

Failures Flr

The theory is that in a shock the stimulus comes upon the individual suddenly and the latter is not prepared for it because of (their) neurosis and not because of a constitutional defect or a disproportionately great intensity of the stimulus; in nor Perceptanalytic shock is there any question of a startle, i.e., of a stimulus which is too powerful for the biological capacities to warrant response on the part of the shocked individual. The stimulus causes fear and a shrinking away for it for neurotic reasons, i.e., because of previous painful and fearful experiences with the same kind of stimulus. There is a sudden realization of one's personal inadequacy in certain situations and of the limitations of one's capacity to handle some reality situations successfully if at all actively. Every shock reveals ambivalence regarding the advisability to act out, in social situations, those traits which are revealed by the shock. Thus, when there is a color shock, there is ambivalence concerning the gratification of emotional needs, of trying to associate with, or disassociate from, others. A human-movement shock points to ambivalence regarding acting in accordance with one's prototypal life role 9p. 297).

It seems, then, advantageous to employ only those shock indicators which plainly reflect an **associative or intellectual stupor**. These four indicators are offered: A plate is said to have caused a shock

1. When it was failed, i.e., when it elicited no meaningful scorable response; or
2. When it caused the longest initial reaction time, IntRT in brief, in the whole record,
3. When the IntRT to the plate was not the longest but was longer than the average IntRT for the whole record, and the first meaningful response was preceded by a verbal comment or a motor gesture signifying disturbance or puzzlement; or
4. When the quantity and quality of production on that plate dropped significantly.

Any of the four indicators is a sufficient sign of a shock. Indicator (4) may occur with any of the preceding three and thus strengthen the shock. These indicators can be applied to any plate, to the original Rorschach set of plates or (to) any other (edition or set of inkblot plates) (p. 297-298).

Failures, or Flr

When a subject fails to give a meaningful and scorable response to a plate, this lack of response can be described as a failure or Flr in brief. I prefer the term "failure" to the other two common terms, "rejection" or "refusal", because 'failure does not imply anything about the cause responsible for the lack of response. "Rejection" and "refusal" imply a deliberate act. Some Flr undoubtedly stem from a conscious suppression of a response but most Flr do not; they seem to result from unconscious repression or inability rather than from deliberate negativism. The term Flr is etiologically neutral and, therefore, appears preferable.

Flr are not significantly correlated with the level of education. Wieggersma found a negative but low correlation. Schaffner working with extensive case material, demonstrated that the number of Flr increases as the average time per response increases and total number of responses decreases. His normals were male and most of them were candidates (in training to

become) military airplane pilots. In this group the average Flr was 1.4 in records with at least one Flr. Schaffner obtained the highest Average Flr, 2.9 from schizophrenics, again basing this calculation on records with of at least one Flr. His normals, mostly unmarried males, failed plate VI relatively most frequently; 24 percent of all Flr occurred on plate VI. Taking into account all records, with and without Flr, Schaffner found 92 Flr in 500 records of normals or .18 per record. In 100 records of psychopaths the average Flr was 1.69, and in 200 records of schizophrenics there was 1.02 Flr per record. Schaffner's organics produced most Flr, the average being 1.05 (per record); however, in 54 epileptics there was .52 Flr per record. Mensh and Matarazzo's patients apparently differed from those of Schaffner, for their 100 neurotics have .57 Flr per record, their 74 psychotics had .38 Flr per record, and their 27 organics had .70 Flr per record.

Making one large group of the subjects reported in these two investigations, 1,130 in all, we obtain the following (rank order) in terms of **increasing average Flr per plate**; I, VIII, V, III, IV, II, VII, X, VI, IX, This order is strikingly similar to that based on increasing IntRT. The 201 Mensh and Matarazzo mental patients' plate rank order(s) based on Flr shows an even greater similarity to the IntRT order (i.e.,) III, I, VIII, V, II, IV, X, VII,VI, IX. Moreover, the average Flr per plate rises sharply in the second five plates of this (rank ordering). Flr is the strongest form of shock. It is stronger than a delayed IntRT or verbal comments. It is a transient paralysis of the mind. Proof that Flr is an indicator of powerful inhibitory forces is the high but negative correlation between the number of Flr and the total number of responses. The Flr occur most often in short records consisting of few responses. They are seldom encountered in long records (pp. 312-313).

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