

THE ROLE OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION IN THE TRAINING OF MARITIME INDUSTRY SPECIALISTS

Dobrovolska V.A.

*Kherson State Maritime Academy
(Ukraine)*

Introduction. Maritime transport plays a pivotal role in the global economy, as it facilitates the movement of a significant portion of cargo between countries and continents. Effective intercultural communication has become a crucial factor in ensuring the safety and efficiency of ship operations.

Relevance of the research. For seafarers working in multinational crews, the ability to interact with representatives of other cultures is a crucial skill for preventing conflicts and ensuring teamwork. The processes of globalisation and informatisation, as well as the constant growth of human knowledge, have made the phenomenon of «communication» highly relevant, contributing to the increase in the number of theoretical and applied studies on this issue.

Research Problem and Objective. The purpose of this study is to define the term «communication», to elucidate the essence of the concept of «Intercultural Communication», and to highlight the significance of the academic discipline «Intercultural Communication» as a crucial component of the curriculum for cadets at Kherson State Maritime Academy.

In a broad sense, communication is one of the fundamental aspects of human life and a manifestation of the diverse forms of human language activity. In a narrower sense, communication is essential to human existence [1, c.37].

Communication is characterised by significant diversity in its forms. We will consider intercultural communication a discipline investigating the peculiarities of verbal and non-verbal communication among individuals from different national and linguistic-cultural communities. In the context of globalisation, the ability to express oneself clearly and attentively, listen and understand the specific meanings expressed and interpreted by participants in intercultural communication becomes increasingly relevant.

The nature of communication has also changed with the expansion of international connections and the internationalisation of the global community. Language plays a central role in all the communication tools humanity creates, as its communicative function is essential [2, c. 10]. Establishing business and personal contacts with representatives of other countries requires proficiency in foreign languages. Language knowledge also shapes the individual qualities of the communication participant – openness, readiness to engage with people from different cultures, and tolerance.

However, this is not enough, as a significant barrier to communication with foreigners is the lack of knowledge about their ethnic and cultural peculiarities. The ways to avoid misunderstandings on cultural grounds when communicating with citizens of other countries are studied by intercultural communication [2, c. 9].

A key characteristic of intercultural communication is its interdisciplinarity, which necessitates drawing upon various related fields. Thus, intercultural communication is connected with linguistics, history, philosophy, ethnology, sociology, psychology, cultural studies, and others.

As a result of the growing communicative needs of society members, the range of specialities in domestic higher education institutions is expanding, which requires in-depth communicative training to meet the demands of the time, societal prospects, and practical tasks of the professional field. In this direction, the training of specialists in speciality 271, «Maritime and Inland Water Transport», is being carried out.

The work of maritime industry professionals often takes place in extreme conditions. The specifics of working on a ship affect communication. Factors that most influence the nature and characteristics of communication include a multinational crew and a foreign-language

communicative environment; a sharp reduction in external social connections due to the limited space of the ship; and the indivisibility of production and domestic spheres [3, c. 18–19]. The communication of maritime and inland water transport professionals will be considered successful if they fully interact with other members of a foreign-speaking crew, including both direct and indirect communication during the operation of shipboard equipment.

The academic discipline of «Intercultural Communication» is an essential component of the professional training of maritime and inland water transport specialists. It is part of the elective educational components offered to cadets of the Faculty of Navigation and the Faculty of Ship Engineering. The course aims to develop practical skills for interaction, communication, and integration into an international crew in a foreign language and multicultural environment, using language and communicative behaviour strategies with appropriate tolerance.

Studying the discipline of “Intercultural Communication” involves mastering effective intercultural communication models in the context of globalisation, which is a defining factor in the development of modern society.

This discipline is closely connected with courses such as the History and Culture of Ukraine, Philosophy, Self-management Psychology and human resource management, and Maritime English.

During the study of the academic discipline, the following issues are addressed:

- different aspects, principles, and categories of intercultural communication;
- stereotypes, prejudices, and cultural barriers;
- various forms of non-verbal communication on board;
- ethical and cultural standards in different countries;
- types, characteristics of cultures, and the interconnection of cultures;
- models of intercultural communication;
- religious differences in a multicultural environment;
- the essence of intercultural cooperation;
- Conflict resolution is based on cultural differences and their prevention, etc.

These aspects help to understand the cultural landscape of the world, master verbal and non-verbal means of intercultural communication, and understand the peculiarities of communication in different cultures, ethnic groups, peoples, and nationalities at the present stage of human development.

The result of studying the academic discipline «Intercultural Communication» is:

- acquired knowledge of the peculiarities of intercultural communication, its structural components, an understanding of the characteristics of subcultures, and the cultural features of nations and peoples worldwide, aimed at achieving mutual understanding and positive outcomes in intercultural contacts;
- the ability to apply effective models of intercultural communication, methods and techniques of constructive communication in a multinational crew; preventing or resolving intercultural misunderstandings and conflicts; applying effective strategies and approaches to achieve a positive communication outcome in practice;
- skills in effective interaction within multinational intercultural crews; maintaining a tolerant attitude towards representatives of other cultures; mastering methodological techniques of communicative behaviour in various areas of life; practical application of acquired knowledge in specific situations of intercultural interaction; mastering techniques and skills in preventing and resolving intercultural conflicts.

The holistic self-realisation of an individual is the key to the successful development of society as a whole [1, c. 35]. Therefore, a maritime industry professional, striving to achieve their life and professional goals, must acquire intercultural communication skills, namely to adequately perceive and interpret different cultural values to recognise common and shared traits in other cultures to accept new knowledge about foreign cultures for a deeper understanding of one's own; to compare existing ethnocultural stereotypes with personal experience and draw

appropriate conclusions; to review and adjust one's judgments about another culture in line with the expansion of intercultural communication skills and knowledge; to alter self-esteem as a result of embracing another culture and rejecting unfounded stereotypes or prejudices; and to synthesise and generalise their personal experience in intercultural dialogue [4, с. 83].

Research Findings. Thus, communication plays a primary role in intercultural communication, whether dialogue or polylogue of cultures. Knowledge of cultural differences helps avoid misunderstandings and conflicts on board and improves the ability to communicate with colleagues from different countries effectively. The ability to work harmoniously in an international team enhances the professional's reputation, and effective communication is critical in ensuring safety on board. The main result of successful communication is integrating into a multicultural foreign-language environment while preserving one's cultural identity. This is the focus of the academic discipline «Intercultural Communication», which plays a vital role in the training process of maritime industry professionals at Kherson State Maritime Academy.

ЛІТЕРАТУРА

1. Добровольська В.А., Місевич С.В. Феномен деструктивної самореалізації у бутті сучасної людини: метаантропологічний підхід. *Перспективи. Соціально-політичний журнал*. 2021. № 2. С.34-42. URL: <http://dspace.pdpu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/12919> (дата звернення: 13.11.2024).
2. Манакин В.М. Мова і міжкультурна комунікація. Київ : ВЦ «Академія», 2012. 285 с.
3. Тихонова І.Ю. Особливості формування міжкультурної комунікативної компетентності майбутніх фахівців морської галузі. Наукова думка сучасності і майбутнього: збірник статей учасників тридцять п'ятої Всеукраїнської практично-пізнавальної інтернет-конференції (м. Дніпро, 29 січня - 5 лютого 2020). С.17-19. URL: <http://naukam.triada.in.ua/images/files/zbirnik35.pdf> (дата звернення: 12.11.2024).
4. Костенко Д.В. Міжкультурна комунікація у сучасному світі. *Педагогічна освіта: теорія і практика. Психологія. Педагогіка*: збірник наукових праць. 2018. № 30. С.80-85.

REFERENCES

1. Dobrovolska, V., & Misievych, S. (2021). Fenomen destruktivnoi samorealizatsii u butti suchasnoi liudyny: metaantropologichnyi pidkhid [The phenomenon of destructive self-realization in ordinary people: a meta-anthropological approach]. *Perspektyvy. Sotsialno-politychnyi zhurnal*, 2, 34–42. Retrieved from: <http://dspace.pdpu.edu.ua/handle/123456789/12919>
2. Manakin, V.M. (2012). Mova i mizhkulturna komunikatsiia [Language and intercultural communication]. Kyiv : VTs «Akademiia».
3. Tykhonova, I.Iu. (2020). Osoblyvosti formuvannia mizhkulturnoi komunikativnoi kompetentnosti maibutnikh fakhivtsiv morskoi haluzi [Peculiarities of the formation of intercultural communicative competence of future specialists in the maritime industry], *Naukova dumka suchasnosti i maibutnoho, zbirnyk statei uchasykiv trydtsiat piatoi Vseukrainskoi praktychno-piznavalnoi internet-konferentsii* [Scientific thought of the present and the future: Proceedings of the of the thirty-fifth All-Ukrainian practical and cognitive Internet conference]. Retrieved from: <http://naukam.triada.in.ua/images/files/zbirnik35.pdf#page=18>
4. Kostenko, D.V. (2018). Mizhkulturna komunikatsiia u suchasnomu sviti [Intercultural communication in the modern world]. *Pedahohichna osvita: teoriia i praktyka. Psykholohiia. Pedahohika*: zbirnyk naukovykh prats, 30, 80-85.