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SLOVAK REPUBLIC

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of SCIENTIFIC PAPER  
AFASES 2012  
Brasov, 24-26 May 2012

## INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION ABOARD SHIPS

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**Abstract:** *Concerning the team aboard, the interpersonal communication aboard ships tries to understand the manner of the sailors to understand each other in order to do safe manoeuvres and that means communication between the members and also an efficient way to talk to the commanders.*

*Aboard maritime ships the issue refers to the main methods of communication, of the perception mode and of the psychological influence formed by the interpersonal communication, significant at different levels, considering the different nations the sailors belong. Their cultures, ethnics, needing a clear communication in order to do the most appropriate and safe manoeuvres aboard ships, in any moment !*

**Keywords:** *interpersonal communication, psychological perspective, social-professional influence, information changing, understanding skills, subconscious communication.*

### I. INTRODUCTION <sup>1</sup>

Life is a dynamic product, as well as all human activities, in which the communication has a huge role to play. From a psychological perspective, the communication processes are definitely social, are always based on interaction phenomenon and are determined by these.

Therefore, any kind of communication is an interaction, meaning a dynamic phenomenon involving a transformation, as a following act of a social mutual influencing process between many social actors.

### II. SOME DATA CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION INSIDE THE MULTINATIONAL NAVAL CREW

In order to define the communication we agree with that idea of J. C. Aleric who

considers: *“the communication represents a sum of many processes aiming towards a change of information and significations between persons in a given situation”.*

Basing on this idea we can easily assert that the act of communicating is not just a simple process of transmitting, based on interaction, but a social conscious transactional act, deliberate or involuntary, conscious or not, located at the very base of the social link.

The quality of the communication is an important factor of the “construction” of the naval crew; a special factor of the unity and familiarity between the crew members, which could supply security and efficiency.

In order to better develop the personal relations between the members of the crew, a lot of communication availabilities and the understanding skills.

### III. POSSIBILITIES AND WAYS TO COMMUNICATE ABOARD SHIP

The participation together with the naval students and the professional members of the

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<sup>1</sup> Mention the contribution in achieving this work of mr. col. (rs.), psiholog **Dan NICOLAU**.

ships crews in the practical activities aboard ships, was a remarkable method to directly observe all impersonal forms of acting.

Getting aboard ships, the participation to the practical training voyages offered a best opportunity to test all kinds of acting forms.

Because our study, made aboard ships is much larger, in order to have room enough to express we'll present only in short some of the impersonal communication forms and possibilities to succeed in reaching the professional targets aboard and also able to mean security, to protect the crew members and the ship cargo.

We'll present now some of our study's conclusions:

- the first and the most clear communication form is that one we use to transmit our needs and ideals;
- the second one refers to the signification of the others' mates from the crew needs and aspirations;
- the third level uses the subconscious communication, meaning the voice tone and the action, able to send discreet messages able to lower or to raise the barriers in interpersonal and group communication.

Inside the multinational naval communities we must consider not only the transmission of the message, but to ensure the receiver decoded the message correctly. That's why the message will have to be transmitted as possible in the receiver's mother tongue. If not possible, we have to use the international language of the navigators: the English.

That involves the forming to the multinational crew of a mental representation or a common mental pattern in order to avoid any misunderstanding or confusion.

In this context, the perception is the psychological mechanism every person uses to compare himself, understanding the environment he belongs.

Every information is, this way, included in a perceptive process meaning:

- the perceptual organization, involving the perception, the perceptual defense and the perceptual functions;
- the perceptual sensitivity is a showing process, permitting to the individual to select and to mentally process just some details. From the selectivity point of view, we can see some

kind of a defense owed to the perceptual functions, by, what we call perceptual organization ("screening out") and a settlement, a personal perceptual consolidation of every individual ("screening in").

### III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

To communicate is not a skill you were born with. We have to learn to improve our communication, learning the communications skills, improving them, developing them.

Anyway the personal communication can affect the interpersonal communication as follows:

- the most of the communication is an oral one (including the speaking) by messages (as much as 70% from the whole communication process);
- communication is limiting itself as the people can refuse any kind of communication;
- the communication is not always objective as long as it is a conscious activity, connected but to the personal desires and intentions;
- the communication cannot always be controlled.

### IV. A COMMUNICATION MODEL

**Sound:** the source-coding-transmission-reception-decoding-destination and feedback.

We define the sound as any barrier interfered in our communication trend. We have, from this point of view: physical barriers, semantic barriers, psychological barriers, all of them deeply involved.

The understanding should be ensured by a correct way of the coding/decoding process means, as the mutual linguistic understanding or the non verbal communication. The message should be established in a shape of a "pack" that could be read as a whole, once it was received.

Feedback is a very important part of the communication in order to organize a successful cooperation. A leader has to know the way to feedback and to receive and accept feedback as well because this one is acting two different ways as:



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- a positive feedback – it helps the person to understand what the receiver is continuing to do;

- a negative feedback – permitting to person to stop discovering what has to be stopped or what has to be changed; The negative feedback is not a punishment it has to have a critical constructive feature and most of all not to be made in public.

In another easier representation we refer to this as at a “closed communication curl” meaning a process where two or more minds meet – at the moment all agree on solving a problem “like this”, the result is mentally shared “as a model for the others”, an image of an independent process, no matter the nationality or the culture.

Settling the communication forms we should think the following:

- the number of the persons we are speaking to (individuals or groups);

- the communication instruments (speaking/oral/non verbal);

- the goal of the message (incidental, emotional, utility, of common interest, of group, etc);

- the cultures variety -all differences of nationality, material and spiritual very specific to each ethnic group. To build up moral values means a long, very long process starting from the very childhood and always influenced by some factors as: the religion, the language, the education, the family, the national customs and traditions.

The language. The misunderstanding can start from the language. Many a time some individuals aboard a ship, belonging to many nations are not good English speakers and they may cause misunderstandings starting from here. It usually happens from the need to „colour” the dialogue, missing the sense, giving a wrong way to understand.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

The success in ensuring an efficient communication in an inter cultural area of the shipping depends of the knowledge in communicating art, the opinions of every ethnic group in relationship with the main interpersonal liaisons and supposes the interest to avoid confusions and misunderstandings supporting a deeply secured voyage.

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