

Isabelle Yoffe Liberman 71, Authority on Dyslexia

Dr. Isabelle Liberman, an authority on reading disabilities who taught for 21 years at the University of Connecticut, died on Thursday, July 19, 1990, at her home in Mansfield Center, Conn. She was 71 years old. Dr. Liberman was an expert on reading disabilities, including dyslexia. At her death she was a research associate at the Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, which is associated with Yale and the University of Connecticut.

She was born in Latvia on December 14, 1918 and came to this country with her family when she was two years old. She received a bachelor's degree from Vassar and a doctorate from Yale. She joined the University of Connecticut in 1966 and retired in 1987.



In 1988 she received the Samuel T. Orton Award of the Orton Dyslexic Society for contributing to wider understanding of reading disabilities. Along with her husband, Alvin Liberman, she elucidated the "alphabetic principle" and its relationship to phonemic awareness and phonological awareness in reading.

Dr. Liberman is survived by her husband, Dr. Alvin Liberman; two sons, Mark Liberman, a Trustee Professor of Phonetics and Professor of Computer and Information Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, and M. Charles Liberman, a Professor of Otology and Laryngology at Harvard Medical School; a daughter, Sarah Ash, an Associate Professor of Nutrition in the Department of Food, Bioprocessing, and Nutrition Sciences at North Carolina State University and six grandchildren.