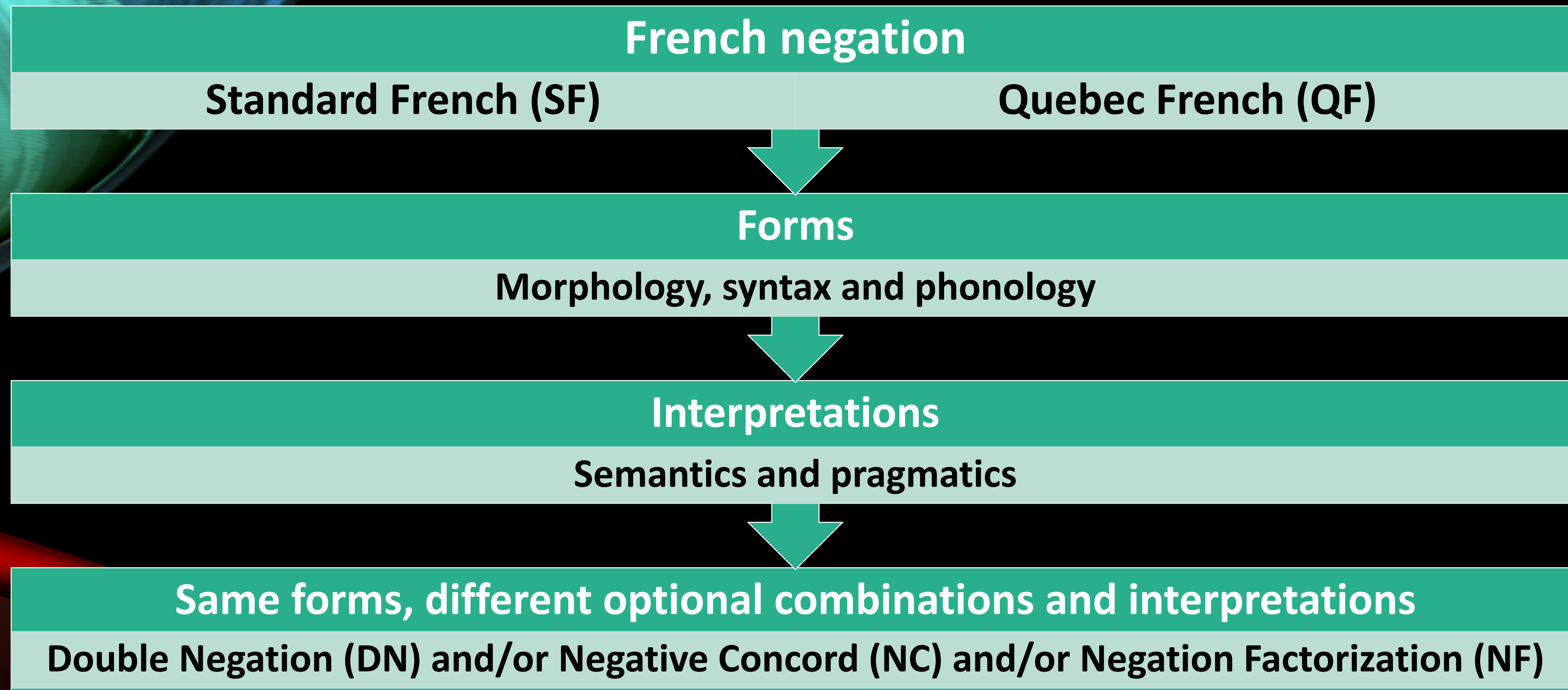


Analysis and Acquisition of Quebec French Negation

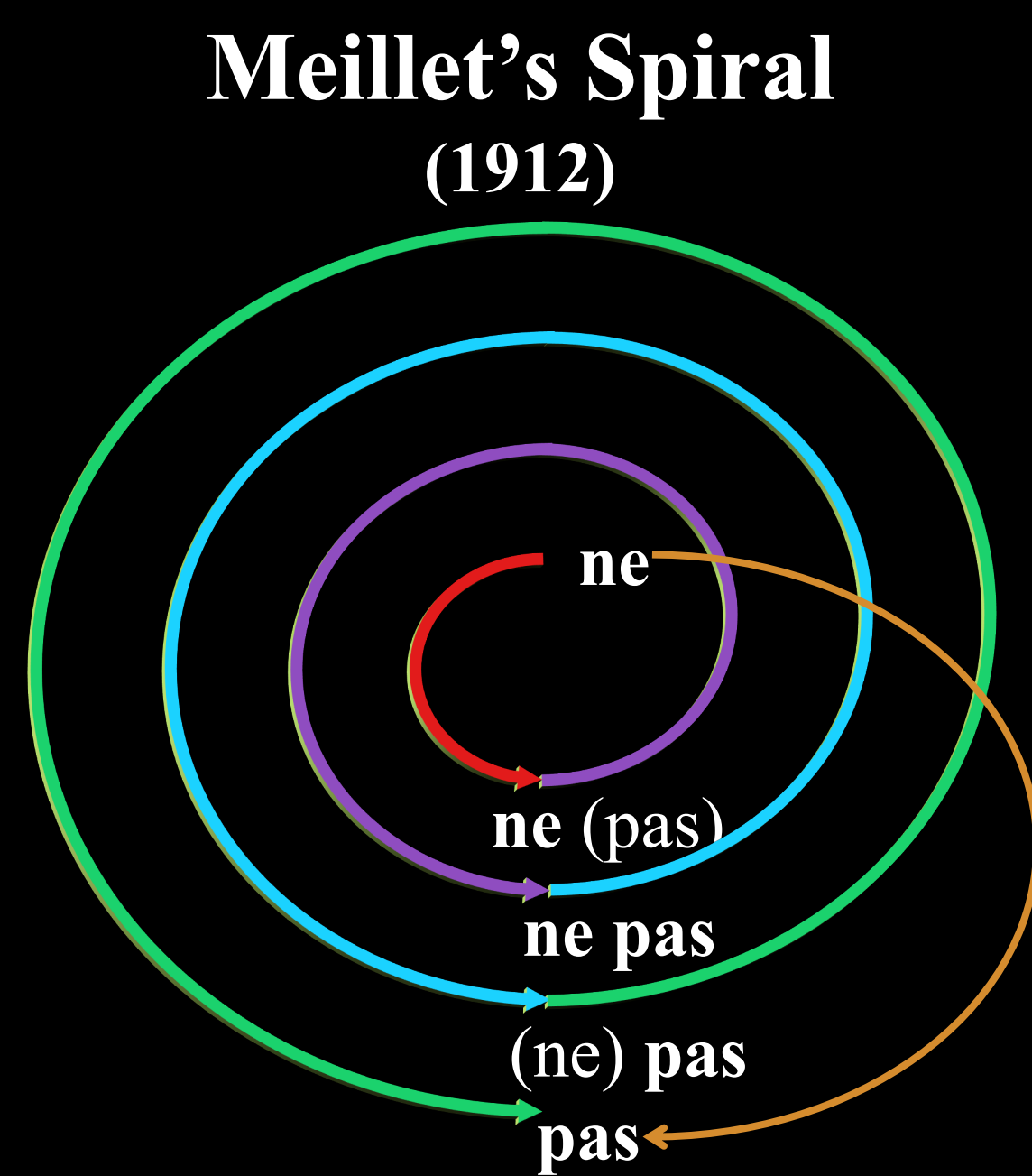


By
Kenny Castillo
PhD in French Studies (1st Year)

AIMS

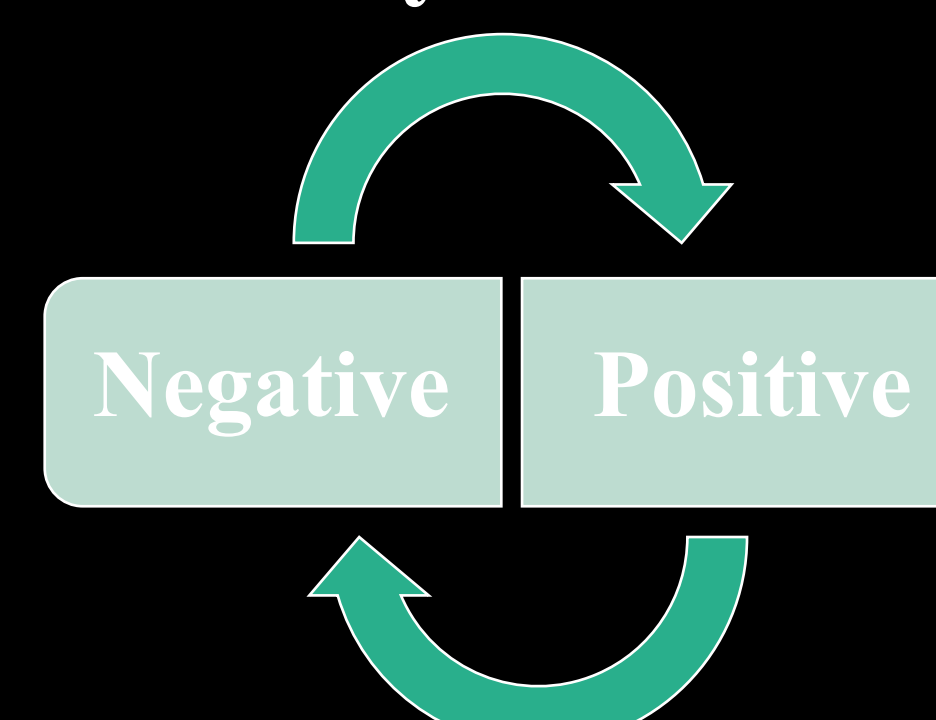
- To study the forms and interpretations of French negation
- To analyze linguistic variation
- To describe and compare language acquisition in L1, L2...
 - English negation is post-verbal: V+not
 - Spanish negation is pre-verbal: No+V
 - Formal QF negation is Neg+V+Neg

DIACHRONY



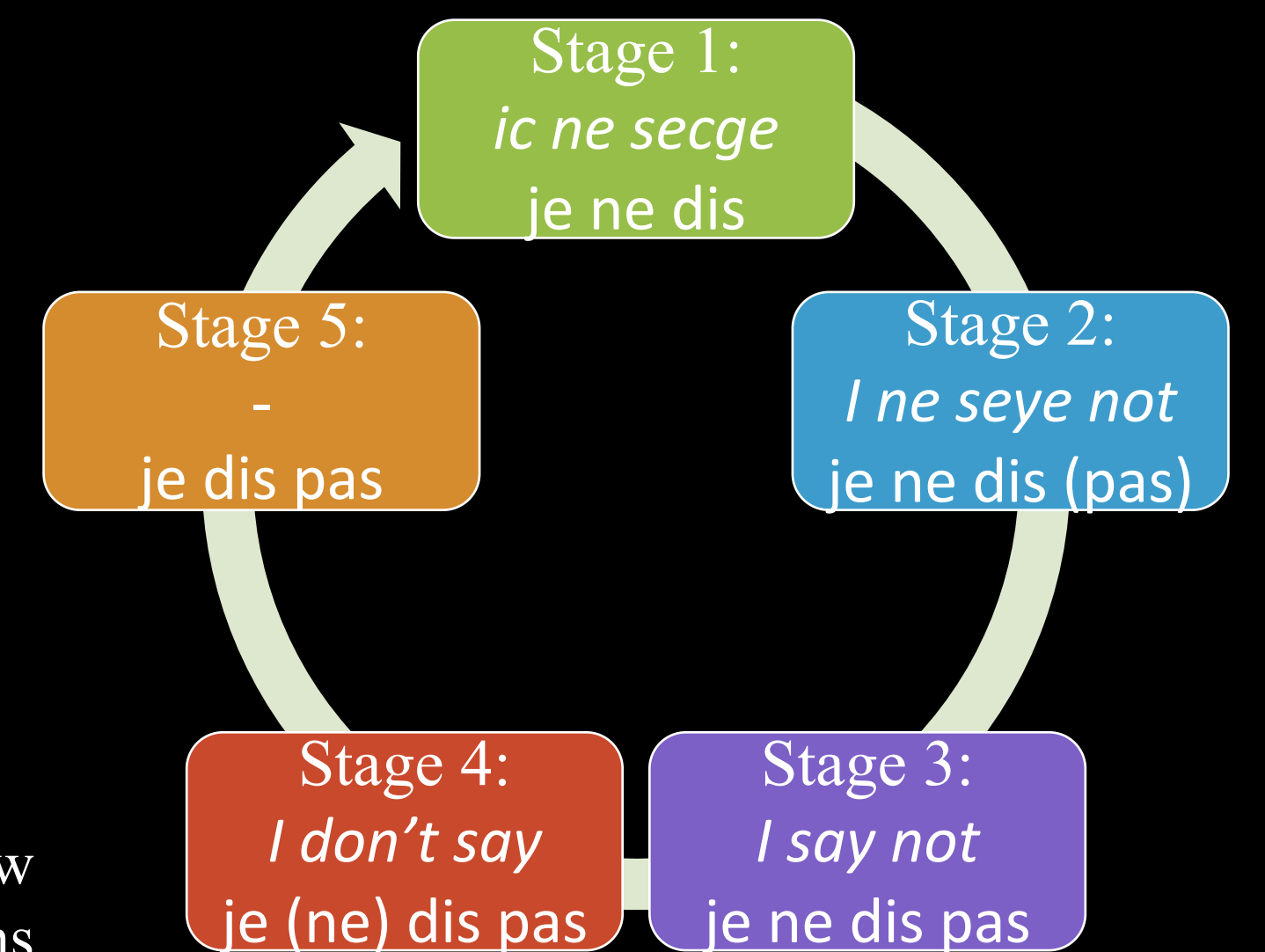
“Les langues suivent ainsi une sorte de développement en spirale : elles ajoutent des mots accessoires pour obtenir une expression intense : ces mots s'affaiblissent, se dégradent et tombent au niveau de simples outils grammaticaux ; on ajoute de nouveaux mots ou des mots différents en vue de l'expression ; l'affaiblissement recommence et ainsi sans fin.” (Meillet 1912 : 394)

Grammaticalization
Reinforcement
Polarity transfer



“...diachronic changes show bidirectionality: expressions may become more negative over time (e.g., nului, personne, rien, aucun) and others more positive (e.g., nient, nuns, nesun). Indeed, a single expression such as nul(lus) first underwent semantic weakening toward a PI status and later underwent morphosyntactic strengthening toward an n-word status”. (Labelle and Espinal, 2014: 223)

Jespersen's Cycle (1917)



“(...) the original negative adverb is first weakened, then found insufficient and therefore strengthened, generally through some additional word, and this in its turn may be felt as the negative proper and may then in course of time be subject to the same development as the original word”. (Jespersen, 1917 : 4)

SYNCHRONY

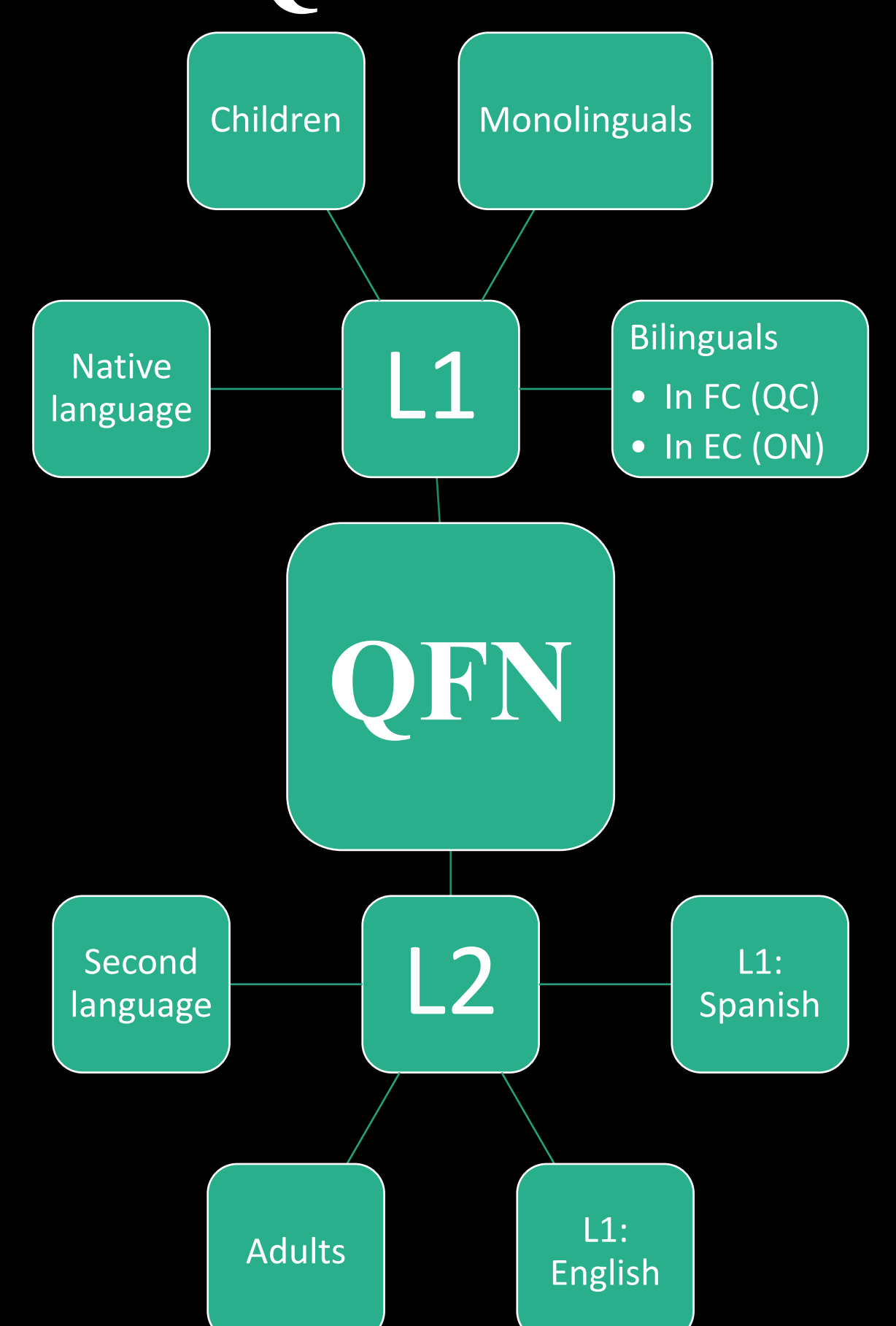
Logical representation of general negative statements (Ladusaw, 1992)

Universal negation
 $\forall x [P(x) \rightarrow Q(x)]$
I saw no one

Existential negation
 $\neg \exists [P(x) \wedge Q(x)]$
I did not see anyone

- Ne-drop: Je n'ai vu personne = J'ai vu personne (SF and QF)
- Double Negation (DN): J'ai pas vu personne (SF and QF) I didn't see nobody
- Negative Concord (NC): J'ai pas vu personne (QF, optional)
- Negation Factorization (NF): (ne) + (personne/rien, jamais, etc.) (SF)
- Negation Factorization (NF): (ne) + (pas) + (personne/rien, jamais, etc.) (QF)
- J'ai vu personne \neq J'ai pas vu personne (SF)
- J'ai vu personne = J'ai pas vu personne (QF, optional)
- Je (n)'ai vu personne = J'ai vu personne = Je (n)'ai (pas) vu personne (QF, optional)

ACQUISITION



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- Ladusaw, William. 1992. Expressing negation. In: Barker, C., Dowty, D. (Eds.), *Proceedings of SALT II*. Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, pp. 237-259.
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