

# EFFICIENT DISTRIBUTED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION INTERFACE

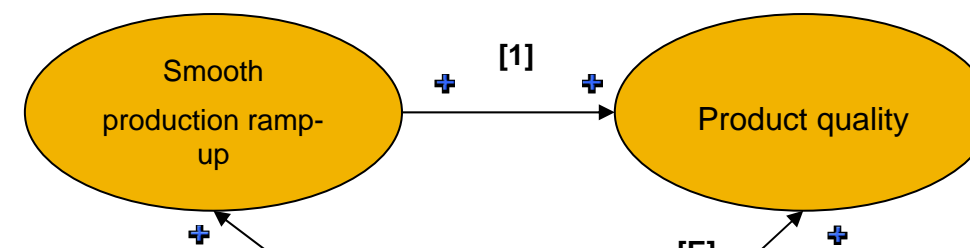
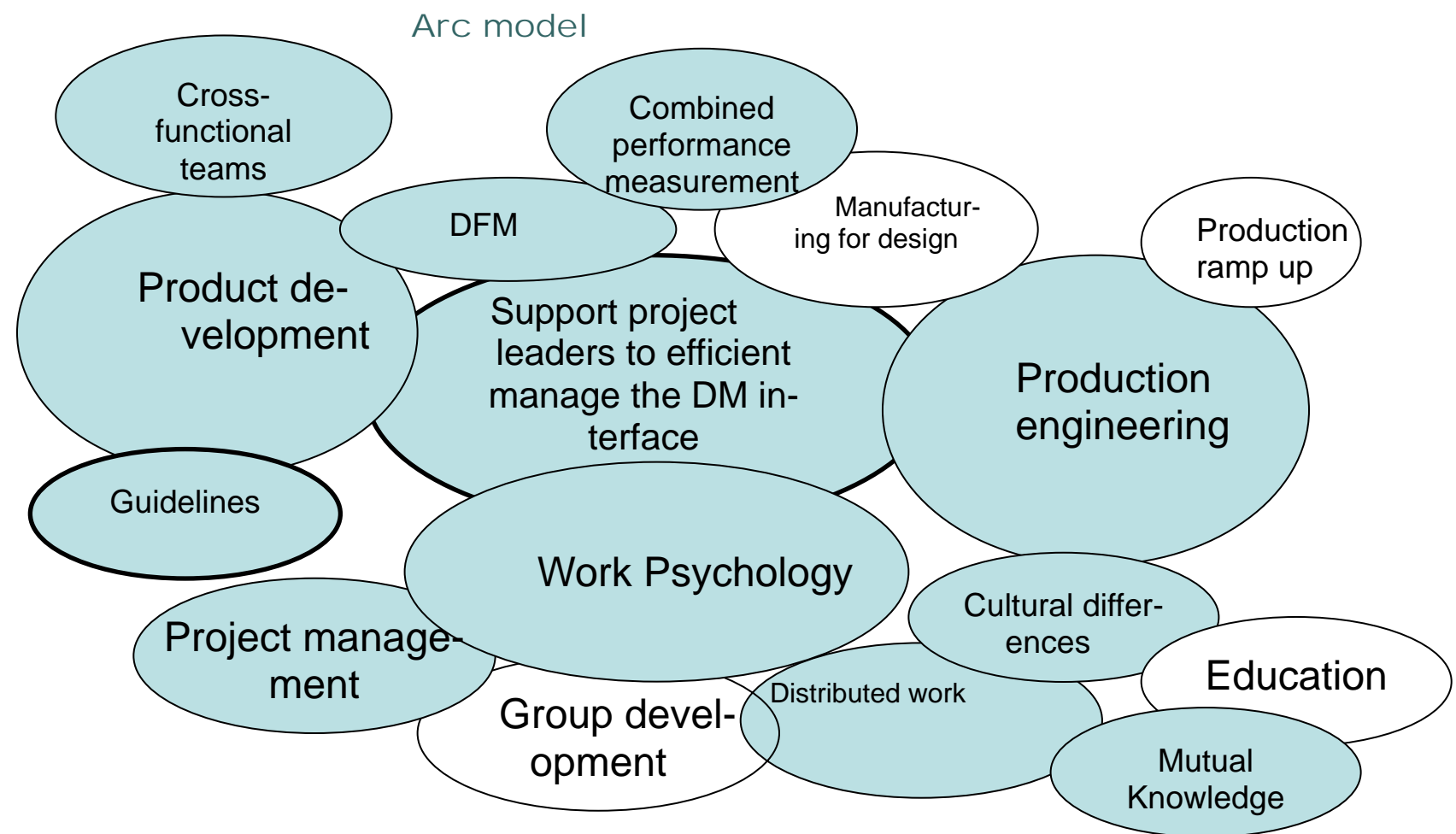


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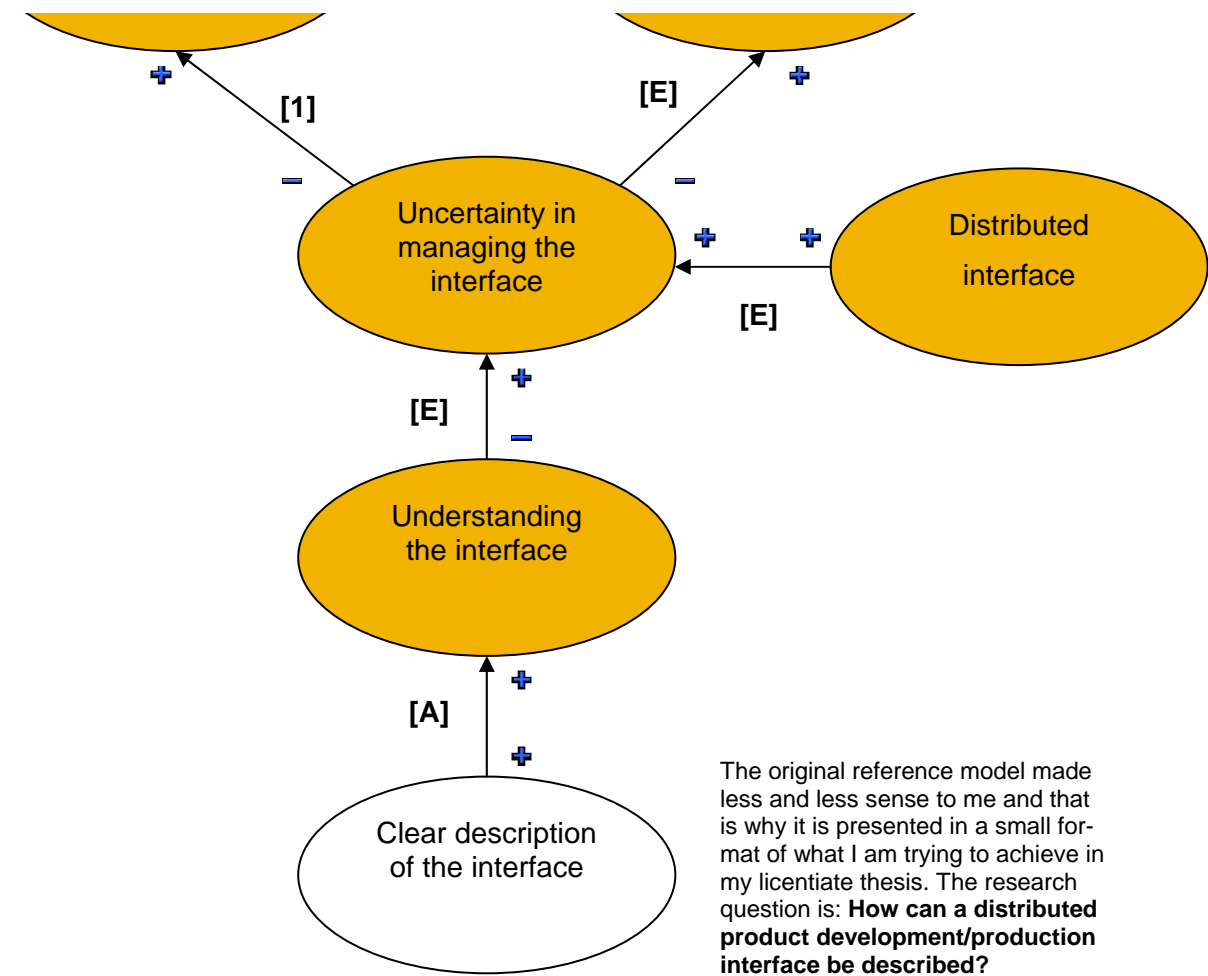
## Introduction

Historically the product development and production departments have been seen as two separate sections of the organization with different and sometimes conflicting objectives. "Throwing the blue prints over the wall" has been the metaphor used for describing the lack of interaction between the two departments. Although today there is a lot of research on the subject and many companies feel confident in integrating the work to improve development time.

However, due to the increased competition, many Swedish companies have felt forced to move their manufacturing and assembly lines to low-cost countries. Others have moved their production closer to important markets. In many cases the product development stayed in Sweden and the national disparity has increased the complexity in terms of organizing and collaborating within the product development/production interface even more. In order to keep the product development jobs in Sweden the distributed product development/production interface

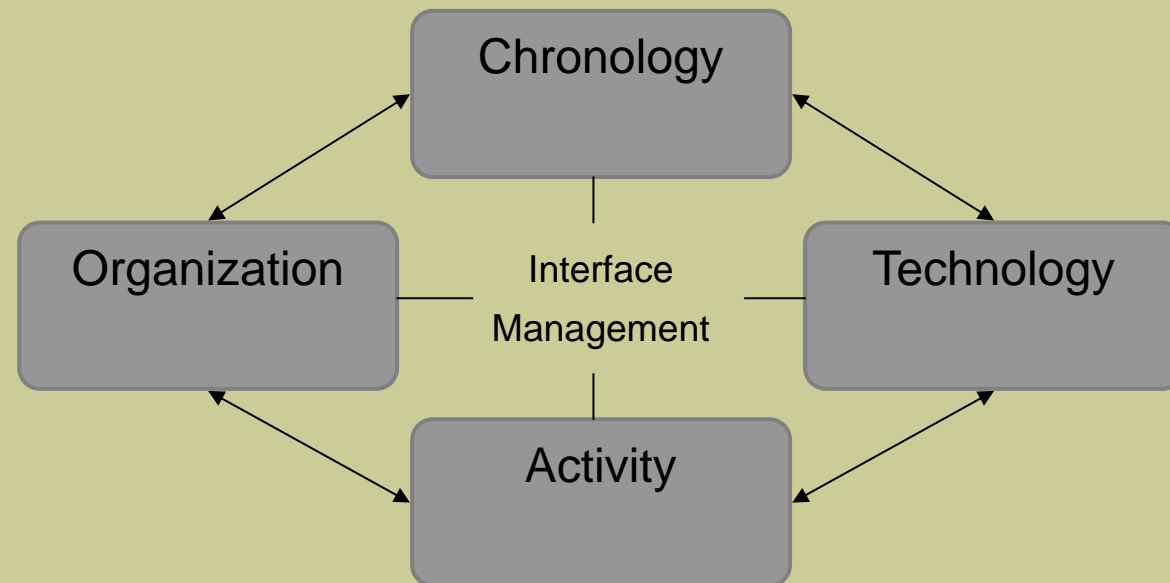


development jobs in Sweden the distributed product development/production interface need to work efficiently. The problems are many. Not only are the time and languages difference obstacles. Differences in organizational structure, culture and status are factors affecting the end result. Companies in my studies have expressed an uncertainty of handling the complexity. Indication from a literature study has also shown a need for more research on geographical distributed product development/production interfaces. Hence, in order to improve efficiency in product development projects the objective is to study and analyze cooperation between product development and production in a dispersed setting.



The original reference model made less and less sense to me and that is why it is presented in a small format of what I am trying to achieve in my licentiate thesis. The research question is: **How can a distributed product development/production interface be described?**

Purposed model for the Product development/Production Interface



Research approach for licentiate thesis

Type of study	Paper
Litterature study	Assessing performance of the Design-Manufacturing (DM) interface: a review of the literature
Case study I	An Exploratory Study of Product Development/Production Interface Components
Case study I&II	Describing the Distributed Design and Manufacture interface