



Development Paper – July 2012

Introduction

July development paper introduces the two paper abstracts submitted to IMEC24 (International Maritime English Conference) for presentation at the Conference in October 2012 in Myanmar. The full papers are expected to be accepted and published in the conference proceedings.

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Paper 1

The Novelty of CAPTAINS: the Communicative Learning Approach of Maritime English and its Facilitation by Technology

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ABSTRACT

This paper concerns one of the many novel aspects of the CAPTAINS project: developing rich media interactive educational software in which they are able to record and self-assess their performance in communicative English, in addition to 3D virtual interactive learning environments, in which they are able to interact and "talk" to virtual maritime characters about handling situations at sea. Communicative skills are thought to be the most appropriate approach in teaching English to Merchant navy officer cadets. Communicative English learning through scenario-based learning deploying interactive 2D/3D simulations will enhance the awareness of dangerous situations significantly (demonstrating the wrong and right ways to communicate and the potential critical situations the wrong ways may lead to) and train maritime personnel on what actions to take to avoid them. The maritime industry could benefit from the existence of a software training tool for its sea-going and port personnel which focuses on effective English language communication. The EU Leonardo funded CAPTAINS project is expected to result in a novel, software based maritime English learning tool. This paper provides the rationale of the formulation of the new "canon", i.e. an intercultural, real-life inspired, communicative, and cutting edge in terms of technology learning standard to which new content could constantly be integrated.

Keywords: *Maritime English, communicative language training, CAPTAINS, novel approaches*

**Paper 2****Validation of the MarTEL Test: the Importance of Validity of the Test and the Procedure for Validation in MarTEL**

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ABSTRACT

Validity, as defined by Henning (1987), in general refers to the appropriateness of a given test or any of its component parts as a measure of what it is purported to measure. A test is said to be valid to the extent that it measures what it is supposed to measure. Furthermore, as test-developers, not only we need to ensure that the material included in a test is appropriate for the purpose for which it is intended, but we need to check whether the results are accurate. Funded by European Union, MarTEL has launched a novel set of Maritime English Language Tests. MarTEL is designed to test mariner's Maritime English through a series of online tests designed to cater for seafarers of different ranks and types. A number of major piloting sessions have been carried out with the target students, officers and captains within the partnership. This paper concerns these piloting results which contribute valuable statistics to analyzing and evaluating internal validity and external validity of MarTEL, with the distinction being that internal validity relates to studies of the perceived content of the test and its perceived effect, and external validity relates to studies comparing students' test scores with measures of their ability gleaned from outside the test. Questionnaires will also be analyzed and the procedure of validating the MarTEL Test will be discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Maritime English, test validity and reliability, MarTEL