

Idiomatic Creativity

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Appendix B:
Idiom-variation principles

Illustration of idiom-variation principles

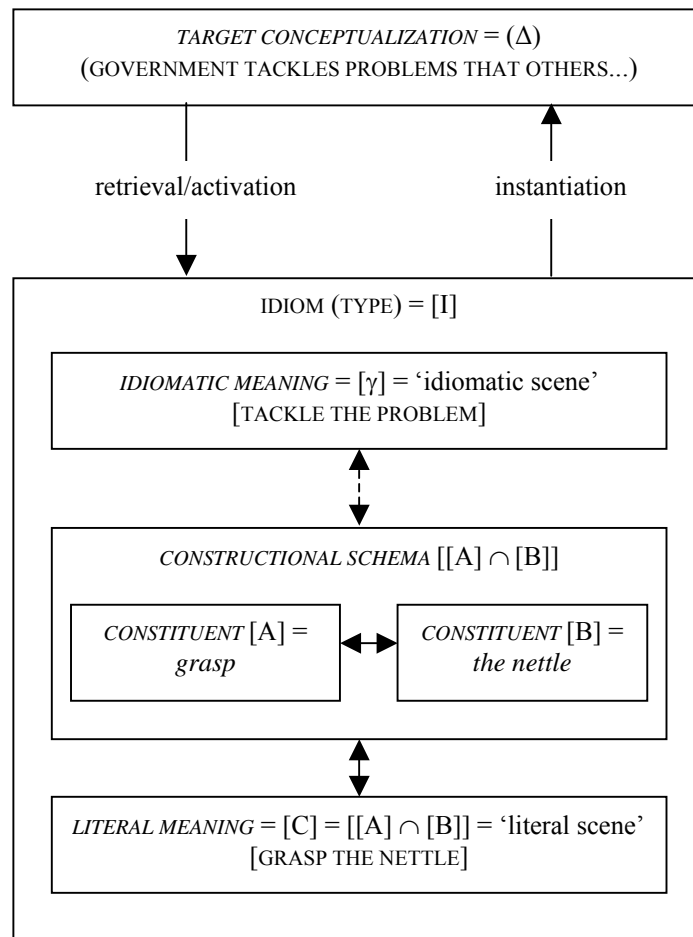
In this appendix, the five idiom-variation principles, as described in Chapter 6, are illustrated. The formulaic depictions follow Langacker’s categorisation formula for usage-events: [S] → (T). Correspondingly, creative idiomatic usage events are formalised and graphically represented as follows:

[I]	categorisation standard: the idiomatic configuration stored as a type
[A], [B]	idiomatic constituents
[α], [β]	correspondents of A and B in the idiomatic meaning
[C]	literal scene/literal meaning
[γ]	idiomatic scene/idiomatic meaning
(Δ)	the context-specific target conceptualisation onto which the denotation of [I] is mapped - its (contextual) referent.
(I _{VAR})	the newly computed ‘idiom variant’, (I _{VAR}), which has the status of an occasional, transitory novel standard to categorize the context-specific usage event, (I _U).
[VAR]	the linguistic unit(s) that are activated to interact with [I] to compute (I _{VAR}). [VAR] usually consists of (a) specific lexical unit(s), but may also involve (a) lexically non-specific constructional schema(s), (e.g., [PLURAL/-s]). In other words [VAR] subsumes morphosyntactic, lexical and syntactic alterations of the idiomatic base-form.
[E]	the predication of [VAR]. In the case of [VAR] being a constructional schema, [E] has the function of an alternative construal of [C].
(ε)	the idiomatic interpretation that [E] receives on the level of the idiomatic meaning.
(C _{VAR})	the adapted literal scene (literal meaning) that is associated with the idiom variant.
(γ _{VAR})	the idiomatic meaning of the newly computed idiomatic variant.

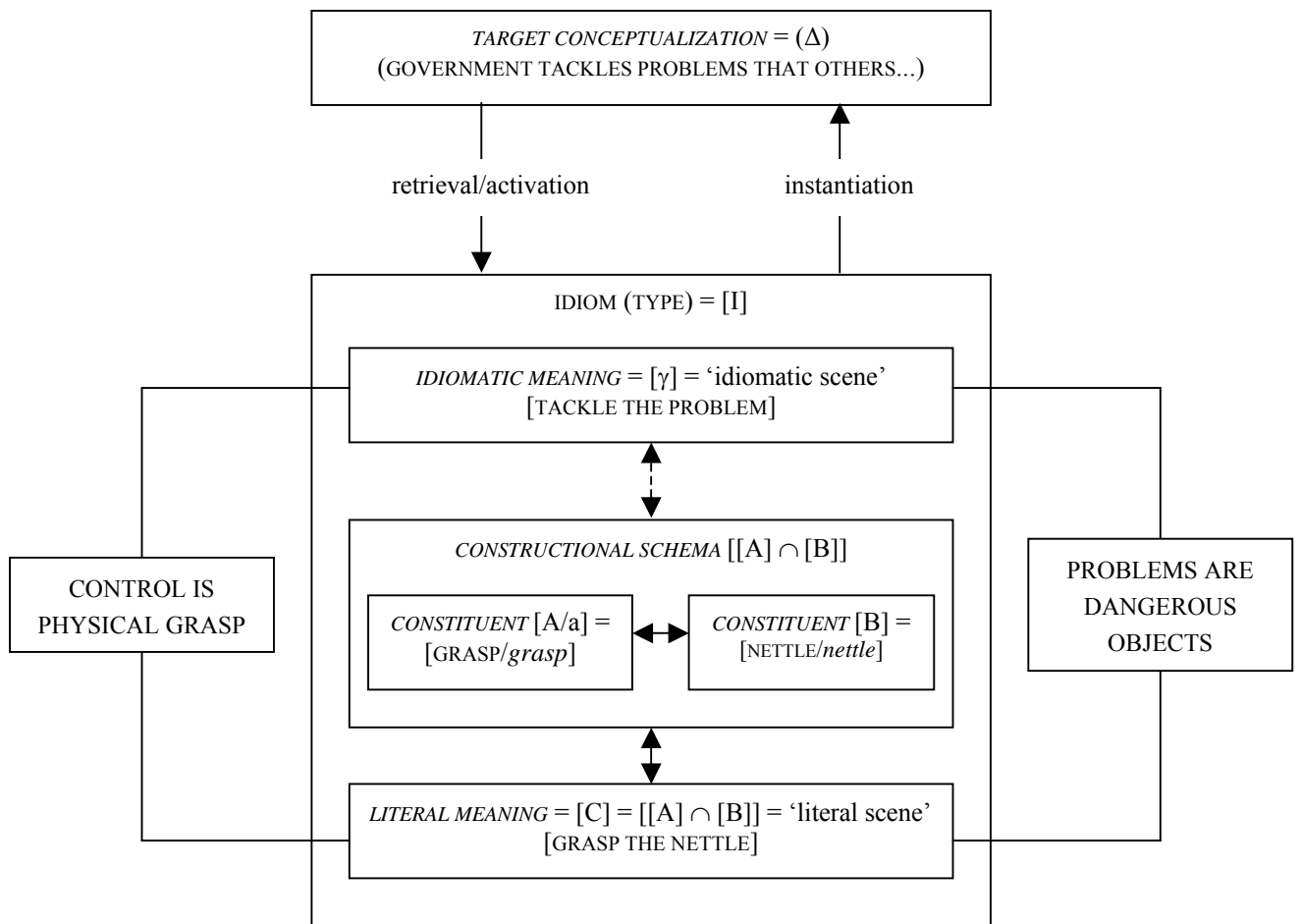
Constructional adaptations

For this idiom-variation principle the steps of manipulating [I] to compute (I_{VAR}) are illustrated in detail. The figures refer to the example discussed in Section 6.2. of the book: *that governments grasped nettles that others ...*

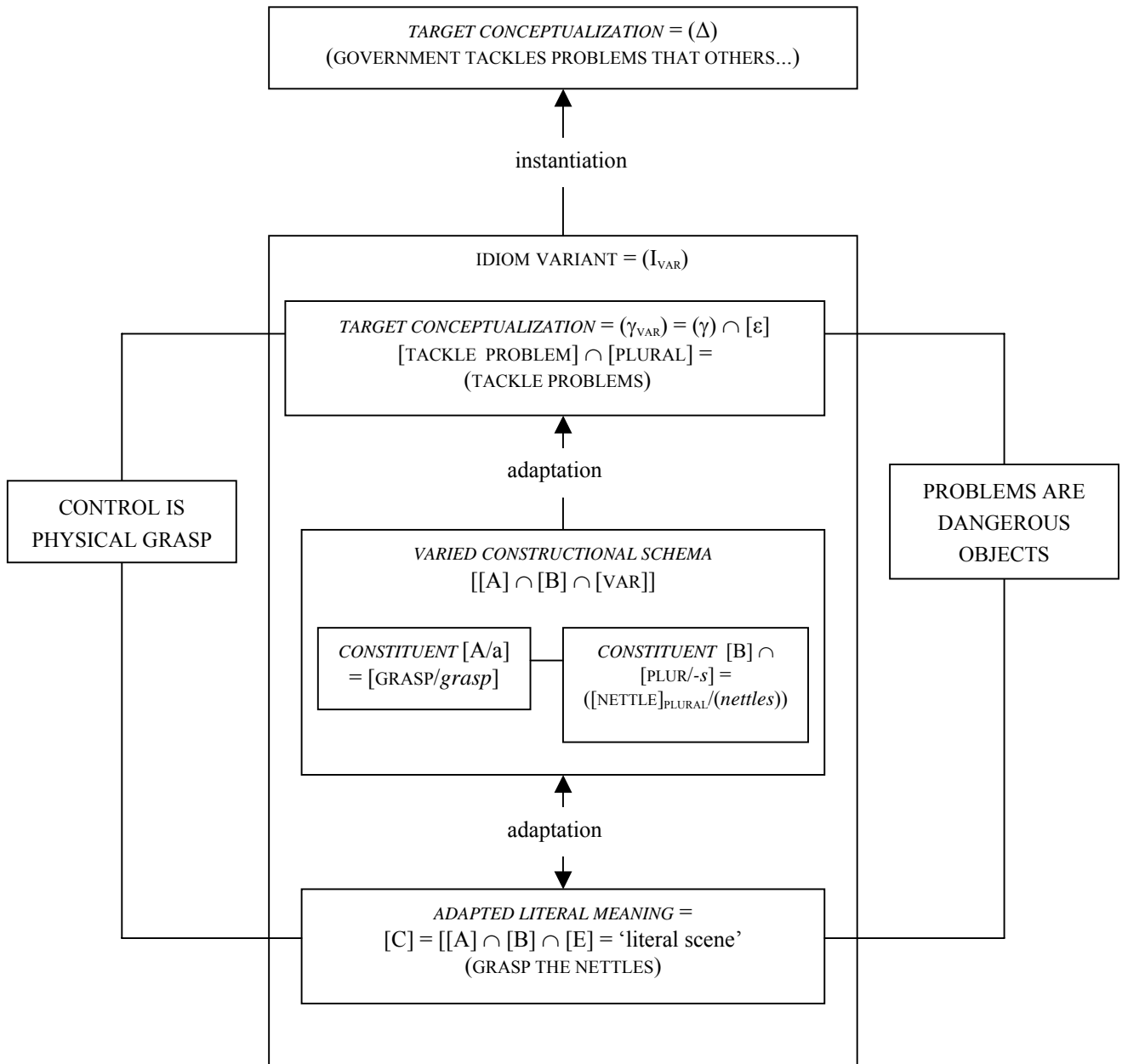
Step 1: Retrieval



Step 2: Instantiation of analysable/isomorphic structure relative to conceptual metaphors

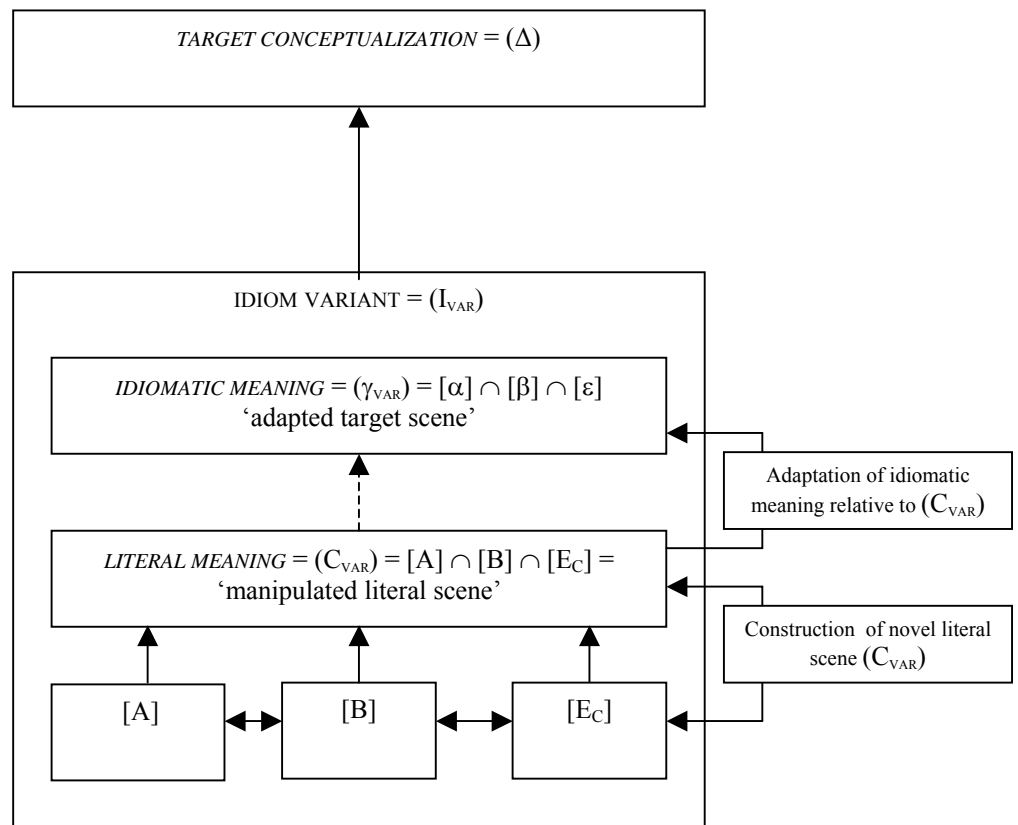


Step 3: Adaptation of formal structure (plural inflection) as mediated by literal scene and conceptual metaphors



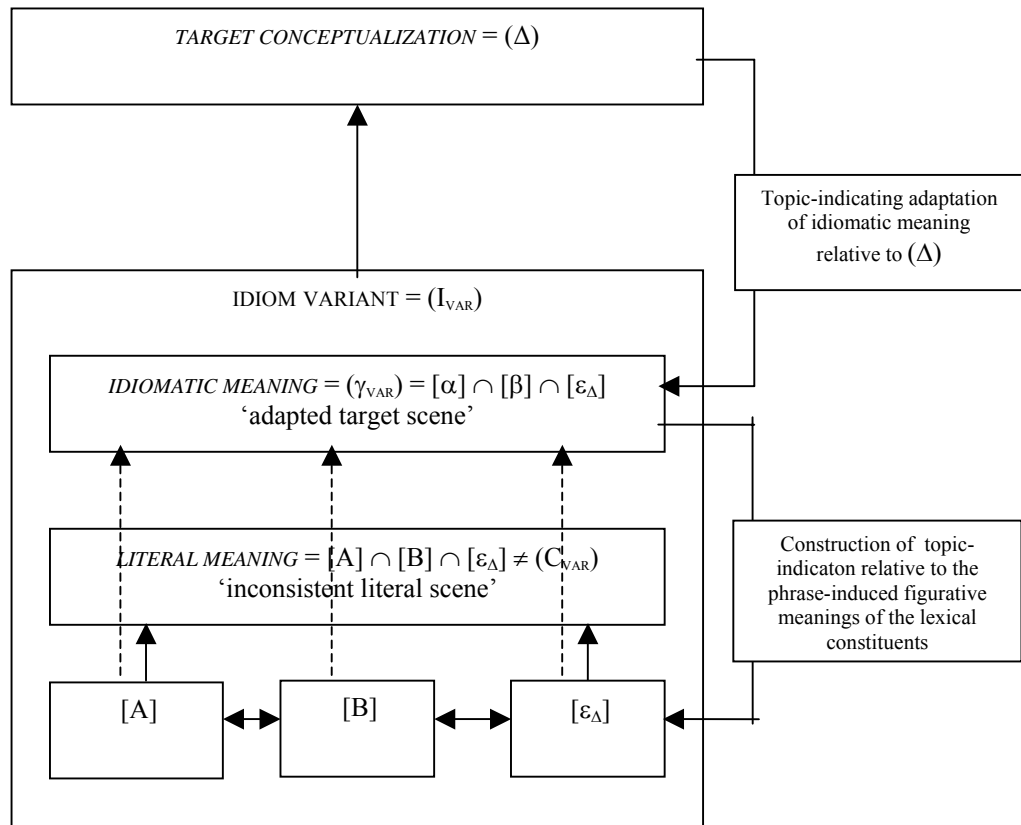
Literal-scene manipulation

I am using the subscript, C, in $[E_C]$ to mark the fact that $[E]$ is fully consistent with $[C]$.



Topic indication

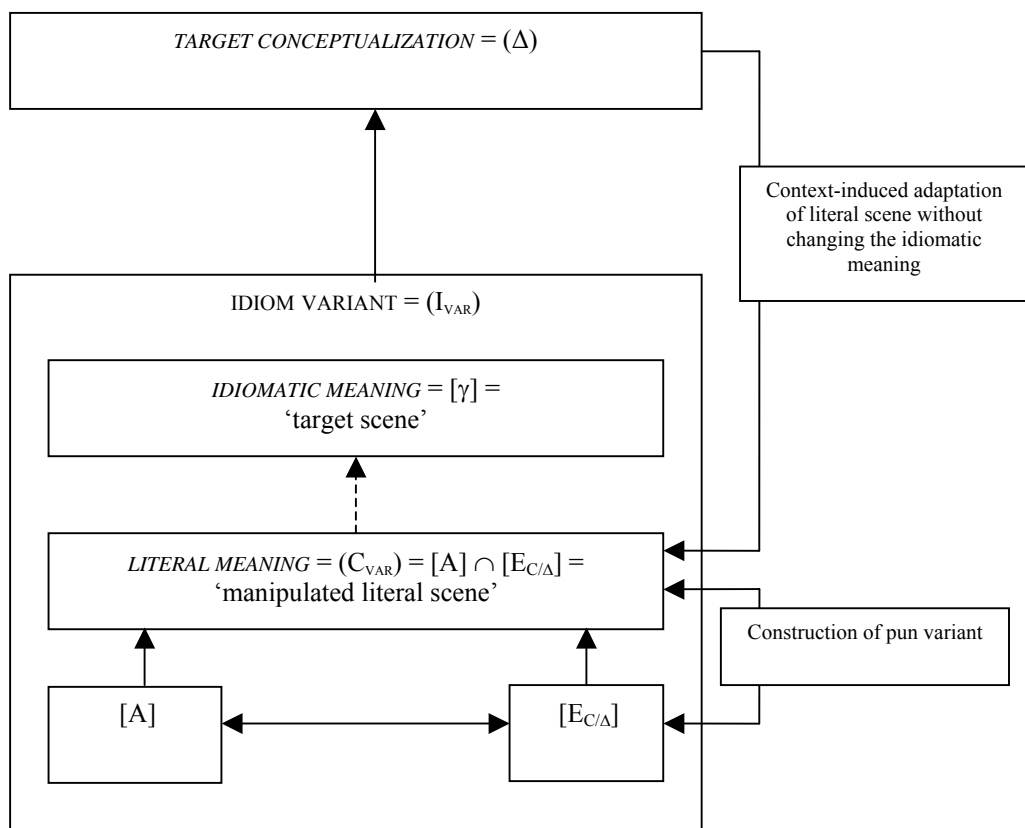
The subscript Δ , in $[\varepsilon_\Delta]$ indicates that $[\varepsilon]$ relates $[\gamma]$ to the usage context, (DOMAIN_Δ) .



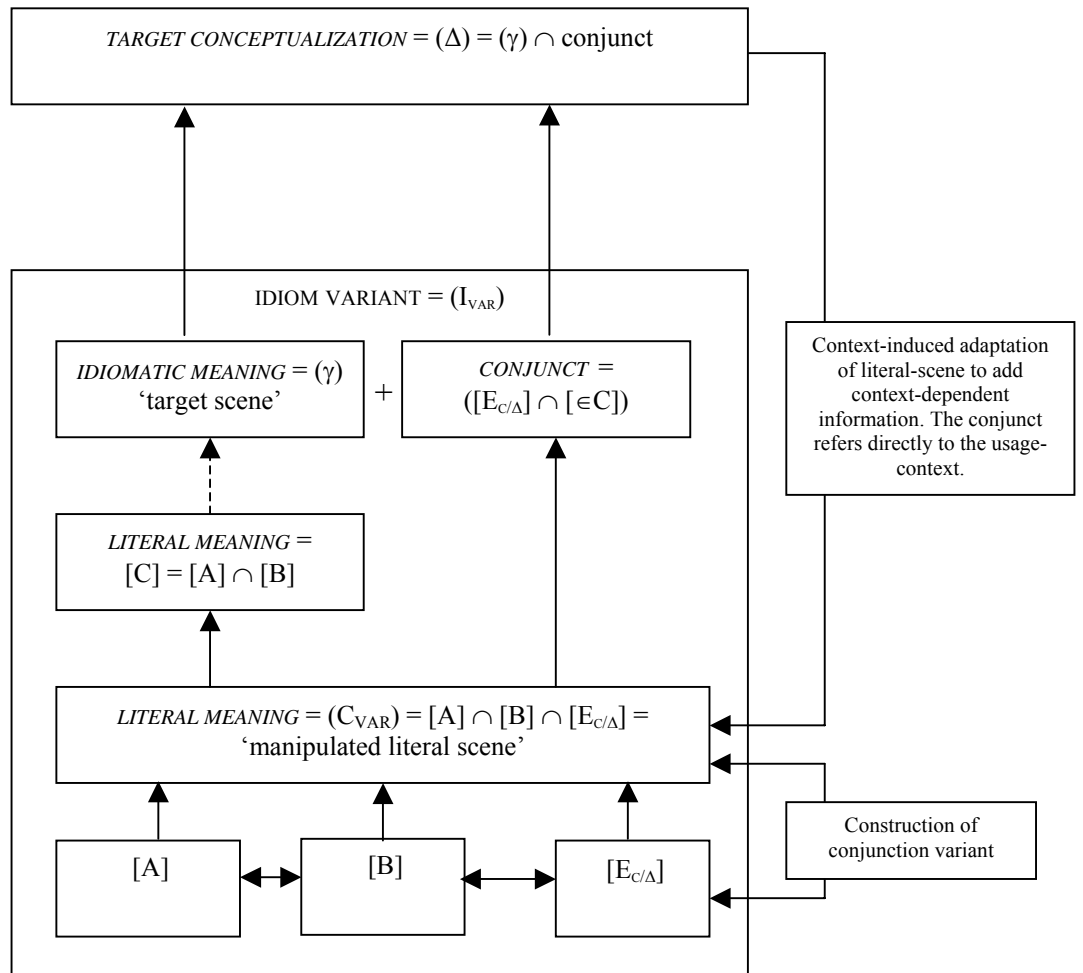
Topic-related literal-scene manipulation

a. Through lexical substitution

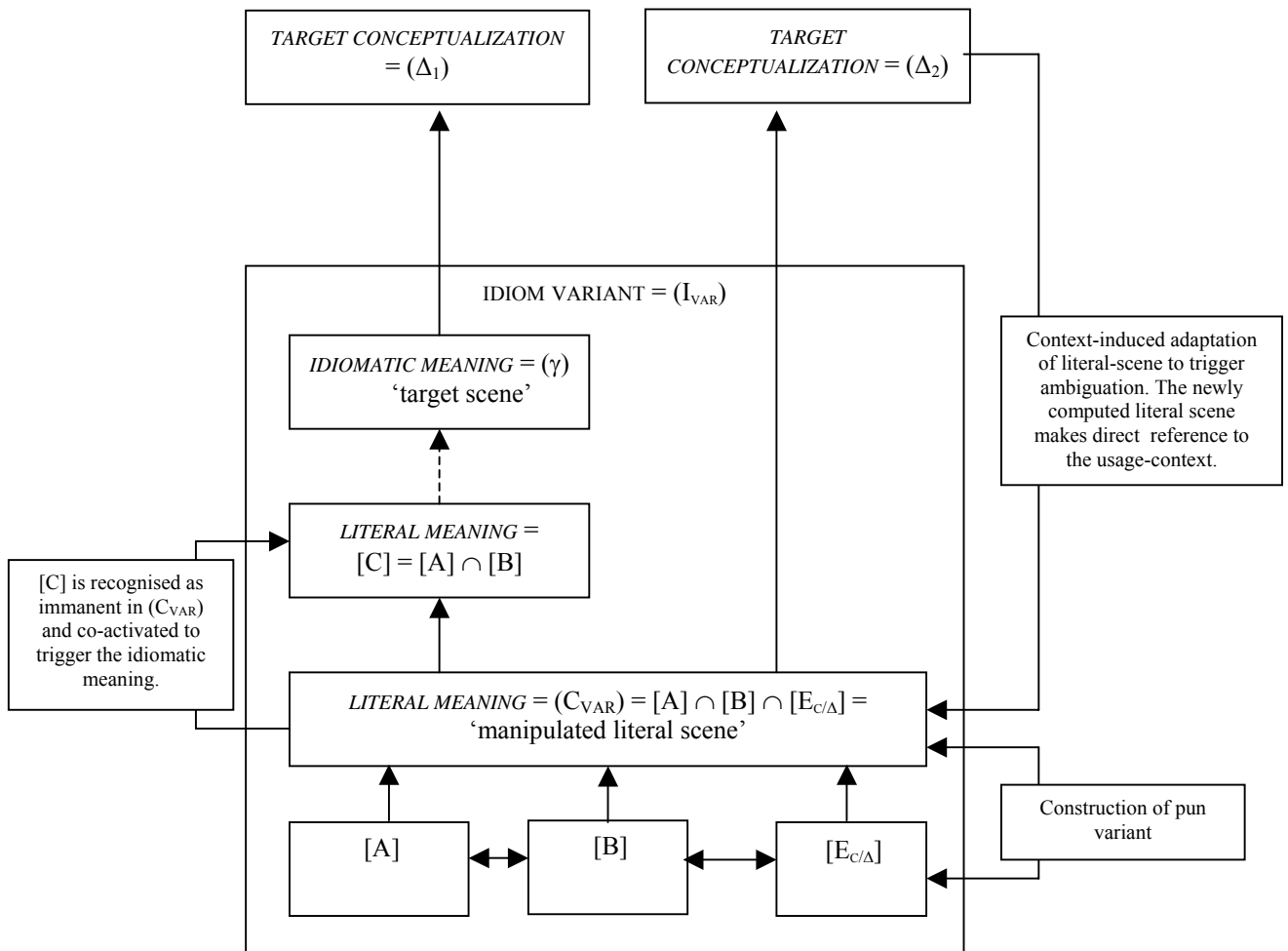
The subscript C, Δ , in $[E_{C, \Delta}]$ indicates that the newly computed literal-scene (C_{VAR}) relates $[I]$ to the usage context, ($DOMAIN_{\Delta}$).



b. Conjunction



Ambiguation



Overview of constraining and supporting factors for systematic idiom-variation

