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DEVELOPING SOFT SKILLS AT MARITIME ENGLISH LESSONS

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Life on a ship is challenging both physically and mentally even for the most confident and skillful seamen. And if they want to succeed in their maritime job, they need to master soft skills. At sea each crewmember has to be resourceful so there shouldn't be any place for conflicts and clashes. Thus, currently in shipping industry along with seafarers' hard skills their soft skills are equally important to get a successful career.

Seamen work and live in the same place. With proper soft skills they may prevent misunderstanding from rising. In fact, seafaring is a dangerous job and effective communication between crewmembers can promote a safer workplace. Communication is a great resource and can be considered as the most important human tool for understanding, cooperation and activity [3, p. 103]. The ability to communicate effectively in an intercultural environment includes an understanding of differences in communication styles and cultural backgrounds [1].

In such shipboard working environment soft skills are not just crucial but essential to ensure smooth operation.

According to research, presently, more than 60% of employers look for soft skills when hiring people. A majority of them consider that soft skills can both build and break a person's career.

The use of soft skills is broad as they are applied in many spheres of life. Focusing on soft skills concept and paying attention to many studies, we may suggest our own definition such as soft skills are a set of social skills, interpersonal communication skills and character traits that help a person in his private, social and professional lives. As soft skills do not depend on person's knowledge but on his

attitude and mindset, they cannot be learned theoretically, they need to be practiced and experienced to be improved further.

As it is mentioned above, soft skills need to be trained in an experience so you cannot really learn them in a class. But those skills have a very important interpersonal aspect and may be taught and trained in group exercises.

One of the best strategies to develop soft skills is to meet and overcome challenges. For this purpose, a maritime accident report may be used at Maritime English lessons. A case-study method helps students enter the learning zone, get used to it to reveal the problem on a ship that in turn expands knowledge on relations between crewmembers. Challenges that are presented in a maritime accident report make students analyze and assess communication between crewmembers, especially in any explicitly competitive or cooperative shipboard environment, find the gaps and suggest some alternatives. Students acquire and improve their soft skills by discussing the challenges which require that future seamen grow and learn in order to possess them.

In conclusion, soft skills are difficult to measure but they are useful in a huge range of situations on board from conducting a meeting to maintaining a job, from keeping a watch to having dinner in the messroom. In most situations that describe life on a ship one soft skill or some soft skills become useful. That is why soft skills are a range of qualities including communication, teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and other aspects of a human factor and relationships.

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НАПРЯМИ ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ МОДЕЛЕЙ СИСТЕМНОГО ВИЯВЛЕННЯ ВПЛИВУ ЛЮДСЬКОГО ЧИННИКА НА БЕЗПЕКУ МОРЕПЛАВСТВА

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Міжнародний характер судноплавної галузі призвів до реалізації широкого спектру заходів, спрямованих на підвищення безпеки судноплавства. Впровадження заходів безпеки забезпечується національними і міжнародними правилами, прийнятими місцевими та міжнародними органами, зокрема *ІМО*, Міжнародною організацією праці (*МОП*), найвпливовішими класифікаційними товариствами (*ABS* - Американське бюро судноплавства, *BV* - Бюро Верітас, *CCS* – Китайське Класифікаційне Товариство, *DNV GL Group*).

В останні десятиліття багато дослідників зосередили увагу на причинах морських аварій, зосереджуючись як на технічних несправностях, так і на помилках людей, які працюють на борту суден (капітан, екіпаж, лоцман, береговий персонал, тощо). Деякі з цих досліджень показали, що в багатьох нещасних випадках людська помилка була основною причиною або важливим фактором.

Наприклад встановлено, що «з загальних 923 аварій, проаналізованих під час розслідувань між 2014 і 2020 роками, 69% були пов'язані з помилковими діями людини (49% з них стосуються навчання та навичок)» (*EMSA 2021*). Або