

「海事英語従事者の英語の分析」
— 関門海峡における海上管制官の海事英語 —

Analysis of Maritime English

— Maritime English of Kanmon Kaikyo Traffic Advisory Service Officers —

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate and analyze Maritime English of Traffic Advisory Service Officers in the Kanmon Passage.

The service provides a full radar surveillance service giving traffic information and control for vessels entering, leaving or navigating within Kanmon Kaikyo and its adjacent waters. There are many foreign vessels (China, Korea, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Russia and so on) passing through this area. The officers of Kanmon Marits (Marine Traffic Information Service) give them some information, instruction, advice and so on in English. They have to use IMO SMCP (Standard Marine Communication Phrases) when they contact each other. The SMCP builds on a basic knowledge of the English language. It was drafted intentionally in a simplified version of maritime English in order to reduce grammatical, lexical and idiomatic varieties to a tolerable minimum, using standardized structures for the sake of its function aspects, i.e. reducing misunderstanding in safety-related verbal communications. However, the foreign crews are not all English speakers who learn SMCP. I'm very interested in their communication in English between Kanmon Marits and foreign vessels.

The first chapter describes "Pidgin English". The pidgin language is a simplified language that develops as a means of communication between two or more groups that do not have a language in common. A pidgin is not the native language of any speech community, but is instead learned as a second language. I will give 3 pidgin English languages: Tok Pisin, Japanese English in Hawaii and Singapore English. I found some common denominators as follows,

- ① A lack of the function words the, a/an, is/are
- ② The singular form and plural form are the same shape.
- ③ A lack of past form
- ④ Reduction of consonant clusters and breaking them with epenthesis

Since a pidgin language is a fundamentally simpler form of communication, the grammar and phonology are usually as simple as possible.

There are some points of similarity between Pidgin English and Maritime English, so I set up the following hypothesis:

“Maritime English is one of Pidgin Language.”

The second chapter describes the investigation and analysis of Maritime English. And I will find some points in common between Pidgin English and Maritime English.

In the phrases offered for use in emergency and other situations developing under considerable pressure of time or psychological stress, as well as navigational warning, a block language is applied which uses sparingly or omit the function words the, a/an, is/are, as done in seafaring practice. Users, however, may be flexible in this respect. Further communication features may be summarized as follows:

- avoiding synonyms
- avoiding contracted forms

For the reasons mentioned above, it can be concluded that the hypothesis was supported.

In the third chapter, I conducted a survey using three questionnaire forms. The informants are Kanmon Kaikyo Traffic Advisory Service Officers (about 34). The contents of the questionnaire are follows:

- ① The ellipsis of the definite article “the”
- ② The ellipsis of Be verb
- ③ Maritime English used by the officers in the “imitative situation”

The following results were obtained:

- ① The ellipsis of “the”: 57% Use of “the”: 42%
- ② The ellipsis of Be verb: 14% Use of Be verb: 85%

The results show that the officers vary the function words according to the occasion.

In the questionnaire No.3, there are some interesting results. I could gather various expressions. I will give some examples:

1. your behind vessel/ your ahead vessel [Japanese structure]
2. Pay attention other vessel. / Do you want overtake her? [Ellipsis]
3. A is entering to Tachinoura. / I am understand. [Addition]
4. She will passing~/ It is dangerous getting ~. [Verb]

Japanese has its own structure, so when Japanese people speak English at once, Japanese language interferes with English. But most officers use right structure.

From what has been discussed above, it is clear that the officers of Kanmon Martis use the SMCP, but they take precedence over clear and accurate English according to the occasion.