

Cassandra Pace  
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## Assignment 2: Deep and Shallow - Three Profiling Types

In the usage of deep and shallow, there appear to be three different types of profiling. All profiling types involve a conceptual “normal” level of fill. However, they differ depending on whether this conceptual norm is based on a container, an entity being contained, or a third entity.

In one type of deep/shallow profiling, the container determines a normal fill level, and provides a basis for comparison. From the corpora, an example of this is a shallow teacup. In this type of profiling, the capacity of the specific container to hold a liquid is compared to the capacity of a prototypical container (of the same type) to hold liquid. An important qualification for this type of profiling is that the prototypical container has the same base size as the specific container. Therefore, if a teacup was very small, it would not be considered shallow simply because it can hold less than a “normal” sized teacup – the comparison must be between teacups that have the same diameter, but differ in their vertical measurements.

The second type of profiling is of the contained. A sentence like “children can drown even in shallow bath water” shows that there is a type of deep/shallow profiling that focuses on an entity in the container. In this instance, the comparison level comes from a normal contained level: while this level is container-specific, the focus, unlike in the first profiling type, is not on the container. The bath water (the contained) is shallow if it is at a lower level than a bathtub (the container) would normally be filled. The example of “shallow breath” seems to fit this profiling type: there is a conceptual normal fill amount for a given breath, and if the fill is less than this norm, the breath is “shallow.” So far, then, fill level is dependent on whether the contained provides the norm, or whether the container provides the norm.

The last profiling type associated with shallow/deep is more complex than the first two. It is dependent on a third entity apart from the container and the contained, often a solid object that will be contained, but will not fill the container. An example from the corpora is certain ends of a swimming pool being shallow or deep. In a pool, the end that is “shallow” is considered to be so in comparison to the average height of a person, as is the end that is “deep.” This is not to say that the people themselves can meet the qualifications of shallow or deep, but rather, that in this system of profiling, people are the medium by which a context for deep and shallow is agreed upon. Shallow frying would also refer to a third object: instead of the pan, or the oil, the food item actually being fried is used for a comparative baseline for deep and shallow. This last type of profiling is the most common in the corpora data, despite its relative complexity (i.e., involving concepts of three entities as opposed to one or two). There is a logical reason for this: shallow water means different depths for cruise-liners and swimmers, and shallow frying implies a different oil level for french fries and turkeys. The third profiling type allows deep/shallow usage to adjust to specific circumstances, and the first and second profiling types can be used when there is no need for adjustment.