

Textbook Reform in China: *Problems and Discussion*



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Visiting Scholar of TC
Dr. Yue-ru Chen

Content

The background of textbook reform

Definition of textbook

The evaluation system of textbook quality

The qualitative evaluation index of textbook's content

The existing problems in Chinese textbook



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The Background of China Education Reform

China's curriculum management and decision-making model transferred from the central controlled system to a decentralized system, involving central, provincial and local governments.



The Background of China Education Reform

China's curriculum management and decision-making model transferred from the **central controlled system** to a **decentralized system**, involving central, provincial and local governments.



The Background of Chinese Textbook Reform

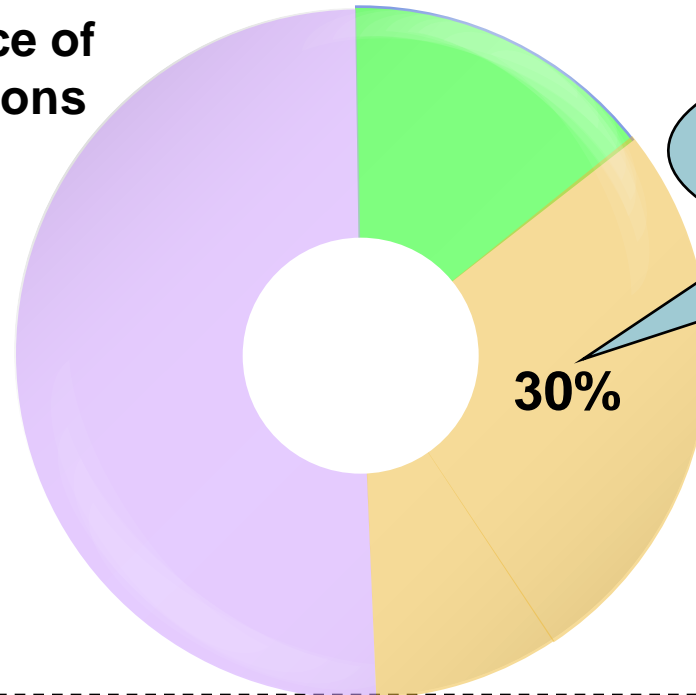
Since **1949**, the People's Education Press lead by the Ministry of Education has been the monopoly power in textbook compilation, test, and publish for more than 40 years.

Until **1988**, the Ministry of Education issued “The Project of Teaching Materials’ Compilation and Planning for Nine-Year Compulsory Education” which allows social forces to participate in the compilation and publication of textbooks. It was a real prosperous state of the textbooks’ publication after 1990.



The Background of Chinese Textbook Reform

Total fixed price of book publications nationwide

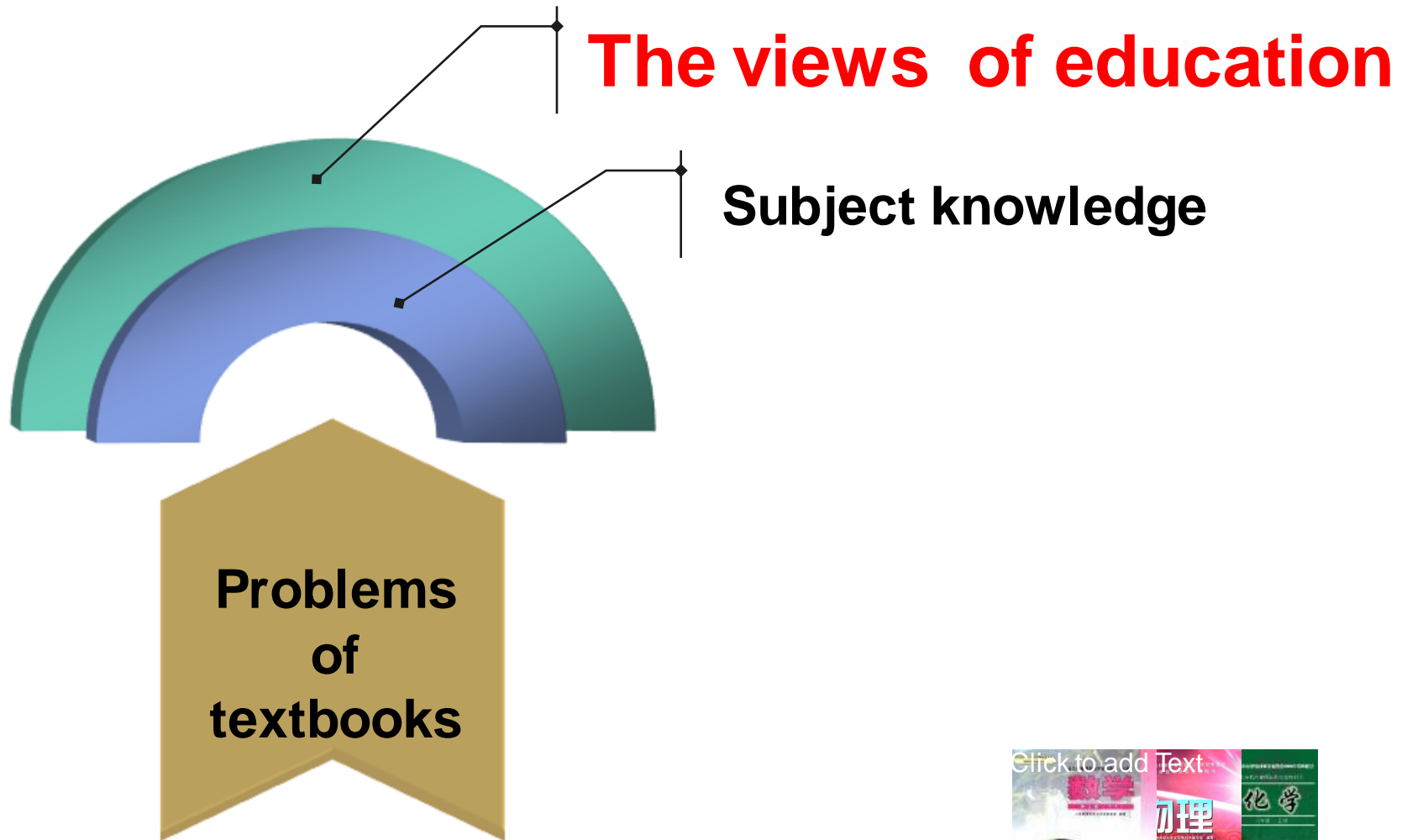


Total value of textbooks for junior and primary school

At present, more than **80** publishers participate in the publication of basic education textbooks, and the total fixed price constitutes more than **30%** of the total fixed price book publication nationwide.



The Background of Chinese Textbook Reform



The Background of Chinese Textbook Reform

These problems reflect the inconsistency between educational policy and practice during the course of education reform.



The Background of Chinese Textbook Reform

These problems reflect the inconsistency between **educational policy** and **practice** during the course of education reform.



- Since this inconsistency phenomenon exists in many educational fields, the research of China's educational policy should concentrate on both institutional theory and the specific effectiveness of practice.



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The Background of Chinese Textbook Reform



For this reason, this research tries to reveal the present curriculum reform's status of china's basic education in micro-aspect.



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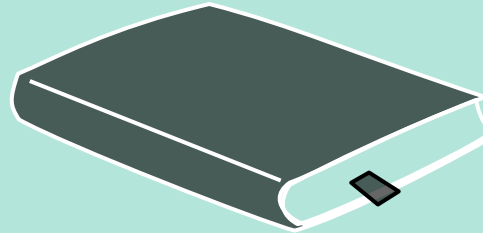
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Definition of Textbook



Is a manual of instruction or a standard book in any branch of study. It is produced according to the demand of the educational institutions.



SECRET

HOW TO SAY IT
The word is...
The meaning is...
The pronunciation is...
The origin is...

BATHROOM POLICY

1. Please use the restroom.
2. Only students in uniform.
3. Please do not use the restroom for any other purpose.
4. No smoking, drinking, or eating.

Wooden shelving unit containing books, papers, and a desk lamp. To the right, a bulletin board with a colorful border displays several photographs.

Orange wall featuring a sink with a faucet, a paper towel dispenser, and a light switch.

Wooden desks with black chairs. A bright green folder is on the desk in the foreground.

Project-Based Inquiry Science™

GOOD FRIENDS AND GERMS™

PBIS



IT'S ABOUT TIME
HERFF JONES EDUCATION DIVISION



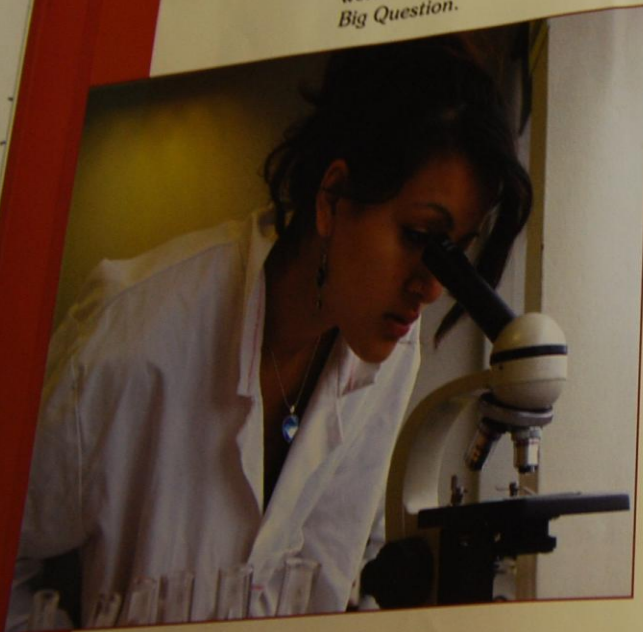
Learning Set 1

Back to the Big Question

How can you prevent your good friends from getting sick?

The Big Question for this Unit is *How can you prevent your good friends from getting sick?* You began this Unit by investigating with your class how diseases spread. You used simulations to find out how you can get sick. You found that even one of your good friends can make you sick.

Epidemiologists spend a lot of time studying how diseases spread. Repeating a simulation, you learned how important it is for scientists and for you to accurately record data. Keeping accurate records of your work will be important as you work toward answering the Big Question.



You also read about the difference between communicable and non-communicable diseases. Communicable diseases spread from person to person. There are many communicable diseases that you already know about and others that you will learn about. For the next few weeks, you will study different diseases and learn more about how they can spread from one person to another.

Reflect

Think about and answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss your answers with your class.

1. What did you learn about the importance of keeping accurate records? Use an example from this Learning Set to justify your answer.
2. What is the difference between a communicable and a noncommunicable disease?
3. How do you get sick? Use evidence from this Learning Set to support your answer.
4. What is a model? Why are models important in science?
5. How did you use models to run simulations in this Learning Set?

Update the Project Board

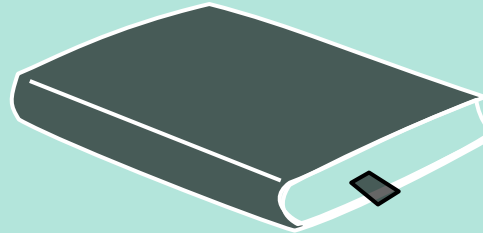
You started a *Project Board* centered on the idea of learning more about how you can prevent your good friends from getting sick. Now you have done a simulation. You know more about the factors that affect how a disease spreads. You are now ready to fill in the *Project Board* more completely.

Up to now, you only recorded information in the first two columns of the *Project Board*. You will now focus on the next two columns. These are the *What are we learning?* and *What is our evidence?* columns. When you record what you are learning in the third column, you will be answering some questions in the *What do we need to investigate?* column. You will describe what you learned from the investigation you just did. But you cannot just write what you learned without providing evidence for your conclusions. Evidence is necessary to answer scientific questions. You will fill in the evidence column based on data and trends you found in your investigations.

You will also include your understanding of the science readings and your discussions with each other. You may use the text in this book to help you write about the science you have learned. However, make sure to put it into your own words. The class will fill in the large *Project Board*. Make sure to record the same information on your own *Project Board* page.



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Is a manual of instruction or a standard book in any branch of study. It is produced according to the demand of the educational institutions.



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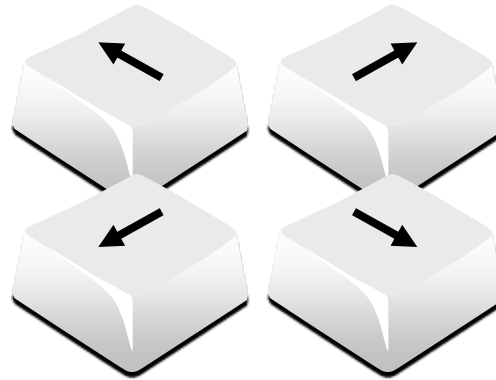
The existing problems in Chinese textbooks



The Textbook Evaluation System

layout-design

contents



applicability

publication



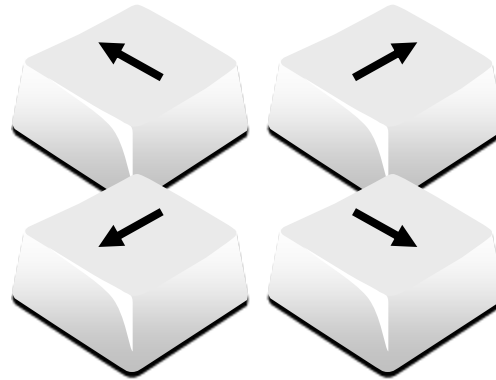
**Textbook
Quality**



The Textbook Evaluation System

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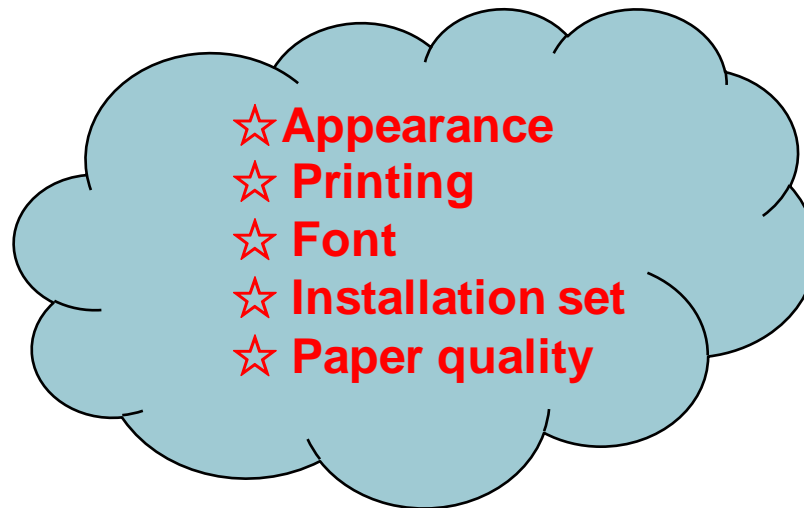
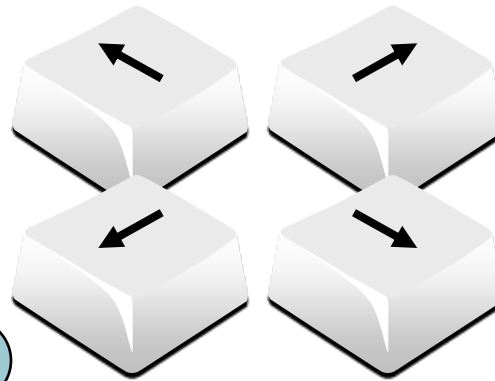
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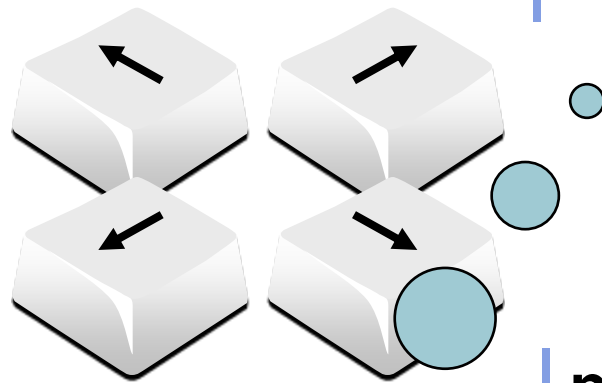
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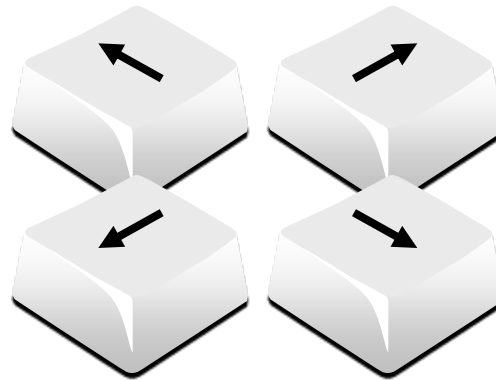
- ◎ Theoretical basis
- ◎ Objectives
- ◎ Balance
- ◎ The choice of theme
- ◎ The timeliness and accuracy of knowledge



The textbook evaluation system

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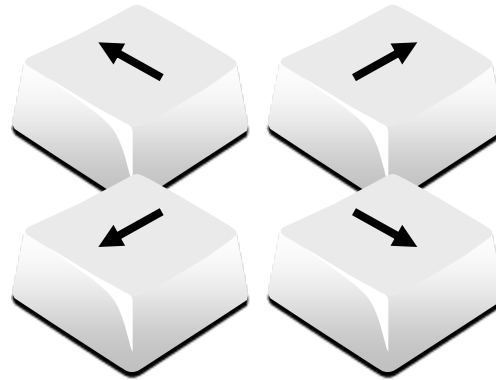
- ※ Readability
- ※ Intelligibility
- ※ Component
- ※ Evaluation form
- ※ Teaching form
- ※ Related materials



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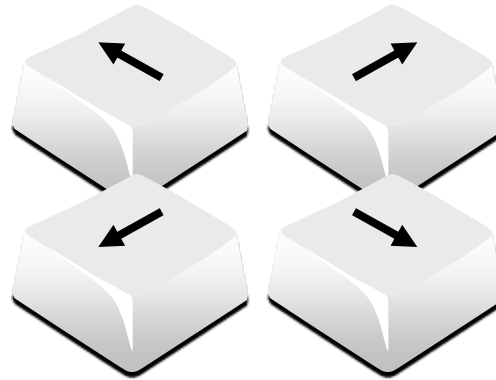
- ★ Publisher
- ★ Author
- ★ Release process
- ★ Release date
- ★ Cost
- ★ Ancillary services



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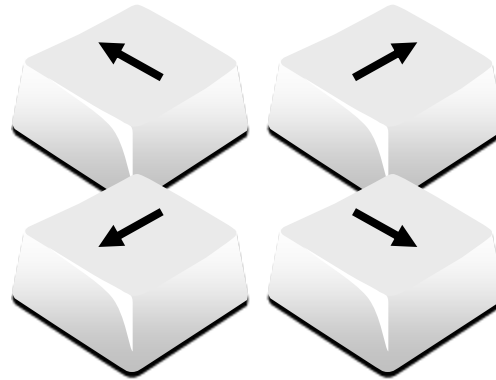
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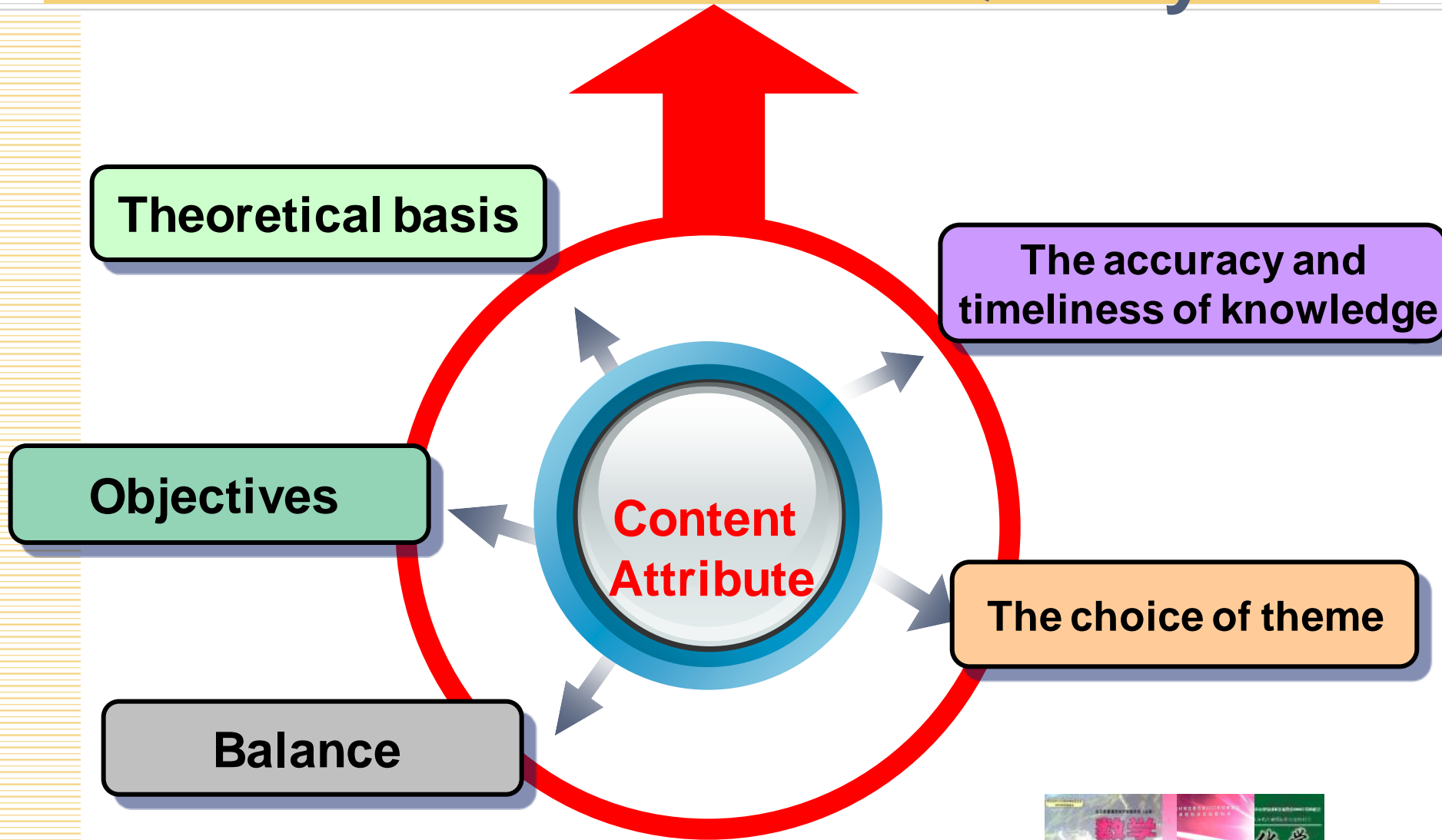
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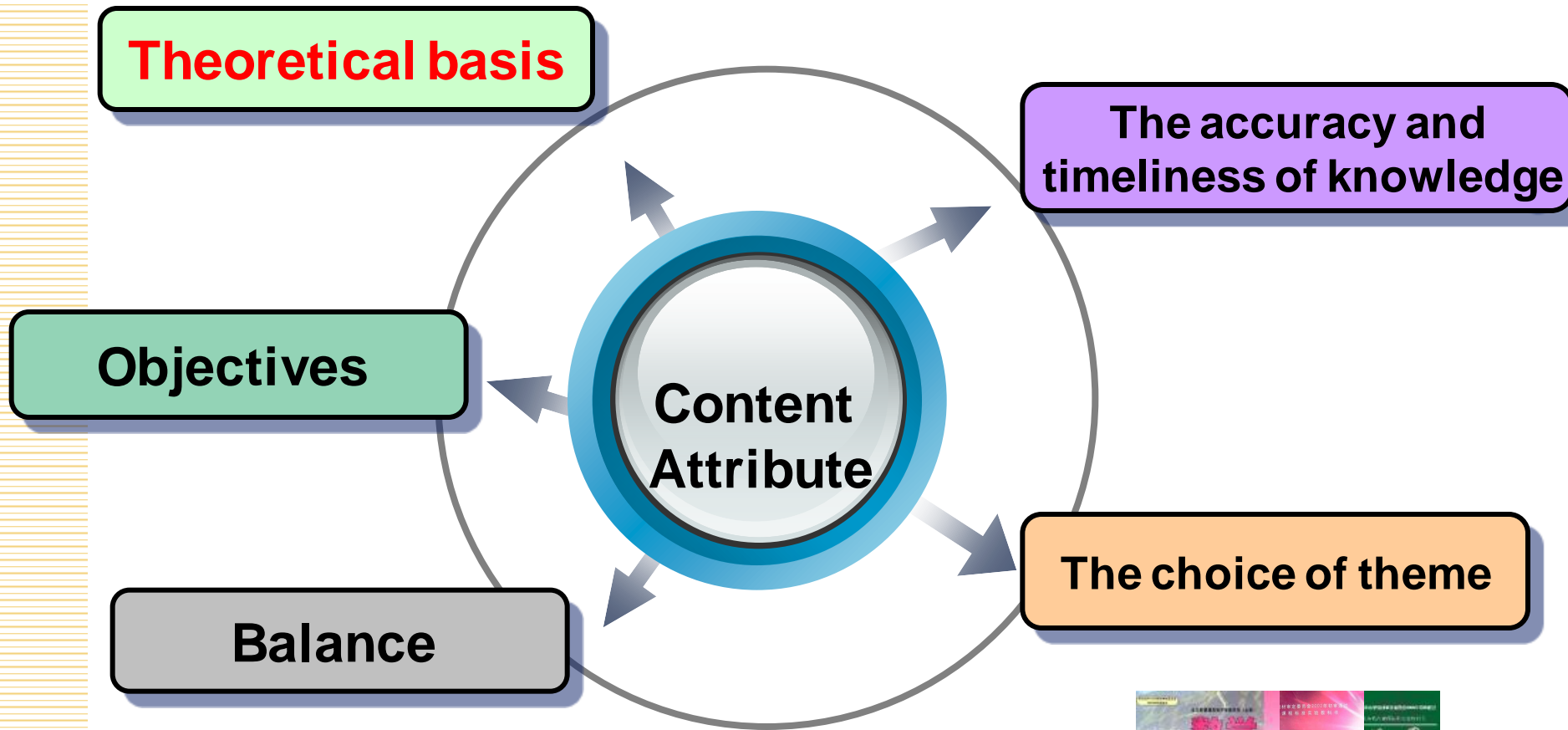
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Textbook Content Quality

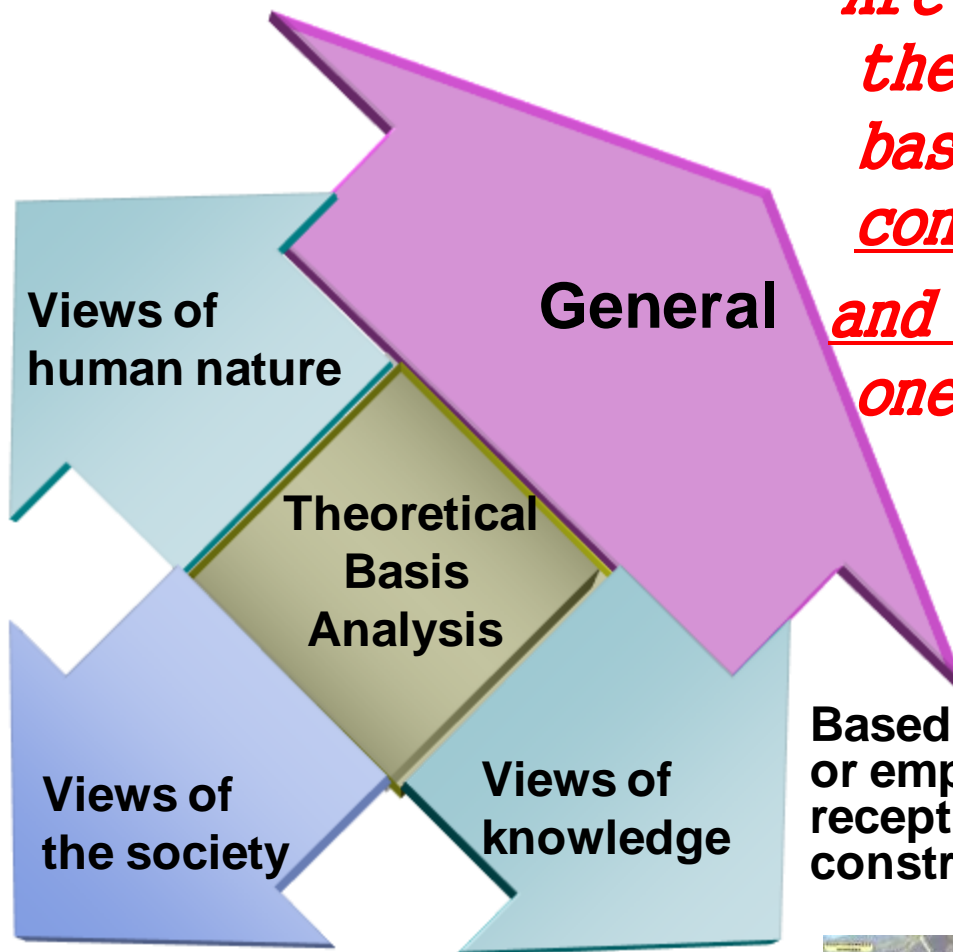


Textbook Content Quality



Based on the behaviorism or humanism?

Based on the structural functionalism or social conflict theory?

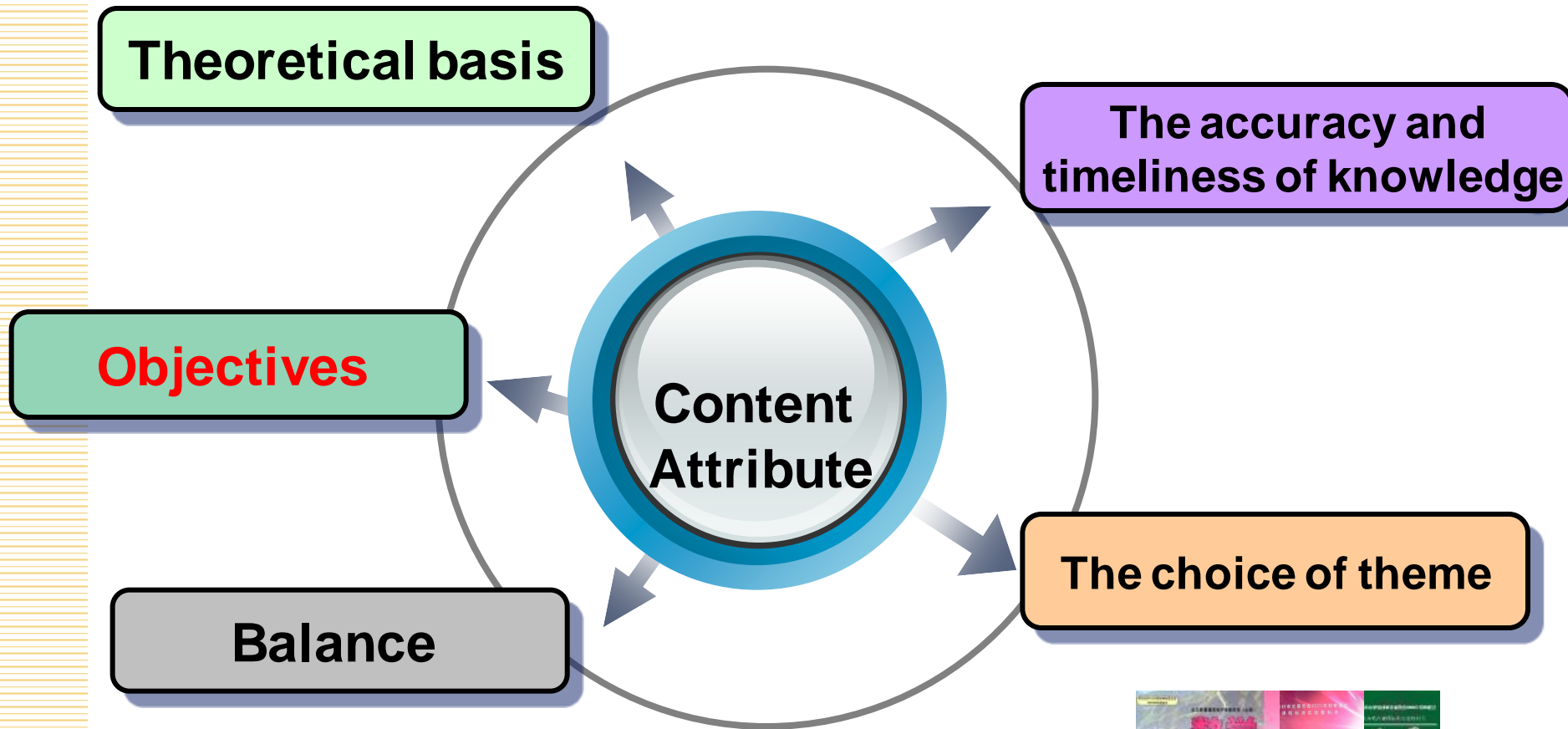


Are these theoretical basis showing consistently and clearly in one textbook?

Based on rationalism or empiricism, reception theory or constructivism?



Textbook Content Quality



Objectives Analysis

Are objectives clear?

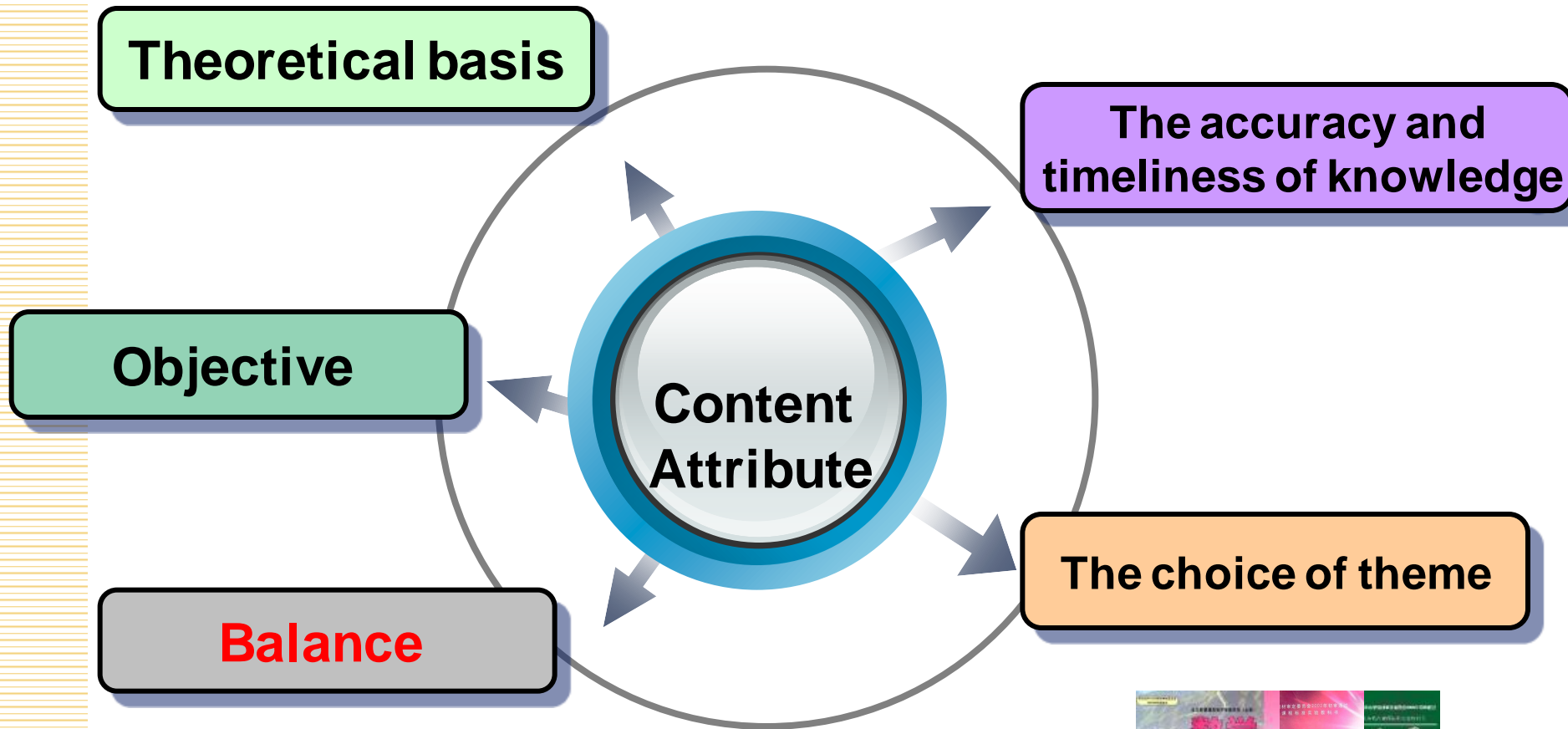
Are the content goals and process goals taken into account?

Are objectives integrated, including perception, skills and affection?

Are objectives fitting to the curriculum standard?



Textbook Content Quality



Do these phenomenon exist in a textbook?

Prejudice and stereotype in perspective, content, illustration, language, and the orientation

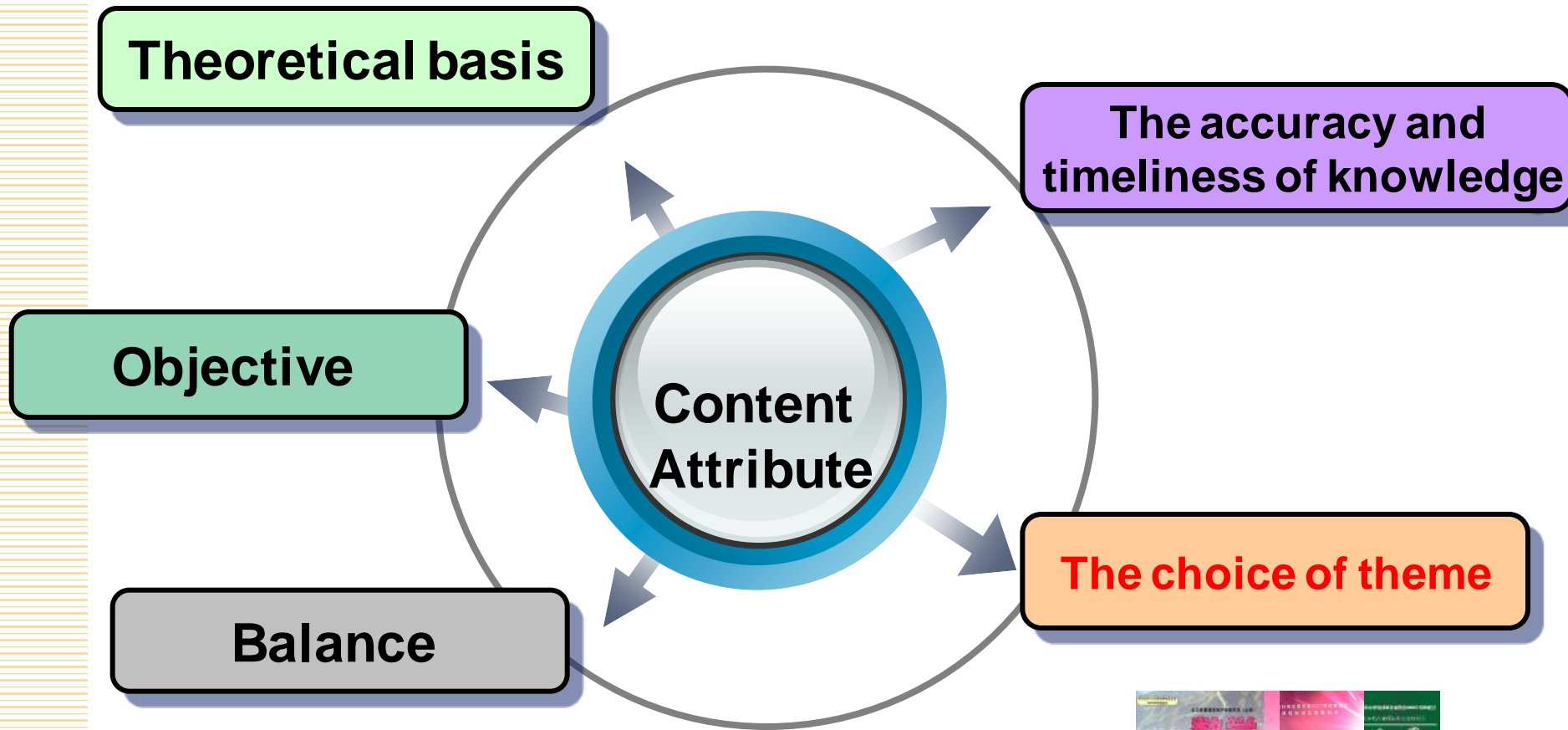
Unfair and subjective in dealing with different views

Gender, racial, ethnic discrimination

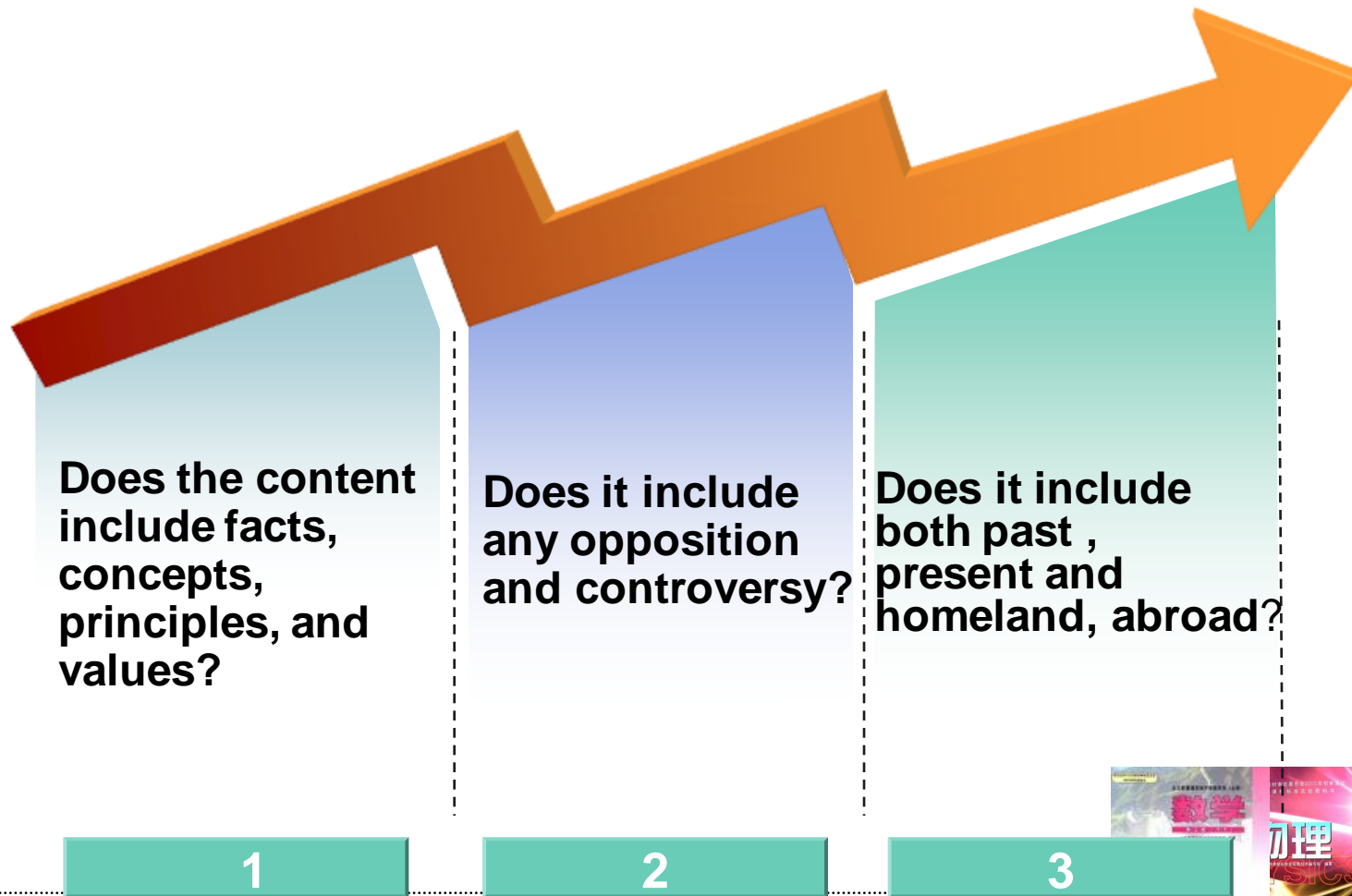
No respecting of different occupations, classes, social status people



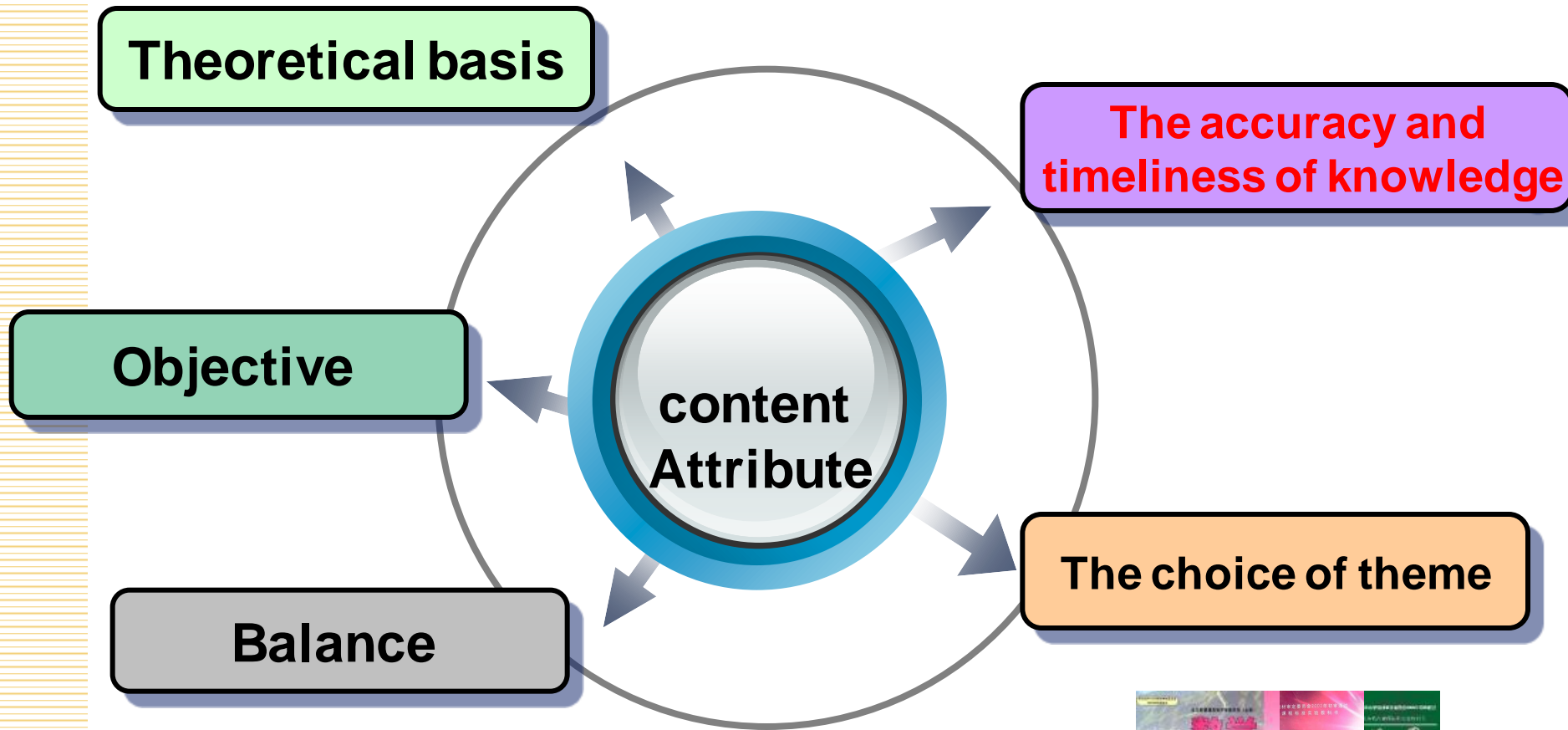
Textbook Content Quality



The Choice of Theme



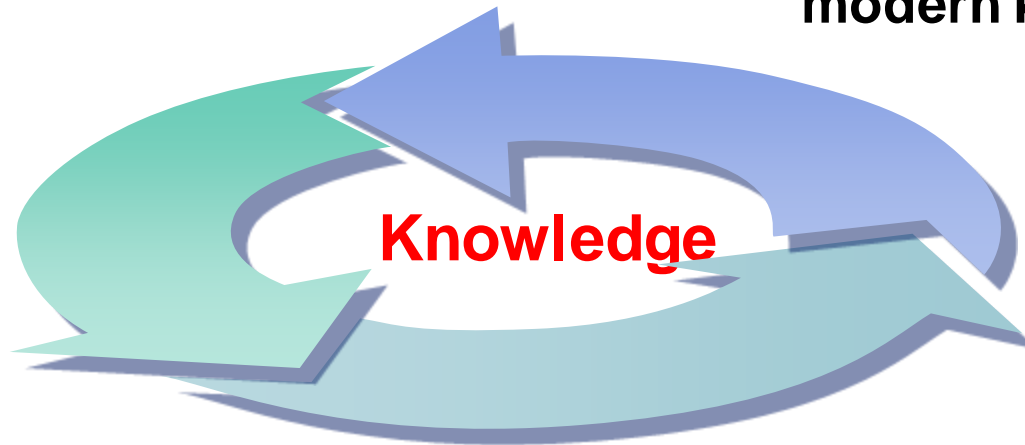
Textbook Content Quality



The Accuracy and Timeliness of Knowledge

How about the correctness of knowledge? Does it include any error or biased? Is it reasonable and logical?

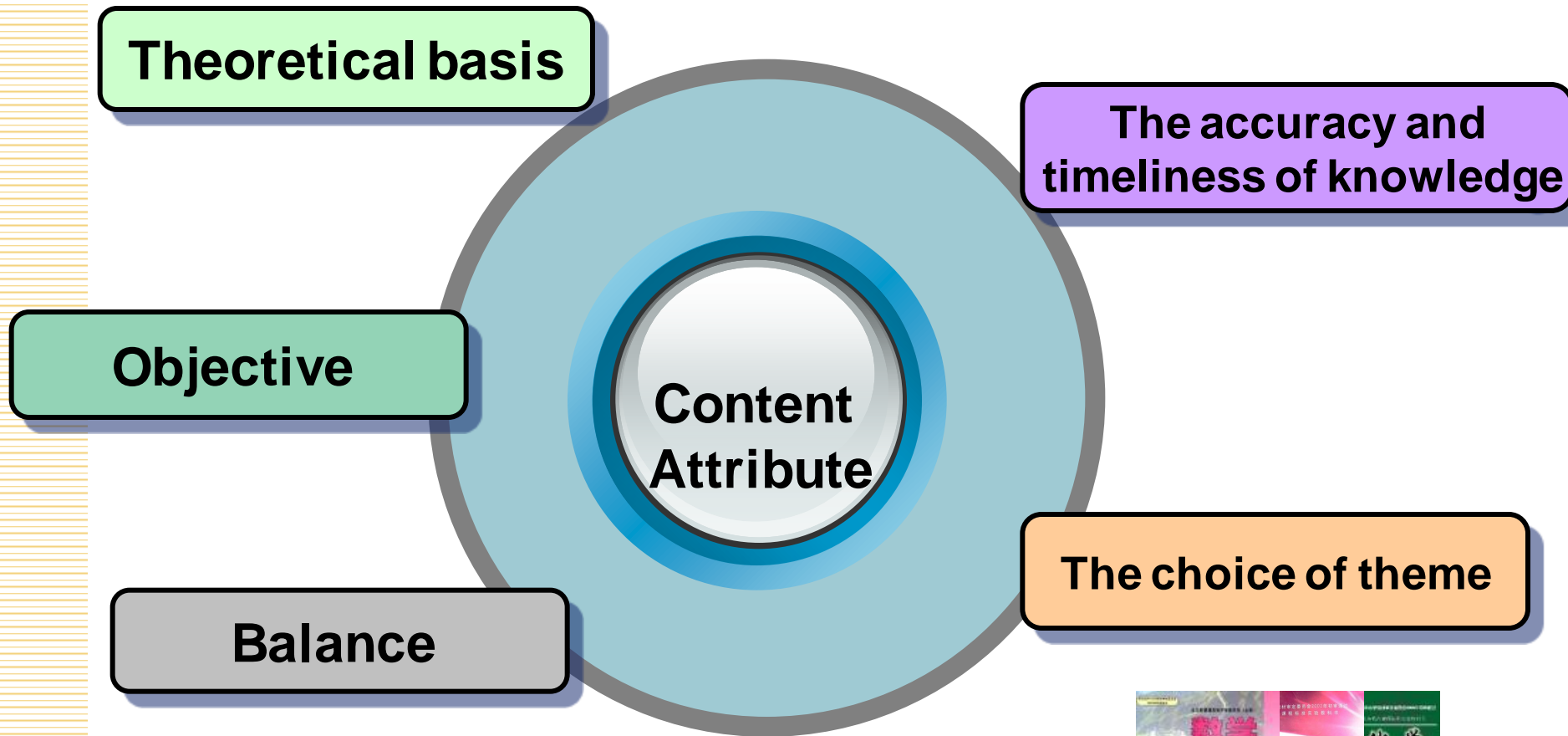
Is it up to date and does it contain important and modern knowledge?



Is it conformed to the social point of view?



Textbook Content Quality



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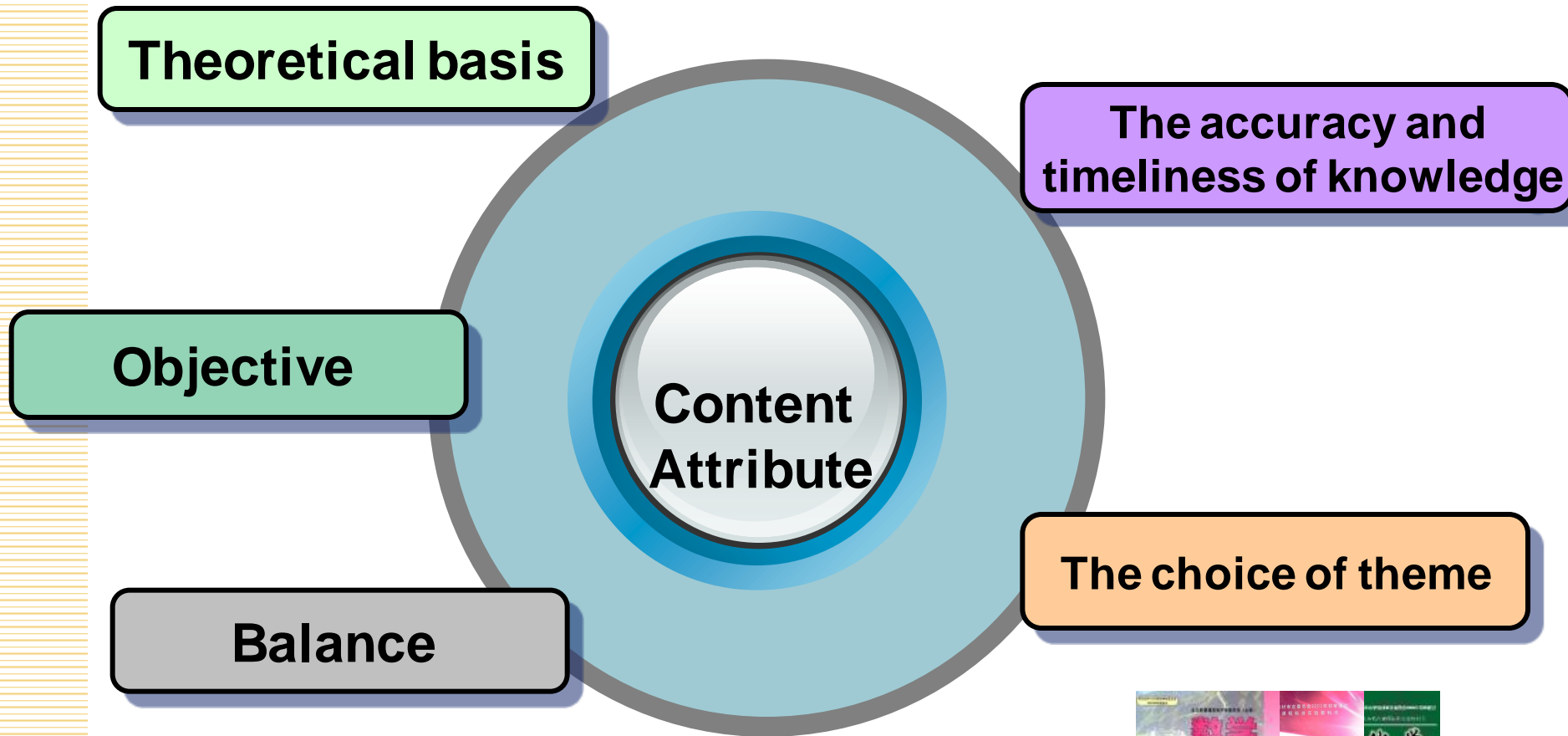
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The existing problems in Chinese textbooks



Textbook Content Quality





The existing problems of **theoretical basis** in Chinese textbooks



Main Views of Constructivism

- Constructivism holds that the world is objective. People construct and interpret reality based on their own experiences.
- Since personal experiences and faiths are different, their understandings of the outside world are also different.
- Everyone can has their own understanding of the world and gives its meaning.



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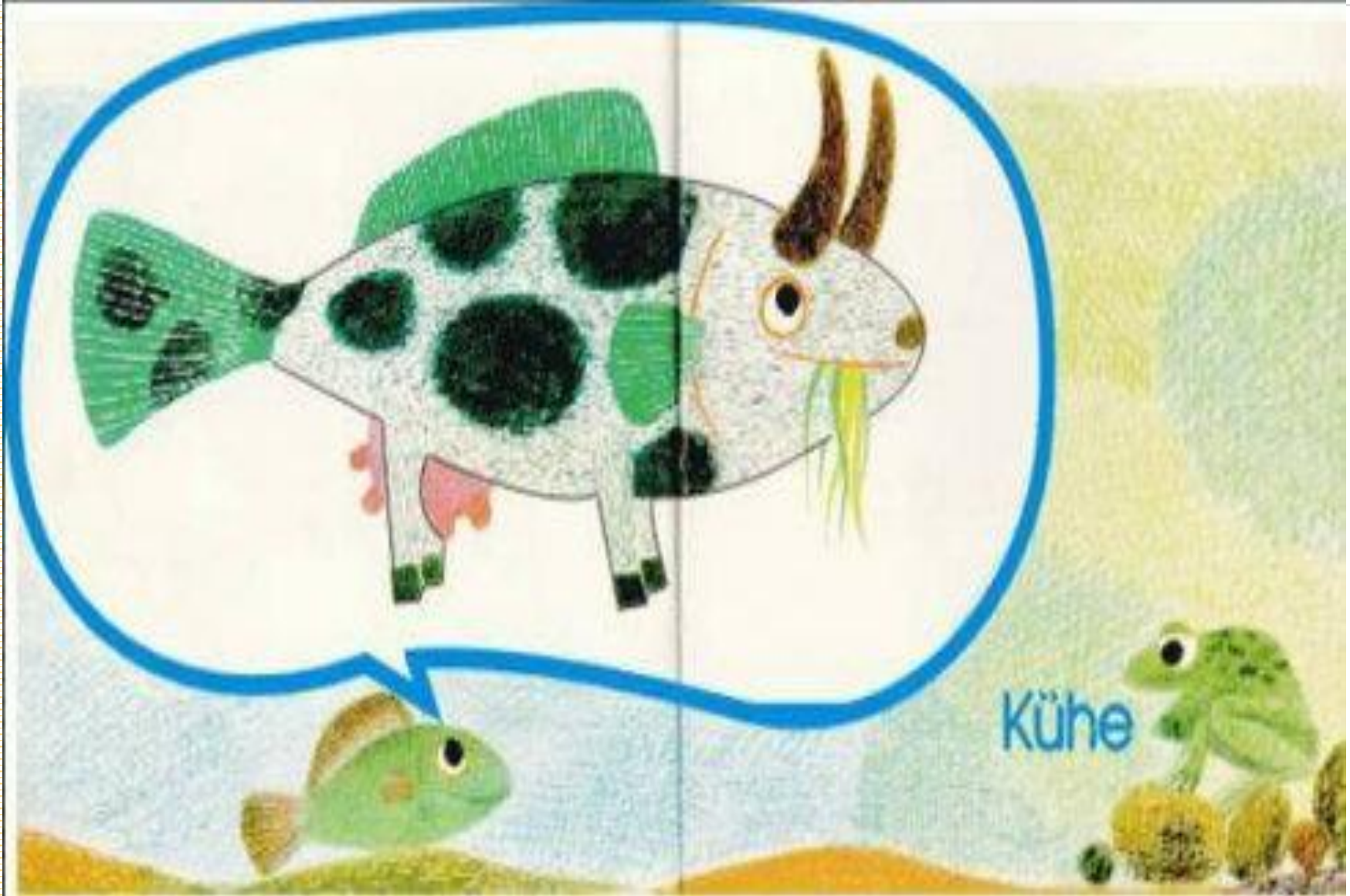


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“Fish-cow” of Constructivism



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The Existing Problems of Theoretical Basis



→ ***The dogmatic statement***

→ ***Lack of context***

→ ***Pay insufficient attentions
to the positive transfer of
knowledge***



The Existing Problems of Theoretical Basis



The dogmatic statement

Lack of context

***Pay insufficient attentions
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knowledge***



“Sheep Shui”



Textbook Reform in China: *Problems and Discussion*



The Exercise of “Sheep Shui” in The Textbook

1

Only the parents always worry about their children.

2

Parents love their children, but children do not know distressed parents.

3

Everything is constantly changing, one should change with the time, too.



The Exercise of “Sheep Shui” in The Textbook

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Only the parents always worry about their children

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The existing Problems of Theoretical Basis



***The definitive keynote
of statement***

Lack of context

***Pay insufficient attentions
to the positive transfer of
knowledge***



Concepts, principles and formula are independent from the real background, mislead students to understand knowledge in the isolative and simplified way

Rarely putting history of science into textbooks lead the “one-sided and arbitrary” and blind faith in textbook knowledge

Students tend to form bad habits of “taking it for granted” when understanding the content



The existing problem caused by lack of context



天上的街市

- 远远的街灯明了,好像闪着无数的明星。
- 天上的明星现了,好像点着无数的街灯。
- 我想那缥渺的空中,
- 定然有美丽的街市。
- 街市上陈列的一些物品,
- 定然是世上没有的珍奇。
- 你看,那浅浅的天河,
- 定然是不甚宽广。
- 我想那隔河的牛郎织女,定能够骑着牛儿来往。
- 我想他们此刻,定然在天街闲游。
- 不信,请看那朵流星。
- 是他们提着灯笼在走。



“Downtown streets of Heaven”

- Lighted, the street lamps, in a
- Look like nume
- And the star
- They look lik
- I'm fan
- There
- Goods on
- Definite
- You see
- It mustn't be ve
- The Niu Lang and Zhi Nu
- Sure can cross the river with their ca
- I think, at the moment
- Must be roaming the streets
- Disbelieve? See that moving meteor
- It must be the lantern they were toting

Which one of the three understandings to the clou of the poem, do you think, is right ?
Please try to explain your reasons for that .
((1)(2)omitted). (3) **With the depiction of the beautiful life in heaven , the author tried to show his hatred to the black reality and his yearning for ideal life, to stimulate people to fight for this ideality.**



The Existing Problem of Theoretical Basis



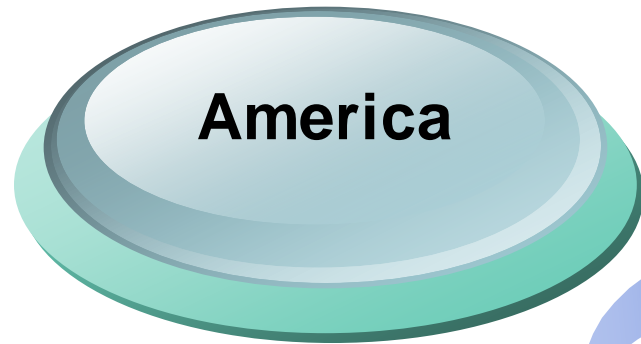
***The definitive keynote
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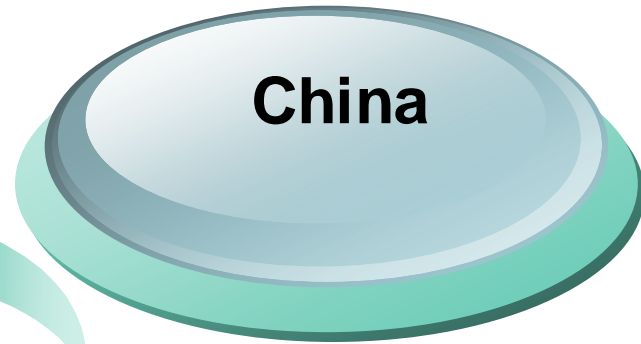
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knowledge***



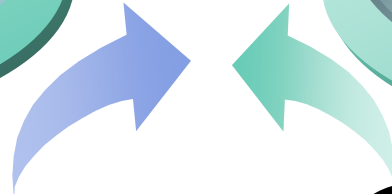
“Civil War” in America



America



China



※ If you were the president of American at that time, would the Civil War still happen? Why?

※ Read the text carefully, try to analyze the reasons why the Civil War happened?
※ Think it over: What were the negative effects of the Civil War on American society?



War Between Japan and China

Japan

China

There has been a war between China and Japan every 100 years in modern history. The Japanese-Qing dynasty war happened in the 19th century, and the anti-Japanese war was in 20th century.

If there will be a war between China and Japan in the 21th

century, when will it happen?

What is the possible remote cause and immediate cause ?

If Japan win , why ? If Japan fail, what is the cause? Try to analyze.



An answer of a Japanese High-school Student

- We perhaps would have a fierce war with China after Taiwan returns to China. If Taiwan returns to China, China blocks Jilong and Gaoxiong and the Taiwan Strait will turn to China's inland sea. This will increase the cost of shipping the oil of Japan. If Chinese government blocks the Taiwan Strait, our freighter must go through, our capital ship and the destroyer would be sent out as soon as the Chinese Navy saw Japan dispatched troops, the navy would go immediately on stage, then the war would approach! According to the judgment, between A.D. 2015~2020, this war possibly erupts. Therefore, we must prepare the war opposing Chinese now.



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War Between Japan and China

Japan

China

There has been a war between China and Japan for 100 years in modern history. The first Japanese-Chinese war was the Sino-Japanese War in the late 19th century, and the second Japanese-Chinese war was in the 20th century. If there will be a war between China and Japan in the 21st century, when will it happen? What is the possible remote cause and immediate cause? If Japan win, why? If Japan fail, what is the cause? Try to analyze.

knowledge

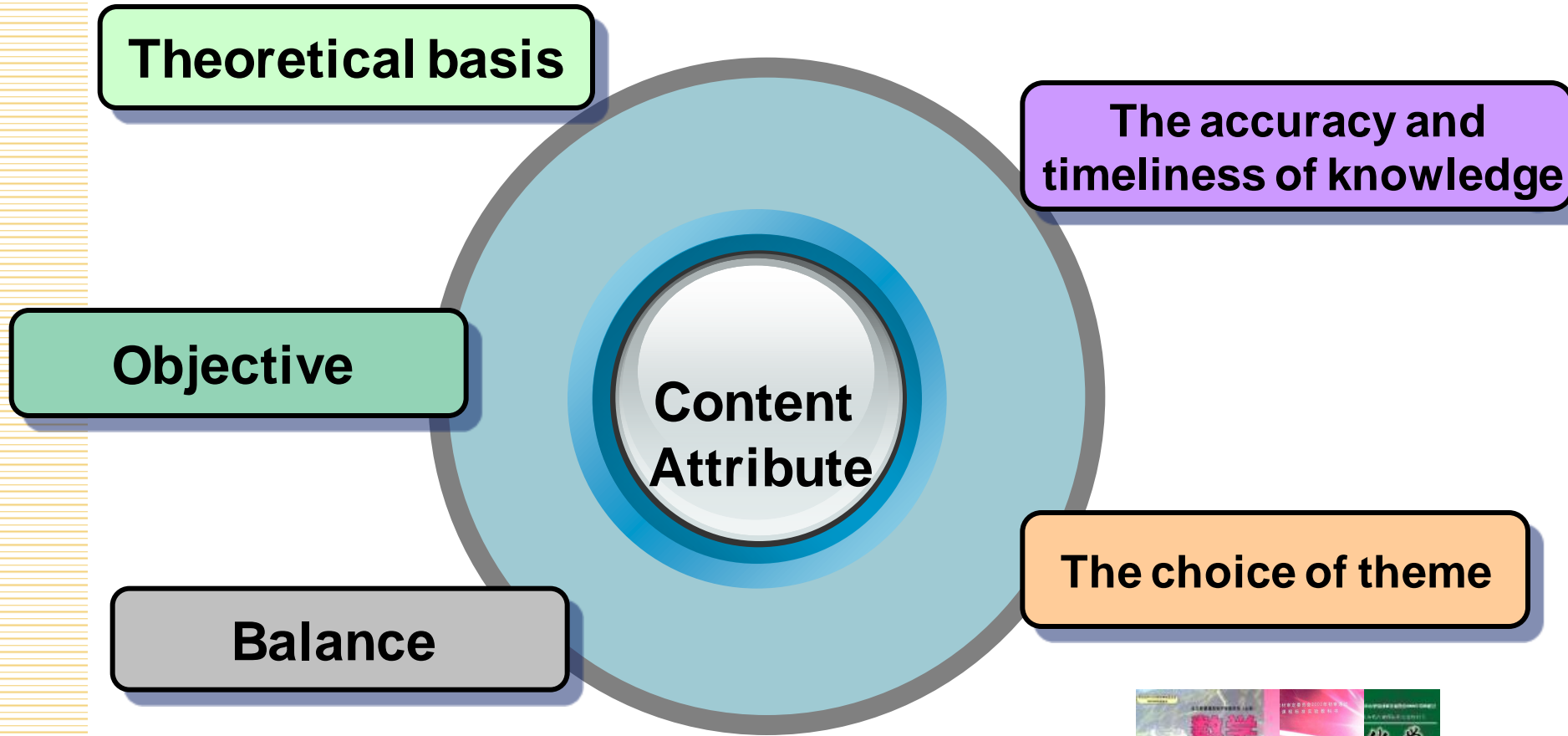
ability

Created:

※ How many silver coins are compensated?



Textbook Content Quality



Monologue



The existing problems of objective in Chinese textbooks



Objectives

Through dialog, achieving a state of “the integration of opinions\spirits” between the teacher, the student and the textbook. This is the ideal state of teaching, and the new target under the principle of constructivism of the textbook.

The theory of “the conversational practice” defines studies as dialogs between the learners and world, the learners and others and dialogs with themselves, these three practice patterns, getting rid of the conservative textbbook’s image of “spokesman of knowledge with the monologue type”.



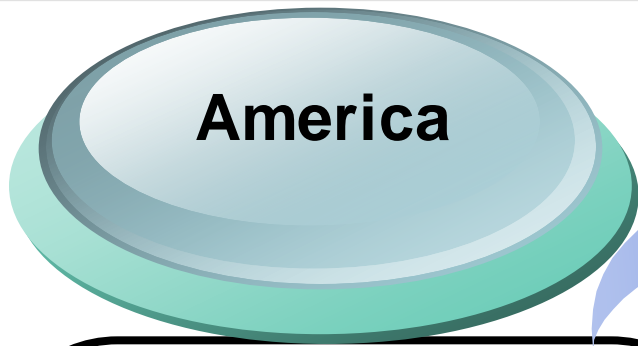
“The Empty Flower Pot”



Textbook Reform in China: *Problems and Discussion*



“The Empty Flower Pot”



America



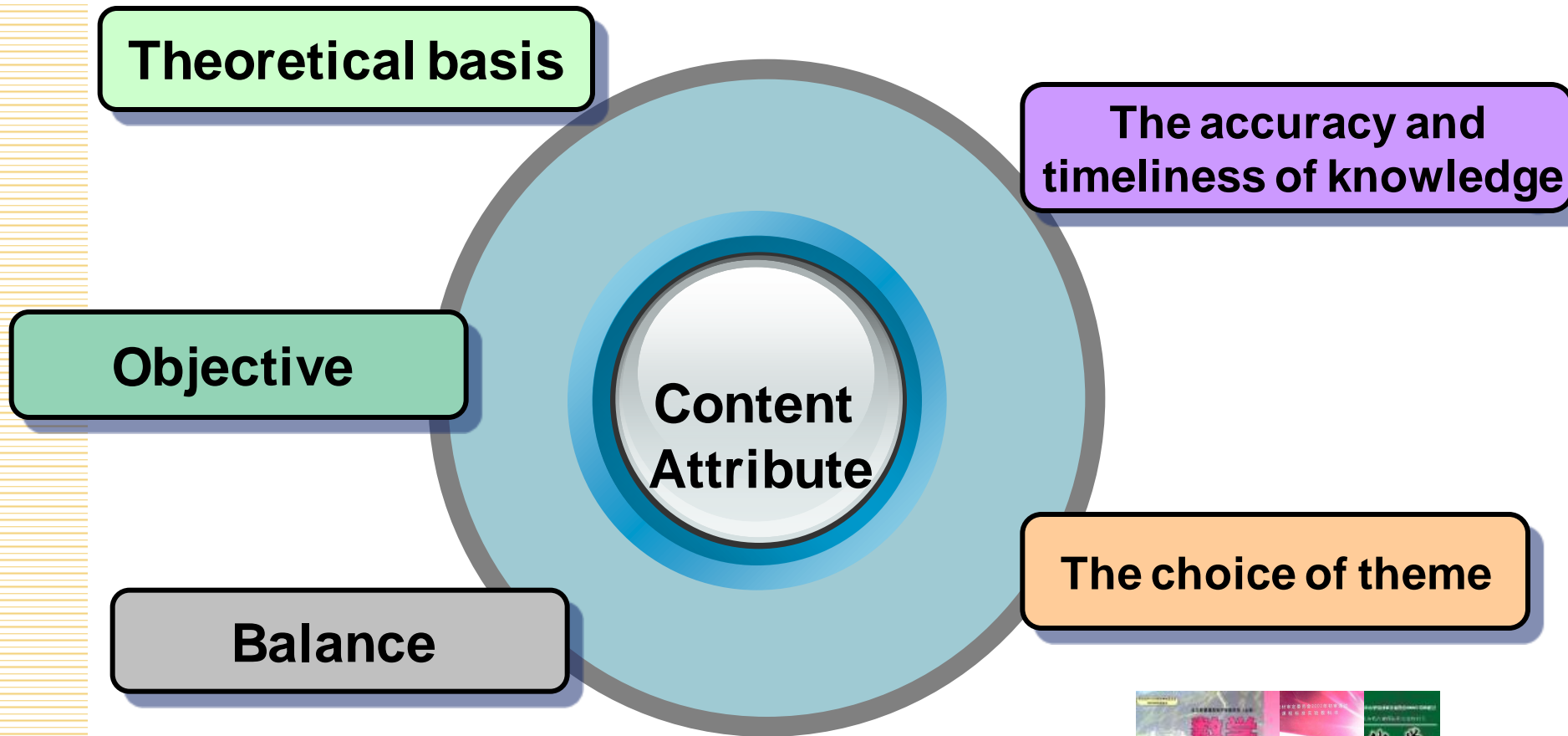
China

- ※ Talk about what is courage after reading the story.
- ※ Write something about a hero, and explain why you think she/he is brave?
- ※ Would you like to show your brave in some way? How would you want to do?
- ※ Have an interview on the courageous acts.
- ※ Write down the qualities of the braver and tell us why these qualities are important

- ※ Why did the king select the child who held the empty flower pot?



Textbook Content Quality





The existing problems of balance in Chinese textbooks



- There is no doubt that education must teach people how to communicate with different cultures, how to choose according to their own experience, how to make use of the achievements of various cultures, and how to graft other cultures in their own.



Multicultural Education

- Multicultural education, rising in the 60th of the 20th century, American “Civil Rights Movement”, was originally designed for foreign immigrants and cultural assimilation to integrate them into the mainstream culture of America.
- Later, the thought of multi-culture has become a main force that influences school education, and multi-cultural education becomes a worldwide system. School management, classroom management, curriculum, teacher education, teaching and curriculum evaluation are gradually brought into the perspective of multi-culture.



The Content of Multicultural Education

National culture



Racial culture

Social class
/stratum culture

Regional culture



The Content of Multicultural Education

National culture



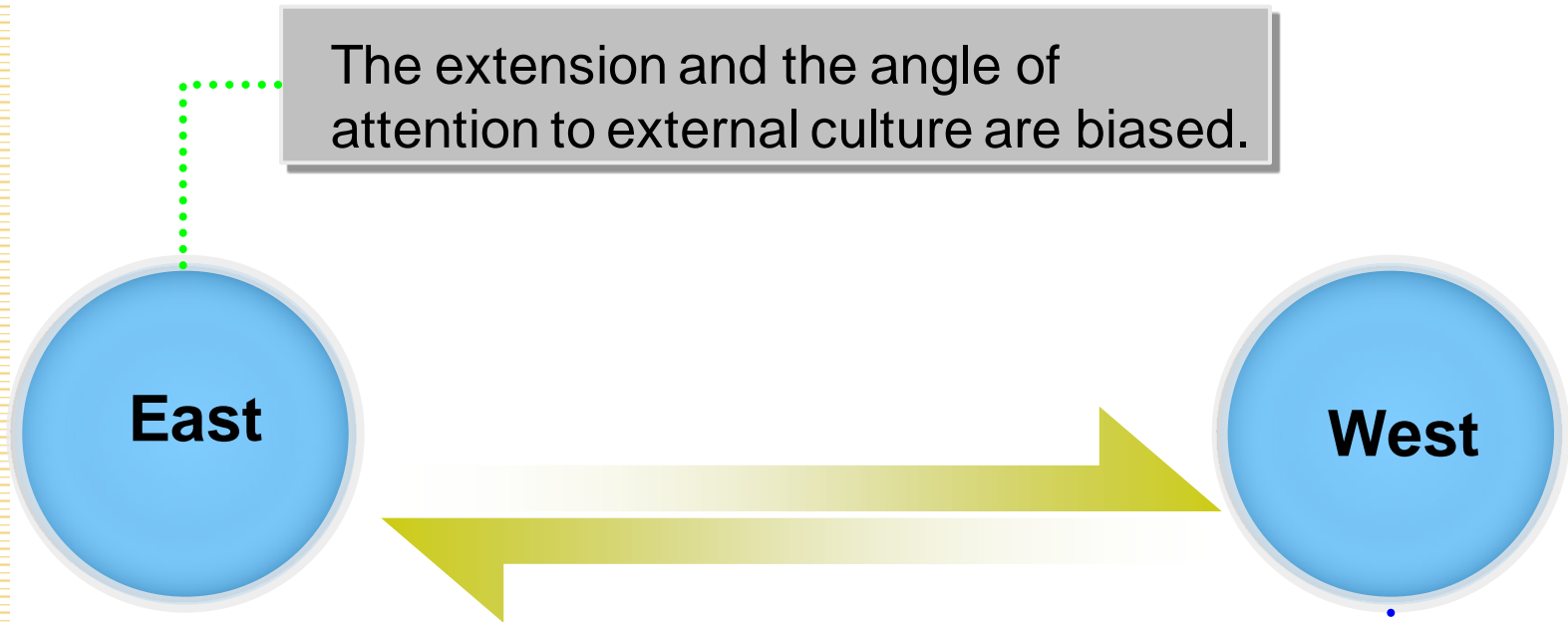
Racial culture

**Social class
/stratum culture**

Regional culture



Unbalance of National Culture



The extension and the angle of attention to external culture are biased.

East

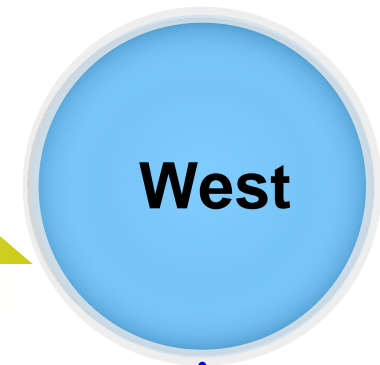
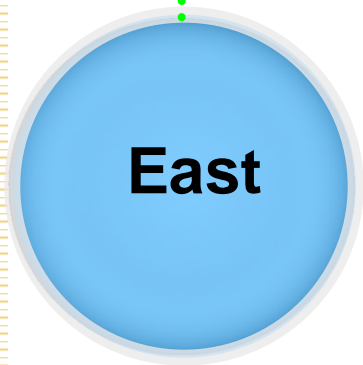
West

The attention to cultural difference between East and West is insufficient.



Unbalance of National Culture

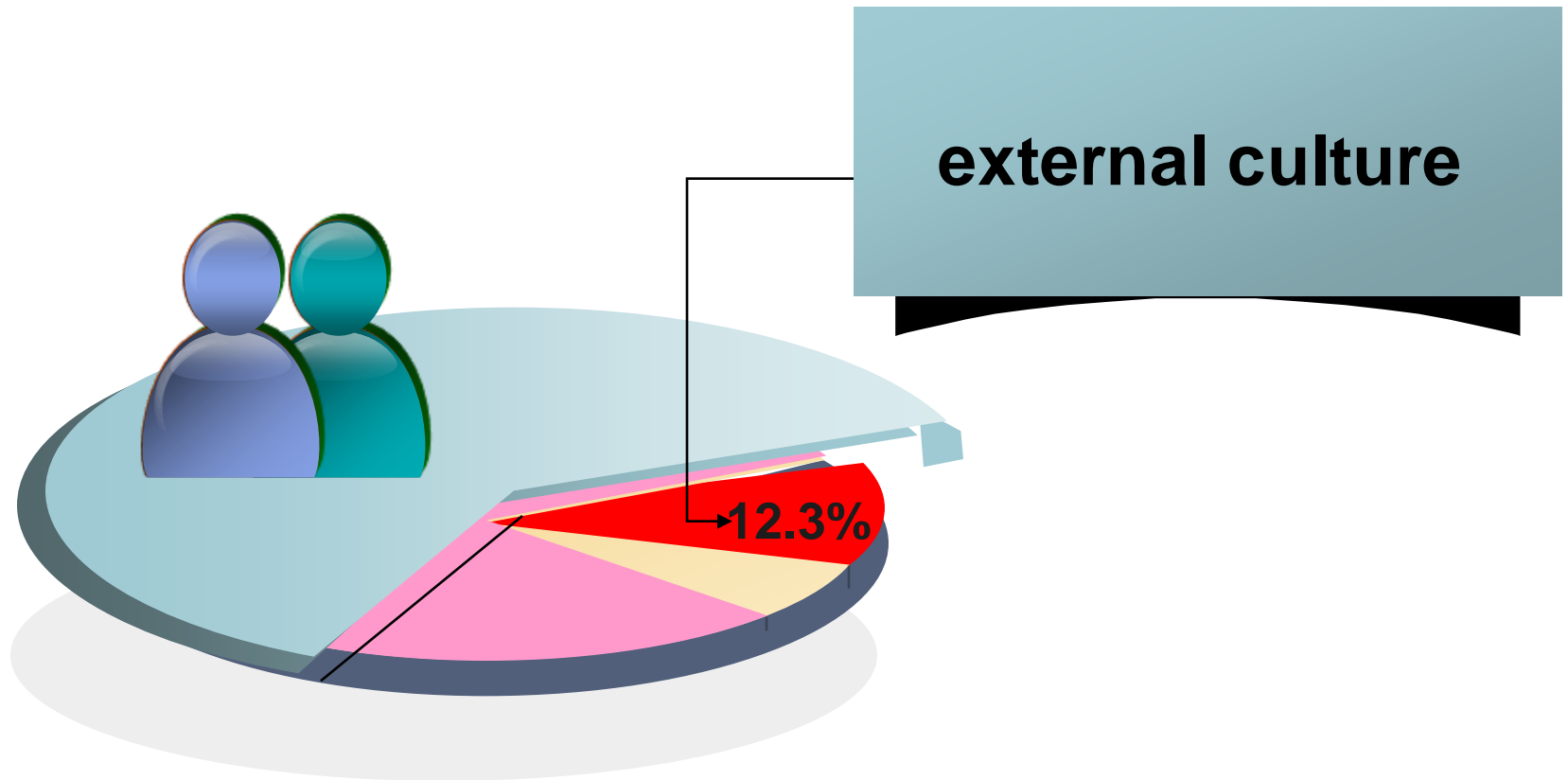
The extension and the angle of attention to external culture are biased.



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Unbalance of National Culture



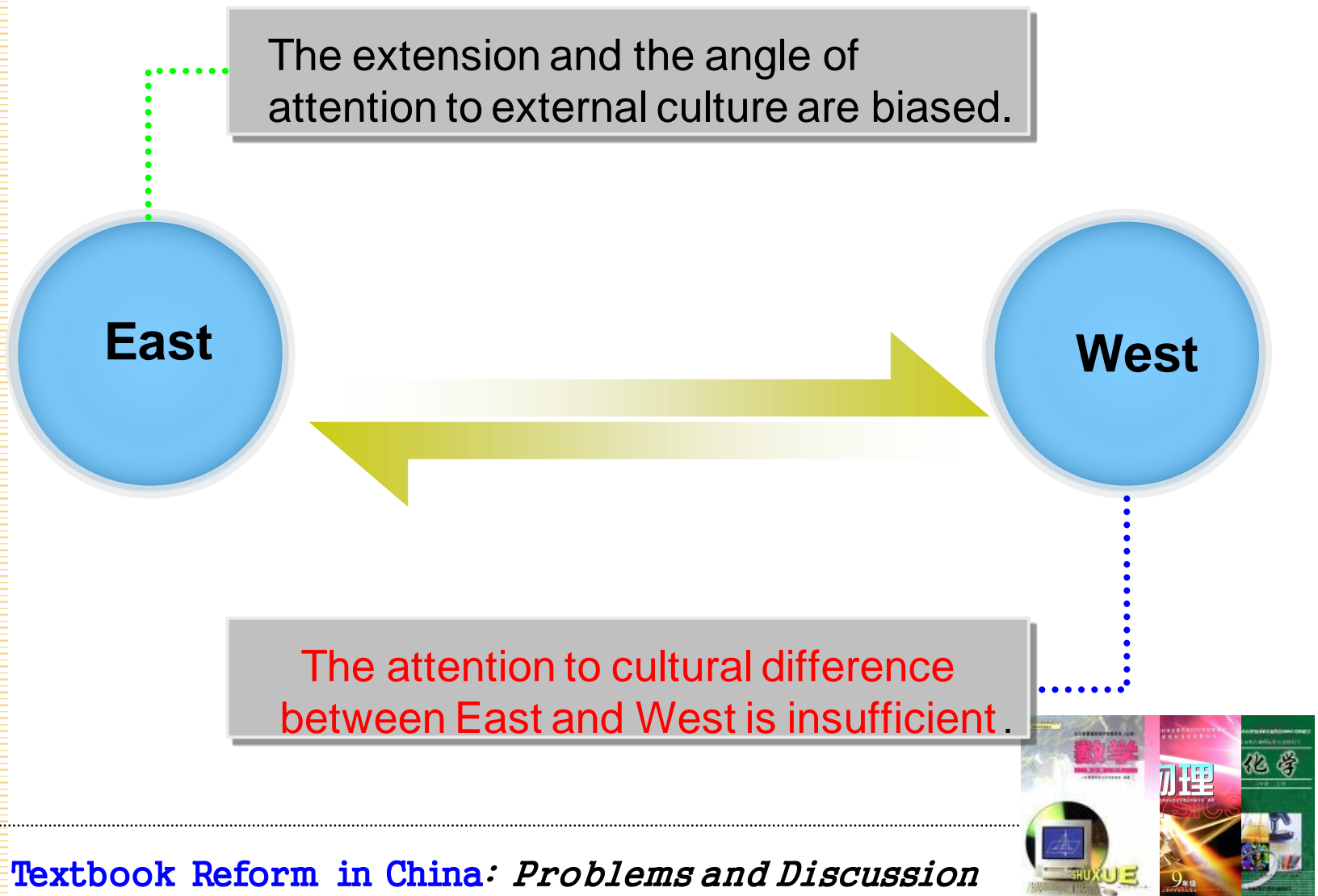
Note: Y. Chen (2007). Multicultural Education in the textbook of primary and middle school , *Global Education*.



Unbalance of National Culture



Unbalance of National Culture



The content of Multicultural Education

National culture

Racial culture



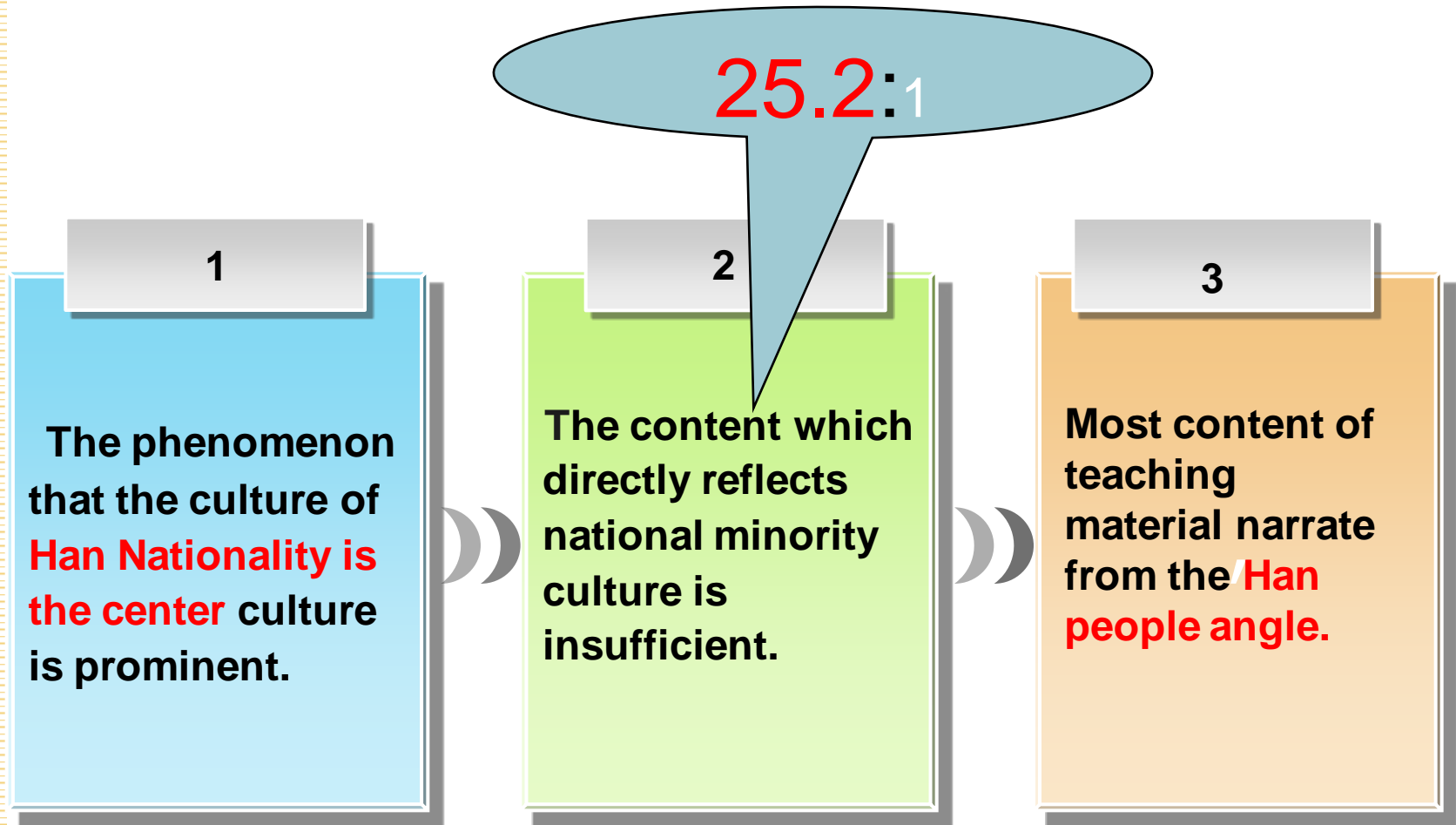
Social class
/stratum culture

Regional culture

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Unbalance of Racial Culture



Note's: Y. Chen (2009). *Studies on the reforms of textbooks*, Educational Science Publishing House, p135.



Unbalance of Racial Culture



3

Most content of teaching material narrate from the **Han** people angle.



The Content of Muticultural education

National culture

Racial culture



Social class
/stratum culture

Regional culture



Unbalance of Regional Culture

1

The attention to the **economically backward localities** especially the general **countryside** is insufficient .

2

The explanation angle of these region is narrow.

3

Seems to suggest that high-status people are concentrated in cities, not in rural areas.



The Amount of Texts Involving Urban and Rural Figures

Analytic subject	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total amount	Ratio
Urban	7	13	13	7	5	8	33	30.5%
Rural	6	7	3	3	7	5	31	17.8%

Note's: Y. Chen et al. (2006). *Dialogue and monologue*, Contemporary Educational Science.



The Negative Portrayals About Rural in Six Chinese Textbooks

Content	Hardship and bitterness	Working pains	Natural disaster	Traffic inconvenience	Snobbish in neighborhood	Chaos of war
Amount	7	3	2	1	1	1
Ratio	48.4%					

Note's: Y. Chen et al. (2006). *Dialogue and monologue*, Contemporary Educational Science.



The Content of Muticultural Education

National culture

Racial culture



Social class
/stratum culture

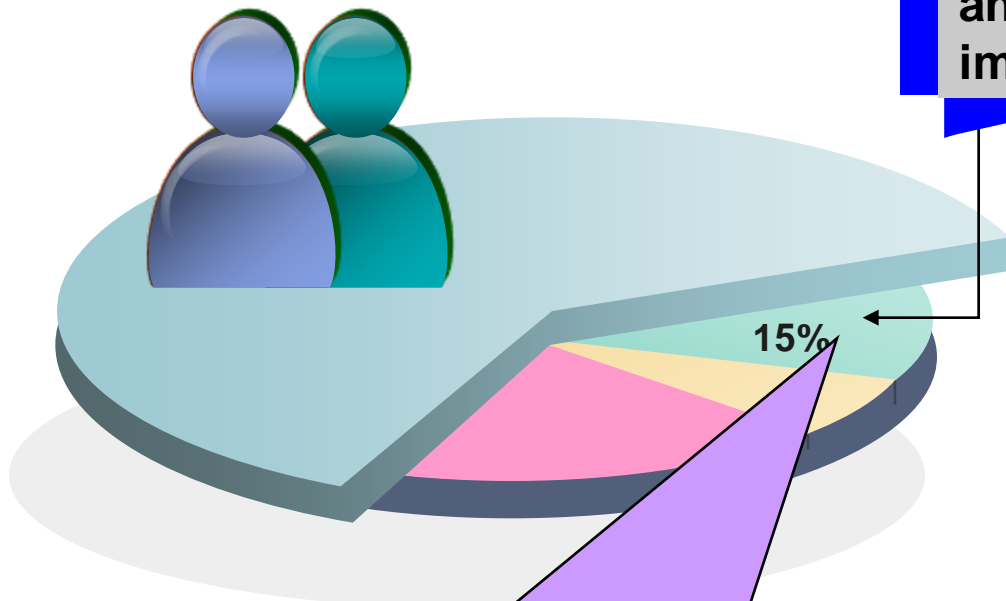
Regional culture

Textbook Reform in China: *Problems and Discussion*



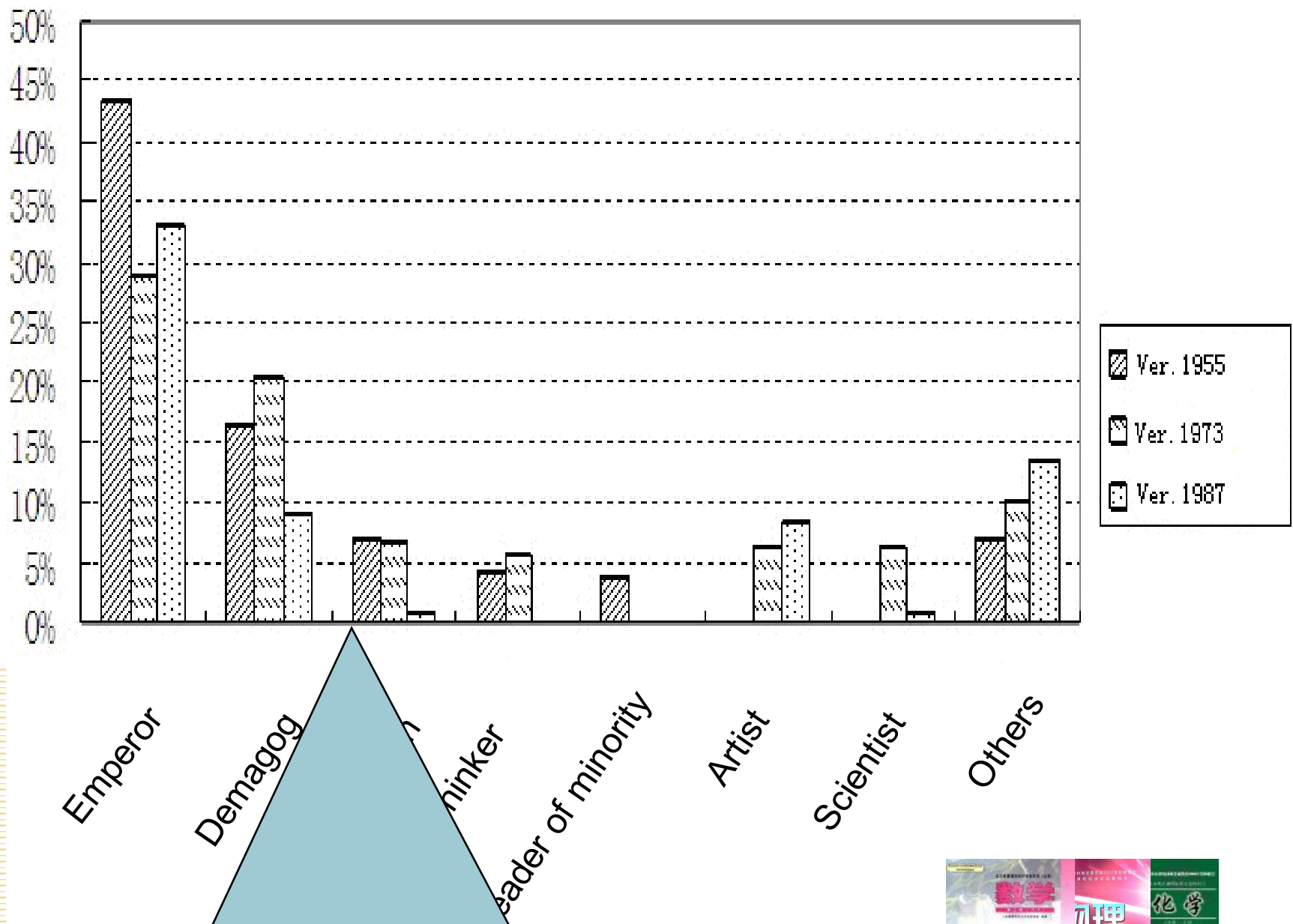
Unbalance of Social Class and Stratum Culture

Ordinary people been neglected, celebrities and emperors,kings,generals and ministers been treated importantly.



Note's. Chen (2009). *Studies on the reforms of textbooks*, Educational Science Publishing House,p137.



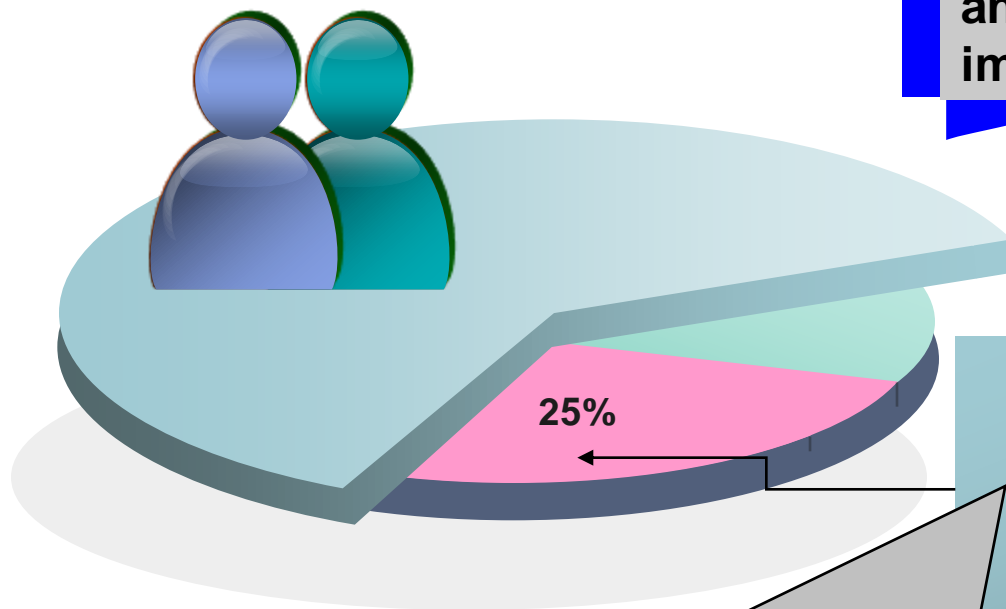


Note's: Y. Chen (2007). *Muticultural Education in the textbook of primary and middle school*, Global Education.



Unbalance of Social Class and Stratum Culture

Ordinary people been neglected, celebrities and emperors, kings, generals and ministers been treated importantly.

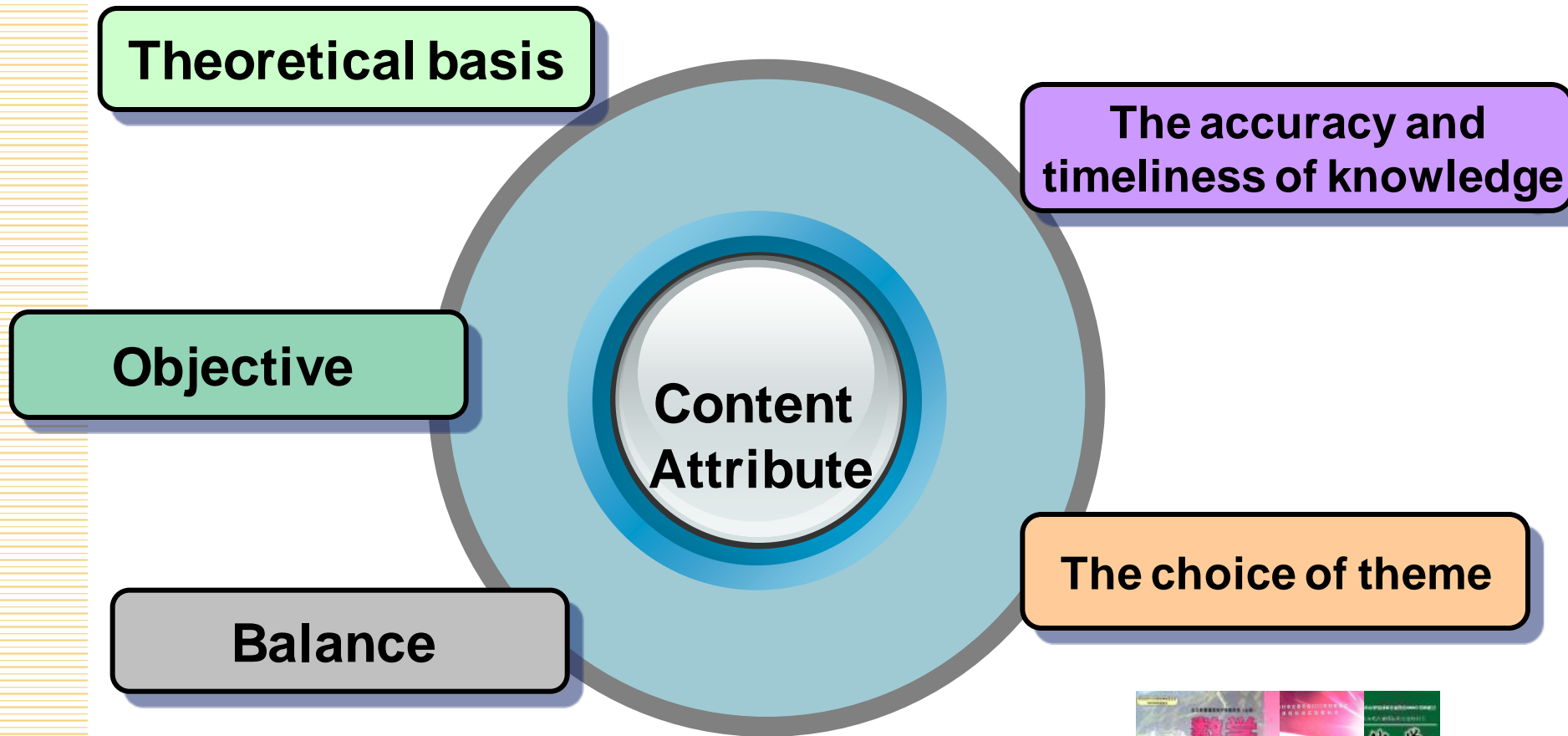


Omission\nneglecting
\stereotype \distortion of
females.

Note's: Y. Chen et al. (2005). *Review on the feminism in textbooks*, Research in Education Development.



Textbook Content Quality

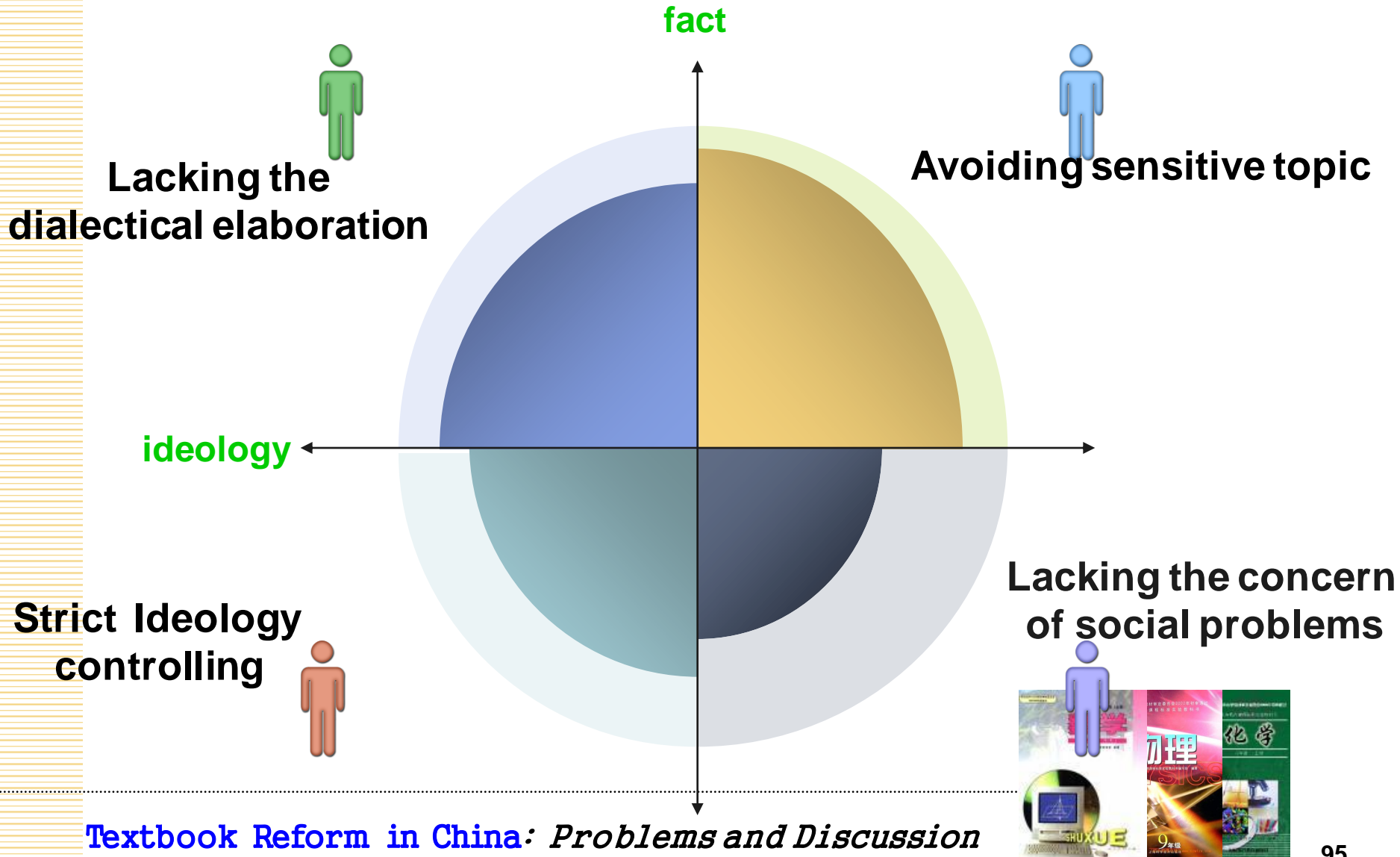




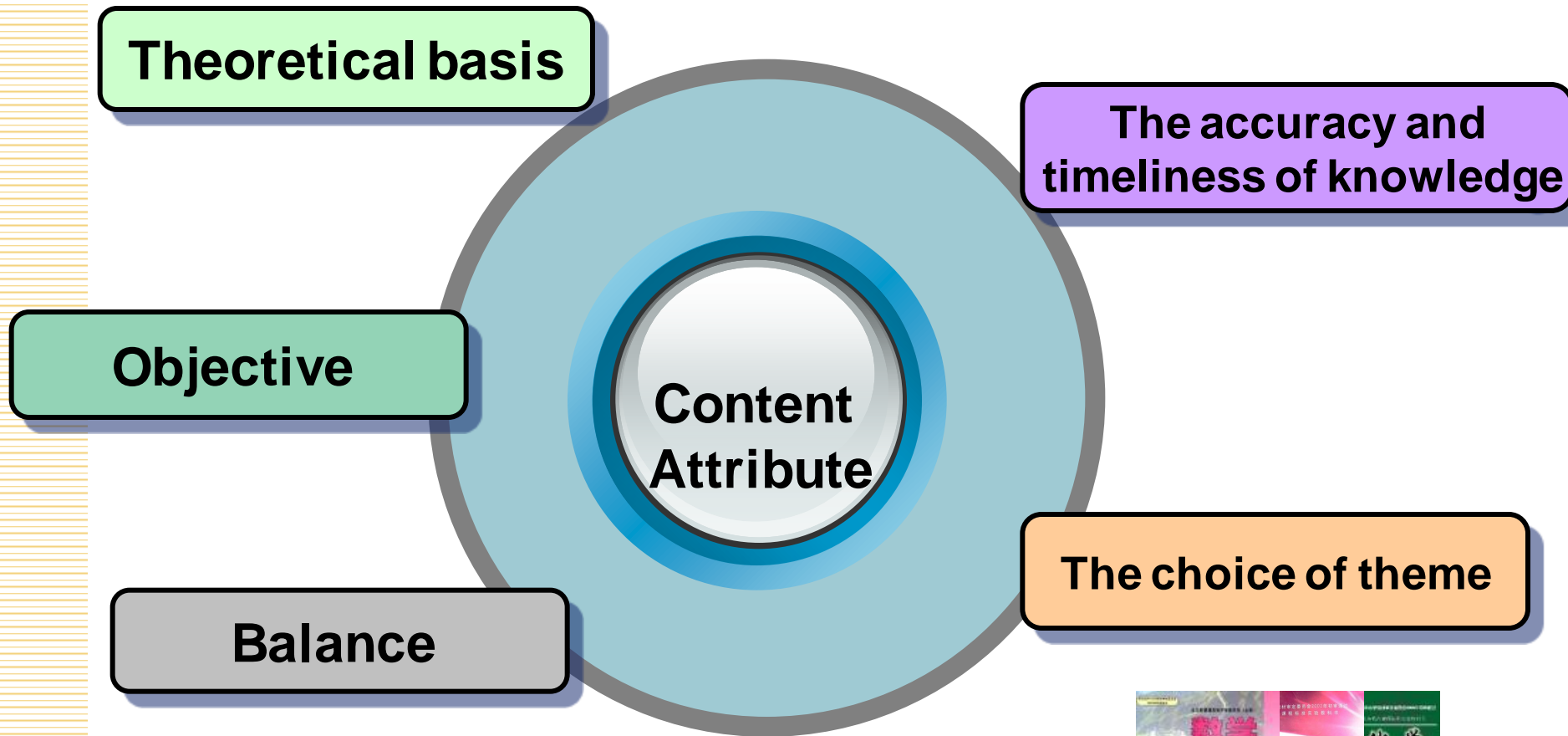
The existing problems of **theme choice** in Chinese textbooks



Problems in Theme Choice



Textbook Content Quality





The existing problems: the accuracy and timeliness of knowledge in Chinese textbook



The Accuracy and Timeliness of Knowledge

- The mission of education is guiding the cultural development. Education should pay attention to the contemporary culture, and keep the contents up to date.
- However, massive so-called **red classical articles** in elementary and middle schools textbooks have been existing for a long time, although most of them have lost the contemporary meaning.
- such as *For 61 social class brothers* and *Praise for Chinese white poplar*.



Content

The background of textbook reform

Definition of textbook

The evaluation system of textbook quality

The qualitative evaluation index of textbook's content

The existing problems in Chinese textbook



Acknowledgements

Professor Mun C. Tsang

Center on Chinese Education,
Teachers College, Columbia University

**Shandong Provincial Exchange
Program for Financial Support**

Yue-ru Chen
04/22/2010

