

Understanding Academic Language

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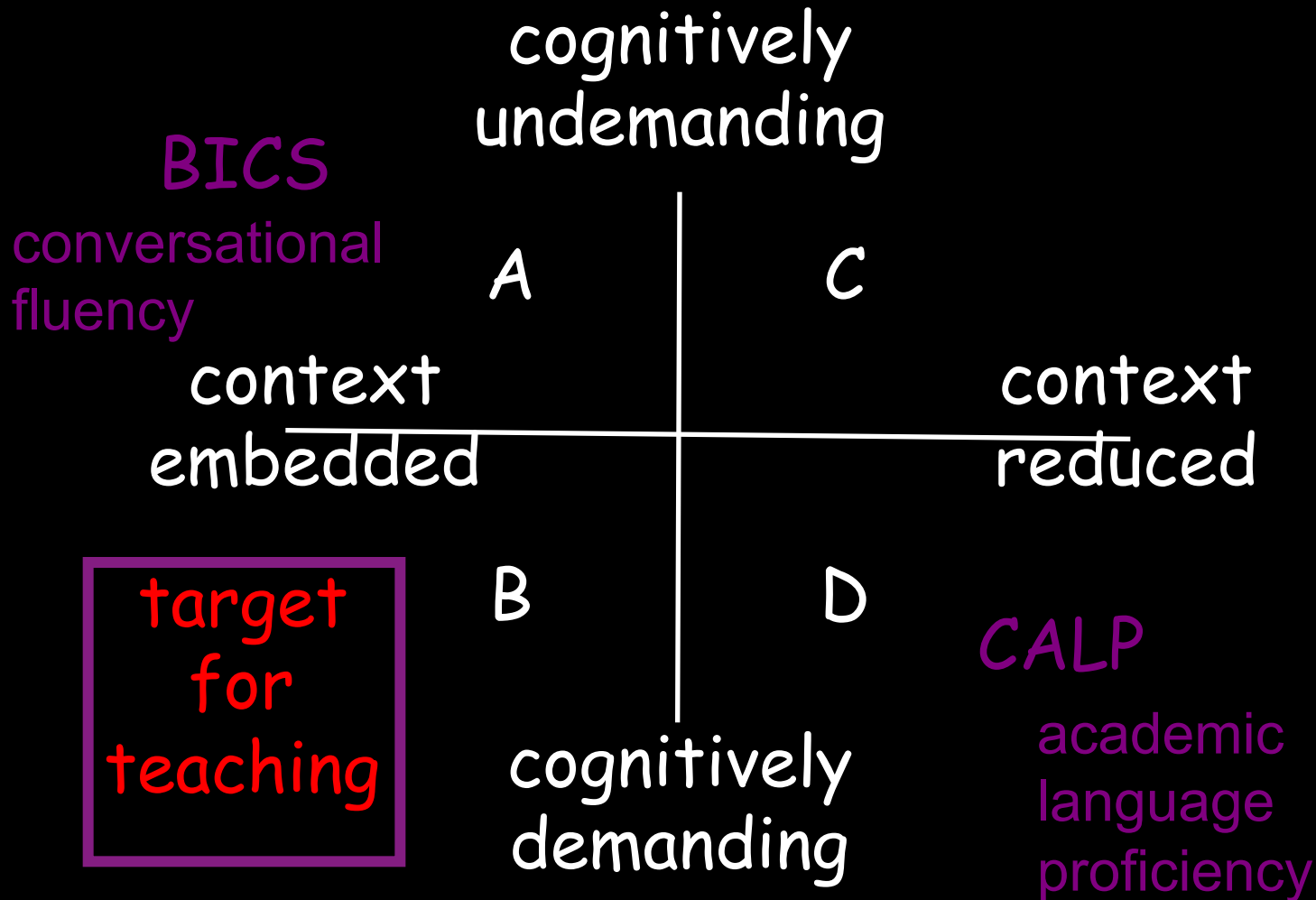
What is Academic Language?

- Academic language is the register of language used in schools
- ELLs need to learn the academic register to read, write, and discuss academic subjects

Understanding Academic Language

- Cummins developed a distinction between conversational and academic language to help account for the fact that some students who seem to speak and understand English do poorly on school tasks

Cummins quadrants



Activities for Each Quadrant

BICS

discuss the weather
interview a
classmate and write
a short biography

discuss an
upcoming sports
event
send an e-mail

teach a science
lesson about solar
eclipses using visuals
role play a historical
event

read a social
studies text
take a standardized
test

CALP

Continuum of Language

