

## **ENHANCING LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION EFFECTIVENESS WITH THE HELP OF MARITIME ENGLISH TEACHERS' LIFELONG LEARNING**

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**Introduction.** Modern teachers should be always updated with the latest teaching methods. Many teachers take advanced training courses, participate in workshops, and attend conferences to stay current. It is also important for each teacher to share their experience with colleagues, especially if this experience has positive results among students who are mastering different disciplines. Teachers who participate in international seminars and conferences, where colleagues from all over the world talk about their practical achievements, gain access to current Maritime English practices and STCW standards. This contributes to improving the quality of the educational process, using new methods and techniques in their classes and training competitive specialists.

Teachers spend their entire lives learning something new because due to globalization, the world does not stand still, and new methods and technologies are emerging to improve teaching. Using a new methodology, a teacher learns to adapt it to his/her students in order to have a better result at the end of the semester. The teacher is always looking for new tools to introduce new vocabulary so that each student can reproduce it at the end of the lesson. He/she also creates various pre-reading or pre -watching activities to facilitate student`s understanding of the text or video.

It is also important to note that a modern teacher must not only possess professional knowledge but also be competent in the usage of digital technologies (ChatGPT, Grammarly, LMS), online resources (TED-Ed, Maritime Professional YouTube Channels, MarEng, Seagull Maritime e-learning platform), and interactive platforms (LearningApps, Quizlet, Kahoot!, Quizizz, Wooclap). In the current realities of distance and blended learning, these skills are becoming indispensable for ensuring a high-quality educational process. It is also worth considering the need to develop soft skills - communication skills, emotional intelligence, critical thinking, and creativity- which help to establish effective interaction with students.

Also, speaking about the realities of maritime education, an important aspect of teachers' professional development is the ability to effectively use digital technologies, which includes not only working with online platforms (Moodle, Google Classroom), but also the integration of simulation programs, virtual trainers, maritime online cases and mobile applications for maritime English. All this helps both teachers and students in mastering the English language and practical skills.

Continuous improvement of professional skills allows maritime English teachers to use modern teaching methods in lessons: problem-based learning, simulation-role-playing games, case methods, project method, communication training in crises on a ship, etc. Since maritime English is a means of interaction in a multinational crew, teachers must improve their knowledge of intercultural communication, the peculiarities of the language of diplomacy, the norms of communication of different cultures and pass this on to their students.

Self-education is also an important component of the teacher's lifelong learning — regular familiarization with new methodological materials and the introduction of innovative methods and teaching aids allow teachers to promptly respond to changes in the field of maritime education and adapt teaching materials under the requirements of international standards.

Relevance of research. Lifelong learning of Maritime English teachers is an important

condition for increasing the efficiency of the educational process in maritime educational institutions. The development of digital competence, the improvement of methodological approaches, the mastery of modern technologies and active participation in international educational events ensure high-quality training of future specialists in the shipping industry.

A true professional in the field of education must be a person who is constantly self-improving, experimenting with new approaches, and actively introducing innovations into their practice. Such a teacher becomes not only a mentor but also a motivator for students, forming their readiness for lifelong learning.

Therefore, lifelong learning of teachers contributes to increasing the motivation of students to learn the language, improving teaching methods, creating a modern educational environment, and forming competitive specialists in the maritime industry.

**Results.** Based on the research of domestic and foreign scientists, the formation of motivational factors in employees is one of the main factors influencing the formation of their professional development. According to the theories of motivation, A. Maslow, D. McClelland, etc. distinguish two groups of factors influencing the professional activity and development of employees, namely personal and organizational [1].

Foreign scientists B. Wright and J. Rohrbo in their research proposed a four-level model of employee commitment to the institution, including professional activity, in which they separately identified the characteristics of work, which, according to the researchers, should include the specificity of the tasks performed by employees, and the stimulation of work should be represented by opportunities for professional development and the availability of rewards [2].

Many scientific studies on the study of employee motivation have been conducted by Ukrainian researchers. According to S. Nikitenko, among the factors that shape employees' commitment to the institution and professional activity, one should highlight salary, emotional and psychological climate in the team, the role of management, and opportunities for professional development and growth [3]. In our opinion, the role of continuous Maritime English teachers' professional development in enhancing language instruction effectiveness hasn't yet been studied sufficiently in scientific discourse.

The following research methods for analyzing the role of teachers' lifelong learning are the following: polls, interviews, observational studies, cases, and quantitative analysis.

The mentioned methods can help us to analyze continuous professional development for teachers and its effect on the quality of education, especially while e-learning. Teachers can conduct a valuable study that will, by the end, help to understand how continuous professional development can increase the effectiveness of teaching.

To the examples of advanced training courses we refer the following: Coursera, Prometheus, LinkedIn Learning, Diia.Education (Osvita) [2], Choice 31 etc. [1] Additionally, many universities offer graduate programs or certificates specifically designed for teacher professional development. Teachers also have possibility to attend internships, participate in round tables, international scientific conferences, workshops, etc.

The most popular platform of e-learning in Ukraine is Prometheus (<https://prometheus.org.ua/>). It offers online versions of its accredited courses for teachers. The platform was created 10 years ago, and there is a possibility to choose whether you'd like a free-of-charge course or a Prometheus+ one. There are also popular topics to choose. The platform includes more than 400 online courses.

Pythahor is another Ukrainian online platform that offers a wide range of courses for teachers' development (<https://pifa.com.ua/>). Courses can be chosen according to 62 directions (e.g. Foreign languages, IT, AI). Pythahor courses can help teachers learn using the latest teaching methods. It also includes the experience of foreign researchers and investigators. Using Pythahor courses, Ukrainian teachers can find out how to motivate students more.

EdEra (Education Era) is one more Ukrainian educational system with accessible, massive online courses for teachers (<https://ed-era.com/>). It has various videos, animations, and

interactive activities. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and many international organizations (e.g. American Councils) take part in its development and growth. The following advantages of EdEra can be mentioned: ready-made lesson plans, saving valuable time and effort, a wide range of topics, immersive experiences for students and educators.

Khan Academy is a platform that includes free and high-quality micro-lessons with activities in a wide range of subjects (<https://uk.khanacademy.org/>). Khan Academy was founded in 2006 and now has registered users from 193 countries [4]. On this platform, teachers and students can find a lot of different lectures and practical exercises on various subjects: mathematics, natural sciences, economics, history, English, etc. All these resources are free and translated into different languages (about 40). All video lectures posted on YouTube are available on the Khan Academy page, with other materials, such as students' progress tracking, practical exercises, and additional materials for teachers. You can register on the site using your Google or Facebook account. From Google Play, the App Store and the Windows Store the personal Khan Academy mobile application can be downloaded for free and the materials are also freely available.

Khan Academy does not contain a highly specialized course on maritime English, but it is a useful auxiliary tool for developing the language and technical skills of future ship engineers. The platform can be used in the self-study system of students, which forms their critical thinking skills. Working with video materials in English, studying grammatical structures, and working with English technical vocabulary is especially relevant. With the help of this platform, the teacher can create individual tasks for students (to watch a technical English video and write down maritime terms), create exercises on listening and reading (to prepare for working with instructions on a ship), and conduct the lessons using a blended learning model (part of the lesson is theory on the Khan Academy platform, part is practical application in a maritime context).

Edmodo is another learning system for educators to cooperate (<http://www.edmodo.com>). Edmodo is an educational technology platform that offers communication, collaboration, and coaching opportunities for secondary schools, colleges, and teachers. The Edmodo network allows teachers to share content, create tests, quizzes, and surveys, and manage communication with students, colleagues, and parents. Teachers can organize classwork and homework directly within the service. Edmodo storage has a Google Docs synchronization feature. This option allows you to share your work with students or colleagues [5].

Coursera (<https://www.coursera.org/>) provides a wide range of online courses from top universities and institutions, including some specifically designed for teachers. That's why taking courses means investing in your education and developing your skills and in future it will greatly advance your career. Studying on Coursera gives teachers an opportunity to receive internationally recognized certificates, which increases competitiveness. Coursera courses have tests, videos, and quick labs that can provide valuable hands-on experience, to test knowledge and consolidate the material. Online courses are a great way to learn a language, as one can review and practice the material at their own pace (to improve speaking, writing skills and the grammar details of a foreign language). Online courses are a great way to learn languages while still working full-time.

As for cons, obtaining a certificate requires payment because many courses are paid, although teachers can often listen to lectures for free. There is not always individual feedback, and the programs are mainly oriented towards the Western education system.

In addition to learning language skills yourself, online courses can be a great way to learn how to help others learn languages, such as through ESL (English as a Second Language) courses. Here one can find courses for different levels from beginners to advanced. They include reading, grammar, writing and speaking, different topics, and games. General ESL courses may not be adapted to the specifics of professional vocabulary (for example, Maritime English), and some programs (with a native teacher) can be expensive.

Udemy offers a vast selection of paid and free online courses on various topics, including professional development for teachers (<https://www.udemy.com/>). Udemy is a platform that allows instructors to create online courses on topics of their choice. Using Udemy's course creation tools, they can upload videos, presentations, PDFs, audio, ZIP files, and live classes to create courses. Instructors can also engage and interact with users through online forums.

Courses are offered across a wide range of categories, including business and entrepreneurship, academics, arts, health and fitness, language, music, and technology.

Teachers Pay Teachers (TPT) is a learning system for educators to share lesson plans with each other (<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/>). TPT is an amazing service (platform) for buying, selling, and free distribution of methodological plans and developments. Experienced teachers from around the world support these innovative ideas. TPT has everything teachers need (both new and experienced) to bring more different classroom activities, engage students, and increase their motivation. Experienced teachers can share their ideas, resources and different techniques with a larger audience that can be helpful.

Also, some disadvantages can be named. As materials are created by different teachers (countries, experience), their quality, methodological value, and compliance with educational standards can vary significantly. Although there are some free materials, teachers have to pay for high-quality and full-fledged ideas. Also, most of the content is designed for the American education system, which may not meet Ukrainian or European standards (assessment requirements, lesson structure, etc.).

EdWay is one more educational platform for teachers created by EdCamp Ukraine (<https://edway.in.ua/>). It can help teachers to independently choose topics, forms, and providers of training. All teachers can share their experiences and new ideas there.

Diia.Education (Osvita) was created by the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine in 2020 (<https://osvita.diia.gov.ua/>). It provides a limited number of resources for teachers (e.g. Educational TV shows, Simulators, Guides, Tests, Webinars, Podcasts, Useful links). Its biggest advantage is that it's free of charge. The main objective of this national platform is to make a breakthrough not only in digital knowledge, but also in general in the skills and abilities that are relevant in the modern world. And during the five years, more than 2 million course participants were registered there.

Choice 31 offers more than 50 online courses for lifelong learning in the sphere of digitalization, five of which are free of charge (<https://choice31.com/>). Their website is bilingual and includes a Ukrainian and English interface. The courses are divided into two groups for those who have a high level of digital competence and for beginners, which is very convenient. There is also a possibility to get a free 15-minute consultation online. They have many partners and one of them is a real IT company — Netpeak Group. The platform includes the following online courses useful for Maritime English teachers: AI use, Management, and SMM.

Using the methods mentioned above, teachers can stay up-to-date while teaching and enhance their language instruction effectiveness.

**Conclusions.** The conducted investigation has proved the need for lifelong learning for teachers, which is really important nowadays. It is of high importance for Maritime English teachers to stay updated with the latest teaching methods, technologies, and educational research, especially in the conditions of martial law in Ukraine. The prospects of further research can be seen in the analysis of simulators in the lifelong professional development of Maritime English teachers in Ukraine (e.g. Labster).

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