Merchant Marine Deck Officer Agency Through Performative Acts

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Abstract
I bring together ethnographic interviews with deck officers, studies in actor-network theory, explicit and tacit knowledge theory, and performativity theory in this work. I prove that bridge technologies produce what are called mimeomorphic (repeatable with some variation) actions that contain no deck officer collective tacit knowledge. I argue that deck officer bridge watch situated actions are mostly polimorphic (actions can vary depending on social context), and these actions are in fact performatives (in an Austin sense) derived from a more oral than literate performance production process. These performatives constantly build the mariner's identity within the maritime deck officer community and their successful performatives give deck officers agency in the form of an oppositional view to deskilling. These same performative acts are the value of the mariner's experiential technological knowledge within the ship's bridge technology framework.

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(d) "Merchant Marine Deck Officer" – shall refer to a duly registered, certified and licensed master mariner, chief mate and officer-in-charge of a navigational watch. (e) "Merchant Marine Engineer Officer" – shall refer to a duly registered, certified and licensed chief engineer, second engineer, and officer-in-charge of an engineering watch in a manned engine-room or designated duty engineer in a periodically unmanned engine-room, and coastal engineer. (c) He must be a duly registered Marine Deck/Engineer Officer under this Act, with a valid certificate of registration and valid certificate of competency; (d) He must be a member in good standing of the integrated and accredited association of Marine Deck/Engineer Officers.