

Learning Maritime English SMCP Measured Against Abridged

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Abstract There are numerous books related to Maritime English in many languages, manuals, loose-leaf binders, in short a confusion of materials. IMO developed a standardized guide text which is called the SMCP. ⁽¹⁾ Today this substantial book can be found in marine libraries and also aboard many ships. The SMCP was assessed in our previous studies, and from that the Abridged version was introduced into studies. After close examination, the Abridged appeared more convenient and portable (pocket size). This easier usage markedly seemed to have changed the situation in Maritime English. The explicit nature of maritime words isolated from the SMCP has in effect defined the make-up of Maritime English. This was an important step because for the first time we could clearly see what it is that we call Maritime English. So much in the SMCP is couched in Basic International English, which is not the same as Maritime English. The Abridged version did prove a revelation to the students and the feedbacks were circulated in the previous studies (IMLA-16 and IMLA-17). Authors now embark on another route to check the effectiveness of this Abridged SMCP, within this study. There were two types of lesson, and they performed into two groups of students at the Faculty of Maritime Sciences, Kobe University. In Lesson 1, two groups of students are set the same Maritime English test. ⁽³⁾ In Lesson 2, they revise their answers; one group of the students use the Abridged, the other group use the standard text, which in Japan has Japanese language notes throughout; the Abridged version has no such thing. This style, made up of different tests, will continue through the six lessons of this terms course. The results will be based on this ongoing programme.

Keyword: *Maritime English; SMCP; Abridged*

1. INTRODUCTION

SMCP or ABRIDGED. What if any difference? We have been using the Abridged SMCP in Kobe Maritime Sciences for some years. Its “user friendly” aspect has always been popular and the students had no real trouble in digesting the unique maritime vocabulary. Something came about when our marine library, one of the very best in Japan purchased a new book, which gave not only the full SMCP but also translation into the native language, in this case of course Japanese. Surely this must be easier for Japanese students to use? Could this be shown in order to be proved? This was a prime objective.

1.2 As an interesting side-experiment, half way into the lessons I uniquely set out to find out what Basic English knowledge a student *thought* they had? We then used our One Page Dictionary to estimate accurately what they did indeed know. This can be seen at 4.2 - 4.7.

1.3 We only have a very few lesson to do research and those are irregular, what with breaks for other activities, national and university holidays, an every other week schedule and those who simply don't bother to turn up. One week [Group Alpha] they completely abandoned my lesson on maritime English, when two English girl students joined them (same age)! We have two groups Alpha & Bravo operating in tandem. With each group Some students had been

with the Abridged before, others before, others not; this further confused the matter. I therefore, because of this mixing, was unable to do anything comparative between groups. I then looked at within the groups, splitting those who had at some point used the Abridged and those who had not. After initial assessment, which I always do, I decided to try to use the different books in the process of revision, when the assessment test is repeated. This sample was clearly too small to make any judgement on way or another. Never-the-less we tried, markedly restricted by the brevity of lesson time available to us. This anyway is what we got.

2. METHOD & Subjects

The students were split and as has become customary here, into two Groups: Alpha (18 students) and Bravo (18 students). Mostly young men with a few female students. They were third year and fourth year and as a consequence have quite a bit of sea-time. EACH having spent one full month aboard the training ship “*Taisei Maru*.” In 2008, they had spent a further one full month aboard the same ship, or a solid number served instead aboard T/S *Shintoku Maru*. These vessels are all managed by Japan Sea Training.

2.1 Procedure

Before all else, it was important to know what was their level of familiarity with Maritime English. This gives us our base line. What do they know? Therefore what do they not know? The set-up for these special classes was standard, and similar to every other classroom in the education world. We did however have air-con, making getting out into the field that much more difficult!

Because of time constraints and organizational issues we would essential left with just three lessons, kicking off as always with “Assessment.” No use of any textbooks here. The lesson is 90-minutes but the dryness of the material would put the odd student into a peaceful slumber. Those (who stayed awake) would hand in after about 45-minutes, and then knock off early.

As in past papers Izmir 2008 & Accra 2009, one hundred questions were taken directly from and quoting the full SMCP. The second lesson later, sometime much later, would be the return of the marked paper. This was where the split would take place; those who had any familiarity with the Abridged, and those without. The latter section within the group, were then issued the SMCP book with Japanese notation. We were in the campus library and so I got them into two groups as far away as possible. They then processed with revision, using the mistakes identified in there individual assessment paper. The correct answers they sort in the Abridged or the Full SMCP. However, I did notice some contamination, with the occasional person would visit the other section, such is the nature of friendship. The third time together and they do - the same - one hundred questions as of the assessment.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Measuring SMCP knowledge and after Study

In the evaluation of students’ score for Initial Assessment and Final Assessment, Table 2 shows their score in 100 points, also the ratio of their success. It is also obvious how the students’ learning ability has increased after revision, based on their answering of questions on Maritime English.

GROUP A	Used booklet		used the IMO SMCP	
	Assessment 3 rd Jun 2010 (%)	Study and Revision tested again 1st July 2010 (%)	Assessment 3rd Jun 2010 (%)	Study and Revision tested again 1st July 2010 (%)
	52	96	30	86
	23	99	46	absent
	33	89	33	99
	36	32	33	98
	68	98	51	99
	37	98	39	84
	31	57	25	95
	22	92	21	98
	100	97		

Table 1. Comparison of use between two texts [Group A]

GROUP B	used booklet		used the IMO SMCP	
	Assessment 22nd April 2010 (%)	Study and Revision tested again 1st July 2010 (%)	Assessment 22nd April 2010 (%)	Study and Revision tested again 1st July 2010 (%)
	52	96	30	86
	6	97	15	40
	24	50	8	62
	13	absent	24	59
	7	60	14	34
	62	74	35	77
	11	11	30	79
	48	57		
	29	39		
	14	52		
	absent	65		

used **booklet** : used our booklet for revision - SHIPBOARD ENGLISH for Non-native Speakers 2009
 used **IMO SMCP**: used the IMO STANDARD MARINE COMMUNICATION PHRASES with Japanese notation throughout 2008

Table 2. Comparison of use between two texts [Group B]

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Japan has, it has been said, the poorest record of mastering Maritime English among all maritime nations. This parallels exactly the situation nation-wise, throughout Japan, where English itself is the single greatest failure. Therefore in this country it is a particularly daunting challenge to the MET need of Maritime English.

4.2 To endeavour to compensate for this glaring gap, we constructed another tool to help in this urgent remedial area. This is the Kobe University One page dictionary of Basic English, made up as it is, from the actual English language usage in the port town of Gillingham. This is a sister city with Japan, and is singularly appropriate because the great Elizabethan Pilot captain William Adams was born there. Adams holds the title of “Founder of the Japanese Navy.”

4.3 The dictionary, less than 2,000 words is indeed a powerful tool. A whole working language can be put onto a single sheet of A4 paper. And this immediately breaks the back of misconception rife, that English is so vast that it cannot easily be approached. It defeats this misconception, because as with the Abridged, the language becomes manifestly possible. This can be found on the Faculty website. It is exciting to see the students and other faculty eagerly marking the words that they don't know. Finding instead that they know a vast vocabulary already!

4.4 The Kobe One Page Dictionary

How it began: This is a companion to ‘SHIPBOARD ENGLISH for Non-Native Speakers, Kobe University. The students had become sick of using dictionaries containing so very many words, many almost never spoken in such as my English hometown of Rainham, Kent. So, we decided to simply remove them. By its nature however, the dictionary must be “subjective” {This is the only non-Basic term in the dictionary.} Words such as ‘ascent’ have been cut because we do have (in this letter) ‘climb.’ Similarly, ‘abroad’ is replaced because we have ‘international’ and ‘shop’ goes because of ‘bread-shop.’ ‘Hotdog’ removes the need for ‘dog.’ {English as spelled in England is usually used.}

Oxford's great OED once estimated that Basic English is made up of about 5,000 words. Our university requires for a doctorate an English vocabulary of 1,300 words. Naturalist C. W. Nicol told me that many an East Londoner once managed on “about 500 words.” In our One Page Dictionary we have fewer than 2,000 words, plus this more complex letter. You probably already know many words in English; just think about: **BOOKS** and **MOVIE** titles, **FILM-STARS**, other **NAMES** in the news, the famous **HI-TEC** companies changing the world; other **HOUSEHOLD** brands, etc. How many Olympic **SPORTS** were there in Beijing? There are over 200-plus **COUNTRIES** in the world; and very many **INTERNATIONAL CITIES**. The Human **BODY**, **MEDICAL** contain many, many words. And how about **ANIMALS / FASHION? MONTHS / DAYS / COLOURS / NUMBERS**. And of course you can add new words as you go around and hear them.

However, NOT appearing here are these necessary words, often used in sentence making:- *‘again any be before between but come down give go here let near only put quite still than though through too up well while why’* You may also notice that the words in this Introduction do not appear, but are part of the dictionary – Basic English. (They serve to give us an example of how English can be used).

To give a better balance of generation/age a linguist, Norbert Fekata of Hungary, who learnt English as a second language, kindly advised on this dictionary. At first glance, to climb the mountain of English can seem an impossible challenge. So, I explain to my classes that Basic English is much, much less; “Indeed, it can entirely fit onto a single sheet of paper!” This they can see as literally true. This piece of paper is held up before them. Morale soars! {There's a word in here, not BASIC, thrown in as a joke. If you find it, let me know.}

Let's think of this dictionary as a plateau. Higher peaks, such as TOEIC can be seen in the distance, with Shakespeare far off, a kind of Everest. But now – at long last – no longer will students be overwhelmed by these peaks. That the challenge is, after all possible! Students will discover that their journeys can extend over the entire, not so high, plateau, and where most English speakers actually live. And the map of this new, exciting world of International Basic English – Why of course, the *Kobe One Page Dictionary!*

... And Remember, English is Just ONE Piece of Paper!!

4.5 “You know more than you Think!”

A big message in Japanese society is that English is impossible; an Everest-like challenge, if you will. To indicate that that is not the case needs a practical use of the One Page Dictionary.

4.6 Additional Method for Sub-Experiment

The class as whole completely look through the entire dictionary, almost twice over. They then take these random but alphabetical words and mark those they do not understand. What is the gap between expectation and reality? (Of course this does not indicate any speaking, hearing nor sentence use.)

4.7 Results Sub-Experiment Group A and Group B

This is rough and ready. To obtain the self-estimation, I just simple walked down the aisle between the desks and asked each; “How much BASIC English do you think you know, percent-wise?” They took a throwaway guess, after first surreptitious glances toward their mates. The measured result was achieved by the simple expedient of ordering each to count out the 200 words from the dictionary, shown in Appendix 8 - BASIC International English Defined, marking the words they do not know, and then multiple by 10 for a 100%. The dictionary has some 2,000 words.

GROUP A		GROUP B	
Self-estimation (%)	Measured Result (%)	Self-estimation (%)	Measured Result (%)
2	94	0	89
5	92	7	80
5	96	5	86
10	77	1	53
1	90	15	98
10	76	3	95
20	97	5	92
3	75	2	91
20	97	4	75
1	97	20	81
0	72	2	90
3	92	5	76
0	90	2	50
10	97	2	57
5	93	3	68
3	97	30	96
5	98		
10	97		
6.3 (6.1) Average (SD)	90.3 (8.8) Average (SD)	6.6 (8.2) Average (SD)	79.8 (15.6) Average (SD)

SD means Standard Deviation

Table 3. “How Much English do you Think you know?”

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Concerning Group A the question as to whether revision using a Japanese language version of the SNCP is highly inconclusive. If anything the national SMCP seems to have got a slightly better result. This was not borne out by Group B which followed the same pattern of the experiment as the A group. The rough averages being Group A (booklet to SMCP) 84% to 94%, and Group B 60% to 62%. The sample was highly mixed in ability, too small and the period of this experiment was too short and too irregular, due to students other commitments.

5.2 However, as a by-product we stumbled across the great value of the use of the One Page Dictionary, had we believe, in the area of self awareness and outright inspiration, a truly spectacular result. This was all encompassing. In all cases the students estimation of their knowledge of Basic International English was proved (to them) to be a huge underestimate. {See APPENDIX 8} From well below 10% in many cases to into the high 90s. The monumental challenge of English, as seen most especially in Japan, but elsewhere too, we decisively proved not to be a Mount Everest, but indeed a Mt. Rocco which overlooks our campus in Kobe; and once a year the students run up there! The resulting smile on the faces of the students when they could actively see that Basic International English, so defined, is our acknowledgement their contribution to this research.

5.3 It is our wish to disseminate this work throughout the non-English speaking world. It would also prove ultra convenient for those within the English speaking sphere! To finally lock this down we would need a much fuller set of Experimental results. We used 100 questions out of a possible 350 or so. I would like to pull from this pool, and then selected at random, to eliminate the rote learning factor. We want knowledge. It would be a great honour to attempt this next and final phase with another MET institution, one interested in rationalizing the field and giving new hope to young seafarers, those inspired to go to Sea. This is an important endeavour in a globalizing world.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX

BASIC International English Defined

FOOD & DRINK a mixed bag:- Alcohol: Guinness beer brandy cocktail gin whisky white-wine rum sake vodka champagne glass bottle barrel Coka Cola carton pub lounge bar pint health standards diner restaurant café stove oven refrigerator drive-in special offer gourmet chef cook dishwasher saucer (UFO!) tablecloth the cheque breakfast lunch dessert waiter menu plate cooker pot kettle bowl side-plate jar saucer Michelin Guide reservation butcher baker greengrocer canteen frying pan saucepan Chinese number 4 sukiyaki tofu snacks Cup Noodle TV dinner Mars-bar crisps peanuts ice-cream munchies sausages biscuit blue cheese fresh cheddar jelly roll soup can freeze pickles popcorn bar of chocolate cocoa coffee sugar sweet seafood: shark shrimp octopus squid shellfish cod & chips crab fat olive oil & vinegar salad dressing Tabasco tossed lettuce yellow pepper chop deep fry fork wheat maize tortilla meat-spread liver-paste pudding cabbage sprouts saucer spoon steam tray bacon & egg beefsteak almond baked-beans bagel bread-shop barbeque butter cake carrot coleslaw cinnamon cheeseburger chili curry custard cucumber Danish pastry doughnut eggplant espresso jam garlic gravy ham honey hotdog Kentucky Fried Chicken ginger green-tea ketchup jerky mayonnaise mushrooms mustard margarine milkshake macaroni milk potatoes salt soda spaghetti sauce toast tuna lime tomato vegetable yogurt ... And we start the alphabet list with fruit:- apple apricot banana berries cherry grapefruit kiwifruit lemon orange peach pear pineapple strawberry raspberry tangerine watermelon and ...

Ability abnormal above absent absolute acceleration accept accessory accident account ace achieve acid across action active actor addition address admire admit advance advertisement afford afraid Africa afternoon against age agency agent ago agreement agriculture ahead AIDs air airport alarm album alive allow alone already also always amateur ambition America among amount amusement angel angle angry animation announcer another answer anybody apart application apply appointment April fool! Approach approve Arab area argument army around arrangement arrive art article artist ash ashamed Asia ask assist assistant association astronaut Atlantic atlas atmosphere atomic attack attempt attend attention attitude attraction audience aunt authority automatic average avoid awake awful awkward

Baby back bacteria bad balance balcony ball bank bankrupt base basic basket bath battle bear beard beat Beatles beautiful bed bee began behaviour behind belief bell belong bench bent best bet Bible big bill billion bird birth bit bite bitter black blame blank blanket blood blow bolt bomb boom boss bottom box brain brake brave break breath brick bridge brief bright brilliant bring broad broken brother brush bubble bucket budget buffalo build building bulb bulldozer bump bunch burn burst bury bus bush business bust busy butter button buy bye-bye bypass byte

Cabin cake calcium calculation calendar call camp cancel cancer candle cap capital captain car carbon card care carnival carpet cart case cash castle cat catch cause CD celebration cell cent centimeter central centre ceremony certain certificate chain chair chalk champion chance change character charge chat cheap check chemical chess chest chief child chimney choice choose Christian Christmas church cigarette cinema circle circuit civil civilization claim classic clean clever client clip clock close cloth clothes cloudy club Co2 coach coal cocaine cock code coke cold collar collect collection college comb combination comfort comment committee common community commute companion company compass competition complaint complete computer concentrate concert concrete condition conductor congratulations connect connection conscious conservation constant construction consumer contact continue continuous control convenient convince cook cool cooperation copy cork corner correct cost councillor count counter couple court cousin cover cowboy crack crash crazy credit crime crop crowd cruel crush cry crystal culture cunning cunt cure curtain curve cushion customer cute

Dad dairy damage damp dance dancer danger dangerous dark darts date daughter dead deal dear death debt decide decision decrease degree delay delicate delivery demand demonstration dentist depart department departure deposit description desert design desire desk destination destruction detail development devil dew diameter diamond die difference difficult dip direct direction dirty disappear discount discovery discussion disease disk dislike display distance distribution disturb divorce doctor document documentary-film doll dome domestic donor door dormitory doubt download drag dragon drain dramatic draw drawer dream drift drill driving drop drug drum dry duck dull dust duty DVD dynamite

Each eagle early Earth ease easily East easy echo ecology economy ecstasy edge edition education effect efficiency effort either elastic election electric-current electricity elegant elementary elephant elevator else e-mail emerald emotion empire employer empty encourage end endless endure enemy energy engine engineer enjoy enough enter entertainment entrance envelope environment envy equal equation erosion error escalator escape especially essential ethnic even event everyday evil evolution exact examination except exchange excitement excuse exercise exit expansion expensive experience experiment expert explosion export express expression extension external extinct extra extreme Europe

Face fact factory fail failure fair fake fall false family fan fantastic far fare fast fat father fault favourite fax fear feather feed feel feeling female fertilizer festival fever fibre fiction field figure files final finance financial find fine finger finish fireman first five fix fixed flag flame flash flat flight flood floor flour fluffer flow flower flute fly focus fog fold follow foolish football forecast foreigner forest forever forgive formula forty forward found foundation fraction frame free freedom freeze frequent fresh friction front frost frozen frustration fuck fuel fun funeral funny fur furnace furniture future

Gadget gain Galaxy game gang gap garage garbage garden gas gate gay general generation gentle gentlemen germ gesture giant gift girl give glacier glad globe glory glue goal going gone good-bye goods government grade graduate graduation grain gram grammar graphic grass grateful gravity grease greed grey grief grip ground group grow growing grown guarantee guess guest guide guitar gum gun guy

Habit hacker half hall hammer hamster handbag handball handicap handle hanger harbor hard-disc harm harmony hat hate have hay-fever health healthy heart heat heavy height helicopter hell hello helmet help helper helpless her hero hide hill him hint hire his history hit hitchhiker hobby hold hole holiday holy home-run homeless homepage homework

homosexual honest hood hook hope horn horny hospital host hostile hotel hours housekeeper hug Humanity humour hundred hungry hunt hurry hurt husband hydrogen hysteric

Idea identity ill illusion illustrate image imagination imagine impact import important impression inch include increase index Indian individual indoor industry infinity inflation injury ink innocent input inside install instant institution instructor instrument insurance intelligent interesting internet-search interpret invention investigate investment invitation iron island

Japanese jazz jealousy jeep jet jewelry jigsaw-puzzle job jogging join joke joy judge jungle junior junk justice

Keen keep key keyboard kick kids kilo king kiss kit kitchen knitting knock knot know knowledge

Label labour laboratory lack lady lamp landscape lap large laser last late laugh laundry lavatory law lawyer lay layer lazy lead leaf lean least leather leave lecture left legend leisure length lent less lesson level lever library license lie lies lid life lift light limit line link liquid listen literature little living load loan local location lock locker logic lonely look loop loose lose loss lost lot lotion loud love lovely lover low loyal luggage luxury

Machine mad made magic magnet mail main maintenance male mall manager manners market marriage married mask mass master mat match mate material mathematics matter mattress maximum may maybe mean meaning measure medical medicine meet meeting mega melody melt member memory men mental mess message metal microphone middle might mild military mill million mine mineral minimum minus minute miracle mirror miss mission mist mode model modern modest money monopoly monster mood moon moral most motel mother motion motor mouse moustache move mud multiple murder museum musical musician must mystery

Narrow nasty nation national navy neat need negative neglect neighbor neither nerve nervous nest net network neutral newspaper next nice night nobody none noon normal north nose note nothing notice nuclear nurse Nuts!

Object observation office officer often OK old Olympic one open operation orchestra order organ organization original outside oven owe owner oxygen

Pacific packet packing pain paint pair pajamas palace parade paradise paragraph parallel parcel parent park parking part partner party pass passenger past path patience pay PC peace pearl pedal pencil pension people percent perfect performance perhaps permit person personal pet phone physical piano pick picnic picture pill pilot pinch pine pipe place plain plan plane planet plaster plastic plate player Play-station pleasant please pleasure plug plus pocket poem poetry poison pole policeman politics pollution pool popular population port pose position possible post poster postpone pot potential pour powder power powerful practice prayer present president press pressure pretty price pride priest prince prison private probable problem process produce producer professional profit program progress promise proof property protect protest proud psycho public publish pull pump punch punk pure purple push pussy

Quality quantity quarter Queen question quick quiet quiz

Race radar radiation radio rage rail rainbow rap rate ratio raw re-set reach reaction read reading real reality realize really reason receipt receiver recognize record recycle reference reflection regret regular relations relative relax relief relieve religion rely remain remember remote rent repair repeat report representative request rescue research resistance respect responsible rest result return revenge reverse review revolution reward rhythm ribbon rich ride right ring rip rise risk robot rock & roll rocket romance roof room root rope rose rot rotation rough round route row royal rub rude rule running rush rust

Sadness safe Sahara sail sailor sale same sample sand save saving say scale scanner school scientist scissors scratch scream screen screw sea season seat secret secretary section security seed selection self selfish sell send sense sentimental separate series service set several shade shadow shake shame shampoo shape share sharp shave she shelf ship shocking shoes shore short shot shout show shower shut shy side sight sign signal silent silk silver simple since sing sister sit size sleep slide slip slope slow small smart smash smell smile smoke smooth sneeze soap social society soft soil soldier some somebody something sometimes son song soon sorry sort soul sound south space spade spark special speech speed spirit splash sponge spring spy square stable stage stain stair stamina stamp stand state statement statistics steady steal steel stem-cell step stick sticky stiff stone stop store storm story straight strange stream street strength stress strike string strip strong studio study stuff stupid subject subway succeed success suddenly suggestion sum summer super support sure surface surgeon surprise surround suspicious swallow swimming swing switch symbol sympathetic system

Tail tailor talent talk tall tap tape task tattoo tax taxi teacher teaching team tear technician technology television tell tent term terrible test text thank theatre theory they thick thief thin think thirst thought thread threat throw thunder thus ticket tide tight time tip tire tired tissue-paper title together toilet tomorrow tone tongue tonight tool tooth top topic total touch tough tour toward towel tower toy track tractor trade tradition traffic tragedy train tramp transfer transmission transparent transport trap trash treatment tree triangle trick trillion trip trouble truck trumpet truth try tube tune tunnel turn twin two type typist

Ugly umbrella unbelievable uncle understanding uniform unit united Universe unknown unlucky upper urban urgent use useful

Vacation valley value variety Venus version victim victory video view village violence violet VIP virgin virus visa vision visit vitamin voice volcano volt volume vote voyage

Wage wait waiting walk wall wallet waltz want War warm was wash waste wave wax way we weak weapon wear weather website wedding weekdays weep weight welcome went were west wet what wheel whenever wherever whether which whistle whole wide widow wife wild win wind Windows wing wink winter wire wise wish without woman wonder wonderful wood wool word work worm worry wound write wrong

X-ray

Yacht yard yawn year yell yes yet YMCA young youth

Zebra zero zigzag zipper zone zoo zoom