

THE SOI MODEL

Each SOI ability is typically referenced by three-letter shorthand.

For instance, CFU is shorthand for Cognition Of Figural Units.

In teaching terms, this is the ability to recognize (Cognize) a single (Unit) concrete (Figural) datum – the student can identify a letter, such as B, as a shape.

When the letter changes from a shape to a notation for a sound, the ability changes from CFU to CSU – from a Figural content to a Symbolic content.

And, finally, when the “B” becomes part of “BABY” it has changed from a notation to a component of a word, the ability changes from CSU to CMU – from a Symbolic content to a seMantic content.

So, as is obvious from the shorthand, CFU, CSU, and CMU are closely related to one another – differing only in how the content is being used.

As this example illustrates, the phonics approach to reading is a three-step process, with each step in the learning process focusing on a different content use of what appears to be the same datum, the letter B. The Figural step is learning to recognize the letters of the alphabet. And this is true separately for the uppercase and lowercase alphabets.

The Symbolic step in phonics is learning the sound associated with the symbol – attaching the sound of B to the letter B.

This step becomes somewhat confusing to students when they find that the relationship between symbol and sound is not invariant – that some letters have multiple sounds, and some letters, in some contexts, have no sound at all.

The seMantic step in phonics is attaching a concept to the compound sound that has been deciphered. When this step is not completed, the result is phonics reading without comprehension – essentially reproducing the sounds, but not the meaning, from the written words.

And, as is obvious from this analysis, the concept attached to the symbolically produced word must be obtained by a process different from the process of word attack skills. This is the teaching strategy value of Structure of Intellect model.

Next we will provide a schema for deciphering the shorthand designations for the 90 different SOI Learning Abilities.

DIMENSIONS OF THE SOI THEORY

The initial letter in each shorthand represents the Operation – how the ability is being used.

The middle letter in each shorthand represents the Content – the type of datum being used.

The final letter in each shorthand represents the Product – the complexity of datum being used.

Any of the 5 Operations (C, M, E, N, D) can be combined with any of 3 Contents (F, S, M) and with any of the 6 Products (U, C, R, S, T, I) to define any one of the 90 (5 x 3 x 6) Structure of Intellect abilities.

By simply putting the definitions of each of the shorthand designations together, it is relatively simple to decipher the three letters into the meaning of the ability. So, from the 14 definitions above you can derive the meaning of the 90 different SOI learning abilities.

