

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

(standards in practice)

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Multilingual Web Workshop Pisa

April 2011



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.

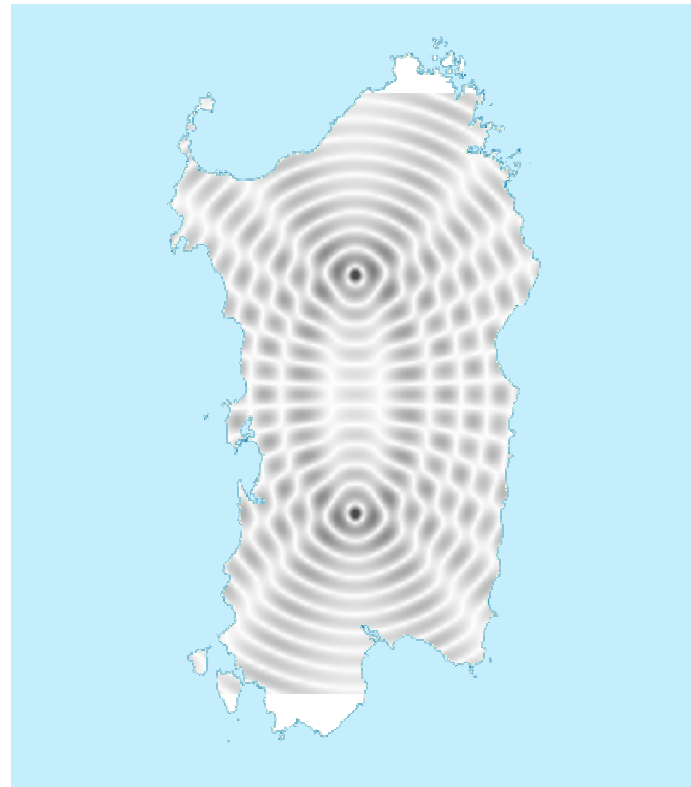
Whenever we lose a language the  
“genetic basis” for such expression  
diminishes, globally

## Echo Chamber

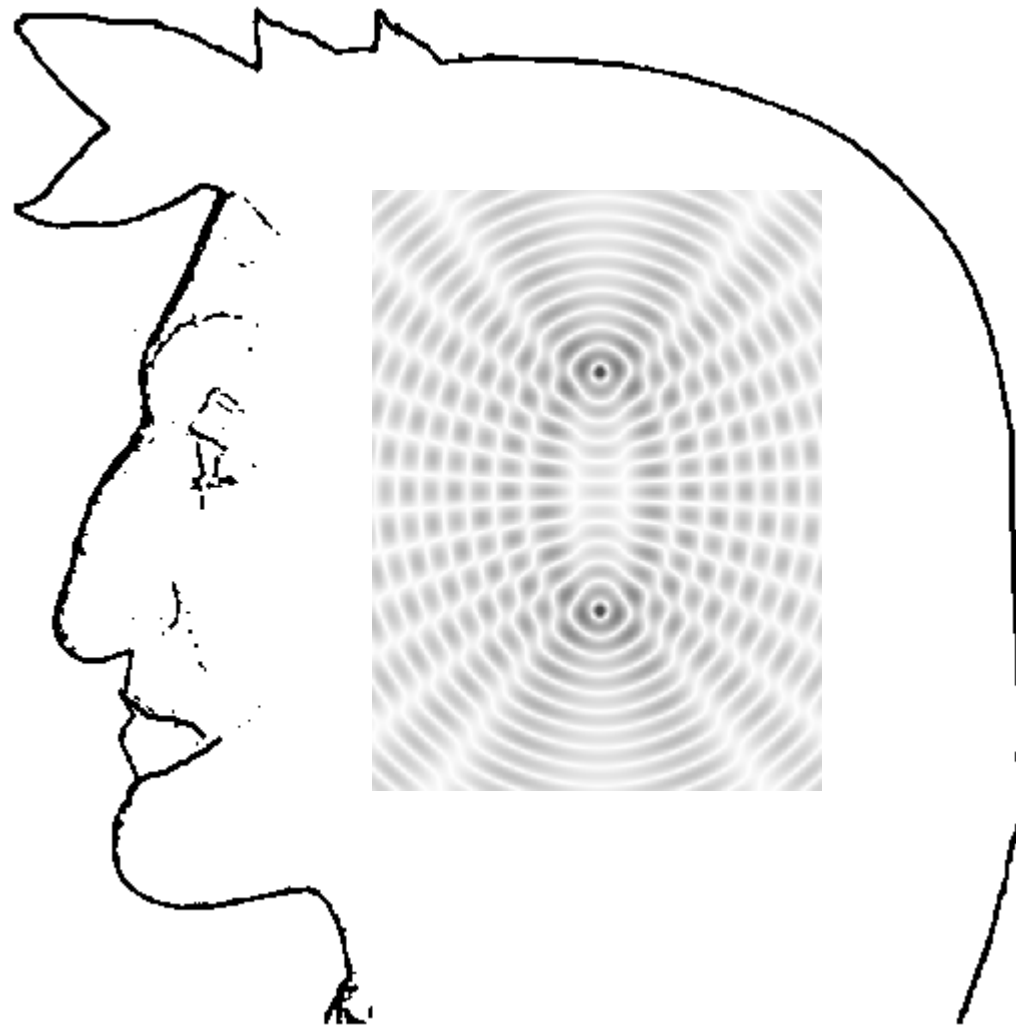
*Minority language*

**Island language**

(song, verse, prose)



**Echo Chamber  
in poet's head**

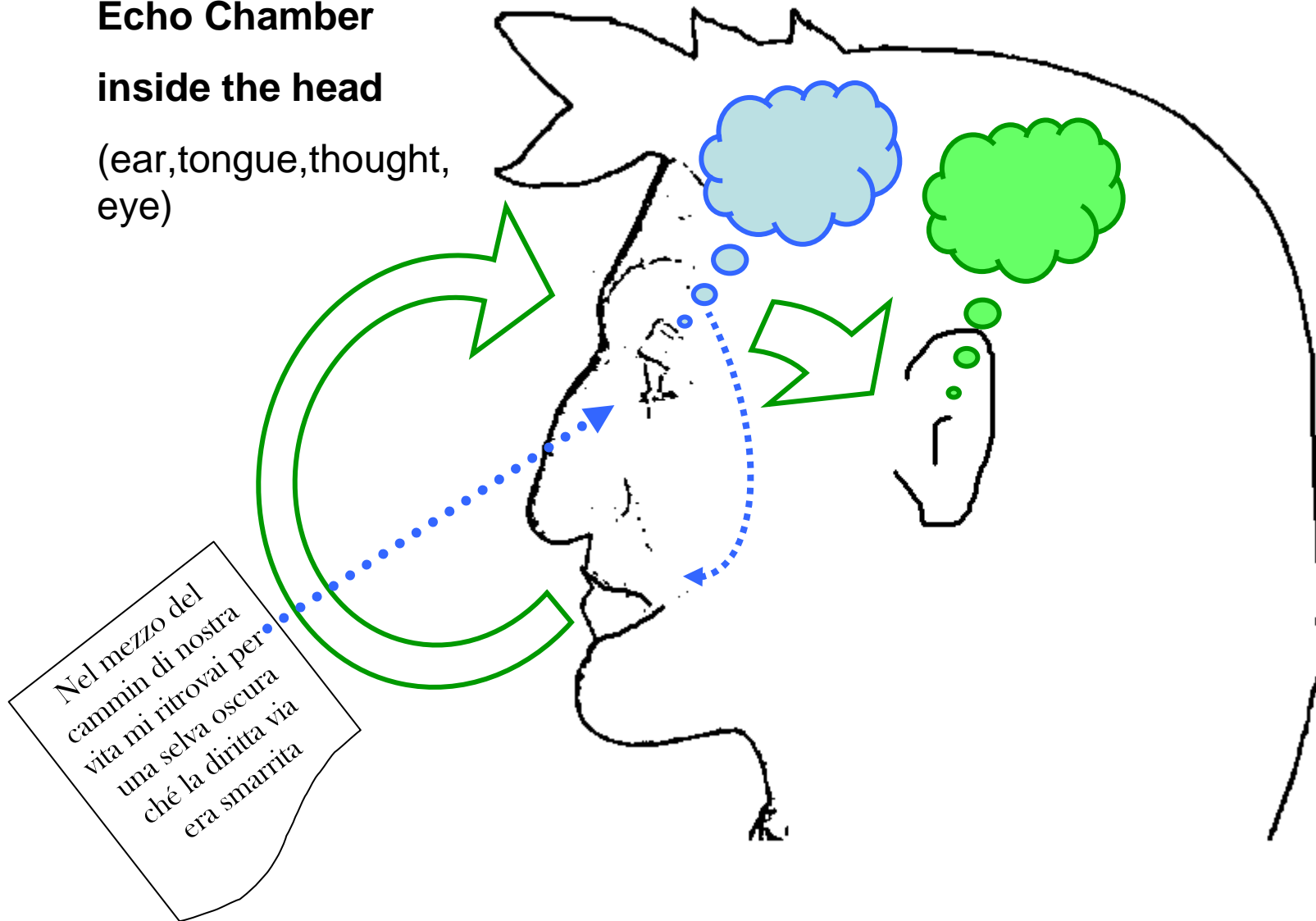


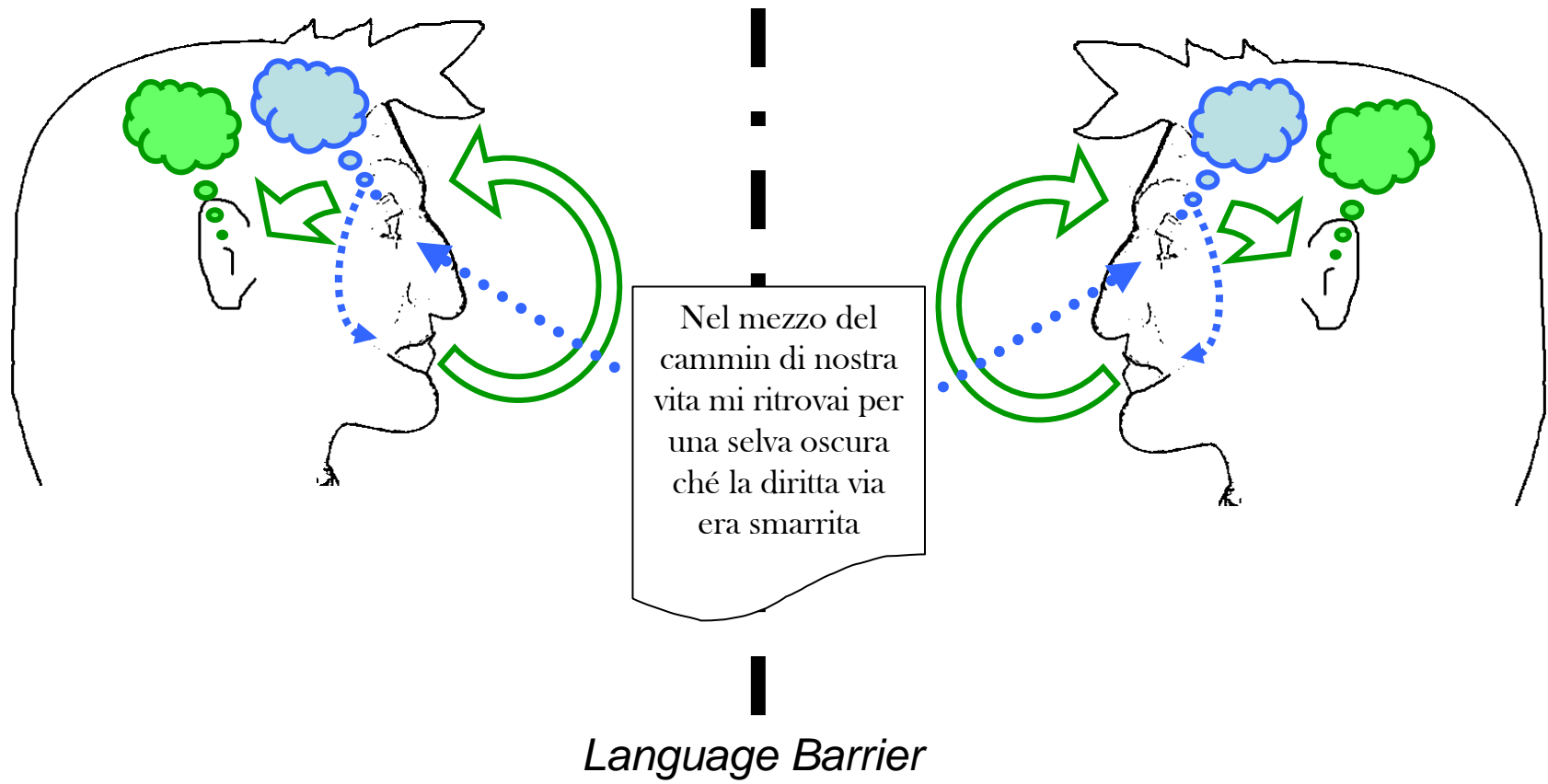
**Echo Chamber  
inside the head**  
(ear,tongue,thought)



**Echo Chamber  
inside the head**

(ear,tongue,thought,  
eye)



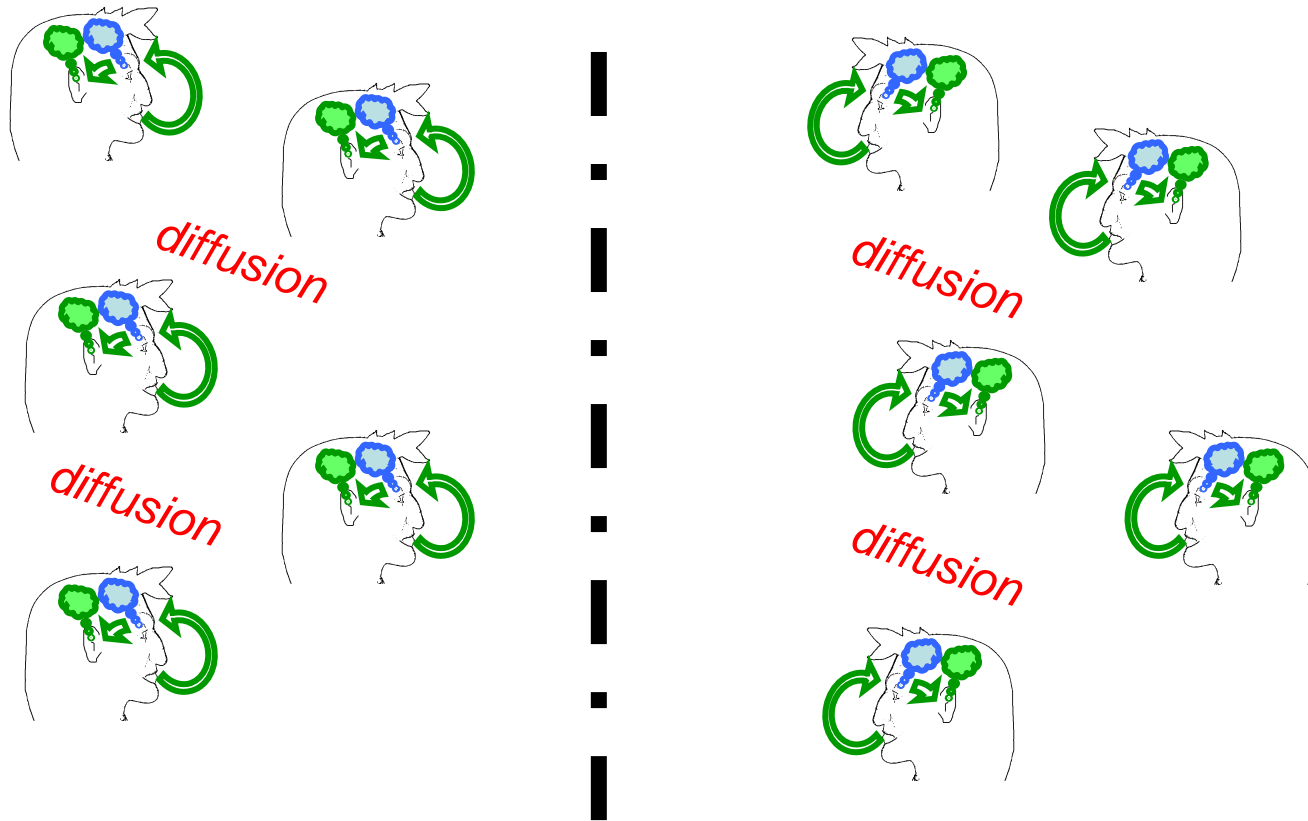




Cultural context *A*

Cultural context *B*

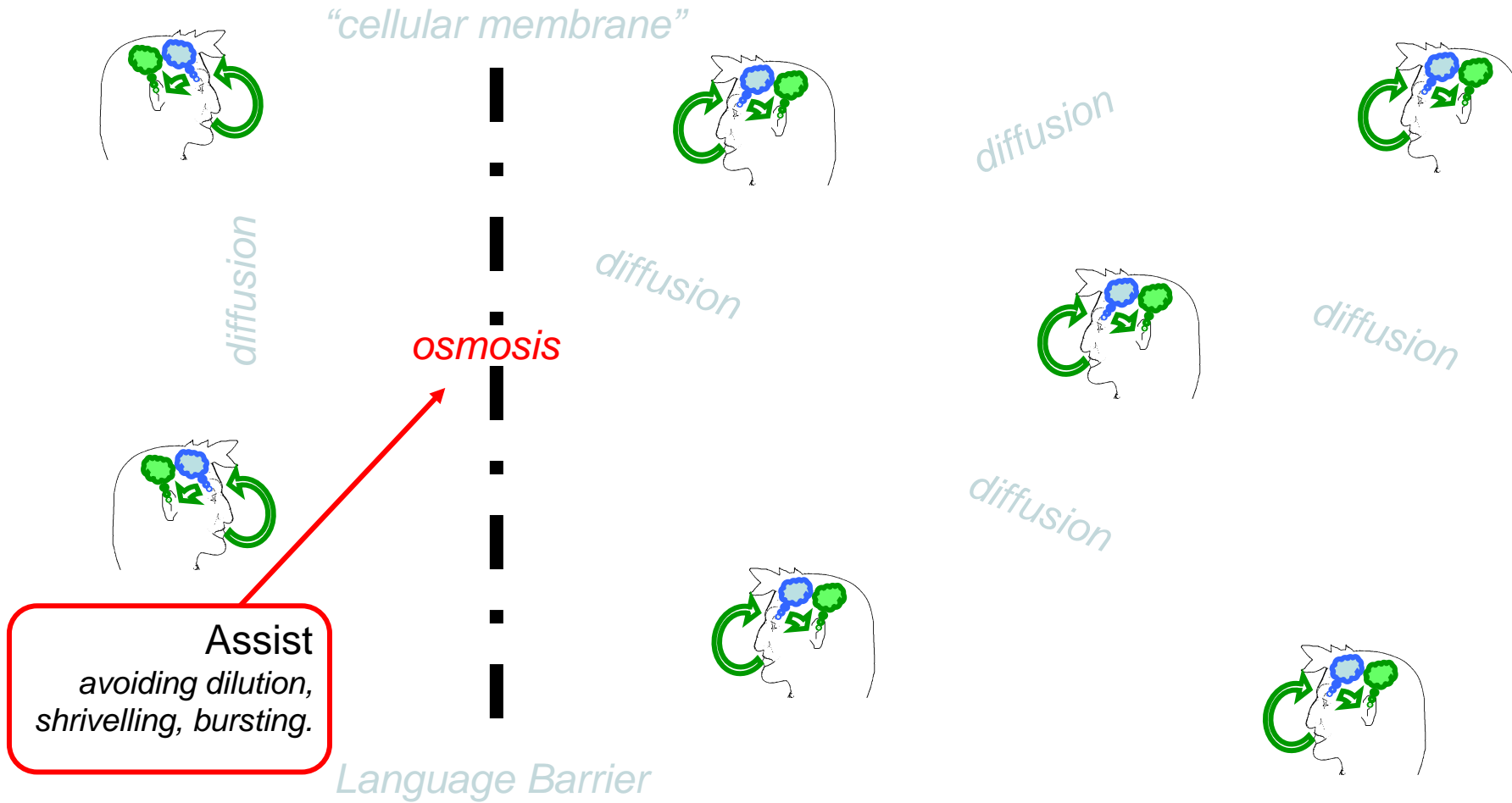
*cf R.Jakobson*

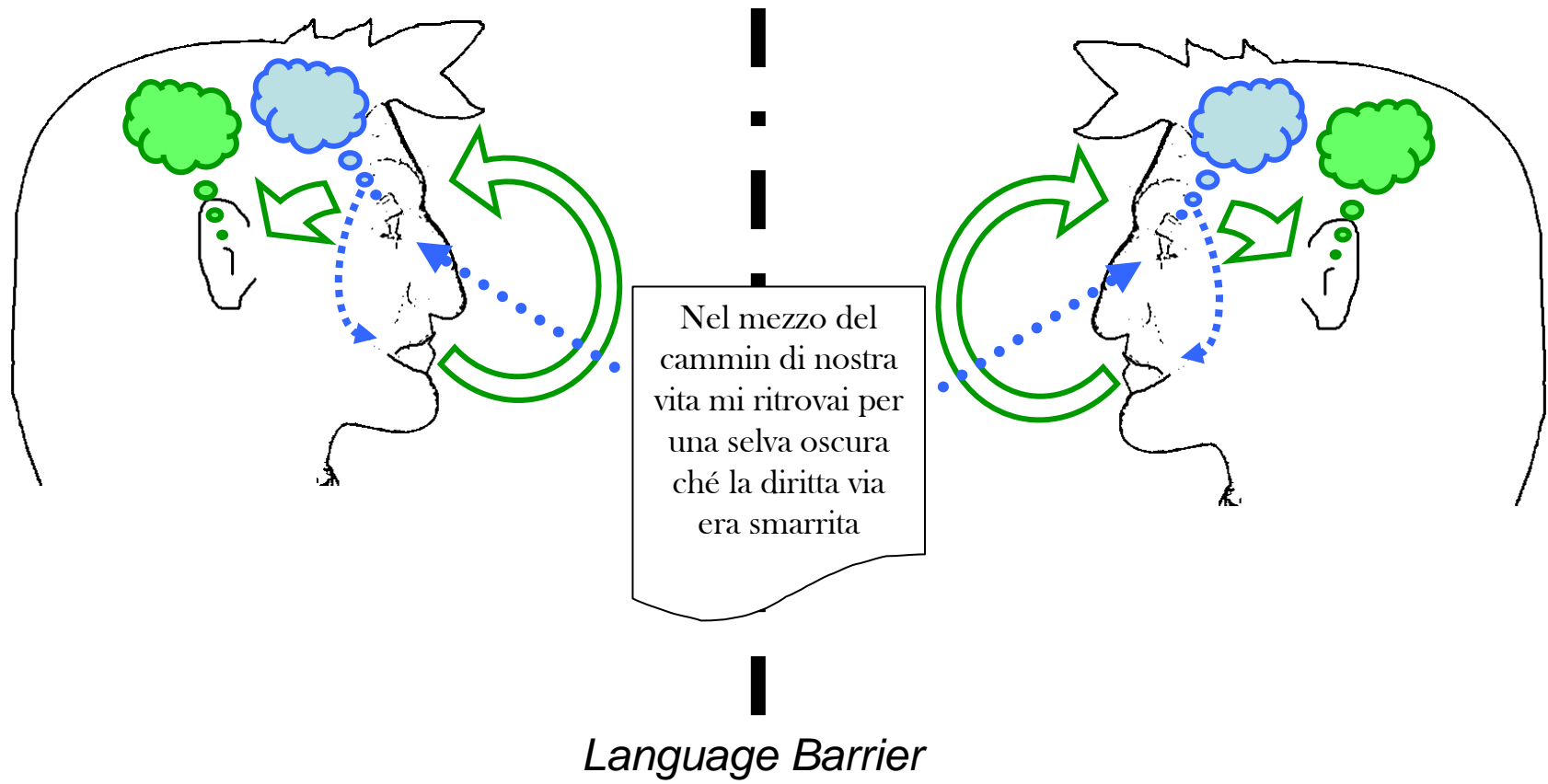


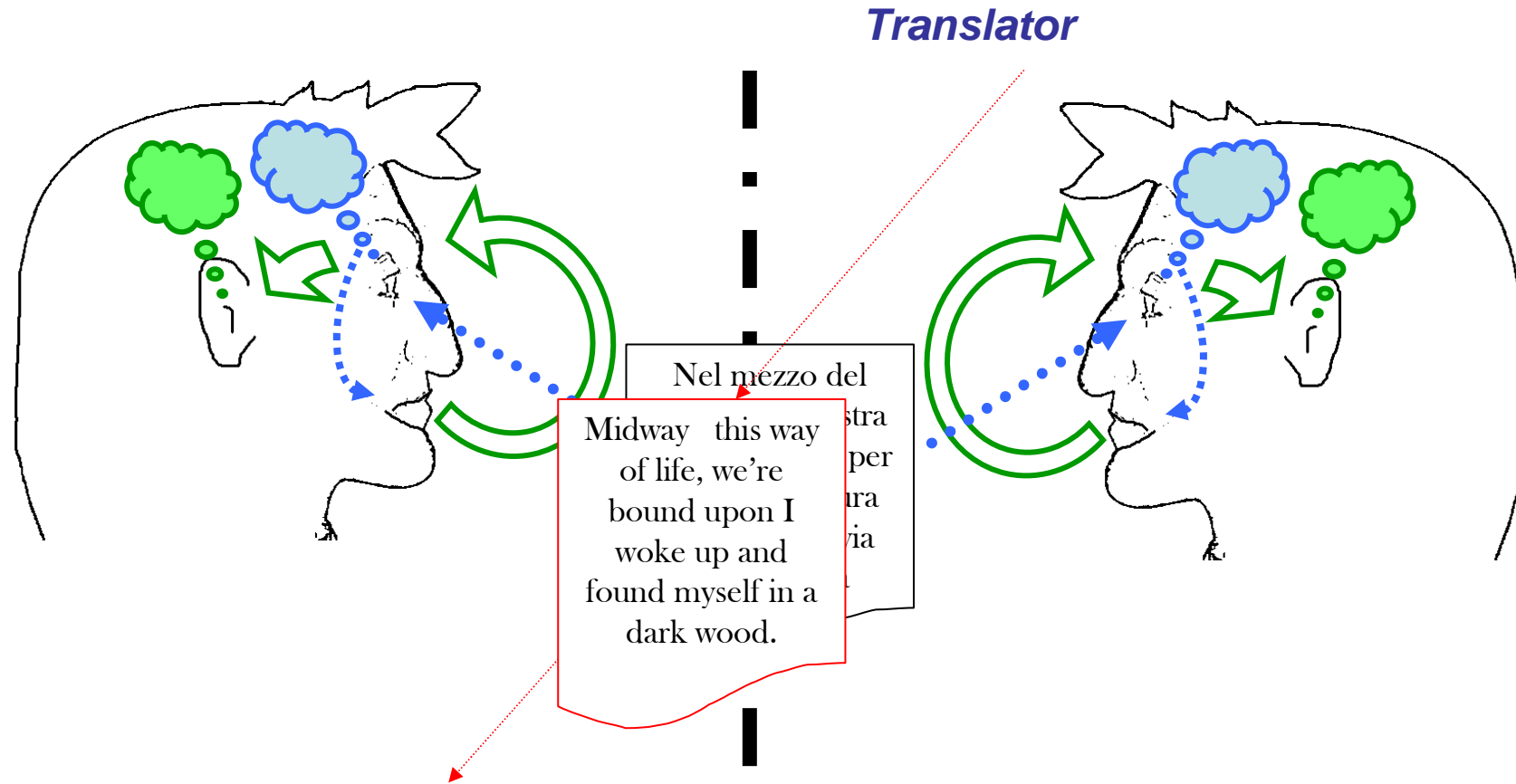
*Language Barrier*

## Minority language

## Global language







**Parallel text alignment** ↔ to communicate *semantics*

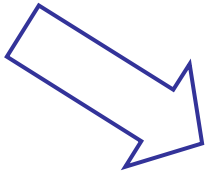
- standards-based markup
- web delivery, cross-browser
- non-verbal interactivity
- beyond *Google Translate* →

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

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**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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## Demo: selection & alignment

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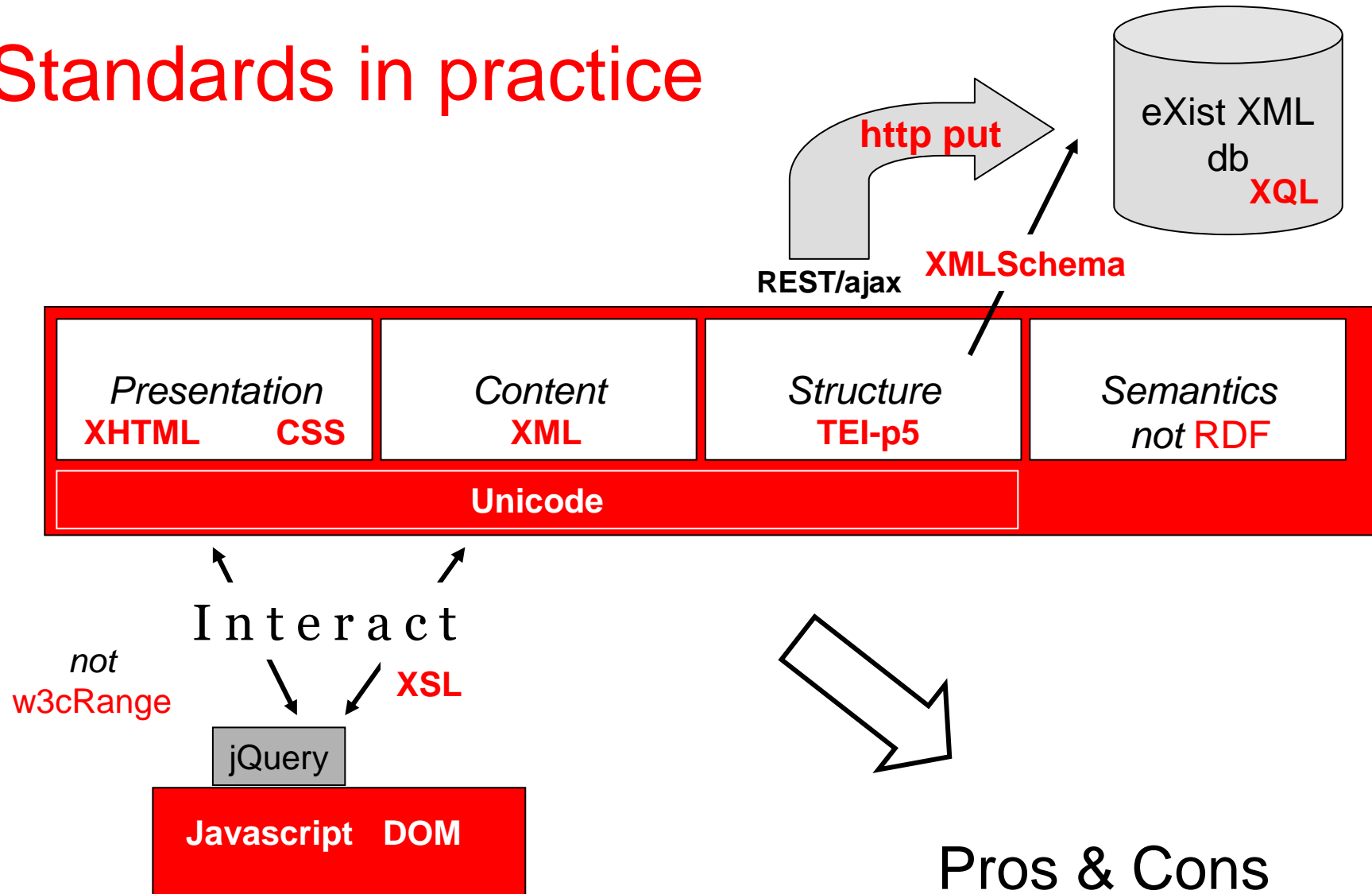
### Word Lives - Antonino Mura Ena

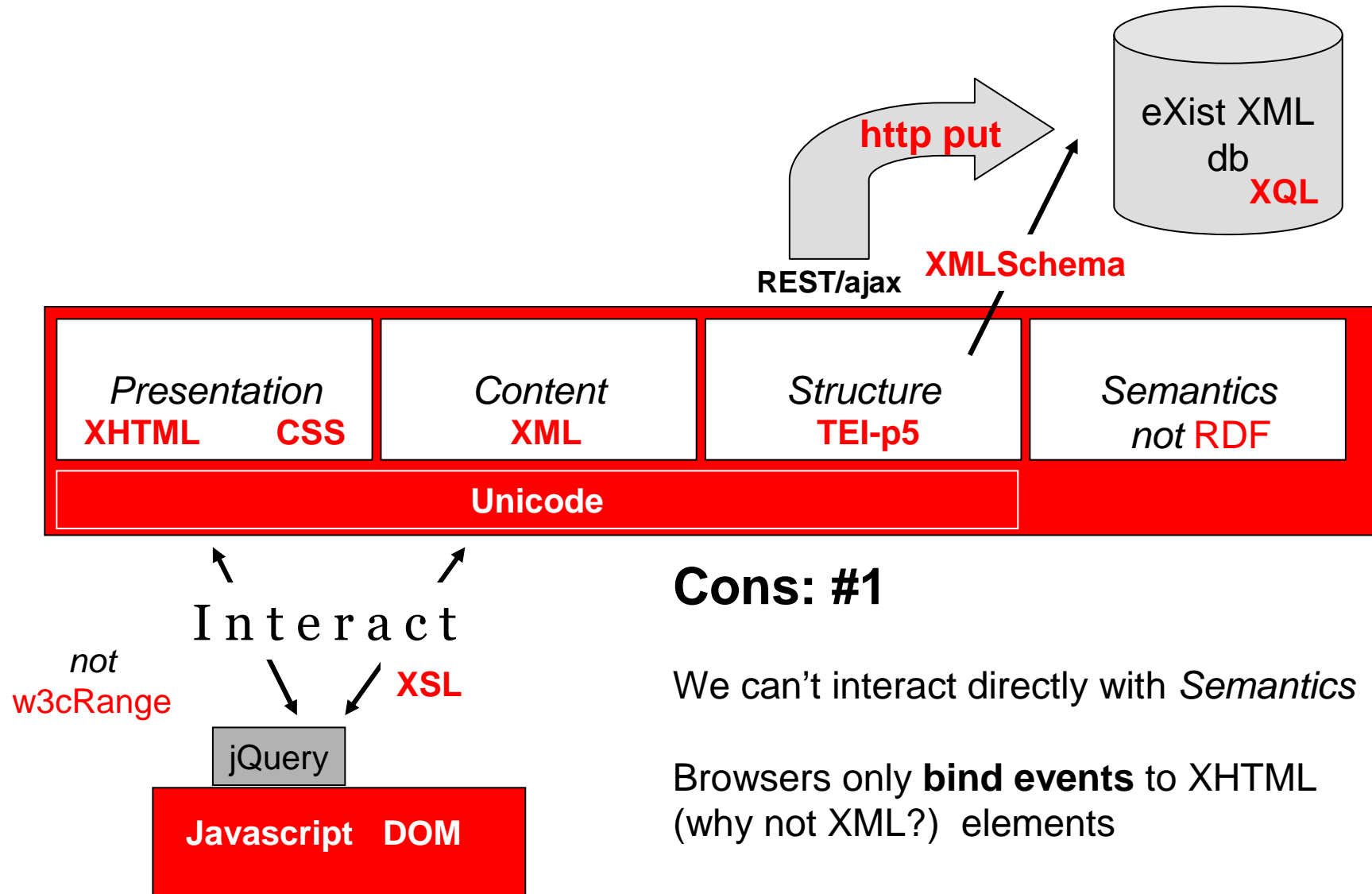
*English version - gjb 2009*

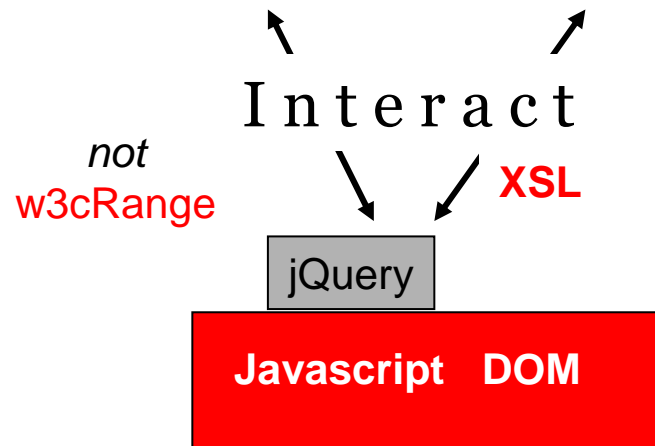
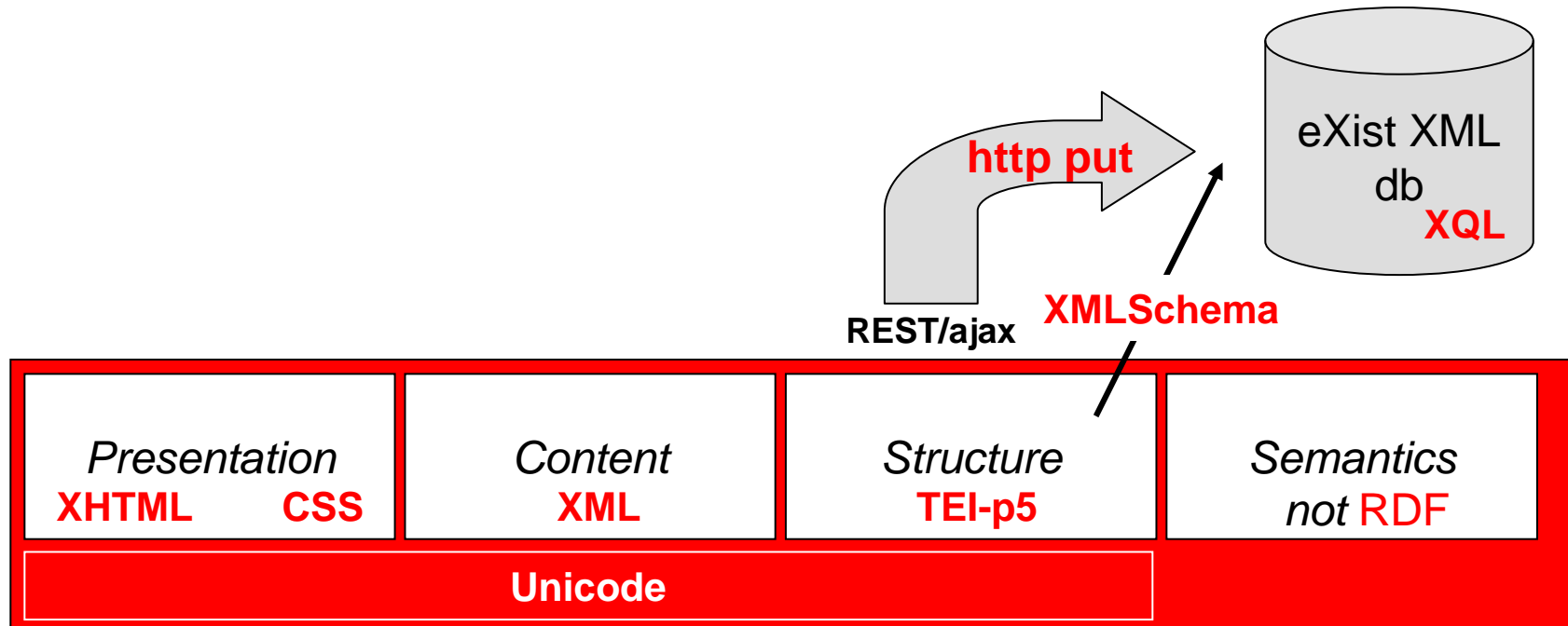
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# Standards in practice





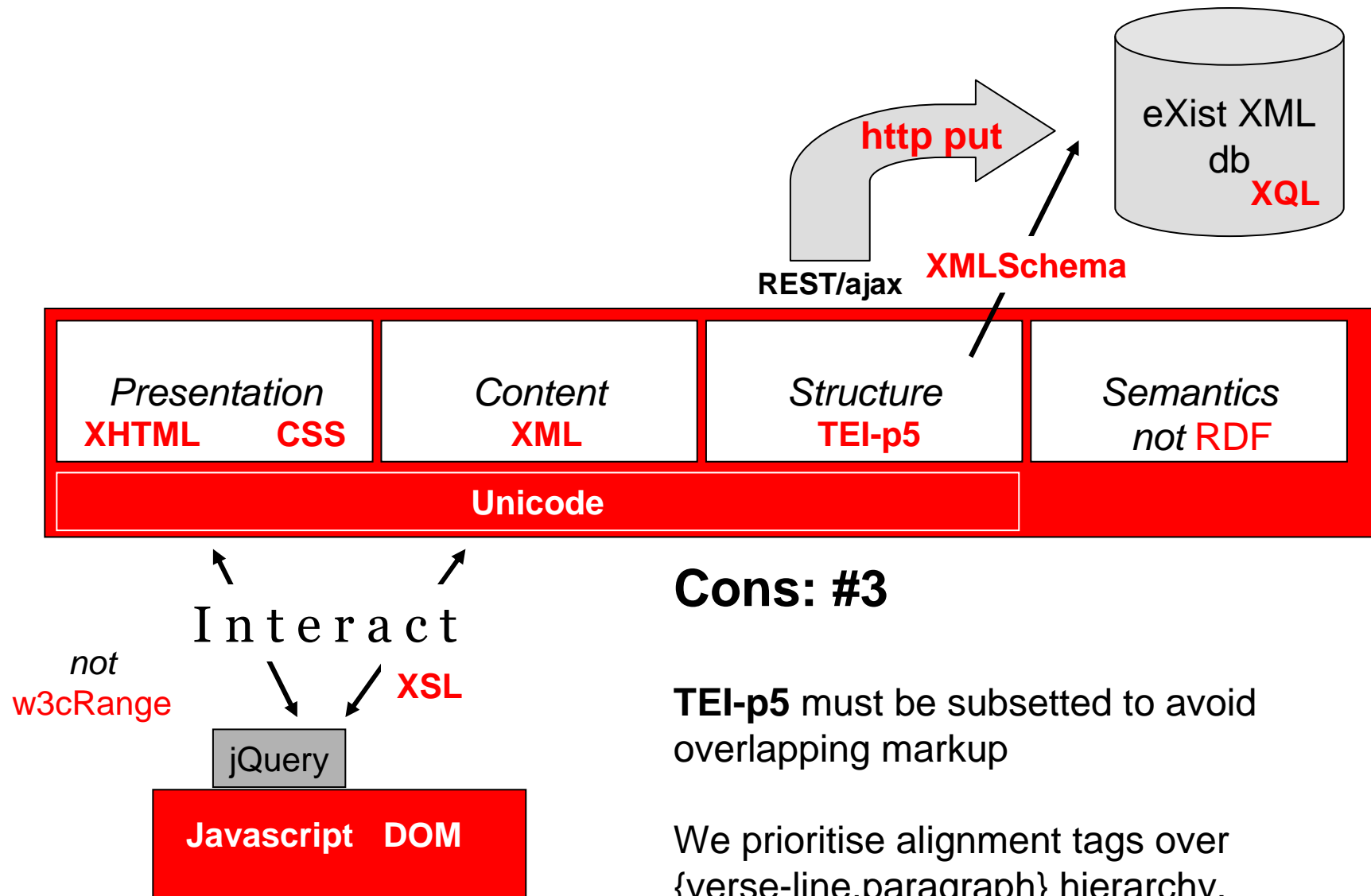


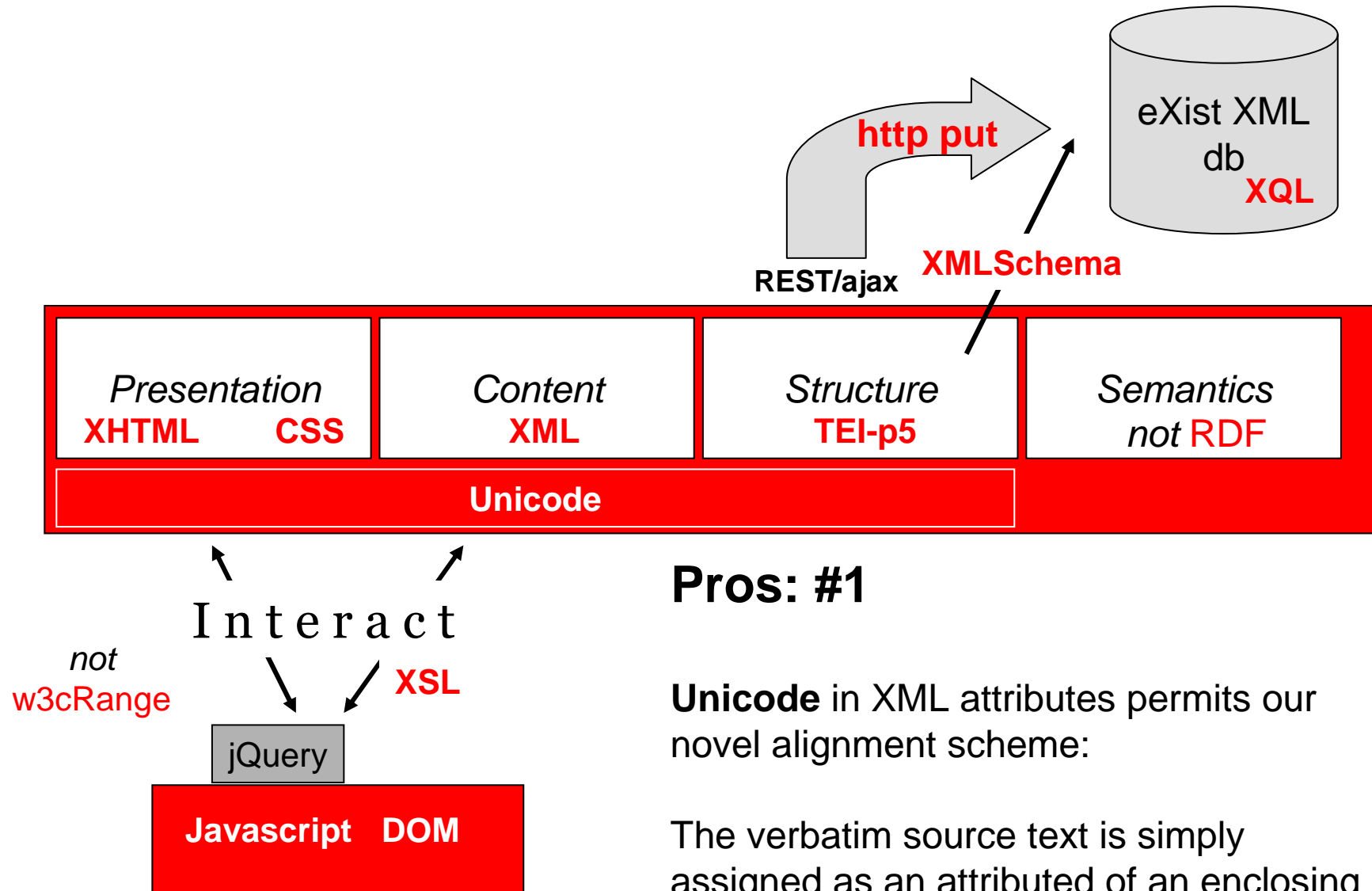
## Cons: #2

w3cRange is not "road worthy".

We resort to *Click to Select*

Selection within words still lacking.

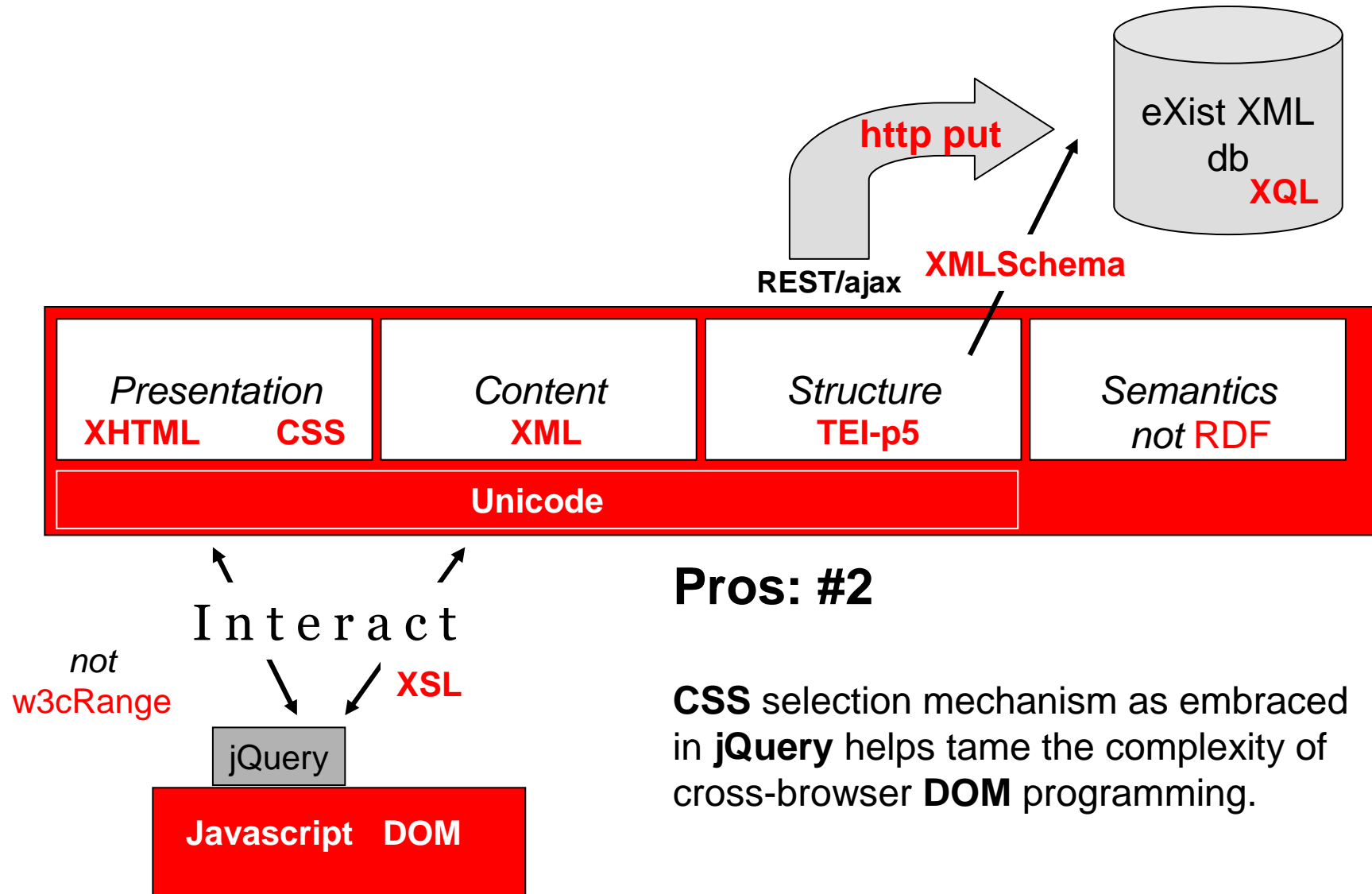


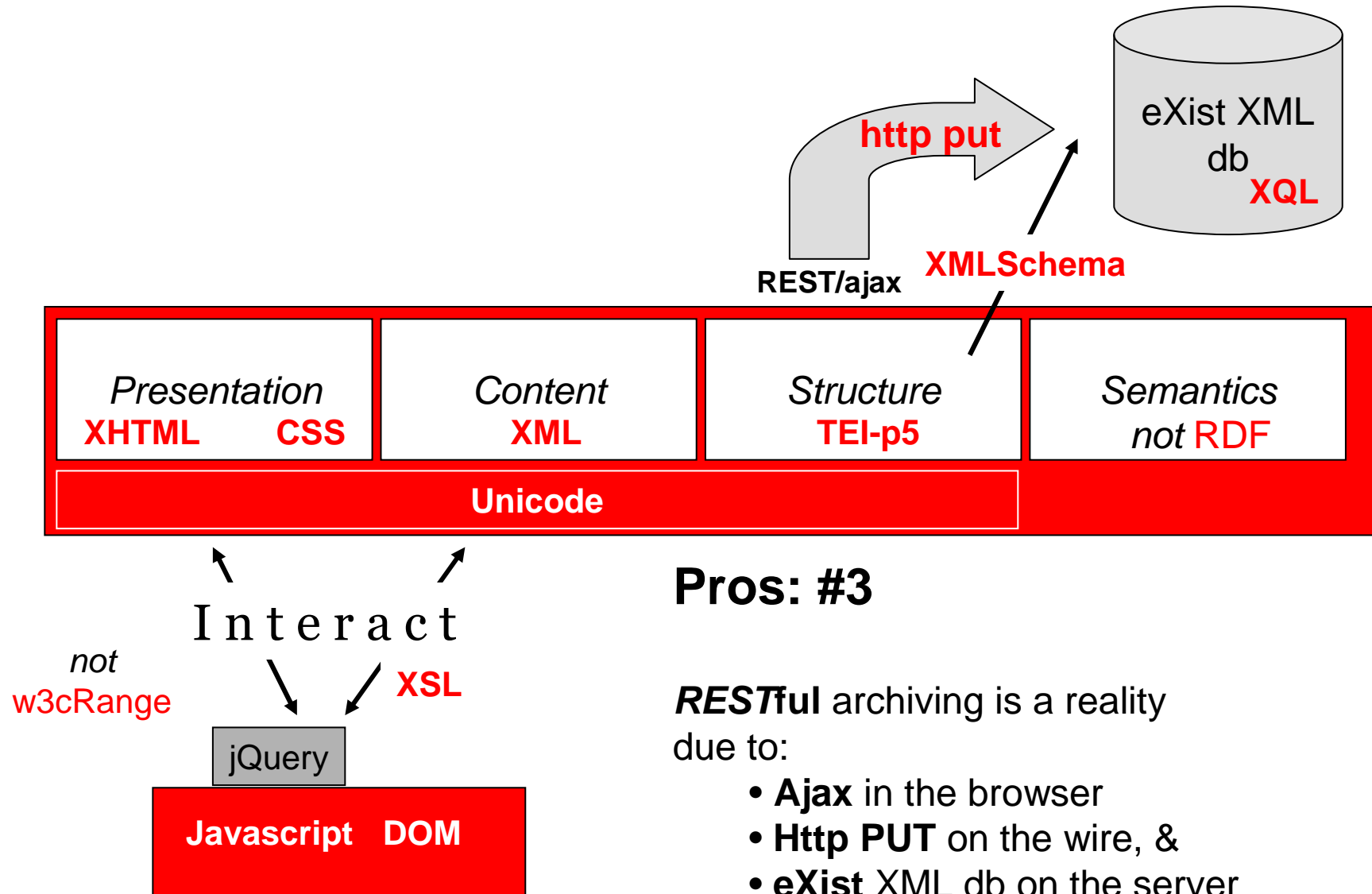


## Pros: #1

**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





# 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 scroll 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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University of Sassari, Italy



A.D. MDLXII



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