



# Exploring theories related to multilingual writers' uptake of research genres

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# Changes in Research Publishing

- Switch to publishing in English (Montgomery, 2013)

Author origin	1999	2009	Change
China	< 30,000	120,000	400%
US	265,000	340,000	30%

- Countries (India, China, etc.) intending to field “world-class” universities
  - Rate them by no. of publications in English
- Imperative to publish in English
  - Brazilian SIGET Conference 2015
  - **What processes occur in SL research writing?**

# “Uptake Intention”: Made Explicit



- *Would you try to make this?*
- Intentions link
  - histories
  - present context
  - roles
  - abilities
- *Uptake intention* only implicit in many theories

# Uptake Intention Helps Answer



- How do writers with different experiences and languages meet genre challenges?
- What influences intersect in uptake?
- What theories can be combined to explain differences?

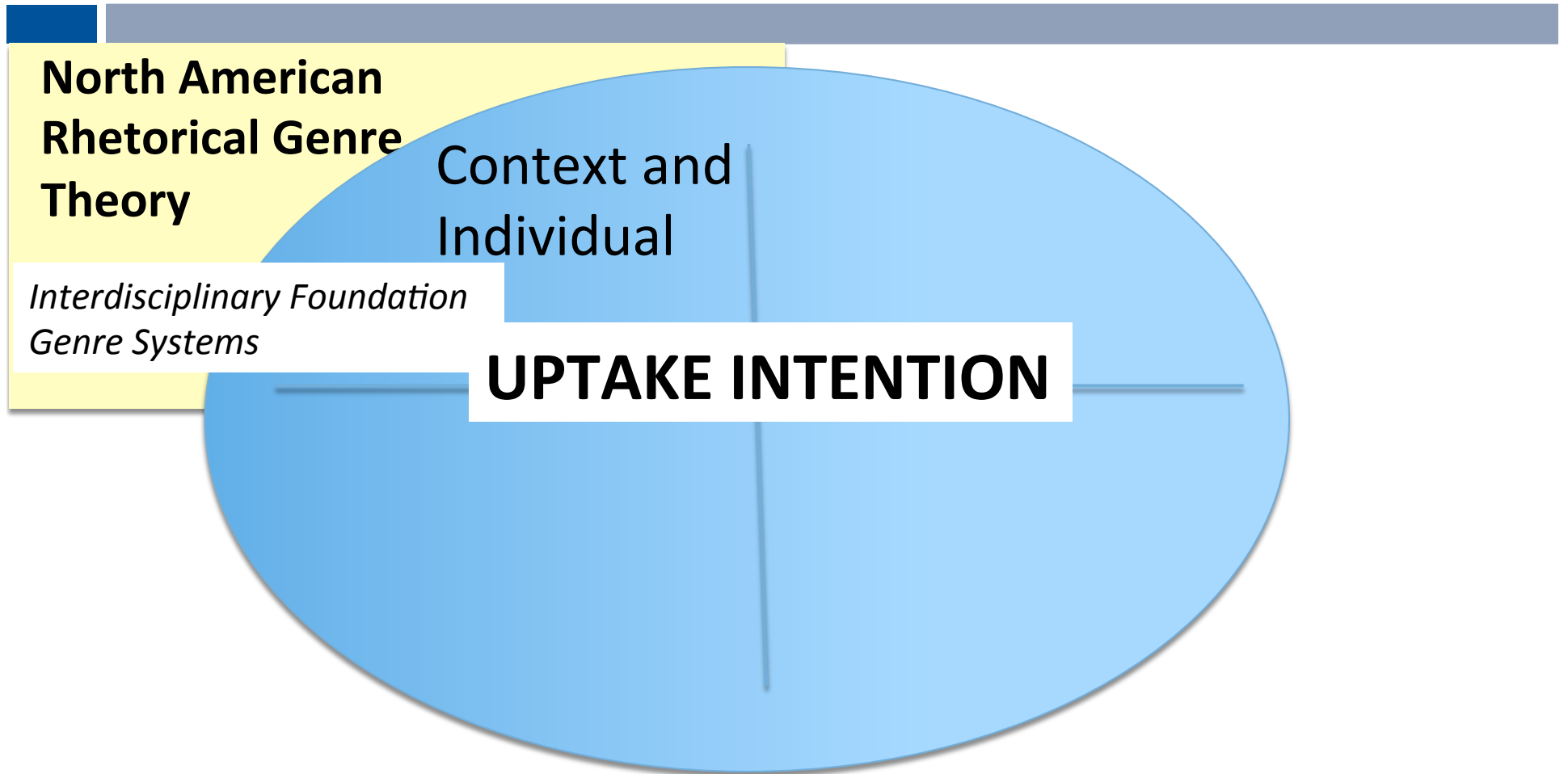
# The Uptake Intention and the Interface between Theories

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**UPTAKE INTENTION**

# The Uptake Intention and the Interface between Theories



# The Uptake Intention and the Interface of Theories

**North American  
Rhetorical Genre  
Theory**

Context and  
Individual

*Interdisciplinary Foundation  
Genre Systems*

**UPTAKE INTENTION**

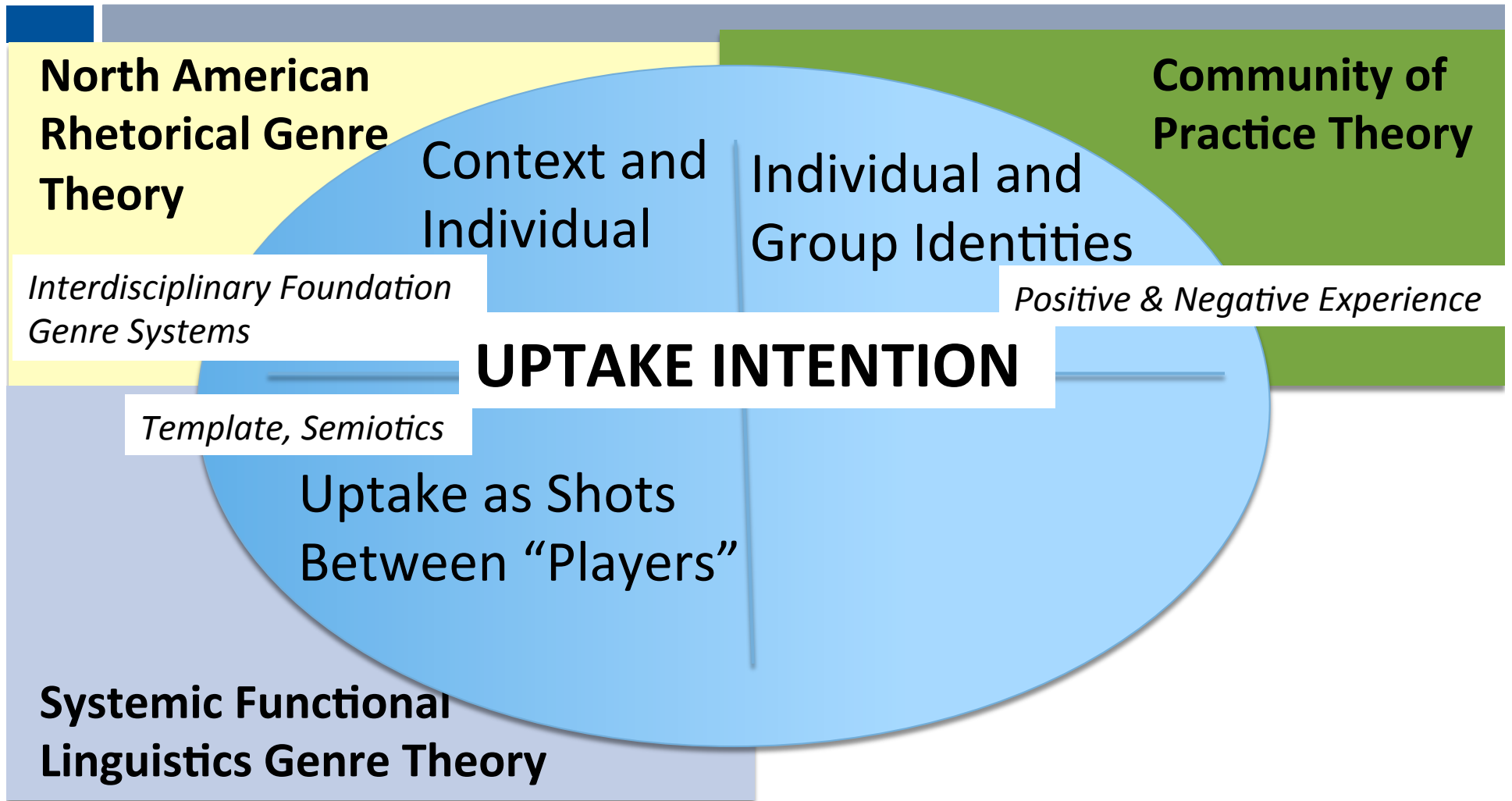
*Template, Semiotics*

Uptake as Shots  
Between “Players”

**Systemic Functional  
Linguistics Genre Theory**

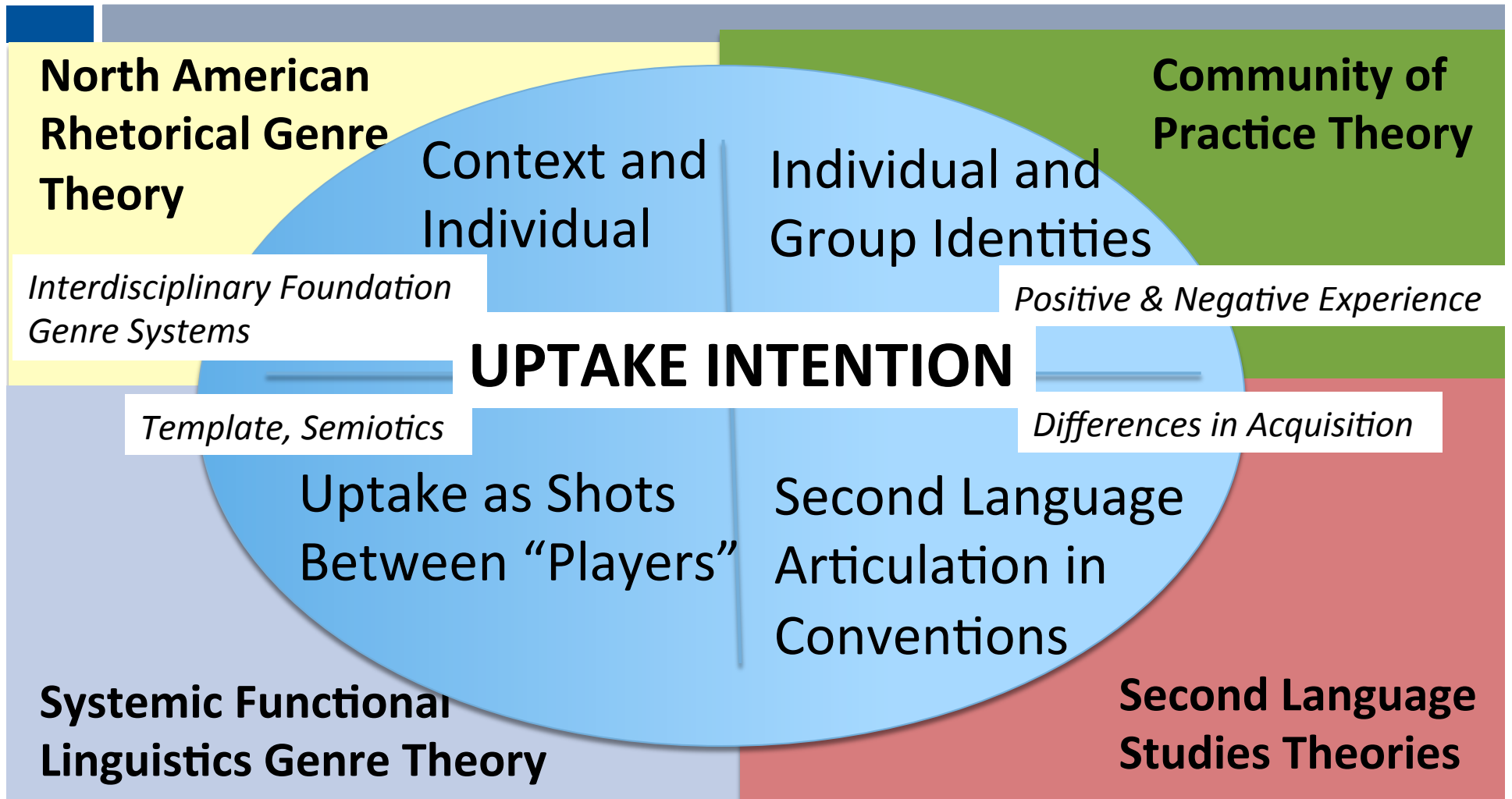


# The Uptake Intention and the Interface of Theories





# The Uptake Intention and the Interface of Theories



# WID Collaboration Opportunity

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- Research group funded by industry consortium
- Directors' goals: communication effectiveness, efficiency, publication success
- 12 members
  - 2 research directors
  - 6 Post-docs
  - 4 Ph.D. candidates
- All had undergraduate degrees from Chinese universities (except 1 director, 1 post-doc with undergrad from India)

# Two Uptake Intentions Stories

## POST-DOC: Bingwen

- Showed long-term imagination, engagement, and alignment with a future in academic research
- Took classes in English, audited courses, tutoring
- Learned from models
- Taught large intro courses in English

## Ph.D. CANDIDATE: Huan

- Studied English as subject throughout schooling
- In college studied sciences and math, read scientific articles, all in Chinese
- Reads articles in graduate school in English for “news he can use”
- Now prepares conference papers and presentations in English

# The Surprising Outcomes

- **Bingwen**

- Expected prosperity
- Prestige

- **Community of Practice**

- Engaged rhetorically
- Identification changed
- Alignment shifts

- **Accepts industry offer**

- **Huan**

- Tackles mathematics
- Succeeds over others
- Unprepared in English

- **Community of Practice**

- Engaged technically
- Increased identification
- Aligned to use of English

- **New goal: Academic fame**

- Intends to write, read, and improve English

# Uptake Intention Critical to Identity

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“ . . . modern linguistic consciousness entertains multiple indications of self . . . .

[it] induces awareness of speech norms and of one's own speech in relation to others—and also a sense of one's own speech not occupying those norms . . . .

And it encourages the intuition that self is available to be discovered and redeemed in language” (Giltrow, 2010, p. 388)

# A Few Selected References

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# Extra Slides

# Galaxy of Research Issues, Perspectives

## ISSUES

Pedagogies  
Testing  
K-12, College  
English Language  
Instruction  
Instruction  
in Grad Courses  
Writing for  
Publication  
Institutional  
Responses:  
\$\$\$, programs

## THOSE INVOLVED

Grad  
Students  
in U.S.

Scholars  
in other  
countries

WID/WAC  
Faculty,  
SL Faculty

Writing  
Centers,  
On-line aid

Colonialism  
Challenge

## ISSUES

Individuals'  
Motivation  
Faculty  
Preparation  
Research  
Methods  
Political  
Dominance  
Cultural  
Practices  
Social Justice  
Ideology  
of Research

**Where to focus research?**

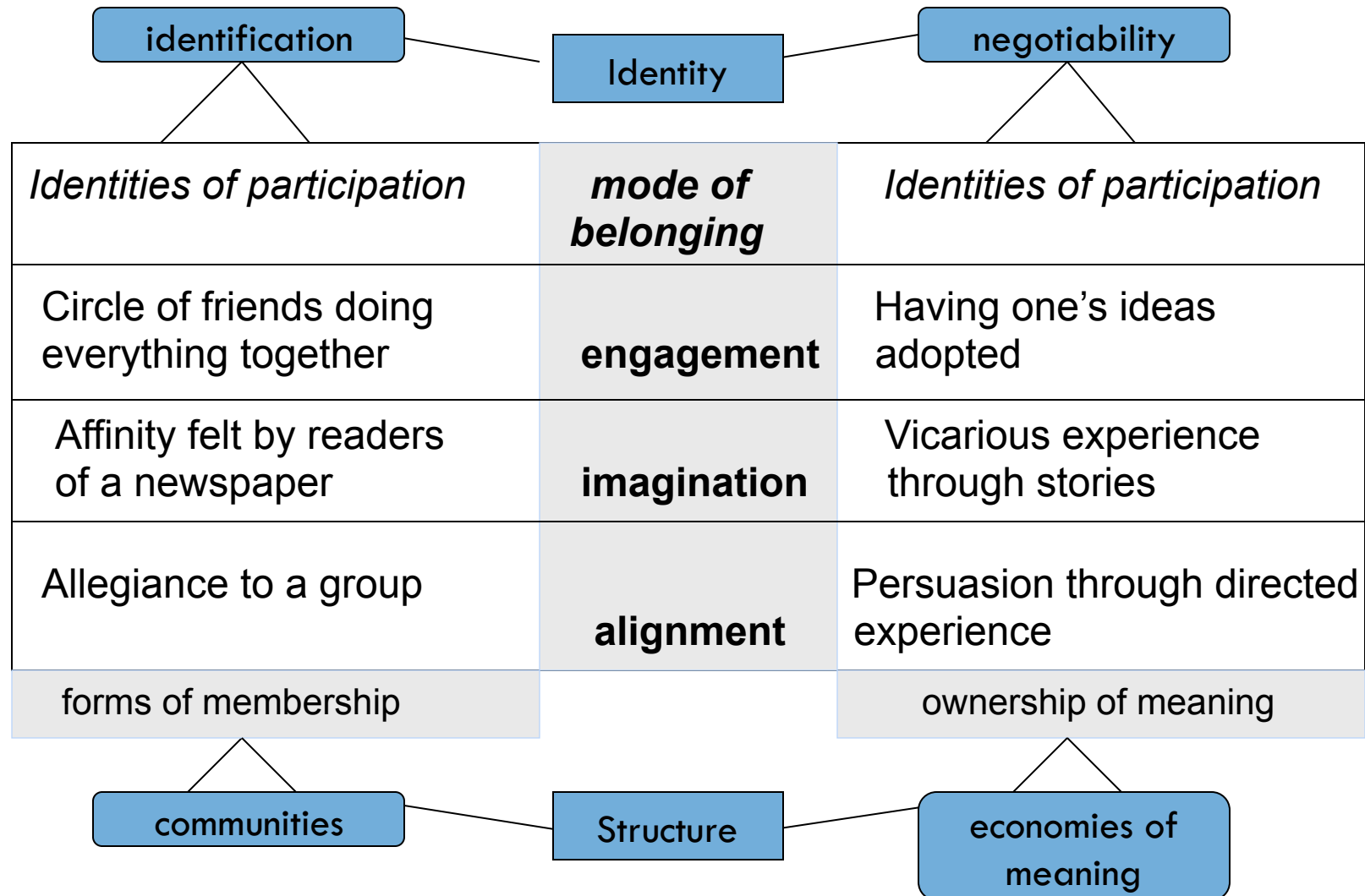


# Future Work with Uptake

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- Non-trivial differences in theories
  - Assumptions and definitions
  - Types of evidence used
  - Inclusion of second-language activity
- Differences in focus affect conclusions, applicability
- Intersections of theories crucial to future of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects

# CoP: Identity Formation Processes



# Benefits of “Uptake Intention” Concept

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- Can represent convergence of influences in multilingual composing for research genres, publication
- Can be used to link theories for investigations
  - Interdisciplinary: overarching framework unites assumptions, definitions
  - Transdisciplinary: coordinated co-existence of discrete theories and methods (Aboelela, et al., 2007; Klein, et. al, 2005).
- “Uptake Intention” concept creates interface among theories