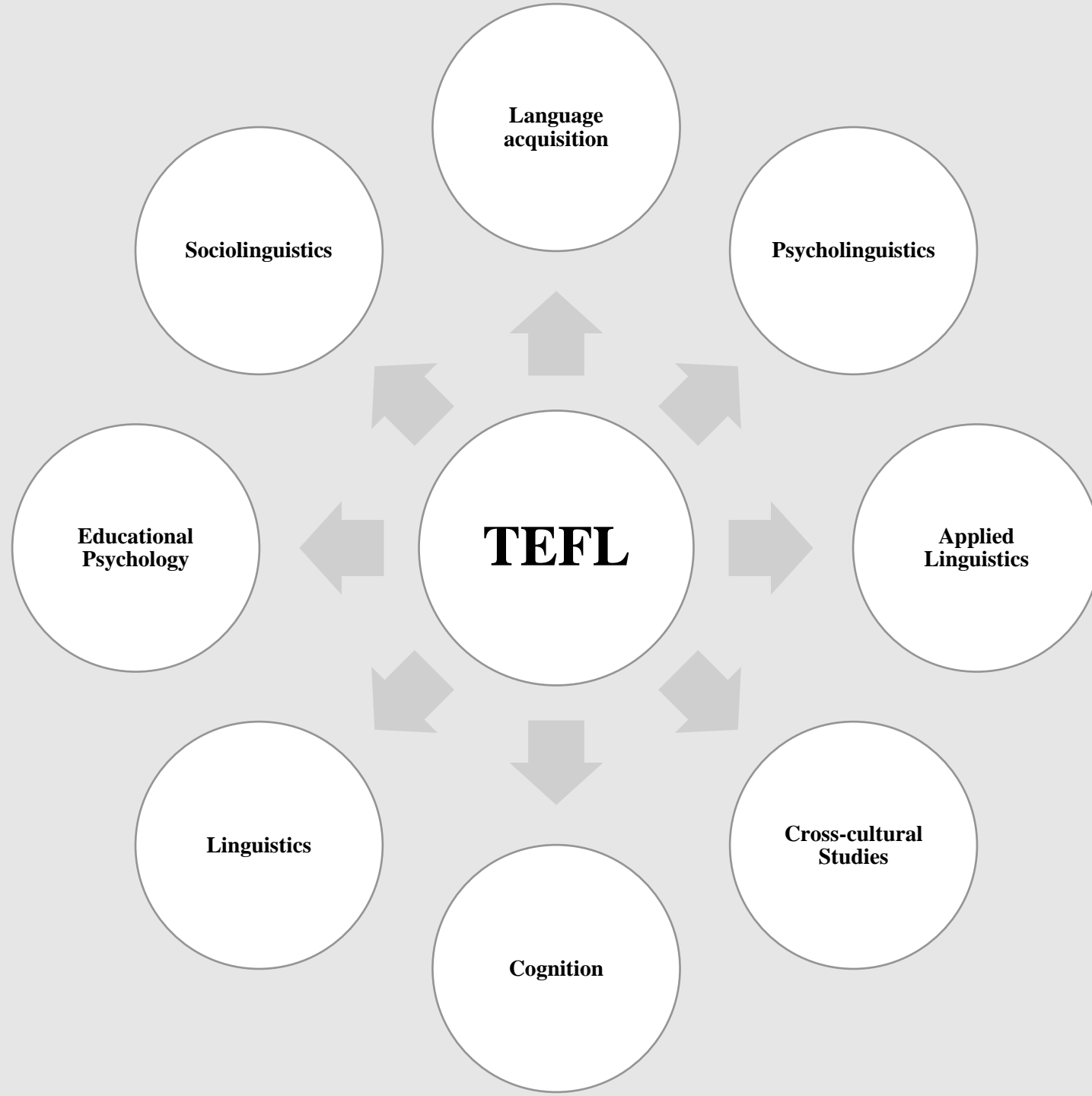


TEFL and Influential Disciplines



1. Linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific study of natural language.

Effective teaching = knowledge about the subject matter + teaching skills

2. Language Acquisition

Commonly associated with acquiring one's first language during a **critical period**, in a **natural environment**, a **subconscious** way and without having **no need for instruction**. On the other hand, there is learning which is characterized by being **conscious**, **formal** and need certain methods and techniques.

3. Educational Psychology

Key Concepts:

Education: process of teaching, training and learning.

Learning can be defined as the relatively permanent change in an individual's behavior as a result of experience or practice.

Teaching can be thought of as the purposeful direction and management of the learning process.

Psychology: scientific study of the mind and how it influences behavior.

Educational psychology is focused largely on the application of psychological principles (intelligence, motivation, individual differences, behavior, personality...etc.) to the study of human learning and development in educational settings.

4. Cognition

Mental processes by which knowledge is acquired, elaborated, stored, retrieved, and used to solve problems.

Examples of cognitive abilities:

Scheme: An organized pattern of thought or action that one constructs to interpret some aspect of one's experience. It represents the way that people organize and understand the things around them.

Assimilation: The process of interpreting new experiences by incorporating them into existing schemes.

Accommodation: The process of modifying existing schemes in order to incorporate or adapt to new experiences.

Slavin, R. E. (2009). Educational Psychology: Theory and Practice. New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc.

5. Psycholinguistics

Psycholinguistics is the study of language and mind: the mental structures and processes which are involved in the acquisition, comprehension and production of language.

6. Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics studies the relations between language and society: how social factors influence the structure and use of language.

7. Cross-culture Studies

Since one of the objectives of teaching/learning a foreign language is interaction, cross-culture studies seek to investigate the communication patterns and problems of people from different background.

8. Applied Linguistics

is primarily concerned with the application of linguistic theories, methods and findings to the elucidation of language problems which have arisen in other areas of experience.