

**IOANA RALUCA VIȘAN**

***TRANSLATING MARITIME LANGUAGE***

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vol. I *Maritime Language – A branch of Language for Specific Purposes (LSP)* (267 p.),

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**DANIEL DEJICA**

Politehnica University Timișoara

This book belongs to the broad field of applied linguistics, with ramifications in translation, terminology, specialized languages, and is extremely rich in information. It is published in two volumes in the *Translation Studies* series at Politehnica Publishing House. The author investigates maritime language and translation within this specialized field, arguing, rightly, that they are not mapped for the English-Romanian language pair, and that research in these areas is almost inexistent.

Volume I, *Maritime Language – A branch of Language for Specific Purposes (LSP)*, consists of two main chapters, an introduction, and a conclusion. The introduction is followed by a list of abbreviations and a list of the figures and diagrams and tables used; after the conclusion, one may find useful appendices and the bibliography.

In Chapter 1, *From Language for General Purposes to Language for Specific Purposes – Maritime Language as Part of LSP*, Ioana Raluca Vișan introduces the notions of language for general purposes (LGP) and language for specific purposes (LSP), making a distinction between them, presenting them in detail, and citing established authors, such as Bowker & Pearson (2002), Quirk (1990), Duranti (1997), Hoffman (1987), Croitoru (1996) and many others, who have dealt with this issue. The author shows that maritime English is used as a teaching and learning tool in all maritime educational institutions in the world and claims that, today, maritime English has managed to acquire particularly important valences, being considered a lingua franca of the maritime industry, constituting a communication tool used on board of commercial ships with multinational and multicultural crews. This is another important argument that justifies the relevance and necessity of the research conducted by the author and presented in the book. In the same chapter, Ioana Raluca Vișan highlights the complexity of maritime language, offering her own classification and a graphic representation of it (figure 1.3, page 63 in the book), made up of five types of language: maritime language for communication purposes, maritime language for business purposes, maritime

language for legal purposes, maritime language for technical purposes, and nautical language. Another important aspect highlighted by the author in this chapter concerns the geographical, temporal, and social variations of the maritime language, which presents differences in American and British English, and which can sometimes raise translation problems. Last but not least, the author carries out a socio-linguistic investigation: she interviews ten Romanian sailors of different ages, and extracts and presents the terms, phrases and expressions they use in communication.

Chapter 2, *Differences and Similarities between General Language Words and Maritime Terms*, is also very extensive. The author makes a useful synthesis of the concepts of *term* and *word*, defining and presenting the differences and the similarities between them. Maritime terms and words from the common language are discussed by taking into account their various semantic and lexical relations, including polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, synonymy, and antonymy. In a complex, well-structured analysis, the author highlights the terminologization of some words borrowed from the common language, and, at the same time, the determinologization of some terms and phrases, showing the ways in which their meaning and usage shifted from the specialised to the common language. The commentary is detailed, qualitative, coherent, a mark of an established researcher, and is complemented by numerous tables, pictures, figures and original graphic representations, very useful for communicating the research results.

Volume II, *Aspects of Maritime Language in Translation*, follows the structure of Volume I, and consists of three main chapters, an introduction, and a conclusion. Similarly to the first volume, the introduction is accompanied by a list of abbreviations, of figures and diagrams, and a list of tables; appendices and bibliography come after the conclusion.

In the first chapter, *Maritime Discourse in Translation*, Ioana Raluca Vişan presents the characteristics of maritime discourse, highlighting its linguistic and anthropological ones, and those related to gender, power, identity, and hybridization. Knowing these characteristics is essential in the process of translating specialized texts, including those in the maritime field. Accordingly, the author analyses the source text from three different perspectives – atomistic, holatomistic, and holistic – using the theory of textual perspectives proposed by Gerzymisch-Arbogast (2008) and adapted to the translation process by Dejica (2010). The author details the perspectives from a theoretical point of view and exemplifies them with already translated texts (the English-Romanian language pair), or with her own translations of selected texts, proving thus a good knowledge of the theoretical framework, of the basic concepts and approaches to translation, as well as of their correct application.

*Strategies Used in Translating Maritime Terms, Collocations and Idioms* is a chapter in which the author discusses the ways in which the translator of the maritime language chooses to solve the problems arising from the translation of idiomatic terms, collocations, and expressions; she presents the main processes and strategies of translation as described in the specialized literature by several established translation scholars, including Lörcher (2005), Chesterman (1997), Venuti (1995), Vinay and Darbelnet (1958/1995) and others, which she then illustrates with maritime texts. The examples are accompanied by very thorough and relevant translation comments, the author demonstrating thus her experience and qualities as a genuine translator.

In the next chapter, *(Non-)Equivalence in Translating Maritime Language*, Ioana Raluca Vişan approaches the concept of equivalence in the translation of maritime texts. She presents and comments in detail on aspects such as the equivalence and non-equivalence of terms, collocations and maritime expressions in English and Romanian, aspects related to the cultural elements in translation, and, last but not least, the anglicisation of the Romanian maritime discourse – a successful completion of already existing studies in this field (e.g., Bujeniță 1966). She draws attention to the complexity of maritime language and urges translators to treat this type of specialized speech carefully, taking into account the differences between the English and the Romanian maritime language.

In the general conclusion at the end of the second volume, the author makes a summary of the chapters of the whole book and reconfirms her main objectives formulated in the initial phase of the book, namely, to familiarize translators with the peculiarities of maritime discourse and to unveil the problems which may occur in the translation of this specialised type of discourse, expressing her hope that they were fulfilled.

The author approaches a difficult and complex topic, starting from a vast bibliography, assimilated and interpreted critically. The topic chosen and the research carried out are extremely useful, the author contributing through the results obtained to the development of translation studies in our country. Both volumes of the book are well-structured and coherent, and the chapters are balanced.

The bibliography chapters are complex and well-organized in several chapters that include books, articles and works cited, books, articles and works consulted, corpus and webography. From the cited titles, it is possible to identify fundamental works, but also specialized works published recently, the author demonstrating thus that she is also familiar with the latest publications in the field. This is visible in the detailed syntheses that the author makes, in the clear description of her research approach, and, in particular, in the pertinent translation comments in the applied part of the book.

The book is valuable from both a theoretical and a practical point of view, as the author brings original contributions to the knowledge of the field, that have an impact in the sphere of specialized translation. Moreover, the numerous bilingual tables made by the author, with terms, collocations, idiomatic expressions from the maritime field are very useful; I think they can serve as a starting point for creating a maritime bilingual glossary or dictionary, which will certainly be a very beneficial for translators and for those who are working in this field.

Therefore, one can state that this book has multiple qualities. It brings a valuable contribution to the understanding of specialised discourse and specialised translation, in general, and it facilitates the understanding of maritime specialized translation, in particular. It is an important work for translators, translation scholars and students, and for all those interested in this field, as it gives them the opportunity to understand this type of specialised language in depth, which is one of the keys that can ensure felicitous translation and communication.

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