*: 1–6. DOI: 10.1109/IISA59645.2023.10345925
4. Ohiienko M. (2024) Basic methods of forming maritime terms in English. *Current issues in the humanities* (75(2)): 193–198. <https://doi.org/10.24919/2308-4863/75-2-30>
5. Palmer J. (2010) Jane's Dictionary of Naval Terms. L. : Macdonald and Jane's. 342 p.
6. Sandiuc C. (2023) Instances of linguistic contact. The impact of French on Romanian maritime terminology. *Scientific Bulletin «Mircea cel Batran» Naval Academy* (26(1)): 107–112. DOI: 10.21279/1454-864x-23-i1-013
7. Skeat W. W. (1994) The Concise Dictionary of English Etymology. Wordsworth Editions, Ltd. 633 p.

М. Д. ОГІЄНКО

старший викладач кафедри англійської мови в судновій енергетиці,
Херсонська державна морська академія, м. Херсон, Україна
Електронна пошта: vseallright2016@gmail.com
<http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1665-0692>

СПАДЩИНА МОВ ЄВРОПИ ТА ЛАТИНИ У СУЧАСНІЙ МОРСЬКІЙ АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

Сучасна морська англійська мова, що використовується на судах та в морській галузі, містить велику кількість слів і виразів, запозичених з європейських мов, особливо з латини та інших романських мов, а також англосаксонську спадщину.

У статті аналізуються риси англійської морської термінології, особлива увага приділяється формуванню та використанню термінів для опису морських концепцій. Наголошується на важливості освоєння цього спеціалізованого словника для професіоналів у морській сфері, підкреслюється його роль у чіткій комунікації, безпеці та ефективній роботі і цілому. Знання морської термінології має вирішальне значення для будь-кого, хто працює у морській галузі. Сюди входять такі фахівці, як моряки, судновласники, портова влада та всі, хто займається

судноплавством, навігацією та безпекою на морі. У свою чергу, англійська мова зазвичай використовується як мова міжнародного спілкування між різними групами людей, особливо в ситуаціях, коли учасники говорять різними мовами. Більшість спілкування англійською мовою в морських умовах, включаючи порти, доки, фарватери, протоки та міжнародні морські шляхи, здійснюється особами, для яких англійська мова не є рідною. Це тому, що англійська мова стала глобальною мовою спілкування на морі, хоча багато учасників цього спілкування вивчають англійську як другу мову. Морський флот відіграє важливу роль у моці та процвітанні країни, а навички його моряків високо цінуються. Сильний флот може показувати силу, захищати торговельні шляхи та стримувати потенційних агресорів, сприяючи спільній безпеці та економічному добробуту країни. Професійні якості моряків, включаючи їх мужність, честь, відданість справі та відповідальність, мають важливе значення для успіху флоту та користуються великою повагою. Тому етимологія лексики суднобудування і мореплавання, або морських термінів, заслуговує на особливу увагу.

У статті розглядається походження морських термінів англійською мовою. Термінології основних європейських мов розвиваються в тісному контакті, тому особливого значення набуває порівняльне вивчення термінологічних процесів. Тому були виявлені особливості відповідних лексичних систем, а також кореляції між концептуальною моделлю носіїв англійської мови в рамках галузі знань, що вивчається. Розглядається походження морських термінів англійською; проводиться аналіз морських термінів; вивчається їхня етимологія; вони групуються за мовами, з яких вони походять.

Ключові слова: запозичення; джерела запозичень; етимологія морських термінів; морська термінологія; морська англійська мова.