“Class, I’ve got a lot of material to cover, so to save time I won’t be using vowels today. Nw lts bgn, pls trn t pg 122.”
Walsh (2002) identifies a number of features which obstruct learning potential:

- The teacher completes the turn for the student.
- The teacher interrupts the student’s turn in order to correct.
- No negotiation of meaning is detectable via clarification requests confirmation checks.
- The teacher echoes the student response even if it is correct.

- IRF (Initiate-Response-Feedback) turn-taking structure as the dominant pattern.
Monologic (recitation) vs. dialogic teaching

Monologic teaching leads to an ‘authoritative discourse’ in which the teacher delivers a set of pre-packaged knowledge (Skidmore, 2000).

Dialogic teaching offers an ‘emancipatory alternative’ (Lyle, 1998) so that knowledge is co-constructed and students’ experiences and interpretations are valued and explored.
## Text A:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>What noise Fiona? What noise?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona</td>
<td>The noise the dog was making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>The noise the dog was making.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Which noise was the fox making?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiona</td>
<td>A dog (.) noise. <em>(Fiona laughs)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>He was barking.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Skidmore (2000: 287)
Monologic

- IRF
- Teacher selects
- Teacher ignores attempts by learners to introduce other topics
- Students’ responses tend to be short
- Usually there is only one correct answer (Nystrand, 1997)
Examples of IRF

I What’s the boy doing?
R He’s climbing a tree.
F He’s climbing a tree.
“Is the clock on the wall?”

Initiation

T  Is the clock on the wall?

Response

L  Yes, the clock is on the wall.

Feedback

T  Good. The clock is on the wall.

Sinclair and Brazil (1982)
What does your father do?
Teacher
He's a teacher. Good. What does your father do? (looking at another student)
My father dead.
Good, and what about your father? (pointing to someone else).
(Thompson G 1997: 104)