

Interactive alignment of Parallel Texts – *a cross browser experience*

(standards in practice)

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A.D. MDLXII



Introduction

Alignment of
parallel texts;
multi-lingual;
minority languages;
poetry

But why?



Dante's was a minority language.

“Think global, act local”



He was the cat that walked by himself
and all places were alike to him.

Kipling

“Think local, act global”

Genius loci

the
creative spirits
of place – *geolocated*.

Minority language

a
seed-bed
for poetic expression,
beyond mere communication.

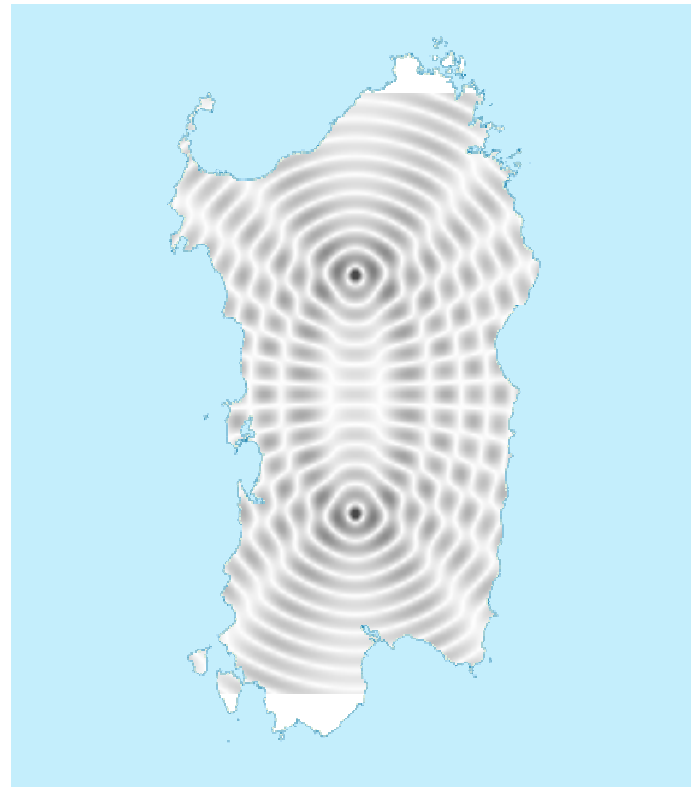
Whenever we lose a language the
“genetic basis” for such expression
diminishes, globally

Echo Chamber

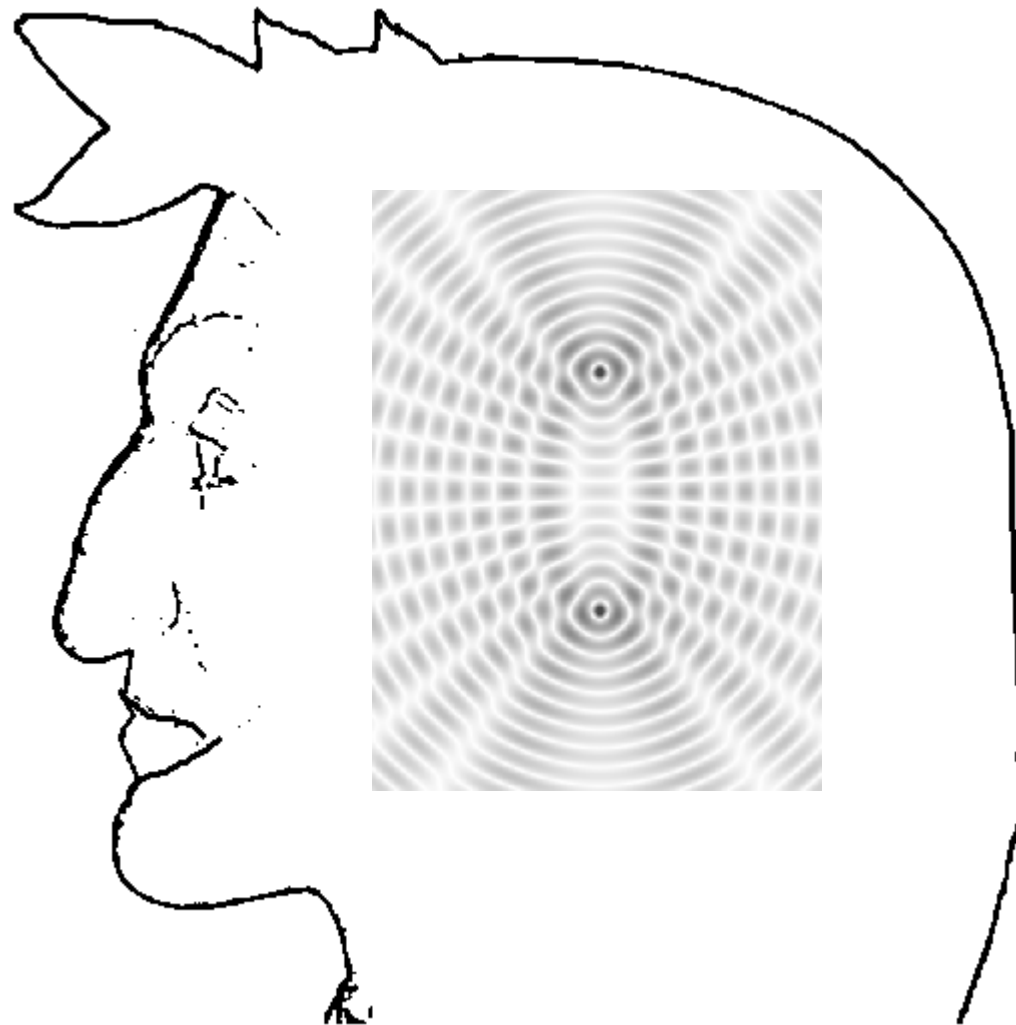
Minority language

Island language

(song, verse, prose)



**Echo Chamber
in poet's head**

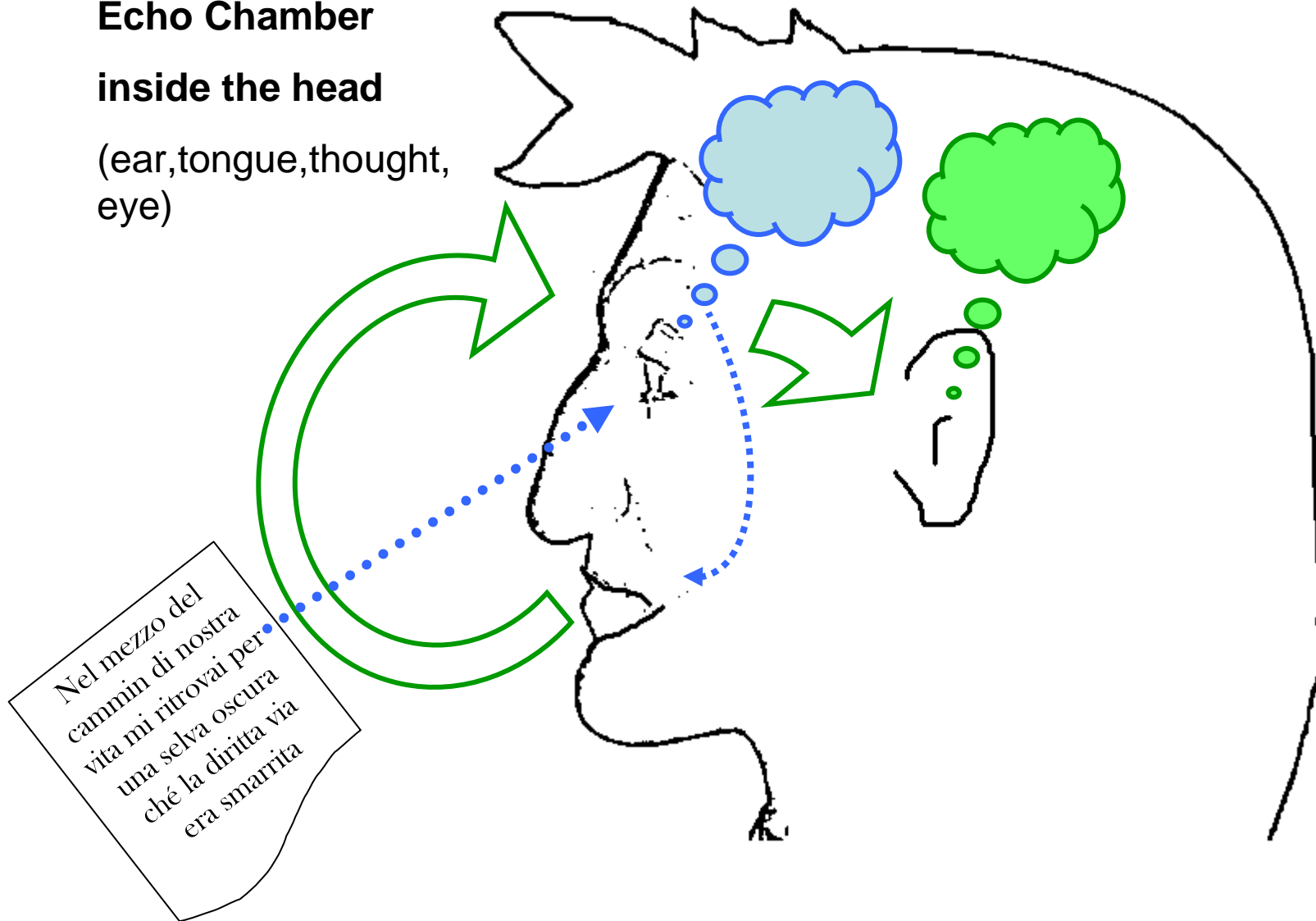


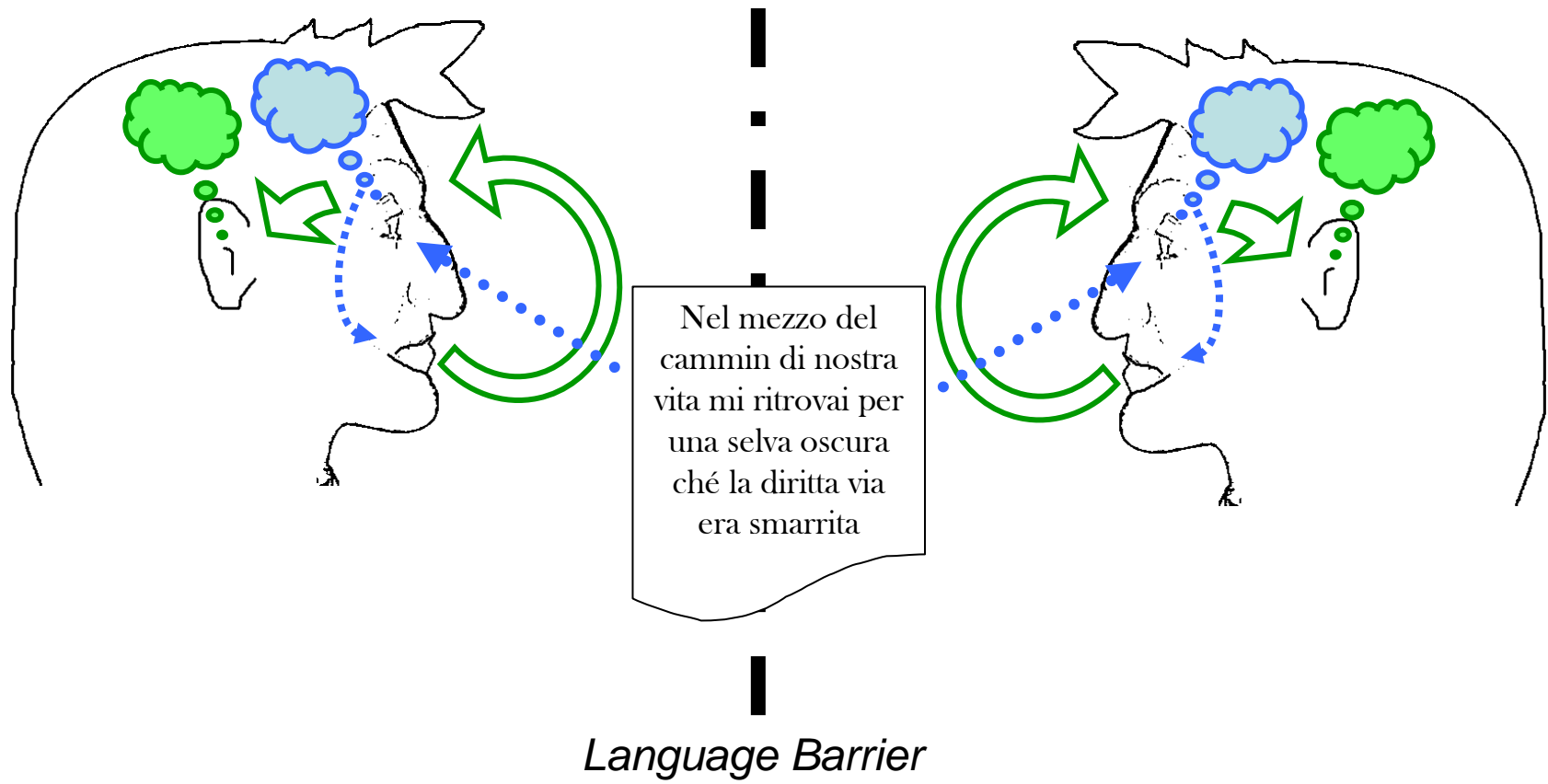
**Echo Chamber
inside the head**
(ear,tongue,thought)



**Echo Chamber
inside the head**

(ear,tongue,thought,
eye)

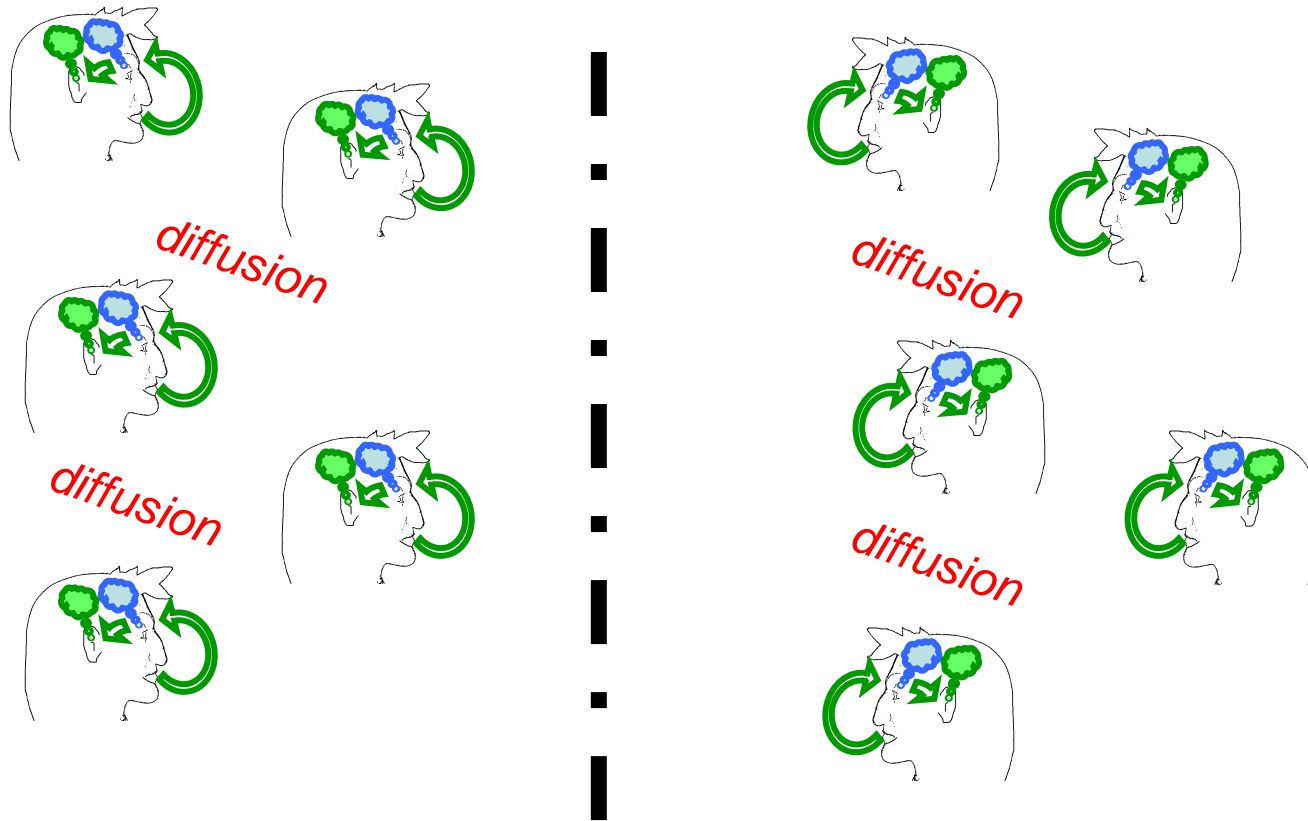




Cultural context *A*

Cultural context *B*

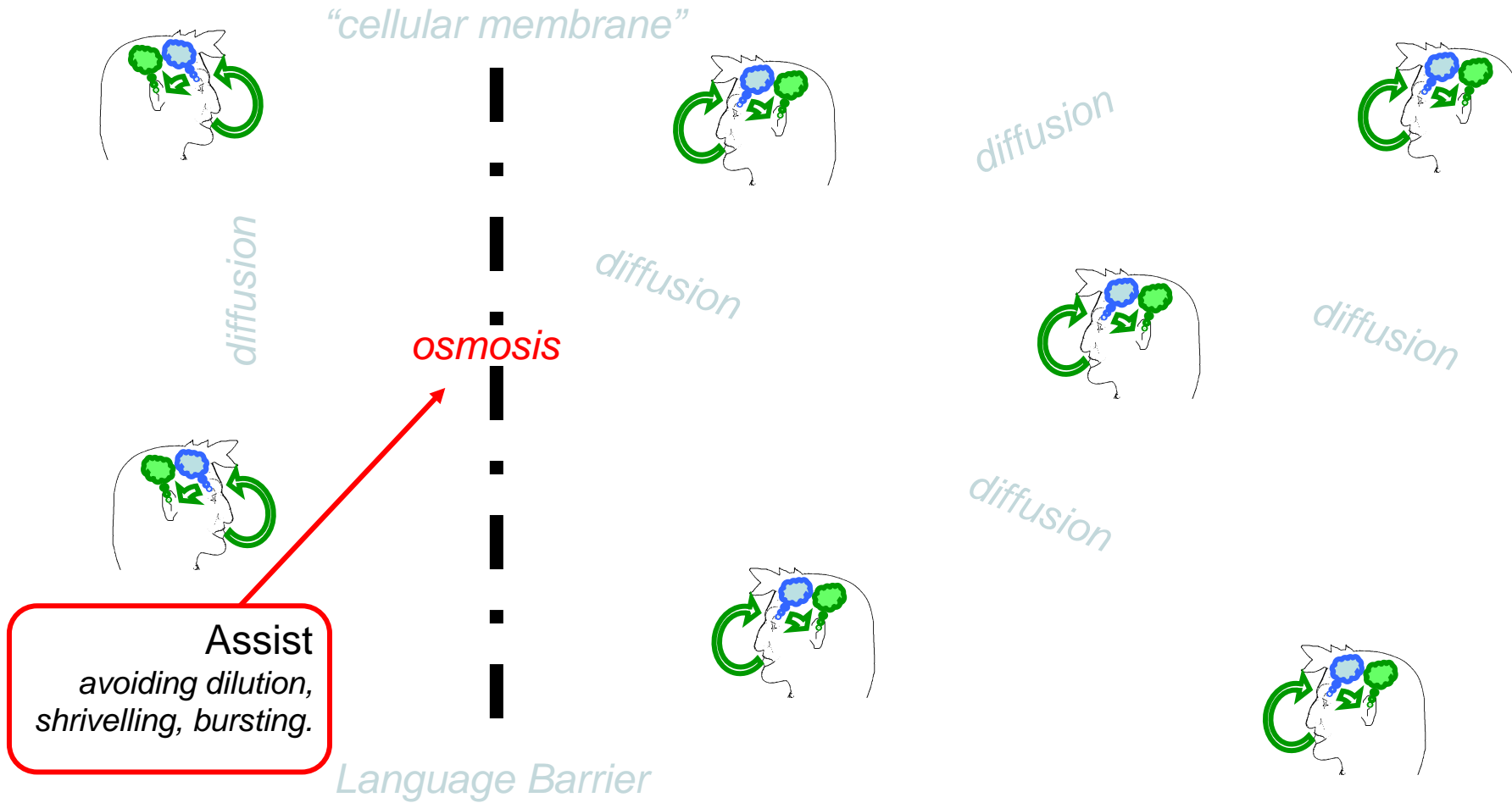
cf R.Jakobson

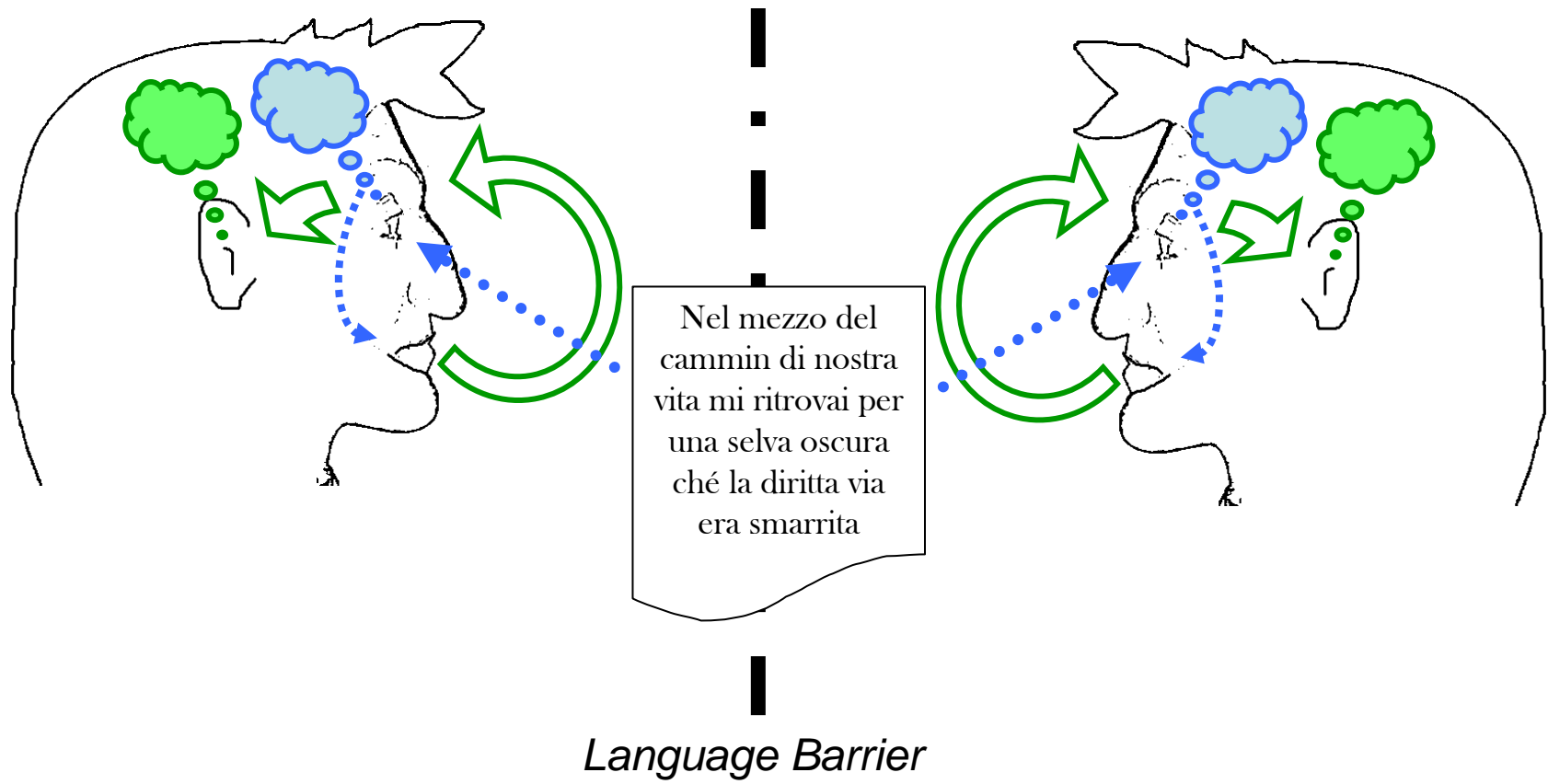


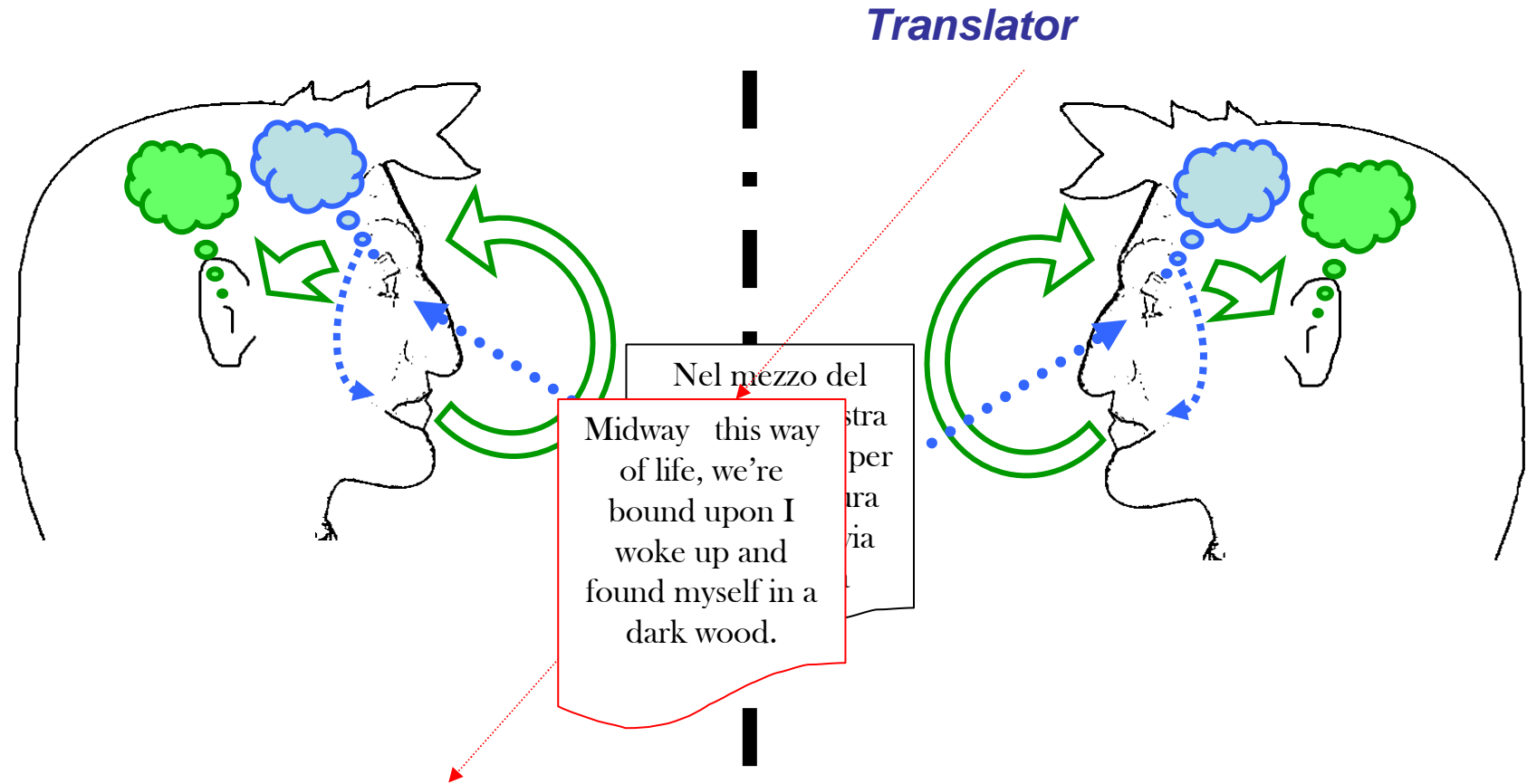
Language Barrier

Minority language

Global language







Parallel text alignment ↔ to communicate *semantics*

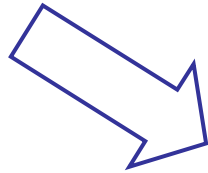
- standards-based markup
- web delivery, cross-browser
- non-verbal interactivity
- beyond *Google Translate* →

Midway	this way of life, we're bound upon I woke up and found myself in a
--------	--

Nel mezzo	del cammin di nostra vita mi ritrovai per una selva oscura ché la diritta via
-----------	---

Beyond *GoogleTranslate*:

- SMT not going to translate poetry well any time soon.
- We allow the translator to clarify by alignment
- Point-&-click interface to modify standard markup
- Colour-code: formal & dynamic equivalence [Nida-Taber]
- [Demo](#)



***Parallel text alignment* web interface**

Demo (a desktop browser: IE8-9, FF3-4, Opera11, Chrome, Safari)

MLW 2011 demo: Brelstaff, Chessa, Interactive Alignment Of Parallel Text
Gavin Brelstaff and Francesca Chessa, 2011



**Antonino
Mura Ena**

N.Tanda (editor)

[Sardinian-English](#)

(aligned)



**Ольга
Седакова**

F.Chessa

[Russian-Italian](#)

(aligned)



**师涛
(Shi Tao)**

PEN Sardinia

[Chinese-English](#)

(aligned)



**Enrica
Ferreccio**

Fch,Gjb

[Italian-English](#)

(aligned)



**Imp.
Hadrianus**

Fch,Gjb

[Latin-English](#)

(aligned)

Demo:
selection by click

Peraula bia - Antonino Mura Ena
Sardinian original

Una peraula bia;
cando est offerta: e nada
ed est sa prima - orta
chi dae bucca bessit,
in s'istante matessi est accabada.
Est cunsumida e morta.

Word Lives - Antonino Mura Ena
English version - gjb 2009

A word lives
when offered up and said
and once issued
from the mouth
it vanishes in that moment:
Consumed and dead.

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Sardinian original

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Demo: selection & alignment

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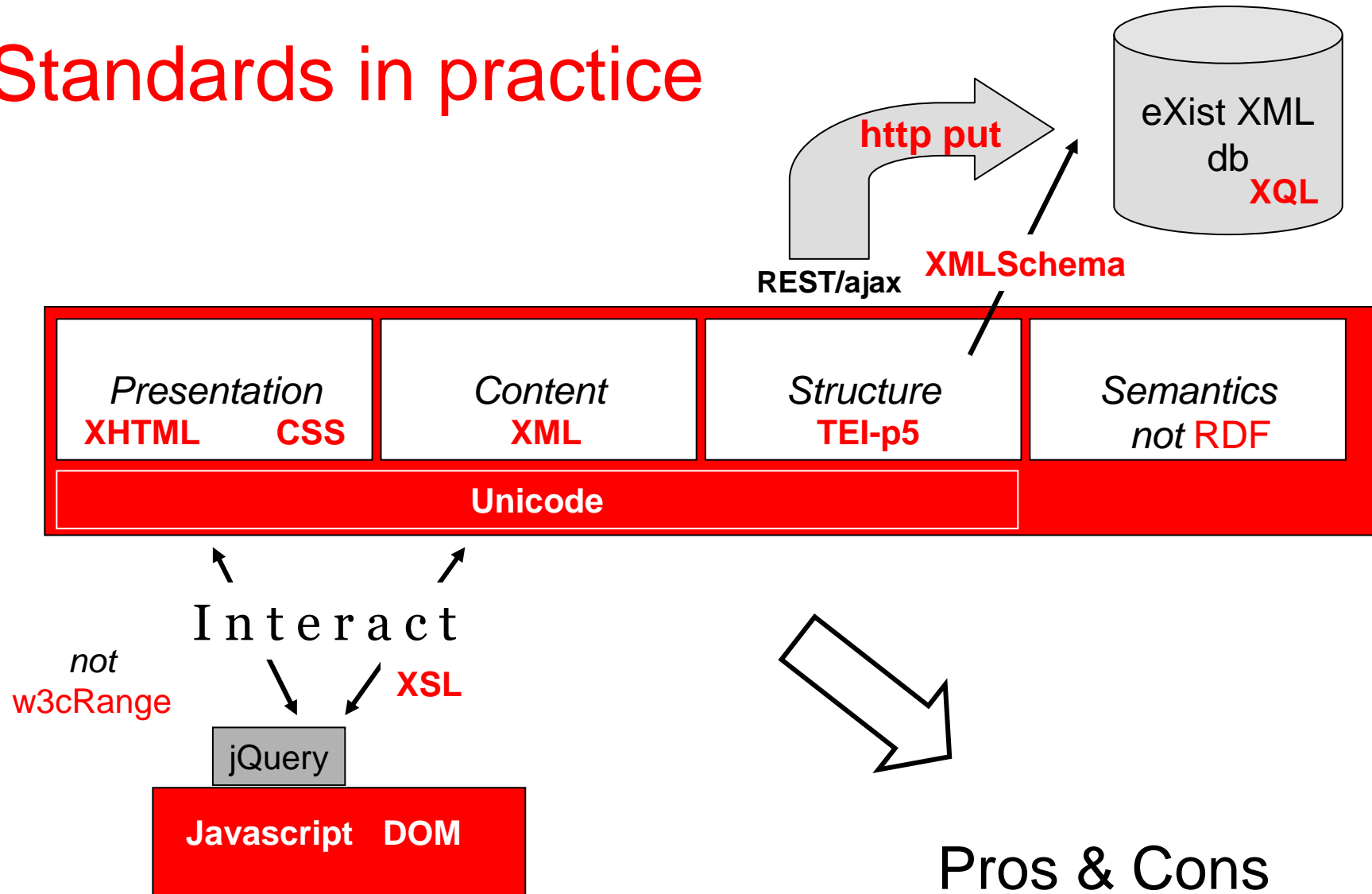
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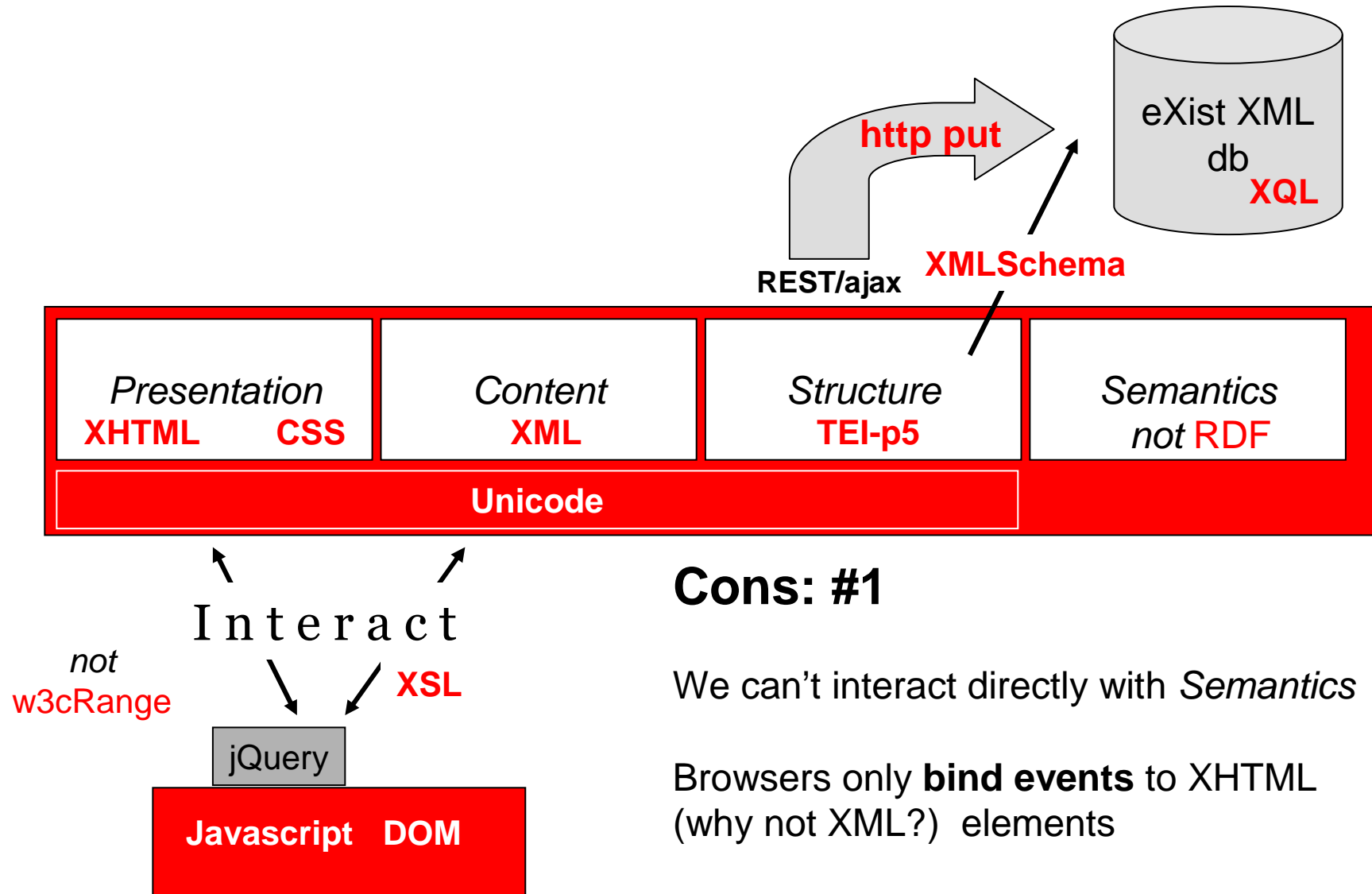
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Standards in practice



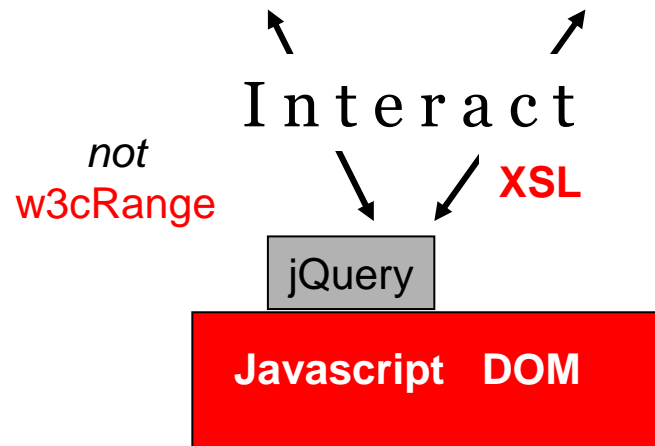
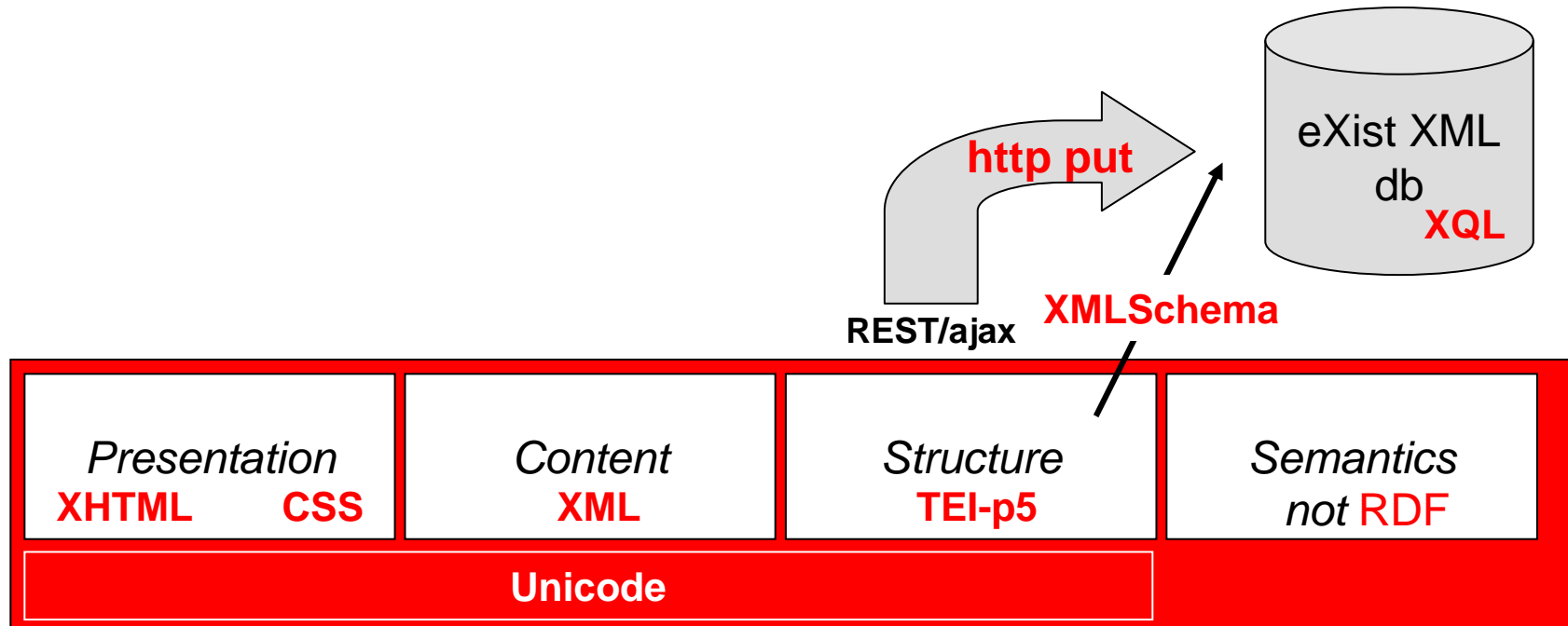


Cons: #1

We can't interact directly with *Semantics*

Browsers only **bind events** to XHTML (why not XML?) elements

Incurs two degrees of messy indirection.

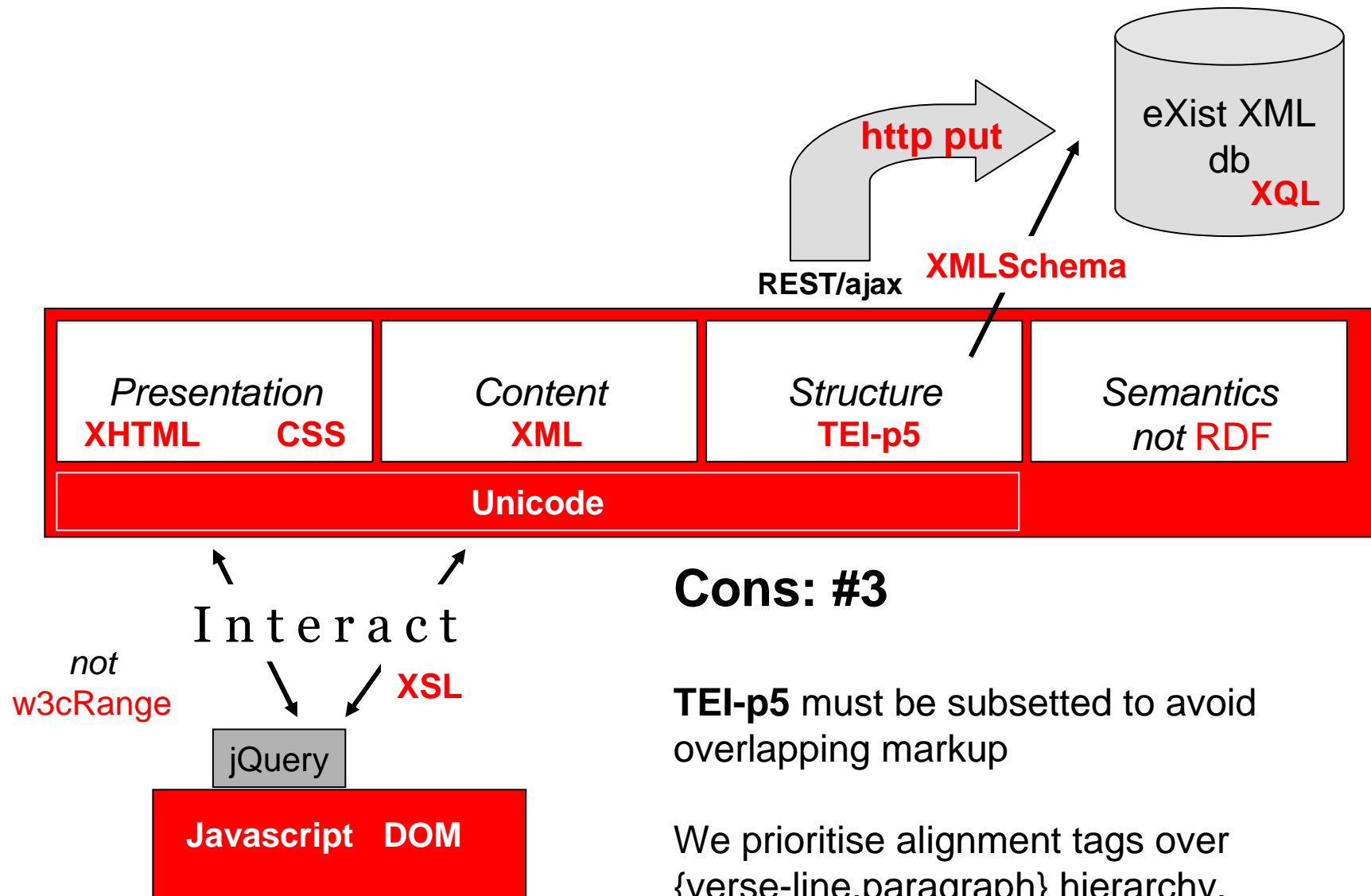


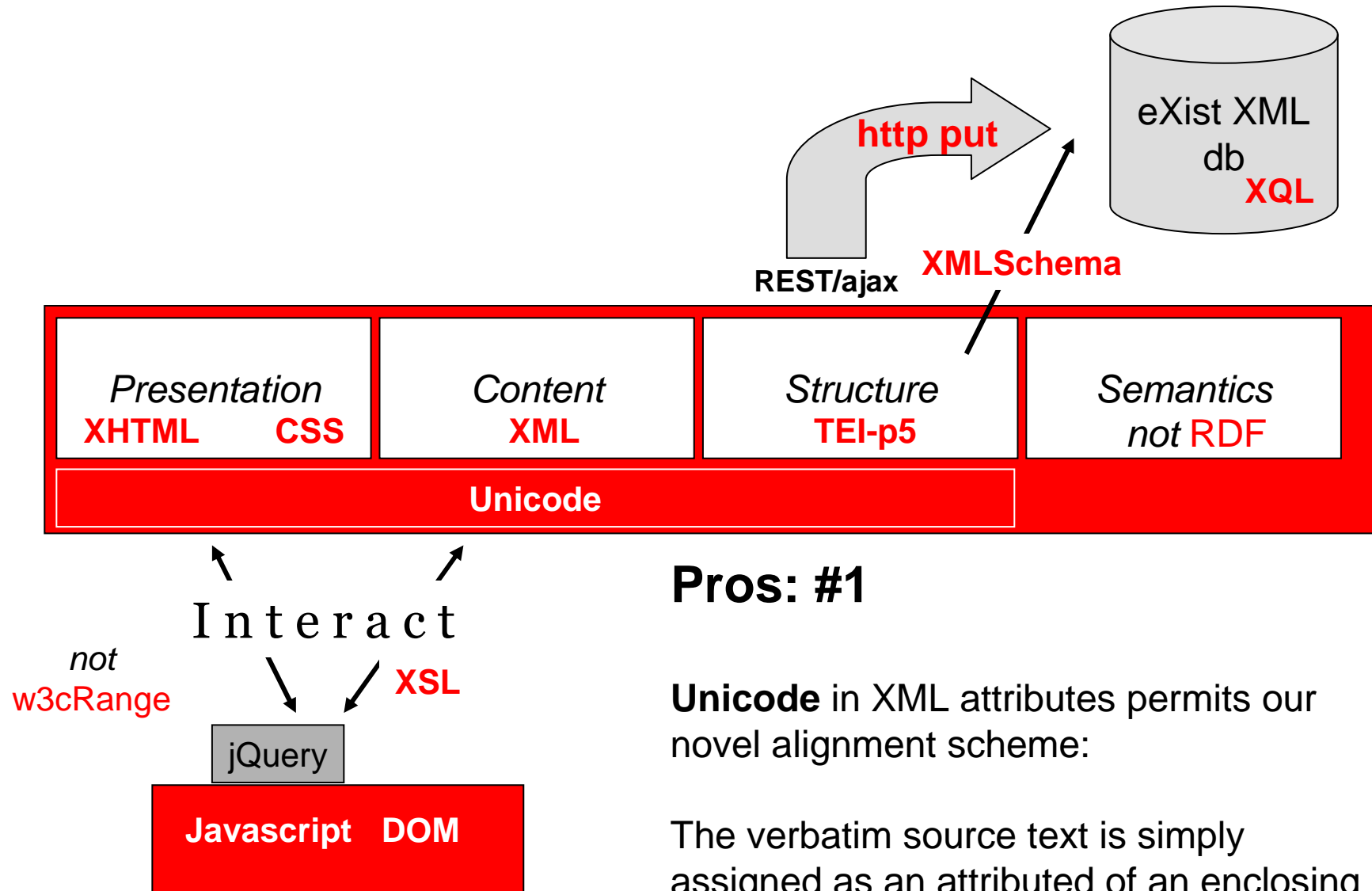
Cons: #2

w3cRange is not "road worthy".

We resort to *Click to Select*

Selection within words still lacking.

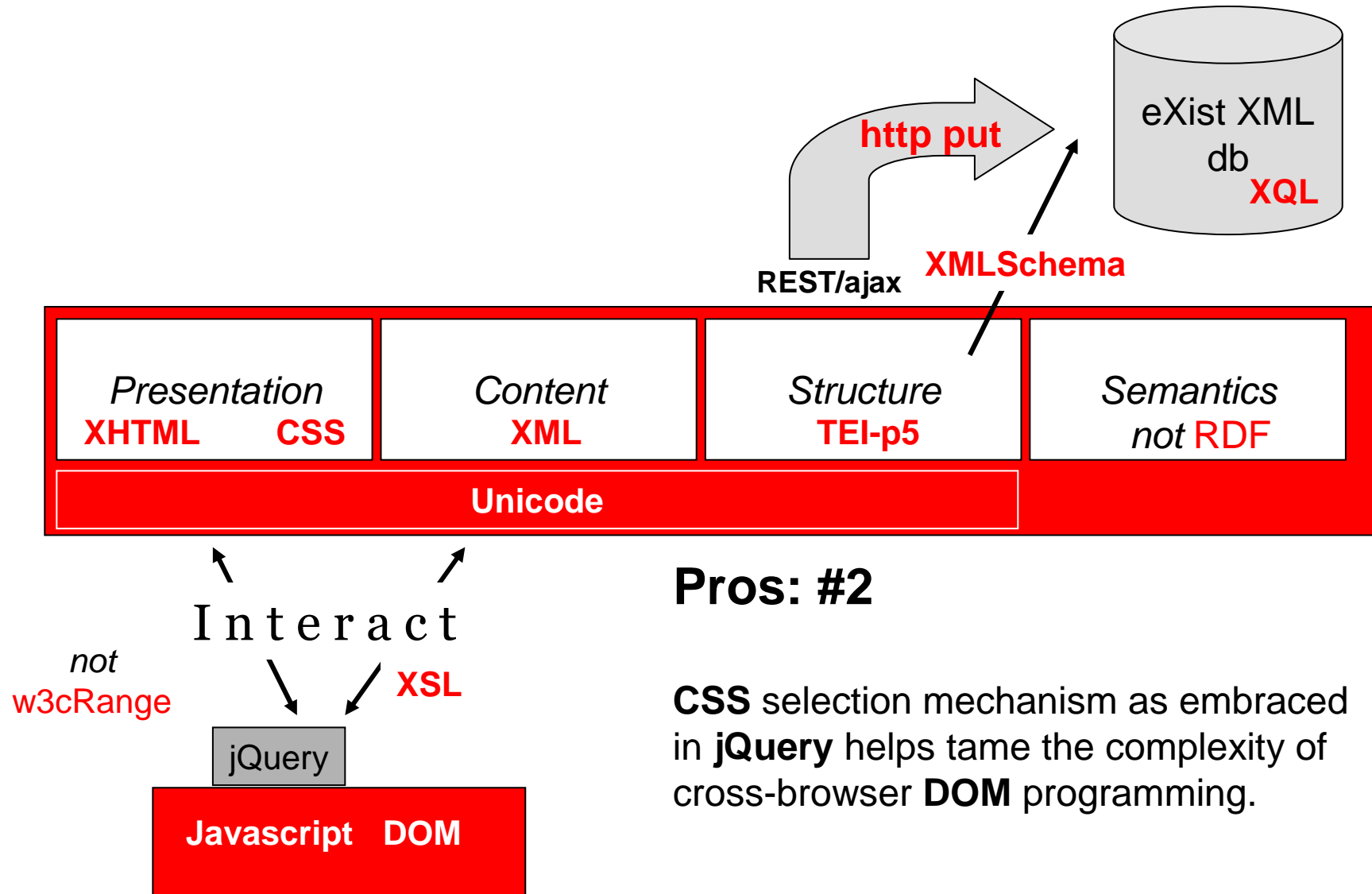




Pros: #1

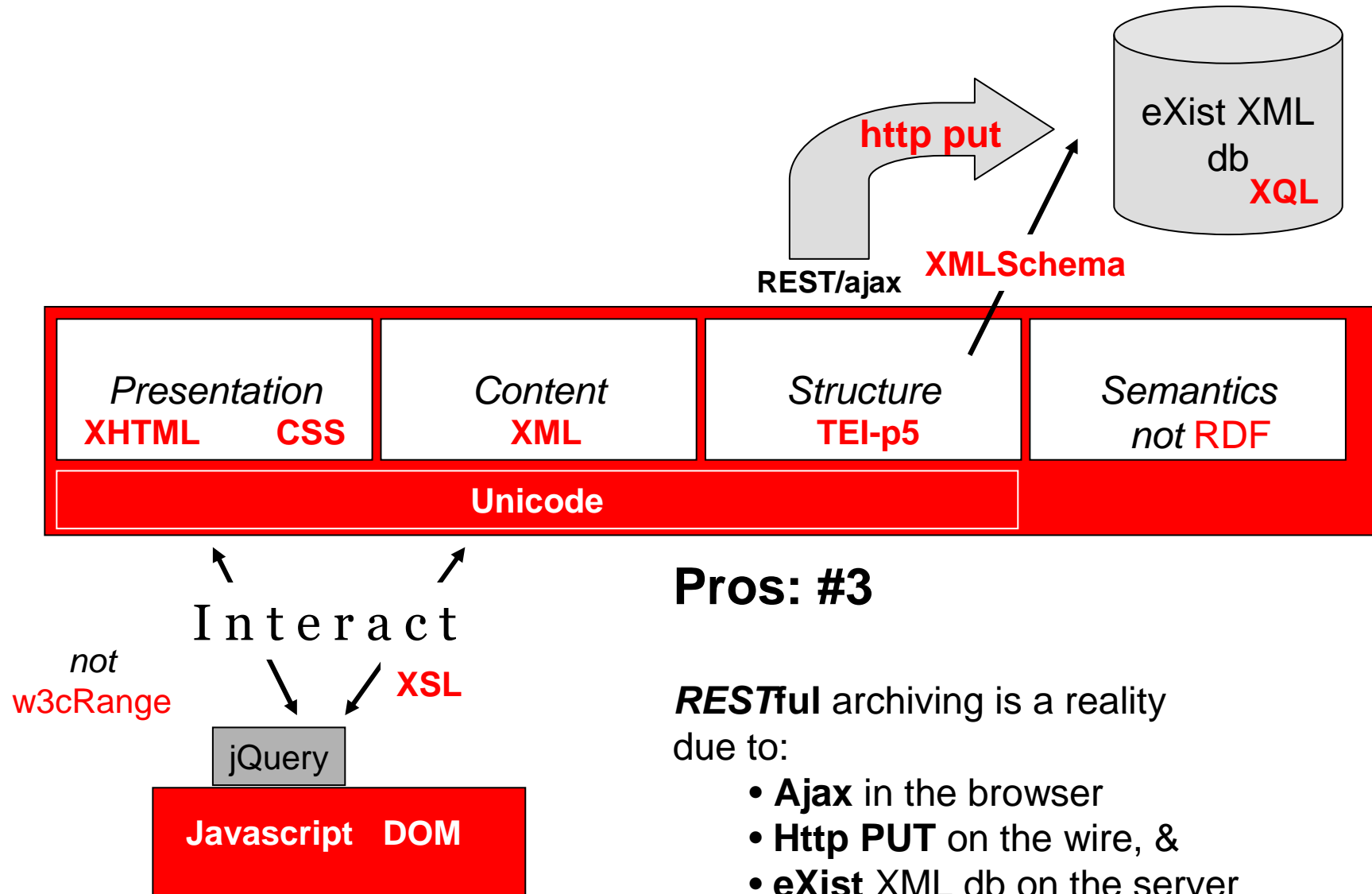
Unicode in XML attributes permits our novel alignment scheme:

The verbatim source text is simply assigned as an attribute of an enclosing tag in the translated text



Pros: #2

CSS selection mechanism as embraced in **jQuery** helps tame the complexity of cross-browser **DOM** programming.



Conclusion

Standards in practice

Cons

- Can't bind to XML
- W3cRange not ready
- Must subset TEI-p5

Pros

- Unicode in attributes
- CSS&jQuery v. DOM
- *RESTful* reality

Browser issues

- *Opera*: no transparent cursor in text
- *Firefox*: synchronous scoll down bug
- *IE*: onselectstart issue
- *Google Chrome*: run from disk fix
- *Safari/Chrome/IE* Form Enctype: validation

That's all folks:

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A.D. MDLXII



L'Amor che move il sole e l'altre stelle