

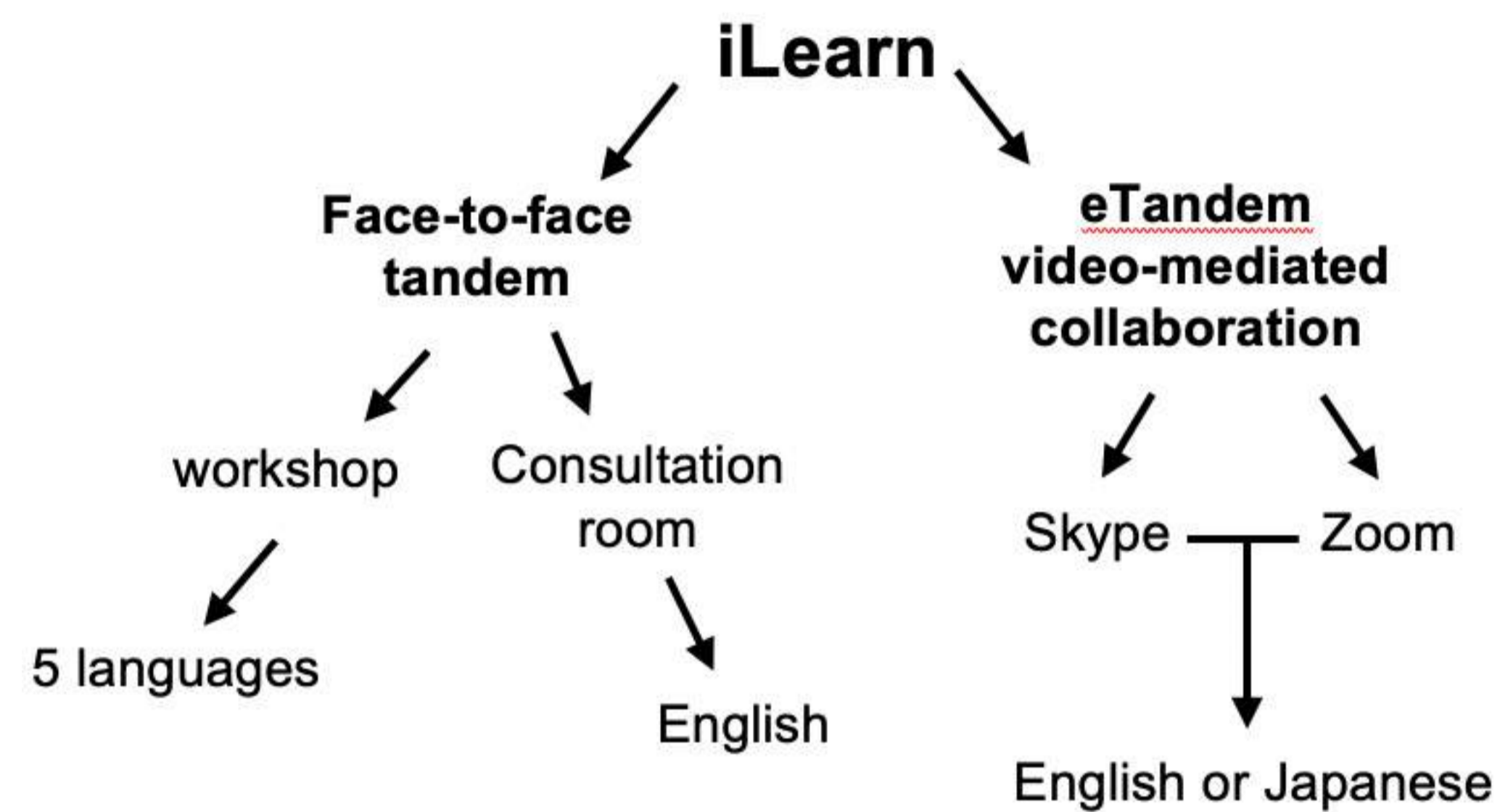


# iLearn

## A SciTech English initiative to increase outreach

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This collaborative research was undertaken to create a sustainable, Informal Learning Environment (ILE) where young Academics and Researchers (AR) could reach out to a wider audience through Networking (N).



### iLearn Implementation and initial conclusions

Audio recordings of 13 tandem pairings were transcribed and analyzed to identify and categorize *meaningful exchanges*. This signified an exchange of knowledge or critical reflection on learning which could be of benefit to students in a real-life context, rather than simply an exchange of information. The areas of student focus were *choice of research methodology, data analysis approach, specialized lexis, poster design, non-verbal language and to a lesser extent, syntax*. Student gains were evident in several areas over the ten weeks, but it was also carefully noted that any increase in confidence and linguistic skills was subject to significant individual variability and came as a result of multiple efforts over the period rather than through the eTandem (iLearn) experience specifically.

### Contextual Situation

eTandem initiative between two national universities in Japan. Although students were proficient in daily conversation, linguistically, many faced several challenges when communicating about their SciTech research topics.

- 13 tandem pairings
- 10 sessions (1 session = 45 minutes)

Focal points emphasized in the program:

- linguistic competence
- knowledge-sharing for real-life contexts
- intercultural exchange
- connection to the university policies of “academic freedom” and “independence”

### Participants

Total: 13 pairings

This poster highlights one tandem pairing

- Learner A (Japanese nurse-in-training)
- Learner B (Japanese doctoral student)

### Data Collection & Analysis

Data collection methods:

- (1) Audio recordings were collected and transcribed of the 13 pairings. A case study design of one pairing, presented in this poster, explored in detail, learners’ linguistic competence in using technical, research and/or professional language; (see Slide 2)
- (2) A grounded theory approach analysed meaningful discourse during dialogic exchanges.

### Consultation Rooms



### Student gains

- Ability to give **critical feedback** on SciTech research
- Improvement in **using** specialized lexis
- Understanding of **English in real-world context**
- **Confidence** in initiating and maintaining conversation

