



Safety at Sea – A Review of Current Arrangements and Efforts to Raise Standards of Maritime English among Seafarers

Why research?

Piri Reis University is a major centre for Maritime Education, Research and Innovation. It has the largest number of EU funded projects in Europe. Some of these programmes have sponsored students to study abroad and obtain degrees, higher degrees and ship officer qualifications recognised worldwide.

In our view research is in fact a way forward; looking at what is already being done well and should therefore be further developed or supported; and what is being done not well enough, or badly, and therefore needs to be changed, stopped, or replaced by something new. It is also to create new things.

Many countries have internationally recognised professional institutions (for instance through the Washington Treaty) and many researchers publish their work in the journals of these institutions and do not see the need to publish in the cited journals. Also, the results of industrial supported projects or confidential work (deference, military and so forth often of the highest value) are not published in cited journal; and often not in any conference proceedings. Unfortunately in some countries, especially those whose professional institutions do not have international recognition, there is so much emphasis on technical and scientific papers publications in cited journals that universities, and their funders, often forget that a university is a universe for teaching young people and preparing them for the future. In an universe there are all sorts of small and large stars, some far, some near, some shining and some in need of motivation to shine. What is significant is not publishing papers in cited journals but the number of times these papers are cited and not the fact they are published in these journals. In fact it is embarrassing if the papers published in cited journals are not cited (quoted).

A university should be a **centre of excellence in what it teaches** and to do this it must develop all its staff members, young and the more experienced. It must work and support industry and commerce, for which it is preparing the young people for it. Research to support and underpin programmes of studies and student projects are therefore should be taken seriously.

University research therefore, is an effective means of

- making new discoveries,
- underpinning further and higher education programmes,
- developing and motivating staff,
- establishing working relationship with industry and commerce and,
- developing independent learning while preparing students for the future.



They are also intended to

- create wealth and jobs, and
- serve the community to become more stable and accommodating.

Students should learn about self-learning early in their studies and in the latter part of their programmes should be introduced to research and scientific methods for seeking knowledge and making sound judgement.

The students must also realise the importance of preparing themselves for the world of work. All students should be introduced to development techniques viz., how products and services are developed and the processes involved.

Commitment to IMLA-IMEC

Piri Reis is committed to Conferences such as IMEC and IMLA where the purpose is not necessarily about scientific research but more about learning from one another and promoting good practice.

Human Factors and accidents

Our work at Piri Reis University has shown that by far the majority of accidents at sea are caused by human error. It has been shown that the main causes of these accidents and incidents are due to communication and linguistic problems. Some researchers have argued that unless there is fundamental recognition of the importance of human factors in seafaring, there will be many more accidents.

Need for Maritime English Standards

Recent research has demonstrated that safety at sea can be improved at source by improving the education and training of the seafarers. Furthermore, competency in English language has been found to be an important training issue and a challenge for the maritime industry.

Our research outlines two major problems relating to competency in Maritime English and is concerned with two our main developments:

1. Establishment of standards for Maritime English for all classes of seafarers with the intention of obtaining recognition for their language competence.
2. Design and development of a Maritime English course in line with current frameworks, syllabuses and good practices.

Summary of EU Projects

The slides are attached.

Participants who wish to receive a copy of the slides please contact:

Mrs Lerna Dilli ldilli@pirireis.edu.tr