

METHODOLOGY

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**LEVELS
OF REALIZING, UNDERSTANDING AND USAGE OF SOCIONICS**

Based on many years of experience in teaching socionics, the authors identify and describe 12 levels of understanding the principles and methods of socionics from simple typology to the concept of psycho-information space. It is shown that the transition from each previous level to the next one is associated with the expansion of skills in applying socionic methods in various areas of human activity.

Key words: socionics, psychology, sociology, psychics information structure, model A, psychoinformation space, synchronics, intertype relations, interpersonal relations, ethnosocionics, integral socionics, ethnos psychoinformation structure, systems theory, psychoinformation.

The intensive development and spreading of socionics during the last years was resulted in the many people interest to this science and its usage in the professional activity. At the same time the deepness and completeness of the acquaintance with socionics as a system of knowledge about the human and society psychoinformation structures can be different, what causes the differentiation of people, which have interest to socionics or use it. Our experience of the contacts and communications with colleagues show that the deepness of the socionic knowledge is empirically divided by the following states and levels.

The 1st stage can be called the before-socionics or typological. Within this state the following levels are separated:

The first level — the formation of the notion that it is possible for person or socium to separate the certain psychological features or separate signs. It is the initial stage of the interest to psychology in general or to socionics in particular. The certain part of people, which have interest to psychology, consider only these separate features. Even such initial information can be productively used in different branches of activity but the most of people do not remain on this level and aspire to the improved description of the psychological peculiarities of person by the set of features and qualities. Meanwhile the disordered, unsystematized separation of these qualities does not provide to create the united image. On this level the socionics characteristics are slightly separated from those ones, which are considered in psychology on the popular level and from usual, commonly known notions. We imply the sociability-reservation, activity-passivity, mobility-inertness in rather ordinary and usual senses of these words. For example, on this level the extraversion-introversion is interpreted as the sociability-reservation, what is slightly common with the notion, determined by C. G. Jung.

On the 2^d level for the description of the human psychics or society the sets of independent features are used. It is realized in socionics by the Jung scales. The essential part of people, engaged in socionics, including the practical psychologists, are satisfied with the usage of the 4 orthogonal scales: extraversion-introversion, rationality-irrationality, logic-ethics, sensation-intuition. On such a base it is possible to construct the unit psychological types. The possessing of socionics on this level does not differ from the knowledge of any other typology. The psychological types are separated empirically, on the base of the likeness or difference of some partial feature, they are described in detail in the typology literature. The socionics types are often mixed or equaled to the ones, described in other typologies, for example, astrological, zodiacal.

The 3^d level is the knowledge about the existence of the psychic Jung functions: about the first one, the second and the slightly differentiated others. The part of the psychologically oriented people suppose that it is almost all socionics. Such a mistake is supported by the presence of the Meyers-Briggs typology literature, what is the development of the C. G. Jung typology. Many people, who have read the American typewatching books, suppose that the Meyers-Briggs types and the socionics ones are the same. Sure, it is not true. The Meyers-Briggs typology differs from the

socionics types system of the information metabolism and from the Jung typology, in particular the introversion types structure in American typology is differed from the Jung and socionics ones [7]. **The mixing of the socionics notions and the Meyers-Briggs typology causes the mistakes and errors under the practical and consulting work.** The numerous modifications of this typology (Kersey, Tiger etc.) also have not to be equated to the socionics.

The first three levels, including the Jung and Meyers-Biggs typologies are the levels of **before-socionics knowledge**. They are characterized by the interest to the peculiarities, inherent to a person, the aspiration to point out the features, typical for certain psychological (or sociological) kind. According to our observations, proved during the conference “Business psychology” (Sankt-Petersburg, 2002), the psychological and sociological services of enterprises work only on the level of a separate person on the 1-3 levels. The understanding of the possibility of the working with the collective as a unit (what is proved by socionics) is absent or only begins to rise. **The absence of the notion about the psychic inside structure at this stage does not give a possibility to build an intertype relations theory, realized in socionics.** In order to understand how the different types interact among them as well as with environment it is necessary to pass to the next, the **second** stage, namely the **socionics** one.

The 4th level principally differs the socionics from the typology. Here it is the understanding of the existence not only the 16 psychological types units, but also the 14 kinds of intertype relation, arising among them [2]. On this level the relations are described as some given substance, on the base of the intertype relation table, without the explanation of their arising and mechanism. Many socionics publications are restricted by the declaration of the presence of types and intertype relations and the description of their peculiarities without the consideration of the question about their origination. Meanwhile, beginning from this level it is appeared a possibility to apply the socionic knowledge for the study of relation, arising in groups, and for the explanation of the arisen relations among people. It is risen the socion notion as the set of 16 type, connected by intertype relations. It is appeared the first ideas about the small socionic groups whereas the approach to these groups investigation on this level is descriptive, superficial.

On the 5th level it is arisen a notion that the psychic Jung functions are the “information metabolism functions”, which operate the information flow aspects. It is the beginning of the namely the A. Augustinavichute socionics. The relations among the information metabolism types are considered as the interactions by functions, processing the similar aspects of information flow. It is arisen an idea about the necessity of the different (different by aspects) points of view on the same phenomenon or event for its description completeness. The notion “socion” is interpreted as the “integral intellect unit” [1]. The experience shows that only a small quantity of people are able to learn the fifth information level independently using only the literature. Usually for the correspondent knowledge reception it is necessary to attend the socionics courses, produced by the specialists.

In the 6th level of understanding it is revealed that the information metabolism functions are organized by the clear hierarchy structure, their combinations form the information metabolism types (IMT). The information metabolism models are used for this structure description: the 4-components model Yu and the commonly used 8-components model A. The IMT mutual interactions are considered an models, the intertypes relations are analyzed by such a way. It is arisen an idea about the inside socion structure. It is considered as a union of the diads, quadras and other socionical groups.

Hence, the second stage is a base for the practical and consulting work. This stage knowledge provide us to analyze completely and in detail the socionic peculiarities of people and their relations, to propose the simple recommendations on the choice of the activity field, on the interactions correction and the groups formation. Meanwhile for the fruitful consulting work, in order to become a real specialist in the socionics field it is necessary to pass to the third stage. This one can be called the differential because the knowledge development on this stage goes along the way of deepening, differentiation, notions accurate definition.

On the 7th level it is revealed the hierarchy of the Jung scales manifestation for concrete man as the JM type carrier [11]. It is considered the theory of the Reinin–Augustinavichute features [2], connected with the structure of the JMT and socion. Only some people can reach this level. Sometimes these features are perceived rather simple, on the second level base and without the

specific socionics apparatus. Meanwhile on the seventh level these features are not the reveal of the psychological qualities, inherent to man, but the reflection of unit socion structure by the disposition of the certain functions of information metabolism on the fixed positions in the A model of IM type. The features Reinin usage in socionics testing and consulting provides us to extend and to define more precisely the characteristics description of the different IMT representatives. It is arisen the idea about the small groups classification in socionics. The consideration of socion with the use of others base features, differed from the Jung ones, for example, the G. A. Shulman signs [19], makes more rich the description of the intertypes interactions.

On the 8th understanding level the most newest socionics is placed. The system socionics principles are introduced on this level [15]. It is studied the inside psychoanalytical structure of the quadra and socion types [5], the notions of “quadra spirit” and “quadra superconsciousness” are introduced. The information metabolism functions “get volume” and inside structure, it is introduced the notion of their metrization on the consciousness and unconsciousness levels [9], what provides to describe the individual variation of the types revealing and to study in details the intertypes relations as well as to prognosticate their development. It is introduced the notion of the integration function of consciousness, operating the work of the information metabolism functions. The semantics of the information flow aspects is made more deeply and completed [16], the functions signs (according to V. Gulenko) are considered. The socionic type notion is extended by the ideas about the existence of subtypes and communicative models (masks). The intertypes relations understanding is rather extended by the introduction of the relations of the second and higher others [20].

On the 9th understanding level it is considered the fractal structure of type and socion, the 16-components models and the functional roles of types in quadra and socion. The socion and IM type are considered as the similar structures, the study of one of them can give information about other. Besides the mental and vital rings the physical and supermental (superconsciousness) ones are introduced into the information metabolism model. It is produced the correspondence between the types and intertype relations [13, 17]. **The socionics on this level proposes the new effective methodological tool for the investigations in the field of the all humanitarian sciences [8, 18].**

The transition to the **fourth-integral**-stage creates the problems of interaction with a group, collective, socium as a whole. The 10-12 level methods provide us to work practically with the collective of the any complexity degree. It gives a possibility to increase the effectivity of the collective work, to improve its stability, to rise the organization security, to provide the good management.

On the 10th level the new laws of society evolution are formulated and used for the collective and society analysis as well as for the social-political processes. The quadras replacing law [4, 14].

On the 11th level the integral socionics begins: the integral IM types of collectives social groups, nations, ethnoses, their inside structure [4]. The types religion and philosophy systems, ideologies, inreaction among them [7, 4, 18].

On the 12th level it is arisen the understanding of society as the psychoinformation system with fractal structure of the integral IM type, the inside interaction dynamics (“crystal” volume model of person, ethnos and others societies, the individual and social subpersons, the discovery of the structure of the magic row, the first term of which is the number 7 ± 2 [10]).

The next, the fifth stage of the knowledge development in socionics is connected with the rising on the new theoretical level, with introduction and development of the conception of the psychoinformation space.

On the 13th level it is arisen the understanding of the psychoinformation space notion, divided by the IM types substructures. The separate man psychics, the integral IM types are absorbed in this space and interact not only among them but also with this (φ, i) space as a whole. It is arisen the understanding of the quantation laws and the structurization of the cells of the psychoinformation space with their function role like to the model A.

The 8-13 levels form the base of the theoretical and applied psychoinformatics [6] as the socionics generalization in the unit psychoinformation space.

The 14th level is the level of the description of the synchronistical interactions in the psychoinformational and physical spaces, what is connected with the physics of consciousness.

The 15th level, already the abstract one, is the level of the integration of the psychoinformation and physical space in the undivided unit.

Basing on this classification, everybody, who is engaged in socionics or is going to be engaged in it, including the consulting, can easily determine his level of knowledge and the subject understanding. To be sorry, according to our observations, the quantity of people, which use the socionics or believe that they know it by practice, decreases versus the level growth. On the first levels there are the most of psychologists with the traditional equation, which use the typology, as well as the supporters of the Meyers-Briggs typology etc. The existing conceptual apparatus of humanitarian sciences provides us to use only the three before-socionics level of knowledge. Correspondingly, the level of knowledge and understanding is described by the reverse dependence in the form of overturned pyramid. It is arisen the especial “mandala” of the socionic knowledge structure. This structure of the socionic knowledge and understanding is able to introduce the difficulties into the spreading and application of the really effective socionics methods. There is only one way out: the introduction of the high socionic education including the established minimum of professional knowledge (till the 10-13 levels). The collaborators of the International Socionics Institute work now on this program development and its realization.

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¹ Here and further — “Socionics, mentology and personality psychology” journal.