

## PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN THE NAVY

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**Abstract:** *Phraseological units can be classified as follows: collocations – binary structures, consisting in sequences of two linguistic units in an autosemantic relationship to one another –, phrases – distinct lexical and grammatical constructions behaving as single, unitary constituents in a sentence – and idioms – expressive, evocative constructions, often conveying metaphoric or ironic meanings, as well as emotional ones. Multiple phraseological units belonging to the nautical lexicon have been identified by specialised treaties and works – Maritime Dictionary and English - Romanian Maritime Dictionary – predominantly noun collocations, as well as verb and adverb phrases, but the majority of these have not been included in the general dictionaires of the Romanian language, which indicates the difficulties encountered when trying to group these specific phraseological units into phraseological families revolving around a single, central word.*

**Keywords:** *noun collocations, phraseological families, phraseological units.*

### 1. Marine terminology

The historical context in which the marine terminology was formed in Romanian is the framework for explaining the relationship between the total loan, calculus and translation in the evolution of this lexical acquisition process, specific to the 19th century. The formation of the marine lexicon falls within the sphere of enriching the vocabulary of the Romanian language through external means.

Marine terminology encompasses terms with a high degree of difficulty, such as: maritime and river traffic, port activities, fishing, shipbuilding and shipbuilding, profit societies, swimming, sailing and model ship building. The semantic lexicon brings together collocations, phrases and expressions, characterized by lexical and semantic diversity, most of which are the result of internal language evolutions, of sense changes that are produced by fundamental cognitive processes – metaphor, metonymy, restraints and semantic expansions, specializations and generalizations – but also through rhetoric – cognitive processes (irony, euphemism, lute and hyperbole), which are established through use.

The present study aims at the succinct presentation of the marine lexicon, by illustrating the phraseological units (collocations, phrases, expressions) that are frequently used by sailors.

Using a varied corpus, composed by exhaustive research of dictionaries such as: DM (*Maritime Dictionary* by Ilie Manole, Gheorghe Ionescu, 1982), respectively DMRE (*English – Romanian Maritime Dictionary*, by Anton Beziris, 1985), and organized by families phrasings or *nests* made around a *jelly* word, we aim: more accurate delineation and status words, phrases, expression. Also, in the article, we will analyze the multitude of phraseological units, made around the lex-mat: *node*.

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## 2. Phraseological Units in the Navy

“Any language, be it as illiterate, it has its particular expressions and ingenious which could be untranslatable in the most cult language” - Șăineanu Lazăr said, underlining the important contribution of the phraseologism in vocabulary development.

In the paper *Syntheses of Romanian Language*, the coordinator, Theodor Hristea, observes, in the chapter *Influence in Phraseology*, that the phraseological units oppose both the free combinations of words and simple words, characterized by a unitary sense, equivalent or potentially equivalent to a word, and having, incomparably, a higher frequency than free joints. Hristea also considers as proof that certain combinations of words are fixed, and not free, that they are “recorded and explained, that is, defined in our newer dictionaries” (Hristea, Theodor, 1984: 134).

Phraseological units sum up the following categories: collocations<sup>1</sup>, phrases<sup>2</sup> and expressions<sup>3</sup>.

Phraseological units in the navy, which have been selected from the two representative specialized dictionaries, are of particular interest from a linguistic and semantic point of view. We chose to highlight mainly the phrasal constructions made around the words of the general lexicon, which specialize, gaining unique specifications. Thus, we find, in the composition of the phrasal marine units, which are frequently used, lexemes like: *needle, tree, beard, baptism, key, right, hole, claw, heart, you, wind*, as follows: needle (n.<sup>4</sup>) - (n.c.) “from the selvedge needle<sup>5</sup>; (c.) merlinate needle; (c.) veil needle; (c.) magnetic needle” (Manole, Ionescu, 1982: 15); shaft (n.) - (c.) “artimon staff; (c.) bipod shaft; (c.) center / big

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<sup>1</sup>*The language dictionary* defines the collocation as a “structural concept, resulting from the application of the analytical method in immediate constituents, which is an intermediate type of linguistic unity, located between the propositional level and the minimal units with sense”. (DSL: 485).

<sup>2</sup> Different lexical and grammatical units that act as one part of speech. In DSL, Gabriela Pană Dindelegan calls the *phrase* as a unanalyzable group, with fixed expression and global meaning, characterized by the loss of the grammatical autonomy of at least one of the group members and the overall functioning as a single word. According to the mentioned author, the dwellings are the result of a lengthy process involving changes on all levels of the language (lexical and semantic - the single meaning is not the sum of the meanings of the constituent units, syntactically - the accommodation receives other actors and assigns to other roles, morphologically - components become inflexible). Cecilia Căpățână, in the work *Elements of phraseology*, uses the criterion of replacing the structure with a synonym, a criterion used in traditional linguistics, on the basis of which it noticed that to a noun phrase corresponds to it as a synonym for a noun, just as to a verbal phrase corresponds a verb, and the adjective, pronominal, adverbial, conjunctive, prepositional, interjectional phrases have their analogous parts of speech.

<sup>3</sup> Expressive, plastic constructions, often having metaphorical, ironic or emotionally marked values. They do not contain elements that can not be analyzed by the reader, they contain no unclear elements, or archaic words, whose meaning has been opaque to the contemporary user.

<sup>4</sup>List of abbreviations: *n* = noun; *n.c* = noun collocation; *c* = collocation; *expr* = expression; *ph* = phrase; *vb* = verb; *adv* = adverb.

<sup>5</sup>Needle with triangular section and curved tip, used for sewing the grandee to the sail.

shaft; (c.) small / trinchet shaft ; folding shaft; (c.) telescopic shaft” (*ibidem*: 39); star (n.) - (vb. expr.) “to shoot the star”<sup>1</sup> (*ibidem*: 44); babe (n.) - (vb.ph.) “make the volta to the babe; (c.) the babe at the keys; (c.) babe of hillock; (c.) the inclined brace; (c.) simple babe; (c.) babe in the cross; (expr.) find the babe!<sup>2</sup> ; (expr.) volta at the babe!” (*ibidem*: 50); baptism (n.) - (n. expr.) “baptism of the sea; (n. expr.) baptism of the ship; (n. expr.) baptism of the equator’s crossing” (*ibidem*: 71); cart (n.) - (n.c.) the service of the cart<sup>3</sup>; (vb.ph.) make the cart; (expr.) good cart, sailor!<sup>4</sup>; key (n.) - (n.c.) “nursery keys; (c.) anchor key, synonym: key for joining; (c.) simple sarty key; (c.) dandruff key” (*ibidem*: 90); right/straight (adv., adj. and n.) - (adv.expr.) “that’s right!<sup>5</sup>; (n.c.) right anchorage; (n.c.) right of convoy; (n.c.) right of navigation; (c.) fishing rights; (c.) visiting and research right; (expr.) straight in de bow (aft)<sup>6</sup> (*ibidem*: 155); hole (n.) - (c.) “the hole of the boat; (c.) the human hole; synonymous with the visit hat; (c.) the cat hole<sup>7</sup>; (n.c.) pigeon hole” (*ibidem*: 200); the claw (n.) - (n.c.) “the claw of the anchor; (n.c.) the approach claw, synonymous with the cat’s claw (n.expr.)<sup>8</sup>; (n.expr.) the devil’s claw” (*ibidem*: 205); heart (n.) – (n.expr.) “the heart of the ship; (n. expr.) mast heart; (n.expr.) parama heart; (n. expr.) the heart of the sheet; the heart of the sleepers; (n.expr.) the heart of the deck currents; (n.expr.) heart bears” (*ibidem*: 233); forward (adv.) - (adv.expr.) “before everywhere!; (adv.expr.) cars ahead; (adv.expr.) tribord / portord forward!” (*ibidem*: 243); paw (n.) - (n.c.) “lashing paw; (n.expr.) the gangway, synonymous with the mouth of the kite; (n. expr.) cat’s paw”<sup>9</sup> (*ibidem*: 257); to leave (vb.) - (vb. ph.) “leave the boat to the water; (vb.expr.) leave to starboard / port; (vb. ph.) Let it go!” (*ibidem*: 261); eyes (n.) - (n.c.) “Walls eye; (n.c.) eye of the terarol; (n.c.) eye of the crow; (n.c.) fungi eye; (n.c.) deck eye<sup>10</sup>; (n.c.) fish eye<sup>11</sup>; (n.c.) the ship’s eye” (*ibidem*: 325); foot (n.) - (n.c.) “tree foot; (n.c.) dog foot; (n.c.) foot of the etrave; (n.c.) anchor under the foot” (*ibidem*: 351); bag (n.) - (vb.ph.) “put his bag on the ship; (n.c.) storm bag<sup>12</sup>; (n.c.) the sailor’s bag; (n.c.) Marangos bag”<sup>13</sup> (Manole I., Ionescu, Gh., *quoted work*: 394); to hold (vb) – (vb. expr.) “the ship / vessel holds the sea better” (*ibidem*: 446); wind (n.) – (c.) “real wind; (c.) wind apparently; (c.) wind to the wind, very wind; (c.) wind from the aft; (c.) the wind from the bow; (c.) the wind of the ship; (vb expr.) the ship loses under the wind; (expr.) nothing in the wind!<sup>14</sup>; (n.expr.) wind bounce”<sup>15</sup> (*ibidem*: 461).

<sup>1</sup>Measure the height to the heavenly astral as a landmark by the seafarers to determine the position of the ship.

<sup>2</sup>The parameter string is past through column.

<sup>3</sup>Regular work schedule for all sailors.

<sup>4</sup>Wish to sailors, leaving on a trip, synonym: *farewell!*

<sup>5</sup>The command that is addressed to the helmsman to maintain the default direction.

<sup>6</sup>Direction in the extension of the longitudinal axis of the ship, from the bow (stern) to a landmark.

<sup>7</sup>Opening through which sailors climb the arbor, to perform various maneuvers.

<sup>8</sup>Two-jawed piece immobilizing the anchor chain.

<sup>9</sup>The state of the sea with barely windy surface, preveying it.

<sup>10</sup>Thick glass.

<sup>11</sup>Pearl.

<sup>12</sup>The name of the Bay of Biscay.

<sup>13</sup>The carpenter’s bag.

<sup>14</sup>The Timonier maneuvers the helm, so the ship’s bow does not come in the wind.

<sup>15</sup>Loop.

We observe, on the basis of the cited examples, that the phraseological families, which are organized around the mother words, combine both syntagms and dwellings and / or expressions. We have also noticed the abundance of biped terminological phrases (noun + noun in genitive: *borehole*, *claw anchor*, *heart of crossbars*, noun + adverb: *true wind*, *apparent wind*) and triped (noun + preposition – *off/from/in/under* - + noun: *anchor under the foot*, *wind of the bow*). This fact illustrates, on a linguistic level, the trait of interdisciplinarity, because one of the constituents is also found in another field.

### 2.1. Phraseological units, which are built around the *lex knot*

The *lex knot* writes, according to the general dictionaries of the Romanian language - Dictionary of Neologisms (DN, 1986), The New Dictionary of Neologisms (MDN, 1997), Explanatory Dictionary of Romanian Language (DEX, 2009) - more than 20 definitions. Of these, only two words are waering the mother words *mar*, the rest corresponding to other fields / fields: (mar.) “unit of measurement for vessel speed, equal to the speed of a ship traveling with a nautical mile (1852 m) per hour” (DEX, 2009: 719); (mar.) ~ navy - *special knot used in the navy to connect two parameters*.

*Short history.* The knots have been used since ancient times; initially, they were used in the construction of shelters, in the creation of bridges, of bridges, in order to be able to cross from one side to another, in the development of weapons, in the medical field - the Greeks and the Romans, for example, used the limb immobilization node Rough (broken or injured) to send messages - Inca, for example, replace letters with nodes by Saul, to create a message. In the Middle Ages, knots were sometimes associated with magic or curse, and who knew the secret of seafaring nodes was considered a wizard. The development of sailing, long journeys made on the seas and oceans allowed seafarers to raise the maritime node to the rank of art, attributing to it the oddest names.

Over time, about 40 types of marine nodes have been discovered, which can be organized into five categories: *knotting nodes* (used to join two equal roughly equal widths): the broad node<sup>1</sup>, the double knot with doubling<sup>2</sup>, the node fisherman's node, cowboy's node, *node of connection* (fix the end of the hook for binding, support or lifting of objects): scotch knot, simple flag node, double flag node or rain knot, anchor knot, single node or half not, node, eight, seat node, it can be: simple, sliding, scissor knot, stern knot, half-node knot, slip node; *hook nodes* (It is used for connecting one rope's end to a hook) : double hook node, hook knot node, node “pike mouth” trailer node; *special nodes*: bandue node, dog foot node, socket node, capella node, scaffold knot, cat knot node, halfcabestan node, aft nodule; *decorative nodes* (developed in the 19th century by the sailors on the cliff): knot of the monkey, diamond knot (cubic, semi-round, two-headed, double), turban knot (classic in the corner, in the T, long), spherical node, star knot, made in 4, 5 or 12 yarns, which also give the number of corners, simple nut, double or crown-shaped, square knot.

Starting from the above examples, we noticed that most of the syntaxes that are organized around the word “node” are nominal constructions, biped syntaxes, having the

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<sup>1</sup>It is used to bind two thin layers of the same thickness; hardly unwind.

<sup>2</sup>Loop.

following structure: noun + noun: *star node, node corner, cross node*, respectively: noun + adjective: *special node, decorative knot, simple node, wide knot, square node* and triped (noun + preposition + noun), such as: *node of fisher, node of cowboy, node of hook*. In order to obtain syntagmatic constructs, lexemes from different semantic fields were used: the signatory field of the components of a ship: scotch, pavilion, anchor, semicabestan, sart, stern, hook, trailer, terarola; of animals: dog, cat, monkey; body parts: foot, paw, punch; of the clothes: „turban”, „izmană”; of weather phenomena: rain; of precious stones: diamonds; of fruit: nut.

### 3. Conclusions

As a result of a careful analysis of the various families phraseological identified in the work of specialized DMRE and DM have found that over 50% of phraseological units the status of phrases nominally about 30% are verbal expressions or phrases adverbial, and the rest are phrasal verb.

Marine nests, and their meanings are not recorded in dictionaries General Romanian language only slightly generally unbranded diastratic – memberships this area arising from translation, which indicates the difficulty of delimiting terminology – without specifying status the collocation, phrase or expression.

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