

Ohlin Update

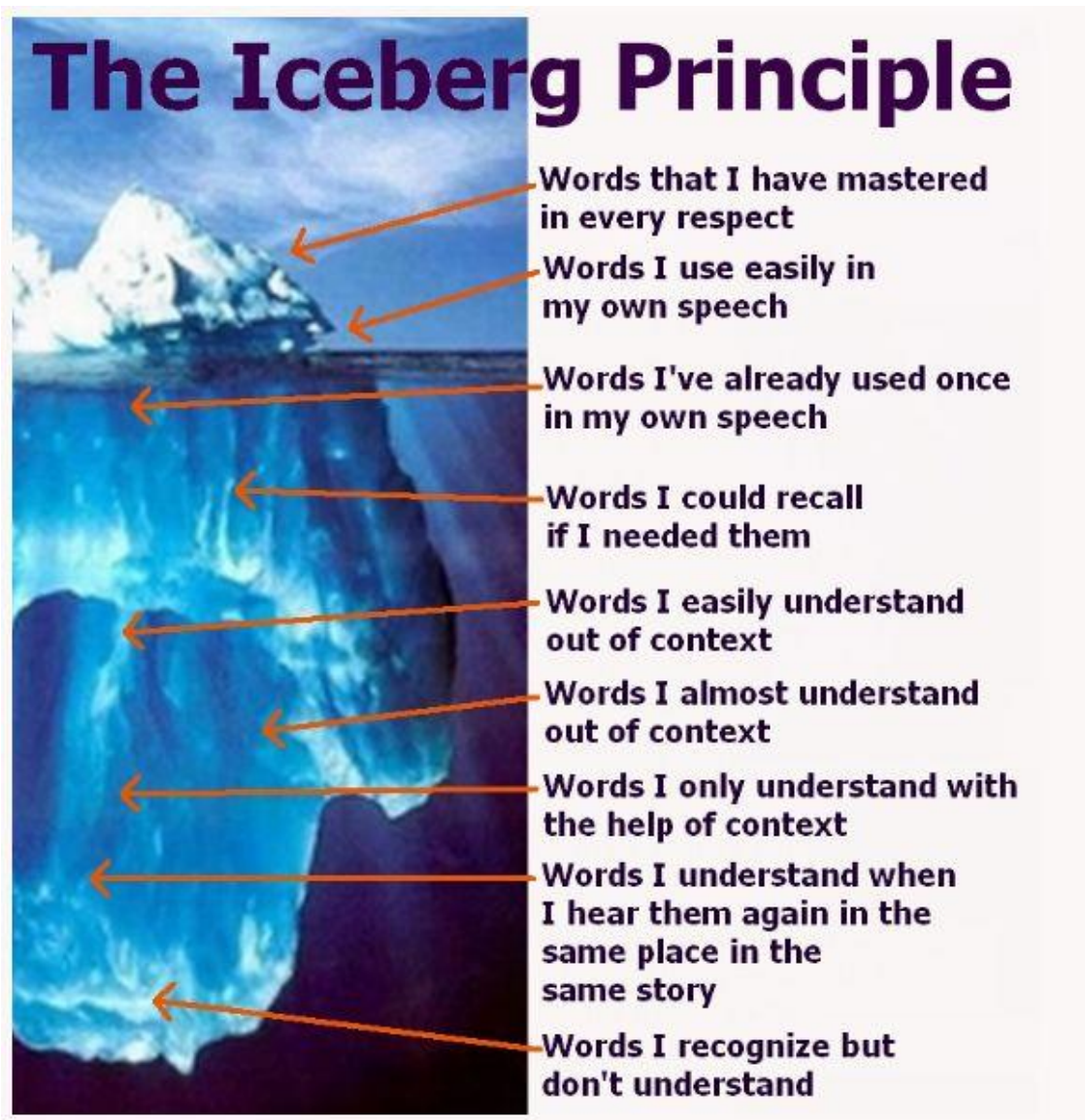
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Greetings from South Asia. Learning to function here has been interesting. I am in a Phase 1 (there are 6) Hindi group following the Growing Redemptive Participator Approach (GRPA). I am becoming equipped to facilitate within the [SLICE training class](#). I will have specific responsibilities with the 5 participants in this session in 2 weeks when those leading the program are away.

At 59, I find that I am a little slower at this than I used to be, but I want to be an example to the Slice participants that I will be involved with. I will be giving them medicine that I already took myself. Diane is working from the US. I appreciate how she is handling administrative tasks. We are planning for her to use her English teacher skills here in January 2020.



This is what our table can look like during Phase 1 GRPA activities. Using props helps us have strong encounters with words.



In the 6 Phase program we do not memorize. Understanding speech requires the mastery of many thousands of words. Most of us can't learn 8,000 words with flash cards. We put words into our consciousness during the activities and continue to have many encounters with the word until we master it. This process can be illustrated by an iceberg (see the chart above).

Many encounters with a word make it go up in the iceberg. When learning Hindi, after 6 hours of activities designed to help us grow in our ability to participate in the community, we had 167 words. After 8 hours we had 273 words. We are at 662 right now.

The challenge is teaching this principle to our assistants and colleagues in South Asia who don't see a lot of icebergs. Fortunately, if you ask 10 people their favorite movie, Titanic will be there somewhere. An

alternative to the iceberg image is a water buffalo. After it has eaten, when it rests it goes into the water and mud so that only the top of its head is showing.



When I arrived at the apartment building where the "Slice Program" has provided lodging, the residents walked by me without acknowledging my presence. I was like a space alien, a non-person. Getting to know people in a faceless apartment building is a challenge. Our initial GPA Phase 1 session coincided with the Holi holiday. Since I don't know much about it, I am not going to try to explain it (Please Google holi if you are interested). For me the issue was avoiding the people that hit by passers with colored powder and liquid while they are "playing Holi". Our Phase 1 activities were delayed 2 days for the holiday.

Early in the afternoon, on the day most people "play Holi" I heard loud music coming from the garage on the bottom floor of our apartment building. I did not want my clothes to be ruined by getting colored, but I had a feeling that it was important for me to show my face. All the residents of the building were having a party. They were so glad I showed up and wanted to know about me and the other Slice participant who is my roommate. Communication was a challenge, but I told what I was doing there as best as I could. They wanted to color me, but with this group it was optional. I ate some scary looking food and became a major element of all the pictures. Now when I pass people in the apartment building, I get a smile and a greeting.



I like to fish and am always on the lookout for a new spot, but I have added a new protocol for planning fishing trips. I have decided to bypass any spot where the locals use electric shock as a fishing technique. The guy in the picture on the upper right has the electrodes. A bicycle moved along behind with a battery to provide power.

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