

According to Swed the five elements of literacy are context, function, text, participants and motivation. The element of motivation is defined as the actions and/or behaviors a person takes. If we put it this way motivation is a meter to how much a person is willing to put effort into something. A reader's motivation may also vary according to context, function and text and even motivation itself may be varied. Motivation is the nexus to all the other 4 elements. A method of studying that Swed suggests is literacy-ethnography. Swed says that the method represents a considerable break with the most past research on the subject. Swed also states that ethnographic methods are in fact the only means for finding out what literacy is and what can be validly measured. What Swed means by when he refers to ethnography, that "we must come to terms with the lives of people without patronizing them" (427)? is that everyone must know the importance of literacy and education without having to push people to read and write or learn something. Swed mentioned that we need to start looking at reading and writing as having consequences and being affected in the future by family life, work patterns, economic conditions etc. According to Swed and what i believe he meant is that this is cheapening the culture, language, and literature. According to Elizabeth Baker a sociocultural perspective examines literacy as an artifact of culture and that the nature of literacy changes as culture changes. The four characteristics of literacy according to Baker are semiotic, public, transitory, and product oriented. Baker suggested we use these literacy characteristics because reading resulted in the students were not reading for their own pleasure, they were reading just to engage in conversations. These products were all about conveying meaning, they had an inherent semiotic character and that the students were participating in the new forms of literacy in the community. When I searched Orality vs Literacy I learned that literacy is understood as the ability to read and write while orality describes the primary verbal medium employed by cultures with little or no exposure to writing.