



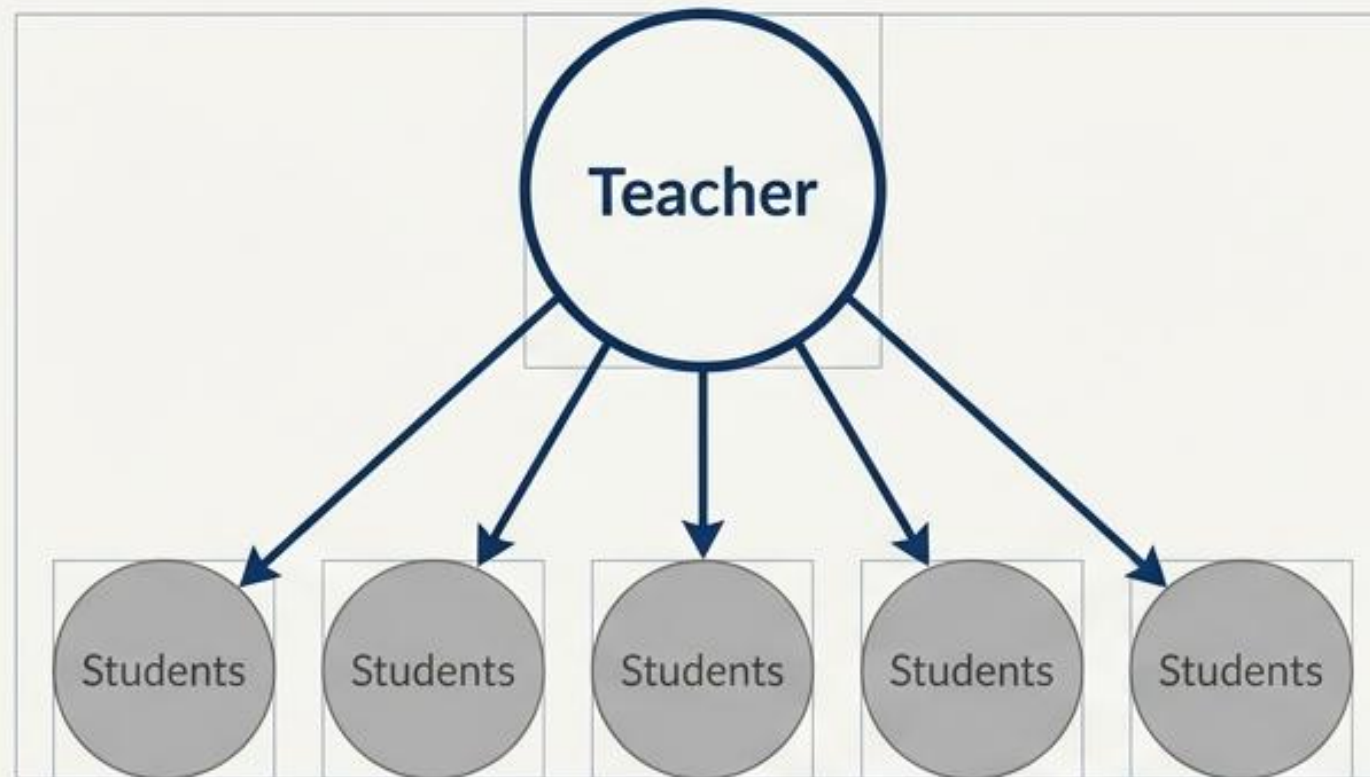
The Blueprint of Conversation

Implementing Discussion-Based Pedagogy in the EFL Classroom

Frameworks, Practices, and Emerging Challenges

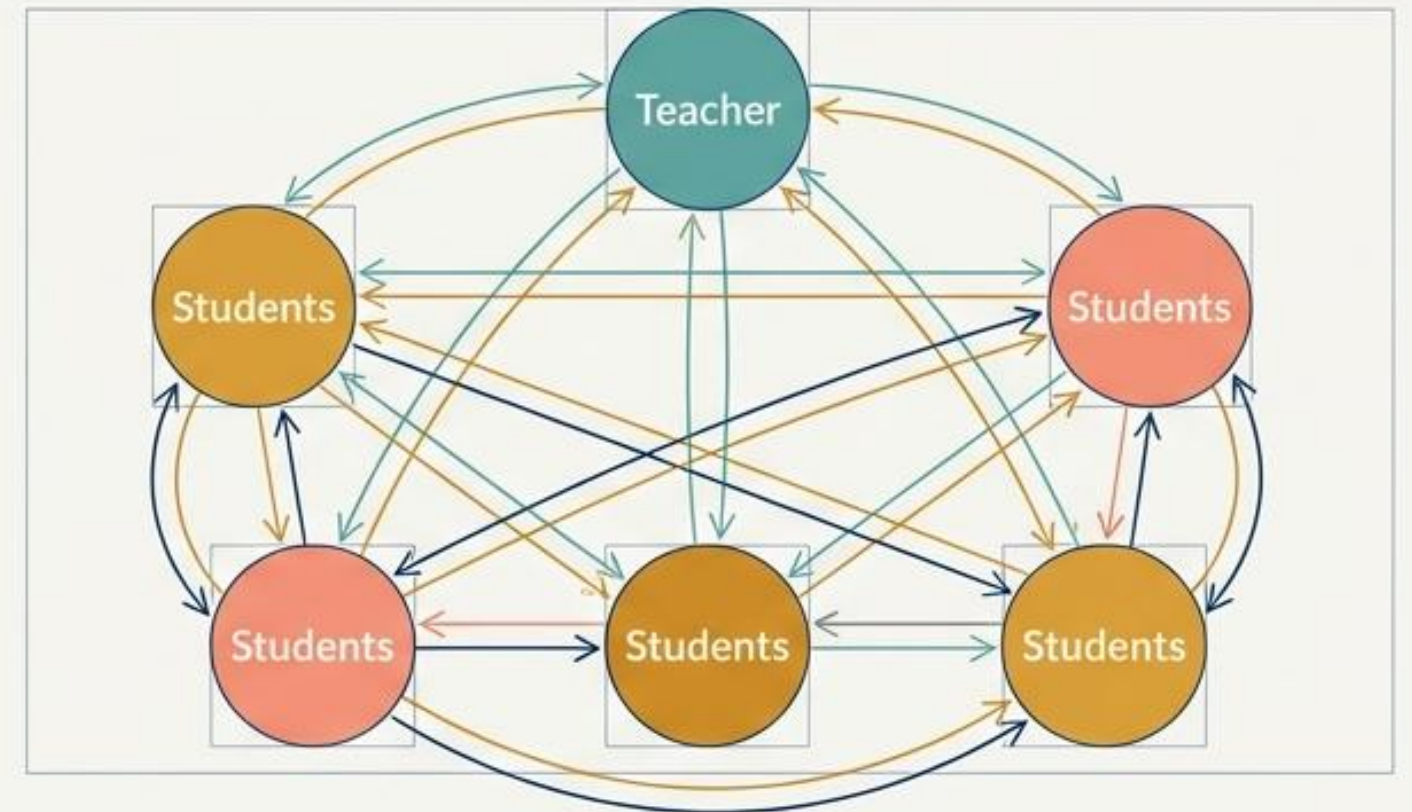
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Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', Bulgaria

The Shift from Teacher-Fronted Delivery to Dialogic Meaning-Making



Isolated Forms & Accuracy

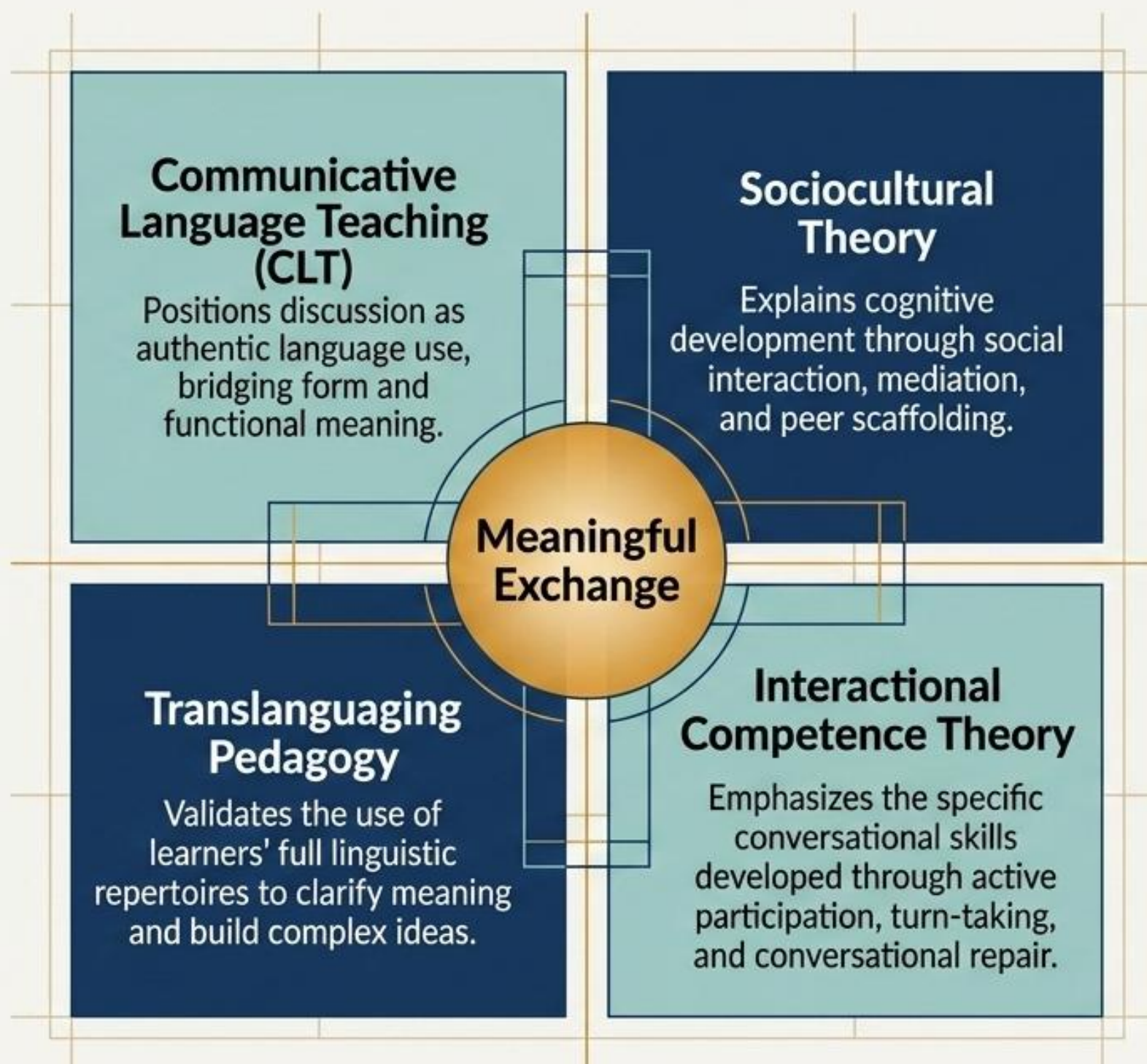
Past Paradigm: Language as a set of isolated grammatical forms tested via accuracy-based assessment.



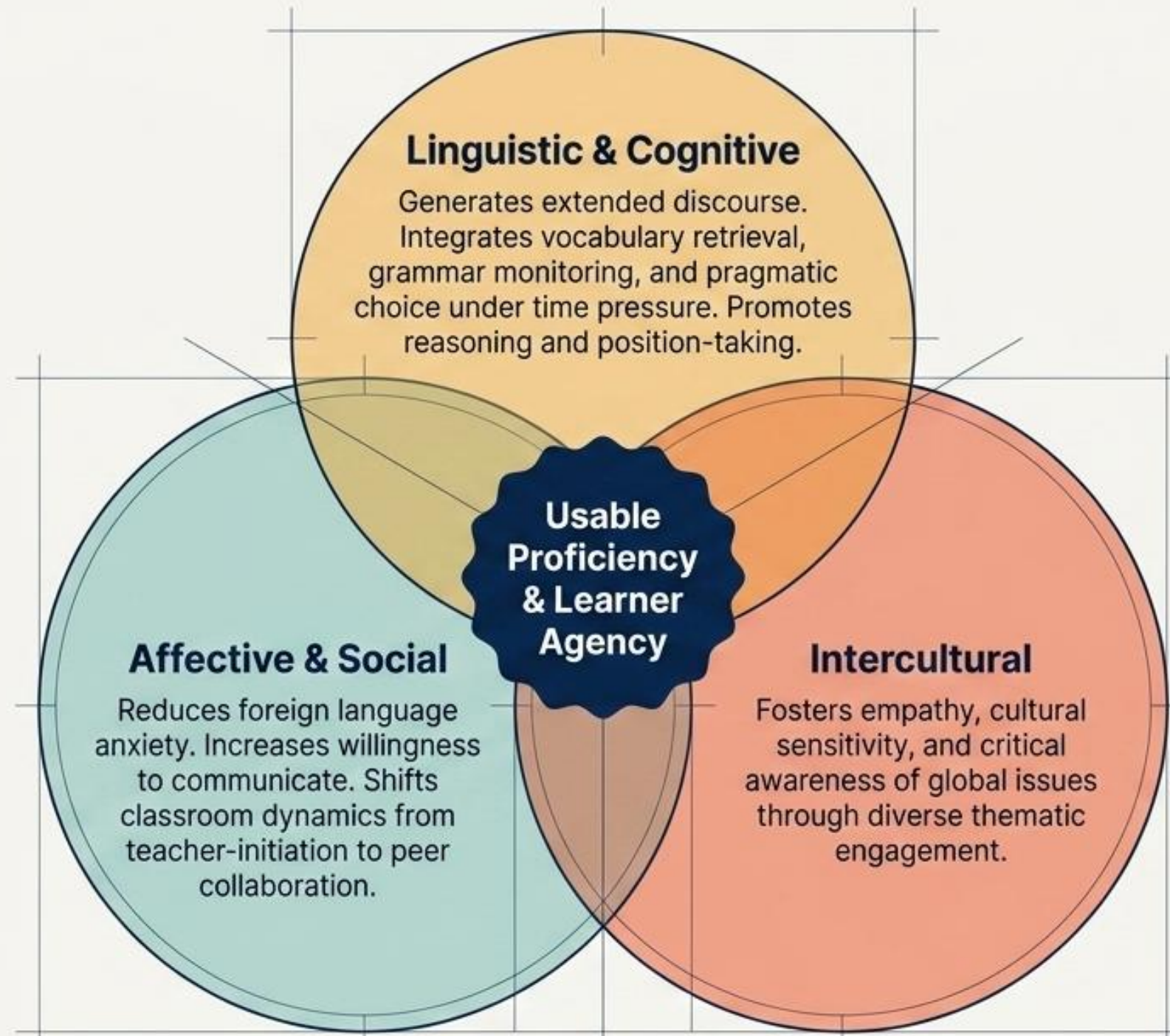
Social Resource & Shared Inquiry

Current Paradigm: Language as a social resource applied in purposeful contexts to express ideas, negotiate understanding, and build intercultural confidence.

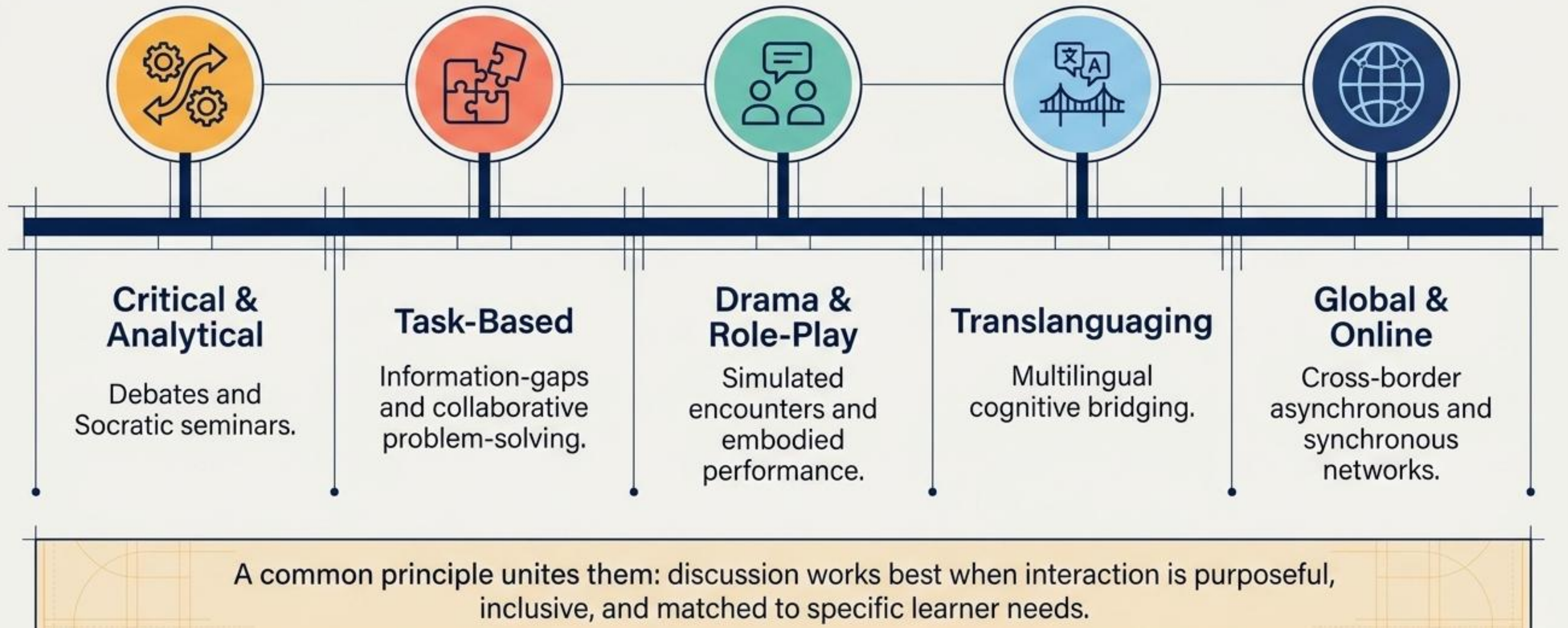
Four Theoretical Pillars Supporting Classroom Interaction



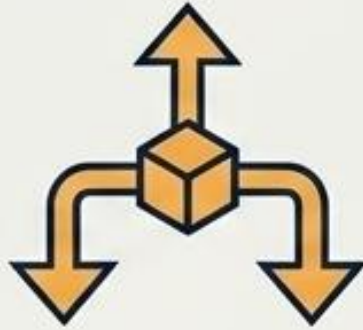
The Multi-Dimensional Value of Structured Discussion



The Architecture of Interaction: Five Discussion Modalities



Driving Cognitive Engagement: Critical and Task-Based Modalities



Critical & Analytical Discussions

Formats: Socratic seminars, thematic debates.

Function: Moves learners beyond comprehension to interpretation and argumentation.

Outcome: Develops disciplinary literacy and familiarizes learners with the language of reasoning and evidence-citation.



Task-Based & Problem-Solving

Formats: Decision-making tasks, open problems, information-gap activities.

Function: Demands multiple possible responses and genuine exchange.

Outcome: Generates rich opportunities for the negotiation of meaning because learners have repeated reasons to ask follow-up questions and clarify intent.

Broadening Expression: Drama and Translanguaging Modalities



Drama & Role-Play

Simulated service encounters, job interviews, and negotiations.

Develops sociolinguistic sensitivity by requiring learners to adjust register and manage politeness in real-time. Turns performance into explicit learning via post-task debriefing.

Translanguaging Bridge



Translanguaging-Based

Selective brainstorming in L1 to support advanced L2 output.

Legitimizes learner identities and destigmatizes partial English production.

Crucial for mixed-ability classrooms to narrow participation gaps and maintain cognitive engagement.

Expanding the Interactional Space: Global and Online Modalities



Authentic Mediums

English shifts from a classroom display language to a real medium of exchange with cross-border peers.

Digital Demands

Requires learners to manage delayed responses, multimodal cues, threaded replies, and camera etiquette.

AI Integration

AI acts as a digital bridge, providing translation, automated feedback, and individualized prompts to support cross-cultural asynchronous and synchronous interaction.

Diagnostic Matrix: Selecting the Appropriate Discussion Format

Modality	Primary Goal	Interaction Style	Ideal Tech/AI Support
Critical	Position-taking & Reasoning	Analytical & Evaluative	Argument-mapping tools
Translanguaging	Concept comprehension	Multilingual & Inclusive	AI translation & Bilingual prompts
Drama	Pragmatic awareness	Embodied & Performative	Video recording for debrief analysis
Task-Based	Shared outcome	Collaborative & Procedural	Digital information-gap workspaces
Global/Online	Intercultural sensitivity	Asynchronous & Networked	Video-conferencing & Forums

The Friction Map: Persistent Challenges to Implementation



System-Level

Institutional constraints. Large class sizes, rigid textbooks, exam-oriented educational cultures, and the difficulty of assessing dynamic, distributed participation.

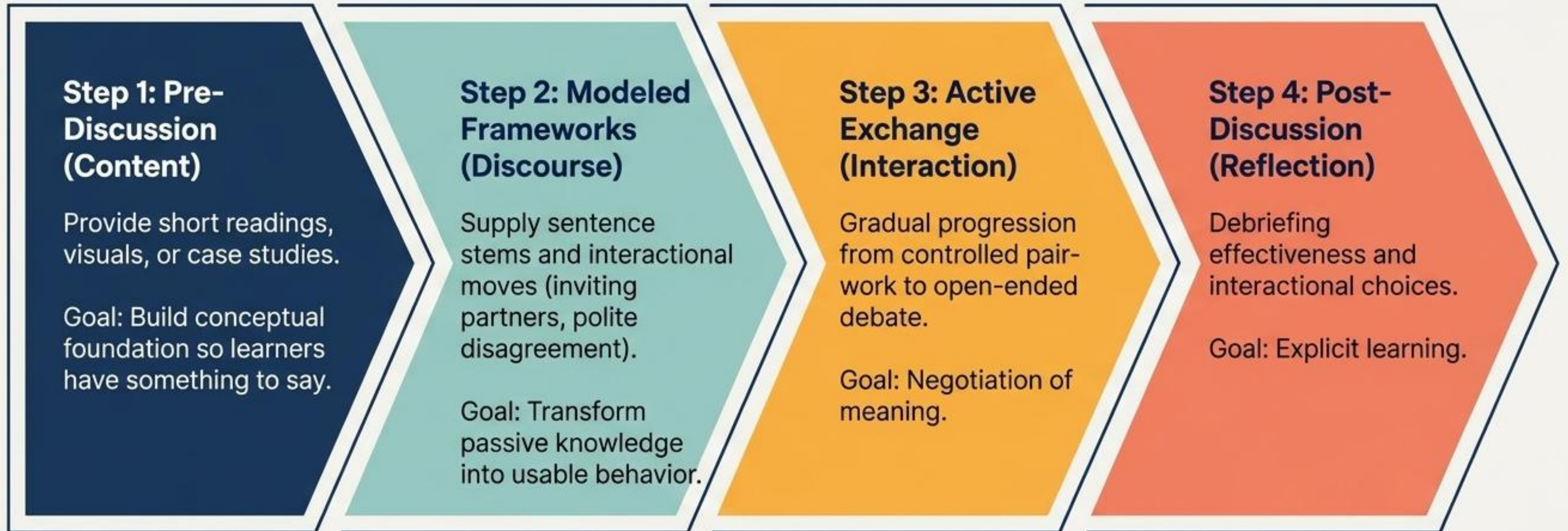
Teacher-Level

The tension between correcting accuracy vs. allowing fluency. Limited preparation time for designing cognitively engaging, open-ended prompts.

Learner-Level

Foreign language anxiety. Unequal participation (dominant vs. passive learners). Deeply held beliefs that equate learning strictly with memorization and teacher correction.

Pedagogical Blueprint: The Classroom Scaffolding Sequence



The Teacher and AI as Interaction Mediators

The Teacher's Role:

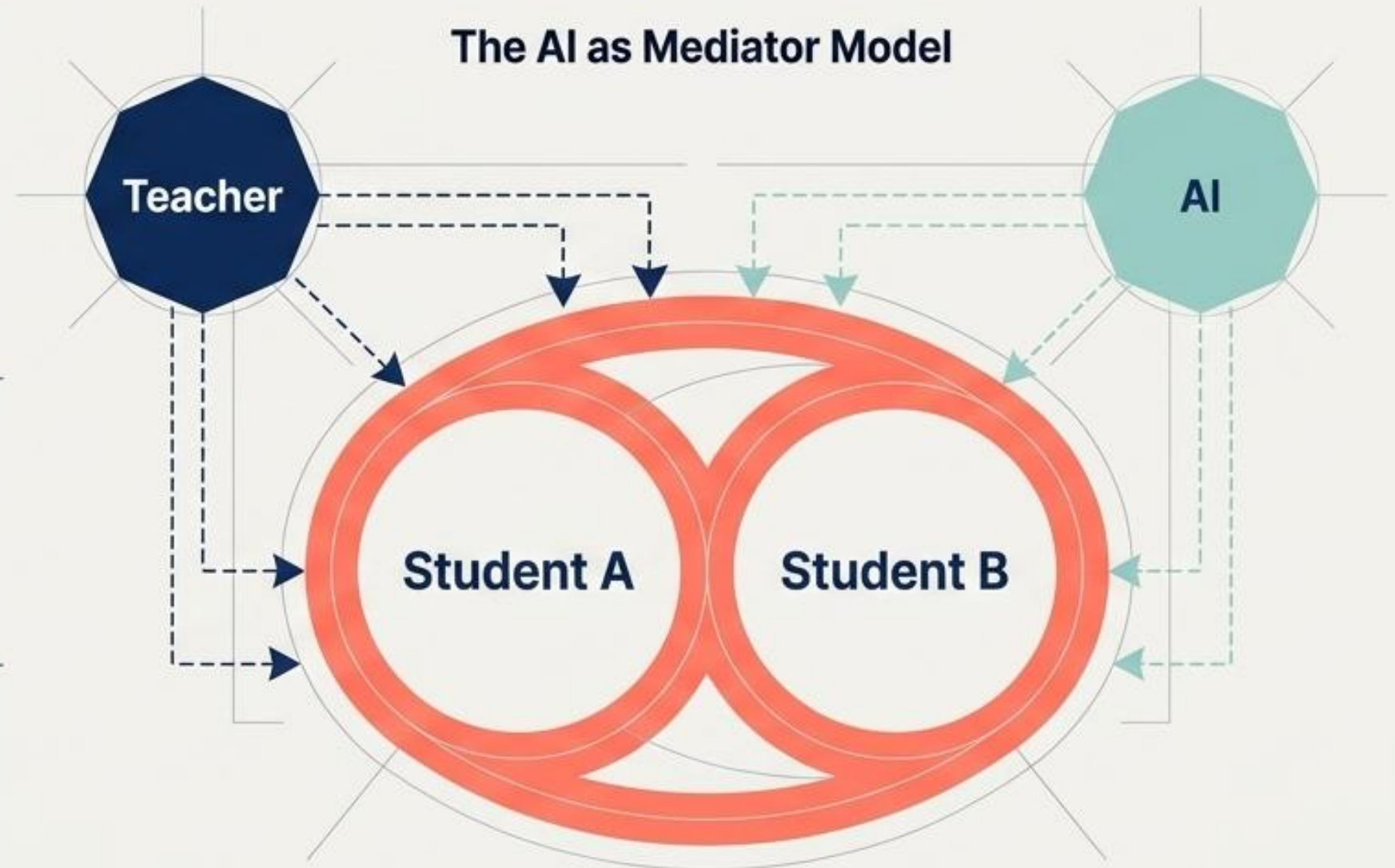
Shifts from information provider to **interactional guide**. Focuses on managing turn-taking, supporting quieter learners, and balancing supportive mediation against excessive control.

Ethical AI Integration:

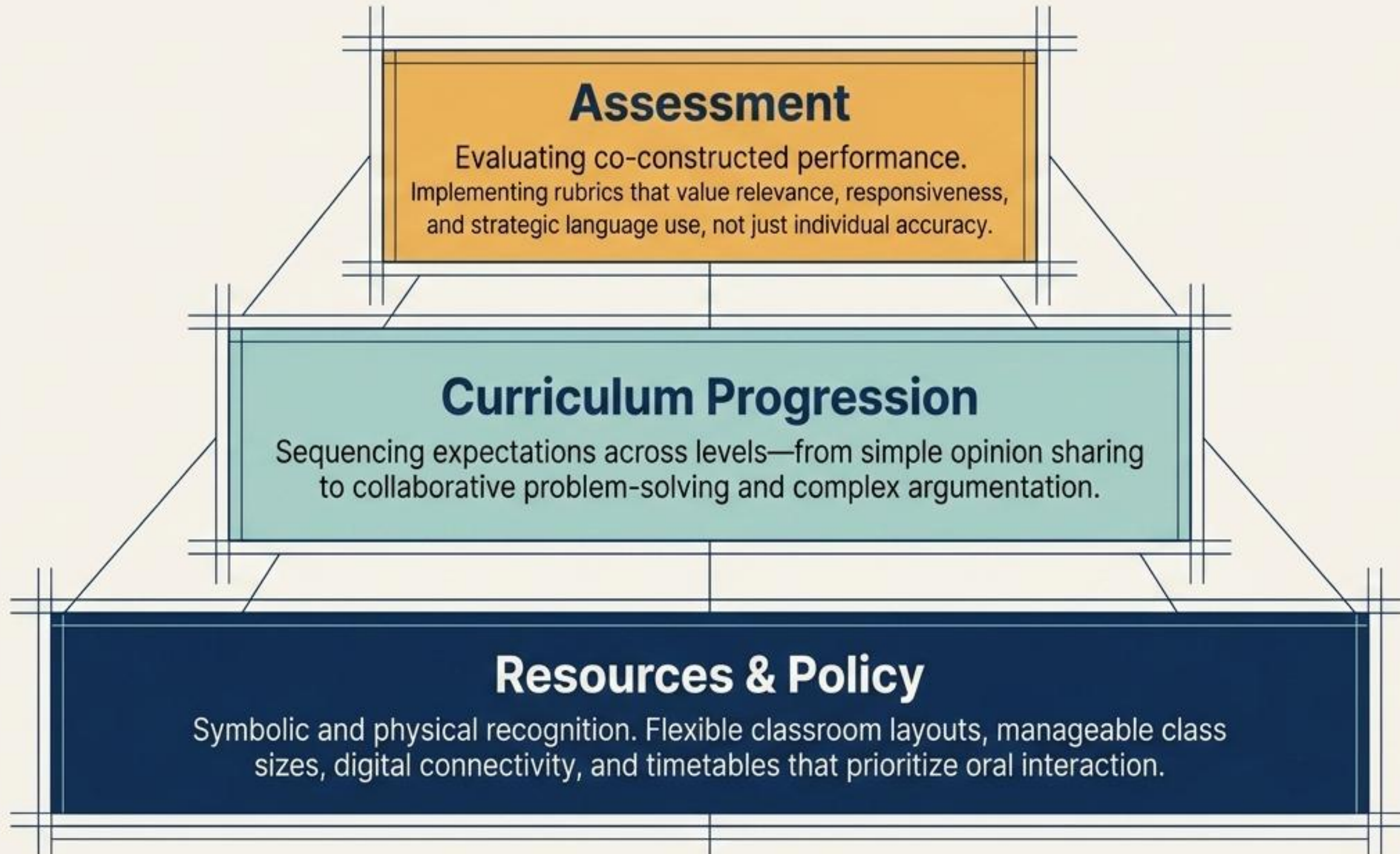
ChatGPT and AI tools act as **just-in-time support nodes**. They provide reformulations and adaptive feedback.

Critical Digital Literacy:

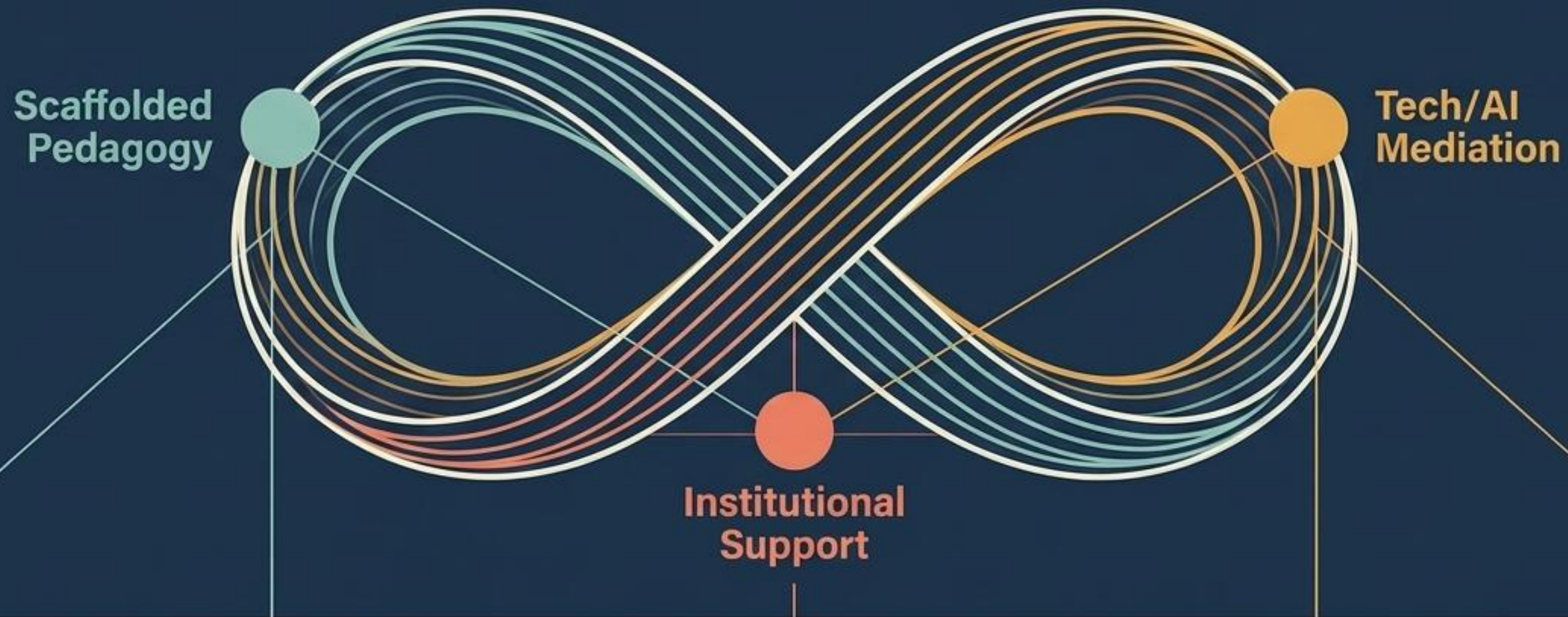
Learners must be guided to **verify AI-generated language** and avoid over-reliance that substitutes generated text for genuine communicative effort.



Systemic Alignment: The Institutional Blueprint

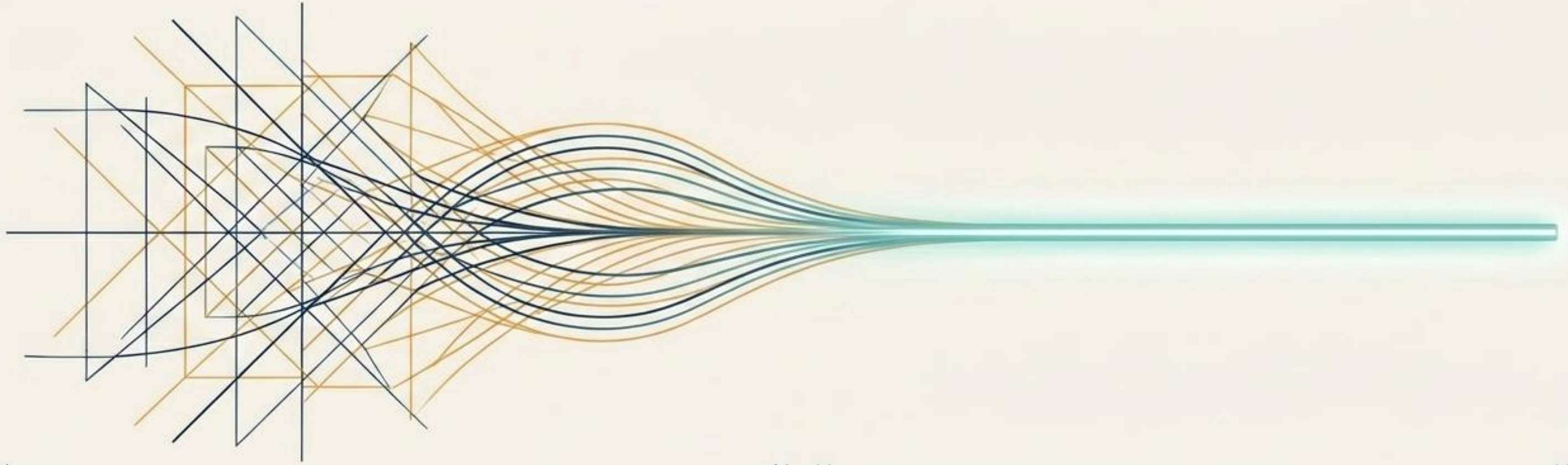


The Ecosystem of Designed Interaction



- Discussion-based pedagogy fails when treated as a supplementary add-on at the end of a lesson.
- It succeeds only when integrated directly into lesson objectives, materials, and classroom routines.
- The Synthesis: Teacher facilitation, technological integration, and institutional assessment must form an unbroken continuous loop to sustain authentic dialogue.

Extending Human Dialogue in Language Education



Final Takeaway: Discussion-based pedagogy is not simply a teaching technique. It is a pedagogical orientation that places communication, participation, and shared inquiry at the exact center of language education.

The Role of Technology: As AI and global networking expand, they must be leveraged to extend and enrich human dialogue, never to replace it.