



---

# Global Language in the Field of Maritime – The Backbone of Global Trade

---

**M.D.Thamarai Selvi\***

*\*Research Scholar, Veltech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Avadi.*

**Received:** 12 October 2021 **Accepted:** 24 December 2021 **Published:** 29 January 2022

**Abstract:** *The purpose of the study is to investigate the importance of English language in the field of maritime and the backbone of global trade. Participants of the study were 60 Diploma in Nautical Science (DNS) batch students from SAMS Kappal College, Panapakkam, Chennai. For collecting the data, the participants were asked to write two permission letters of 150 words. Problem Statement of the study is that marine students make lot errors in sentence coherence, connectives and grammar in letter writing. The objectives of the study are: 1. To enhance the letter writing skills of the students. 2. To identify the common errors done in their letter writing. Hypothesis of the study was to enhance the letter writing skills through self-correction and peer-correction techniques. Mixed approach was administered in the study. Research Questions of the study is 1. Will the students improve their letter writing skills through self-correction and peer-correction strategies? As a result of the study, self-correction and peer-correction strategies helped the students to build the right foundation for effective letter writing.*

**Keywords:** *Maritime English, Maritime Students, English Proficiency, Marine Vocabulary, English Letter Writing Skill.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

With the advancement of the shipping sector, it is becoming increasingly vital for sailors to be fluent in Maritime English. While you can buy essays and have your ordinary English-related projects completed by pros available online, it is strongly recommended that you finish your assignments yourself if you are aiming to work on board a merchant vessel and studying Maritime English for that purpose. This is because a thorough understanding of Maritime English is required to communicate effectively on a merchant vessel, and how well you communicate could affect people's lives as well as the vessel's integrity. The following are the main aspects that emphasise the significance of Maritime English in a seafarer's career.

**The entire group is made up of people of various nationalities.**

The shipping sector isn't restricted to a single country or region. It's a global event. As a result, aboard a single ship, there are people of various countries. Because English is a universal language, it is the only way for sailors to speak clearly with one another. As a result, mastering



good English Language proficiency is critical, particularly for new apprentices.

**The most of marine mishaps are caused by a lack of communication.**

The bulk of marine accidents are caused by human error, and a considerable proportion of these maritime accidents can be attributed to poor communication. Miscommunication is likely to take place if a seafarer aboard a vessel does not speak standard Maritime English. This misunderstanding could result in the death of another seafarer and potentially endanger the vessel's integrity. As a result, it is extremely valuable.

**Maritime English is a widely used dialect.**

Each nation had its own language of communication in the early days of the maritime business, which they lauded as a standard. As the shipping business evolved and a single ship began to travel to different countries throughout the world, the language barrier posed numerous challenges. As a result of this, Maritime English was developed and established as a standard language for mariners all over the world. The number of operating challenges, accidents, and mishaps decreased dramatically after the introduction of Maritime English.

Overall, Maritime English is critical for a seafarer to communicate effectively while on board a vessel; consequently, all prospective seafarers should devote sufficient time to learning the language and become fluent in it.

The shipping industry is a worldwide phenomena. It not only connects faraway areas, but it also unites persons of many nationalities and languages. English is a widely utilised lingua franca for cross-cultural communication. English, on the other hand, develops additional characteristics and standards in the maritime business, which aid sailors in communicating efficiently.

**What Is Maritime English, and What Does It Mean?**

Any seafarer must be able to communicate in Maritime English. It helps with social, technical, and day-to-day issues. Standardized structures and specialised terminology in Maritime English guarantee efficiency in daily tasks and proper emergency responses. Ship-to-ship, ship-to-shore, and on-board communication all use it. Its main purpose is to ensure a ship's safe operation through improving internal and exterior communication.

Members of the crew may have varying levels of English proficiency. The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping for Seafarers (STCW) mandates seafarers to acquire Standard Marine Communication Phrases in order to avoid communication gaps (SMCP). These are some basic expressions that all mariners, regardless of their nation of origin, should be familiar with.

Maritime English is rich in nuanced expressions that, if grasped, can convey any meaning. It removes ambiguity and enables sailors to act and communicate quickly in the event of an emergency.

**The Benefits of Learning Maritime English**

Even if you think you know English well, that just doesn't imply you'll be able to communicate well in Maritime English. It has various distinguishing characteristics that set it apart from regular English for nautical communication. You will rebuild your knowledge in English to communicate with other professionals in the marine sector by learning Maritime English.

Maritime English is a useful tool for professionals. It covers terminology for a ship's internal and exterior aspects, including its systems, navigation, and maintenance. Trade, business, and



administration are all made easier with Maritime English. It can, for example, send a message to other ships or foreign ports. Anyone working in the seaborne business, from administrators and lawyers to sailors and ship owners, can benefit from learning Maritime English.

Maritime English is also a key social and emotional component that improves the quality of life on board by allowing co-workers to communicate more effectively. It allows mariners and other professionals to communicate effectively. As a result, Maritime English aids in the elimination of misconceptions, the prevention of accidents, and the assurance of safety.

### **Maritime English Examples**

Maritime English has its own set of rules and conventions that make communication more straightforward and straightforward. Positions, for example, become less unclear if each direction is given its own label. The left side is called port, and the right side is called starboard. Making progress is what it means to move forward. The movement rearward is sternway.

The fore or bow of the ship is in front, followed by the midship. The stern or aft refers to the back of the ship, or the propeller area. From his bridge, the captain commands the ship. Within a ship, all doors and windows are access holes. In Maritime English, even a ship becomes a feminine word, referred to as she. These are only a few instances of marine jargon that every seafarer should be familiar with.

Message markers are another prevalent feature of Maritime English. They assist in drawing people's attention to the issue and in informing them of the statement's aim. Let's look at a couple of examples.

Is it okay if I ask? Should I do it? Could I do it? These, as well as a variety of other approaches to asking a question, become obsolete. Rather, mariners employ the message tag question, which immediately states the communication's purpose. Consider the following scenario:

Question: Are you in need of assistance? Answer: Is another marker from the same group. Answer: I'm in need of aid.

### **Problem Statement**

Problem Statement of the study is marine students makes lot of errors in letter writing.

### **Hypothesis**

Hypothesis of the study was to enhance the letter writing skills through self-correction and peer-correction techniques.

### **Research Questions**

1. Will the students improve their letter writing skills through self-correction and peer-correction strategies?

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To develop the letter writing skills of the students.
2. To identify the common errors done in their letter writing.



## **Literature Review**

1. Ali Odeh Hammoud Alidmat & Mohamed Ayed Ayassrah, “Development of Critical Thinking Skills through Writing Tasks: Challenges Facing Maritime English Students at Aqaba College, AlBalqa Applied University, Jordan”.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **• Participants**

Participants of the study were sixty marine students from southern academy of maritime studies.

• **Sampling** - Simple Random Sampling Technique was implemented to select the specified number of respondents from southern academy of maritime studies, Panapakkam, and Thirupati high road.

### **• Instrument**

The students were asked to write two letters for data collection. For example: 1. Write a letter to your principal asking for permission to visit a company related to your branch of study as a part of your educational programme. 2. Write a permission letter to your principal requesting him to arrange for keeping the internet lab open till 10 pm.

## **Analysis and Findings Examples from Students letters**

1. Write a letter to your principal asking for permission to visit a company related to your branch of study as a part of your educational programme.

From Poomani R.S.

Diploma Nautical Science

Southern Academy of Maritime Studies Panapakkam, Chennai

To

The General Manager

Fleet Management Private Limited Delhi

Sub: Requesting for ship visit – regarding permission.

Sir, I am Poomani R.S. the cadet captain and class representative of the class Diploma in Nautical Science. (DNS – 26) batch of the year 2020 – 2021 of Southern Academy of Maritime Studies, Chennai. As we are studying diploma in nautical science. We are seeking to gain knowledge to become a successful. Merchant navy deck officers and captain. Kindly permit us to visit your ship at Chennai port. We are undergoing our models and practical exams. We have planned for a visit at Friday by 11.00 hours at Chennai port. Kindly request you to permit us to have the visit.

Thanking you in Anticipation Yours Truly

Poomani R.S.

2. Write a permission letter to your principle requesting him to arrange for keeping the internet lab open till 10.Pm.

From R.S.Poomani

Diploma in Nautical Science

Southern Academy of Maritime Studies Chennai

To



The head of the department Department of nautical science Southern Academy of Maritime Studies Chennai

Respected sir,

Sub: Regarding - Project Permission

Sir, I am Poomani R.S. of diploma in nautical science (DNS-26) batch of the year 2020-2020 of Southern Academy of Maritime Studies. As I am studying diploma in nautical science, I am on my end semester and I was given a navigational project. I request you to permit me to take up a project of rules of road. As rules of road (RoR) is one of the important subject in nautical science, I wish to take up this project, to do it with full interest and ability to complete the project on time. Kindly grant me permission to take up the project, I hope you will permit me to take up this project. Waiting to your response in anticipation.

Thanking you,

Address on the envelope To

The head of the department, Department of nautical science Southern Academy of Maritime Studies

3. Write a letter to your principal asking for permission to visit a company related to your branch of study as a part of your educational programme.

From  
Sangeeth. K  
Diploma in Nautical Science  
Southern Academy of Maritime Studies  
Chennai  
To  
Fleet management  
Private limited  
Delhi  
Sub: Seeking permission for a ship visit  
Respected sir/madam,



I Sangeeth. K of DNS – 26 **batch** from SAMS marine college Chennai. We the students of DNS – 26 from SAMS College haven't yet gone to a ship visit till now. As ship visit is a part of our course and it helps us to learn many new **thing** that we've learned through looks only, as the practical learning is also much important for us. As a representative of our **class** I humbly request you to give us a chance for experiencing a visit to one of your visits, as it will be a great opportunity and proud for us to experience a visit of which is one of the biggest shipping **company** in the world. And also it will be a great opportunity for us to share the moments with **official** and matter all that will be great inspiration for us of sharing their experience and knowledge with us. For our **batch** it will be a golden moment for us of the finest beauty vessel and to learn new things as well as also. So I kindly seek your permission **for up** to visit one of the vessels. We kindly look forward **for** your positive response.

Sincerely

Sangeeth. K.

4. Write a permission letter to your principle requesting him to arrange for keeping the internet lab open till 10.Pm.

From

Sangeeth. K

Diploma in Nautical Science -26 Southern Academy of Maritime Studies Chennai.

To

The HOD SAMS College

Sub: requesting to take me up for a project. Respected sir/Madam,

I Sangeeth. K. of DNS – 26 batch student of this college. I request you to permit me to take the subject 'effects of pollution for the project. It will be a great help for me if you grant me this project, so that I can take up and prepare for this project. As of now, the project hasn't been given or delivered to any other students therefore I'm requesting you to please grant me this project. As of I'm prepared for this project I have the confidence of presenting this project with my full and active participation and involvement and I will do my level best and fully intention and my concentration to this project. I hope you will understand my concern on this and will grant me this project, waiting for your positive response.

Yours sincerely Sangeeth. K





S. No	Grammar	Total number of Writing Errors	Example
1	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	6	1. a batch or the batch, 2. a diploma 3. a successful 4. a diploma 5. the road
2	Wrong or missing prepositions	6	1. <b>at</b> → on 2. <b>by</b> → at 3. <b>to</b> → for 4. for up 5. <b>for</b> → to 6. of
3	Incorrect noun number	4	1. <b>subject</b> → subjects 2. <b>batch</b> → batches 3. <b>thing</b> → things 4. <b>company</b> → companies
4	Confused words	2	1. <b>official</b> – officials 2. <b>grand</b> → grant
5	Comma misuse within clauses	2	1. batch, 2. class,
6	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	1	Project,
7	Misuse of modifiers	1	<b>fully</b> → full

## 2. CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded by given the findings that students made lot of errors in letter writing. Through self-correction and peer-correction technique students showed immense improvement in their writing skills.

## 3. REFERENCES

1. Nur Aeni, Baso Jabu, Muhammad A. Rahman, Hamid Ismail, and Saidna Z. Bin-Tahir. "The Students' Needs in Maritime English Class at Ami Aipi Makassar, Indonesia". ISSN 1798-4769 Journal of Language Teaching and Research, Vol. 9, No.6, pp. 1284-1292, November 2018.



2. Peter Ralph B. Galicia, “Problems encountered by the newly-hired seafarers onboard ship: The basis for a health intervention program”. *Maritime Technology and Research* 2021; 3(1) September 13, 2020.
3. Jingyi Shi and Lidong Fan, “Investigating Teachers’ and Students’ Perceptions of Online English Learning in a Maritime Context in China”. *SAGE Open* July- September 2021: 1–17 © The Author(s) 2021.
4. Jomarie D. Navarro, Zenaida Z. Garbin, Edwin M. Agena, Olympio B. Garcia, “Maritime Students’ English Proficiency and Their Feedback on Instructional Materials”. *Asia Pacific Journal of Maritime Education* Vol. 1 No. 1, 63-81 January 2015 P-ISSN: 2423-2033.
5. Raju Ahmmed, “The Approaches of Teaching and Learning Maritime English: Some Factors to Consider”. *BMJ* Volume- 2, Issue- 1 ISSN 2519-5972.