

AVIATION ENGLISH AS A GUARANTEE OF SAFETY

Erkinov O.D.

National Aviation University, Kyiv

Scientific adviser – Nemlii L.S.,

PhD, associated professor of Aviation English Department

English is the dominant language of aviation personal. Pilots and air traffic controllers controlling international flights have radio telephoning in Aviation English. They use a language which consists of Standard Phraseology and General English. The first is used in routine situations to be laconic and transmit information accurate. It is possible because words and phrases of Standard Phraseology have only one meaning. All pilots and ATCs are familiar with all of the terms necessary for routine situations which usually happen at the airport of departure, arrival and on route. However, Standard Phraseology is not enough to control the air traffic in case of emergency situations. In this case General English is required. But General English is full of synonyms, idioms, phrasal verbs and so on which could be interpreted differently by different speakers. Thus, it can lead to miscommunication between a pilot and ATCs. There were lots of incidents and even accidents in Aviation History which happened due to misunderstanding. One of them is an accident happened in Tenerife when two aircrafts occupied the runway simultaneously because of misinterpretation. To avoid misunderstanding pilots and controllers have to use ICAO approved standard phraseology and Aviation English which also includes specific vocabulary necessary for communication in case of emergency situations. As emergency situations are already predicable the vocabulary should be practice ahead. Regular language practice will provide aviators with high Aviation English skills. So, miscommunication will be avoided as both pilots and ATCs are familiar with the same vocabulary. Even if pilots or ATCs are native speakers and are good specialists in air traffic service, they are not allowed to use not clear language like idioms, phrasal verbs, jargons and so on.

To provide safe flights not only specific knowledge required but Aviation English as well. Due to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements aviation specialists should have English at least at level 4 which is called Operational. It means that speakers are able to understand each other, can paraphrase their request or report to ensure that safety is provided.

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