

ASSESSMENT OF DIVERSE CHILDREN: SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS)

- ability to communicate basic needs and wants, and ability to carry on basic interpersonal conversations
- takes 1 - 3 years to develop and is insufficient to facilitate academic success

Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP)

- ability to communicate thoughts and ideas with clarity and efficiency
- ability to carry on advanced interpersonal conversations
- takes at least 5-7 years to develop, possibly longer and is required for academic success

Cummins' Developmental Interdependence Hypothesis ("Iceberg Model")

- BICS is the small visible, surface level of language, CALP is the larger, hidden, deeper structure of language
- each language has a unique and Separate Underlying Proficiency (SUP)
- proficiency in L1 is required to develop proficiency in L2,
- Common Underlying Proficiency (CUP) facilitates transfer of cognitive skills

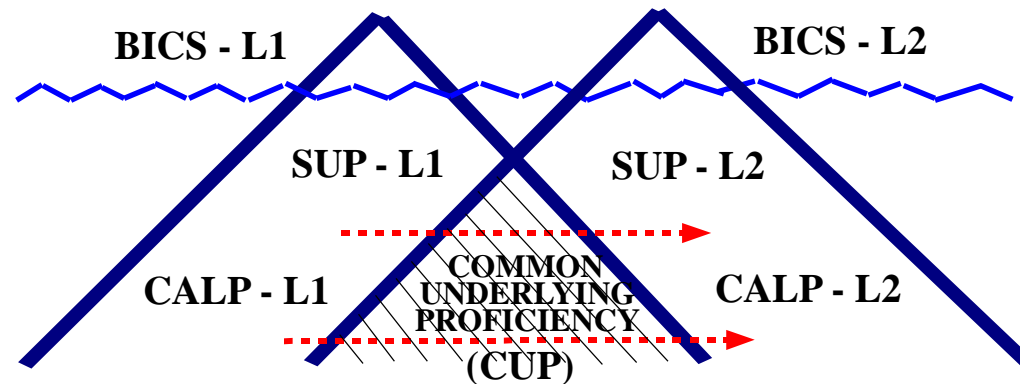


Illustration adapted from Cummins (1984) *Bilingual And Special Education: Issues In Assessment and Pedagogy*.

