



The Change Room promotes teachers' agency to change their practice

Hjordis Thorgeirsdottir

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My aim is to improve my practice

My aim:

- Enhance professional development of teachers in the school.
- Increase teacher's agency to change and transform practice.
- Enhance students' learning outcome.

The overall aim of the teachers' project:

- Find ways to encourage students to become more responsible for their learning.

Methodological and theoretical background

- **Action research**
 - McNiff
- **Activity theory**
 - Engeström
- **The Change Laboratory**
 - The Expansive Learning Cycle - Engeström
 - A Method of Double Stimulation – Vygotsky

The Change Room

Methods:

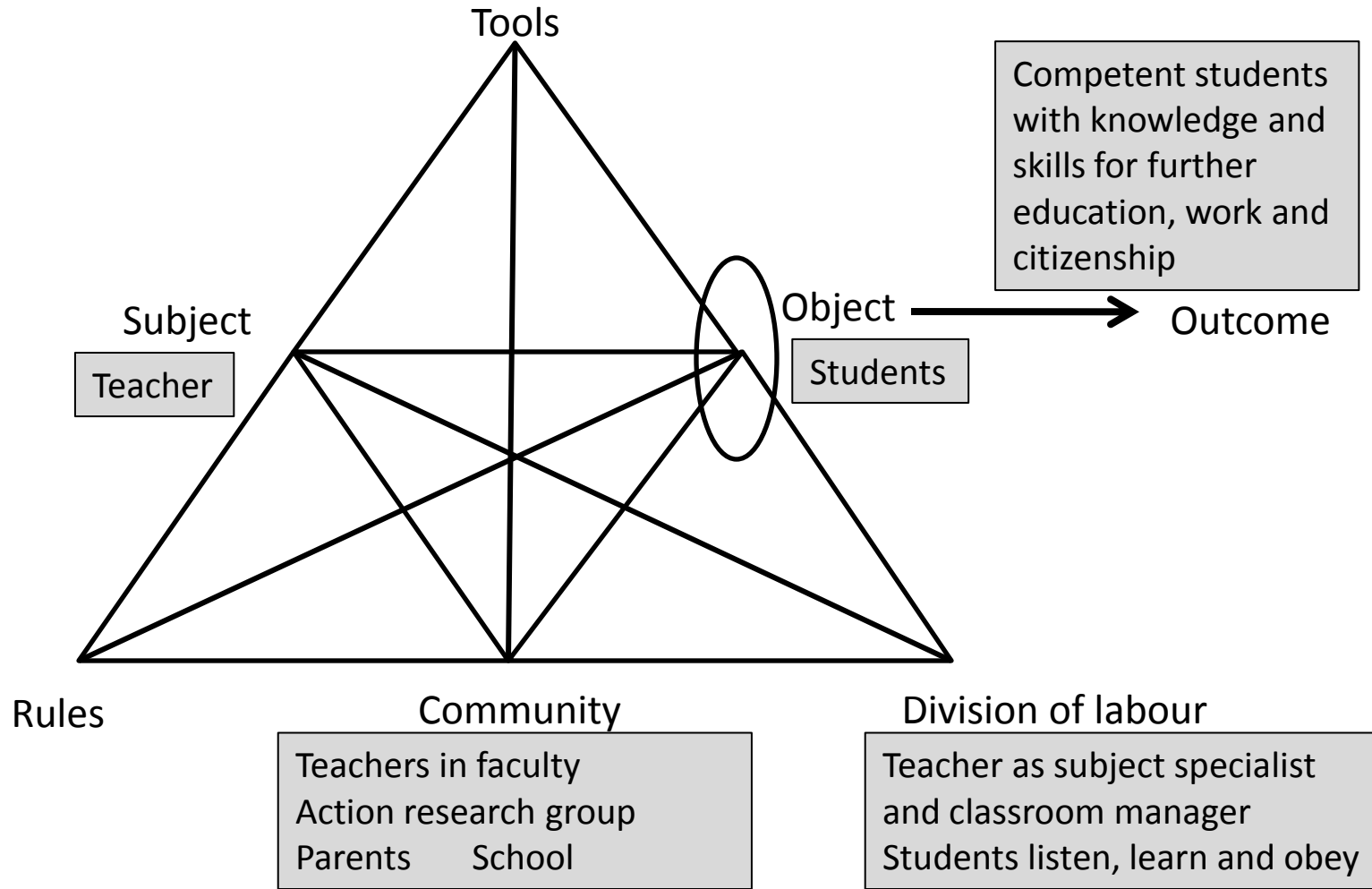
- Conversations
- Interviews
- Presentations
- Reports

- Project 2009-2011 with 21 participants.
- Connected together activity theory and action research
- Participants created data about workplace experience (first stimuli).
- My role was to transcribe, interpret the data and present it within the activity system (second stimuli).

The Activity System of the Classroom

(Based on Engeström)

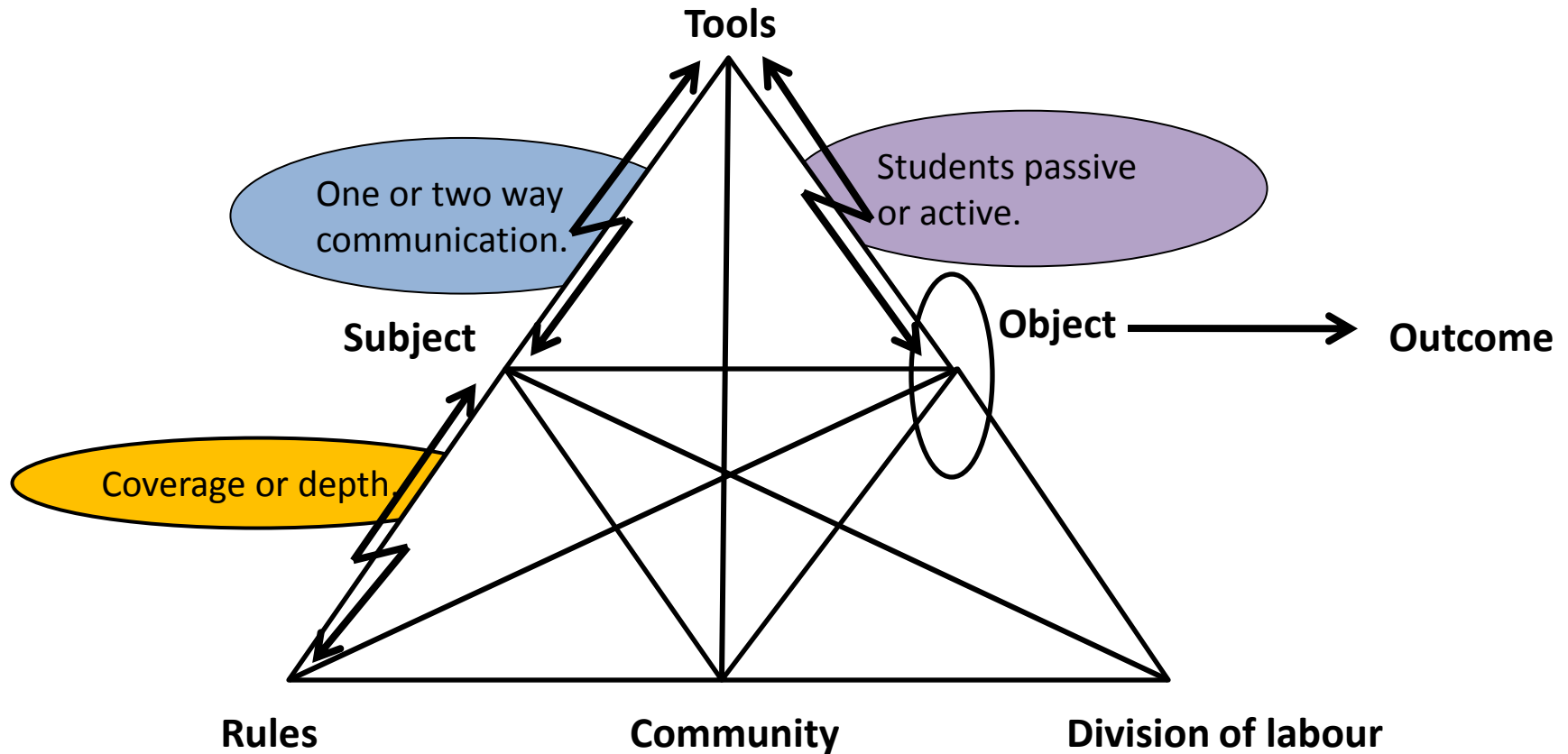
Teacher's values and ideas about teaching and learning
Teaching and learning methods, material and instruments
Assessment and evaluation methods and tools
Teacher's knowledge of the students



Tensions in the Activity System of the Classroom

- **Object – Tools**
 - Students passive or active
- **Subject – Tools**
 - Tension between one way and two way communication
- **Subject – Rules**
 - Demand to cover syllabus but a sense of urgency for deep learning

Tensions in the Activity System of the Classroom



Changes in Classroom Practice Students' as Active Learners

- **Students' collaboration**
 - Pair and group work
 - Cooperative learning
- **Students' ownership of learning**
 - Databanks on the intra net
 - Presentations
- **Students boundary- crossing**
 - Expedition to a nursery home
 - School visit to Denmark

Changes in Classroom Practice

Listening to Students' Voices

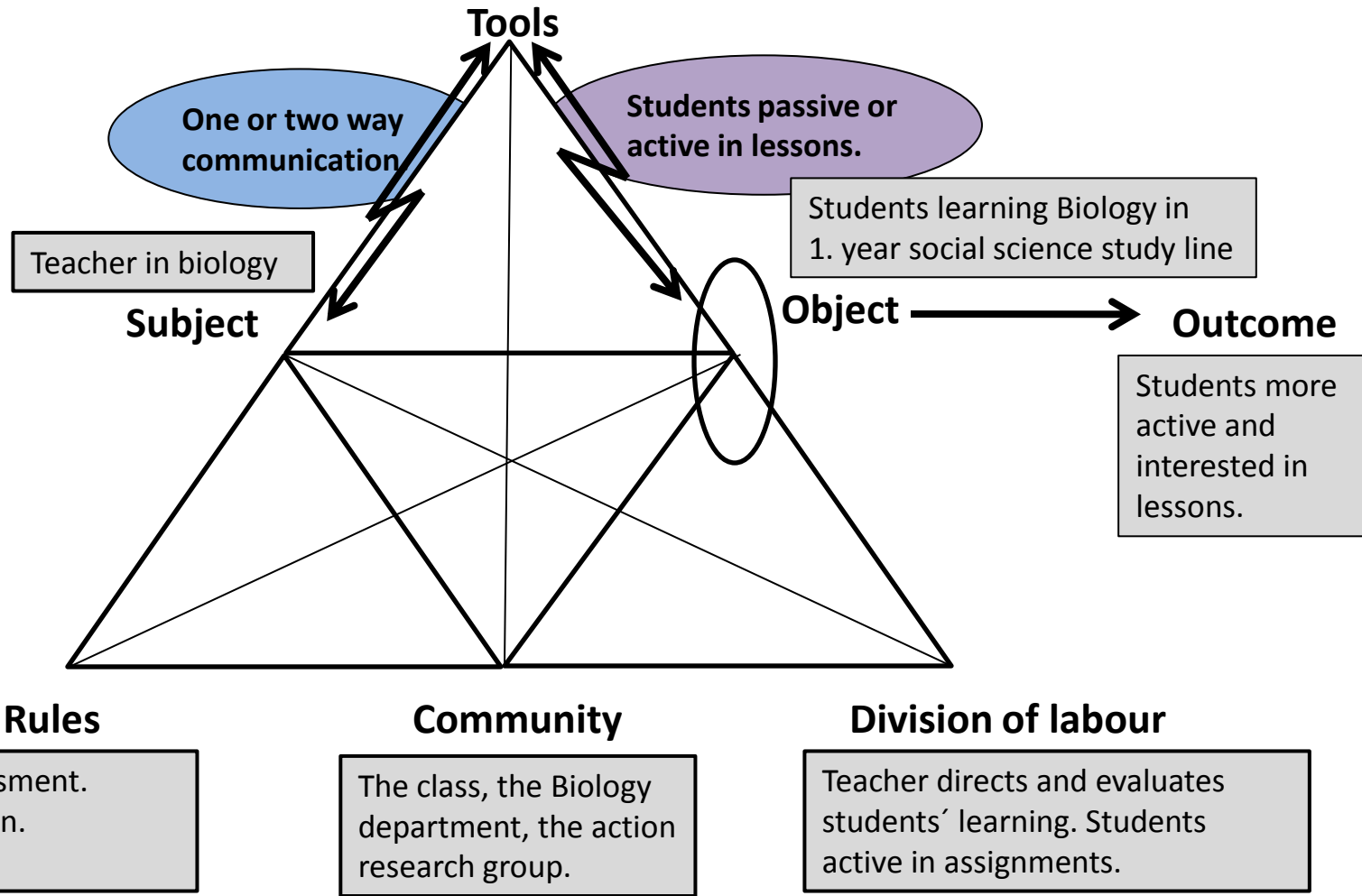
- **Individualising students' assessment**
- **Activation students' ideas**
 - Students' answers used as teaching material
 - Students' influencing their learning environment
- **Students' evaluation of teaching**
 - Students' evaluation of their own learning
 - Students' evaluation of teaching methods

The Change Room 2009- 2011

The activity system of the classroom

COOPERATIVE LEARNING IN BIOLOGY

Individual and group assignments. Cooperative learning. Role division in assignments. Station training. Creative products. "Cell claying". Multiple intelligence. Teacher's ideas about learning and assessment.

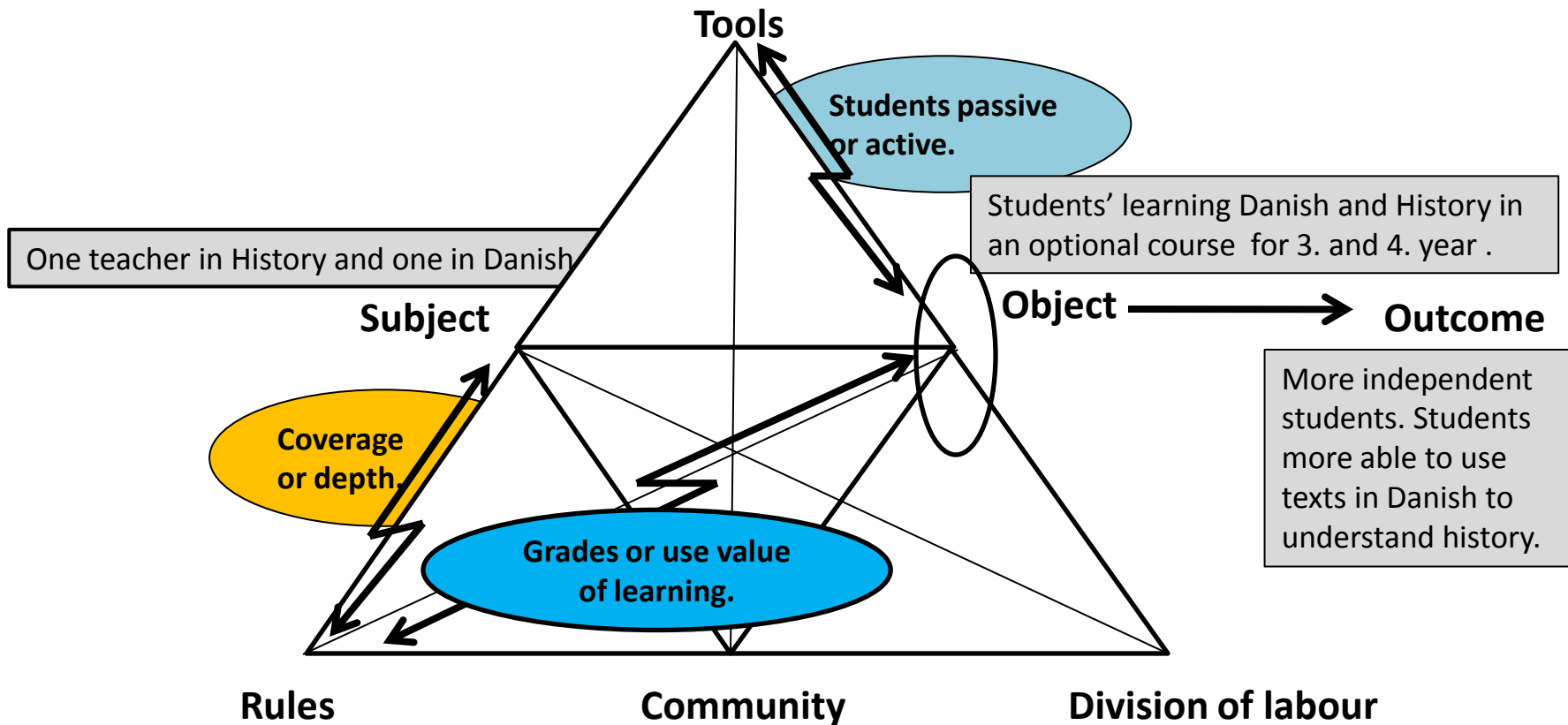


The Change Room – The present

The activity system of the classroom

PROJECT WORK IN AN OPTIONAL COURSE

Project group work. Student's presentations in foreign language. Publish projects reports on the school's website. Trip to Denmark. Hosting Danish students. Cross curriculum projects. Teachers ideas about cross curriculum work and the ideology of project work.



Time table.
Optional course.
Continues assessment.

The class. The Danish department.
The History department. The action
research group.

The teachers stop direct teaching and
start guiding active students through
the process of project work.

Agency to change practice

- “The capability of a self to take actions that will have impact on a social situation” (Somekh, 2006, p. 15).
- Three stages of agency to change:
 - Recognising a need for change
 - Contemplating change
 - Explaining change



Hafsteinn Óskarsson 2010

Conclusion

- Change agents.
- Individual and collective learning.
- The action research group is developing a pedagogy of active students learning.
- Emphasis on listening to students' voices.

A photograph of a large number of small, light pink flowers with dark centers, growing in a rocky, mossy environment. The flowers are scattered across the frame, with a higher concentration in the center and right. The background consists of dark, mossy rocks and some green foliage.

Thank you

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