

# Denominative variation and the dynamics of special knowledge construction in texts

Sabela Fernández-Silva

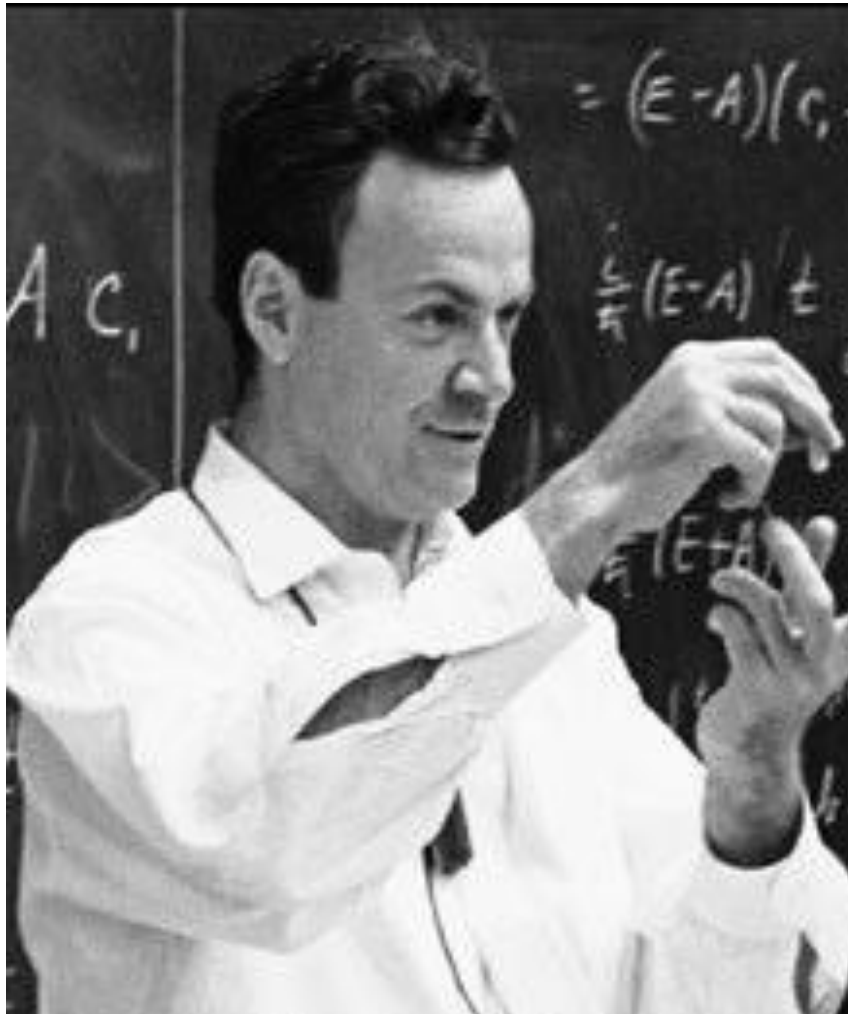
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso  
(Valparaíso, Chile)

**CRAL 2013. III International Conference on Meaning Construction, Meaning Interpretation: Applications and Implications**  
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# Outline

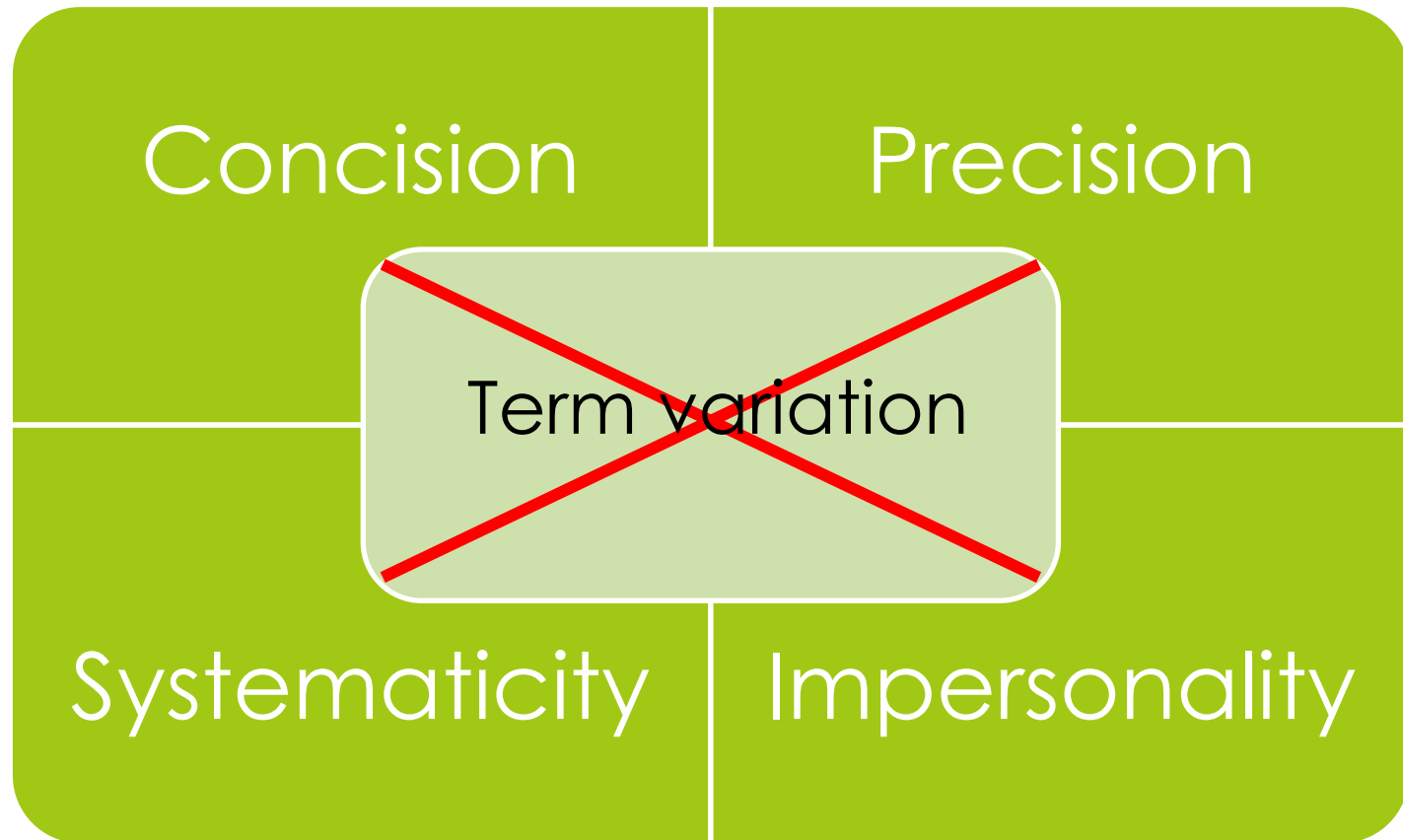
- Terminological variation: motivation and functionality
- Intra-textual Term Variation
- Research: Denominative variation in academic texts in Psychology
  - Role in knowledge construction
  - Distribution along text
- Conclusions and future work

# Specialised discourse according to experts

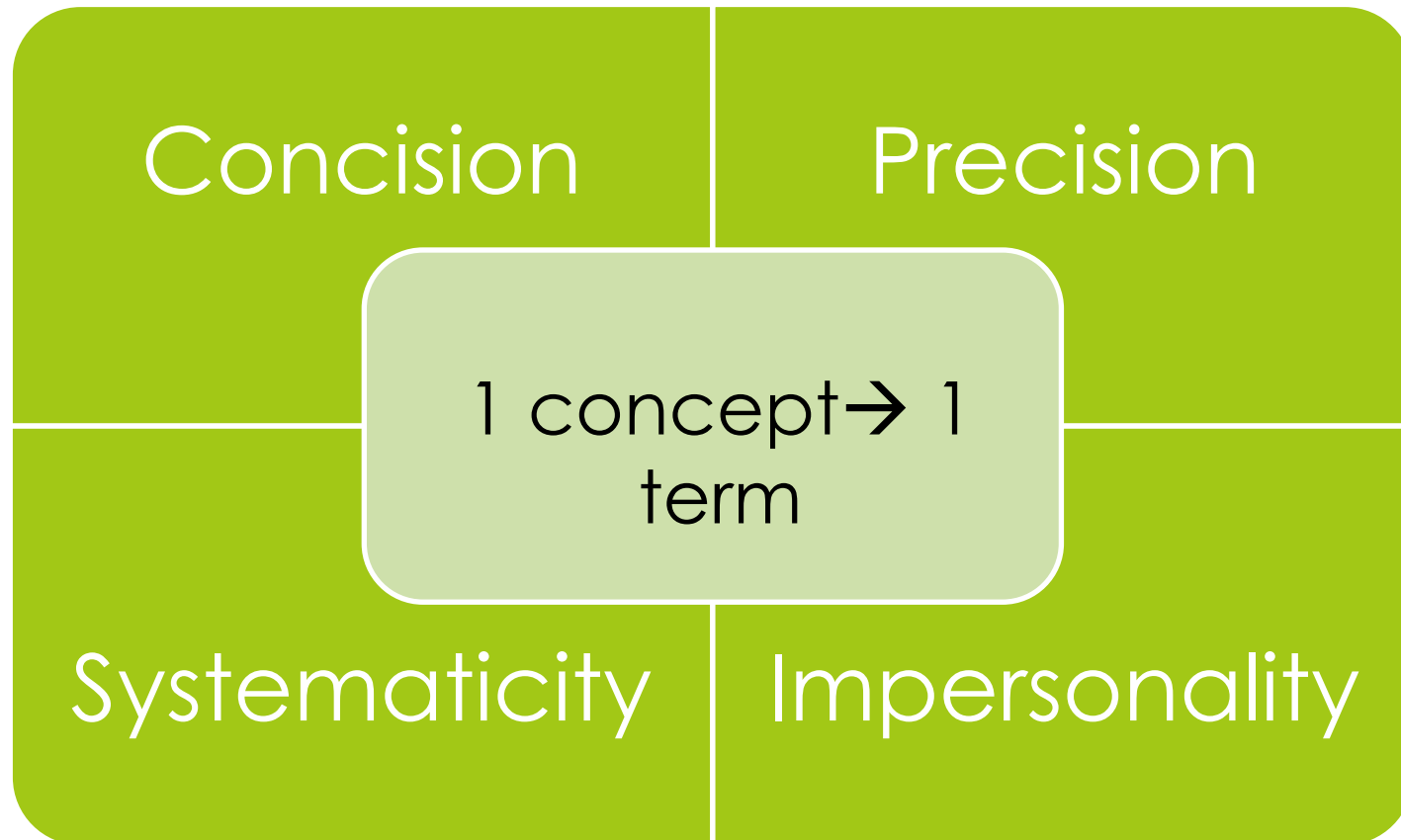


- Quick and efficient transfer of specialised knowledge
- Facilitate communication among experts

# Characteristics of specialised discourse



# Characteristics of specialised discourse

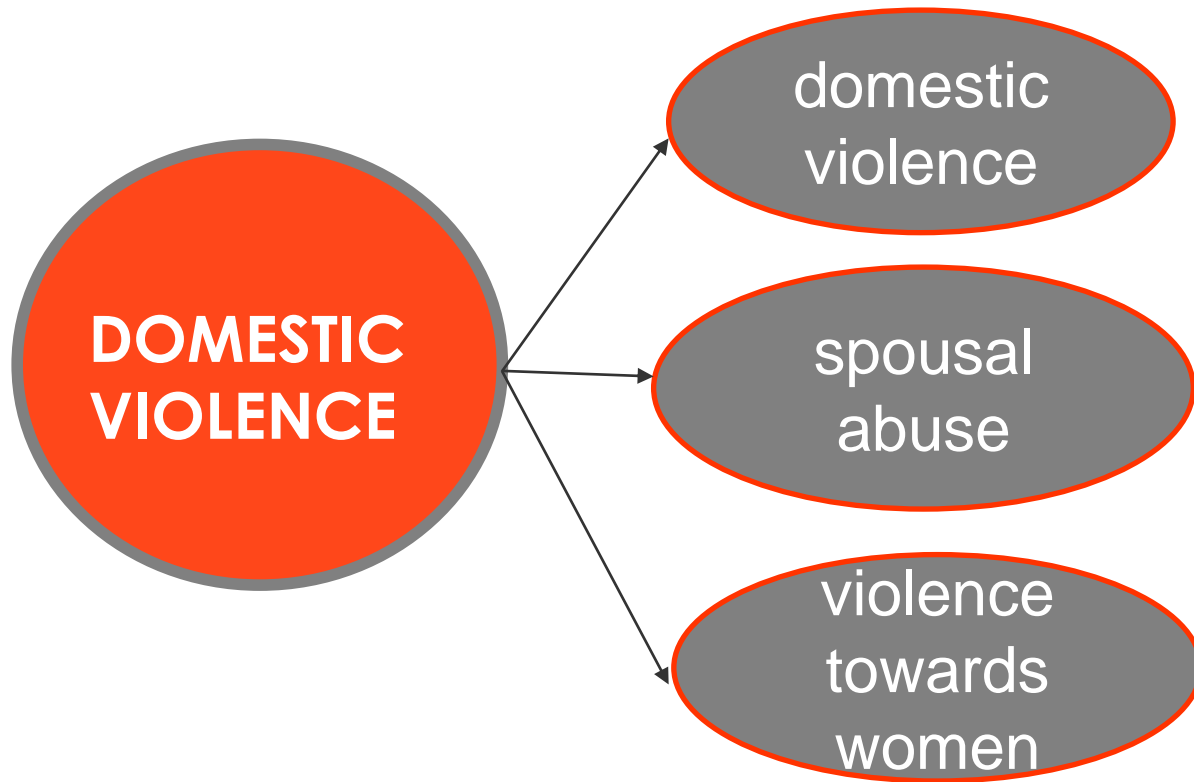


# Variation in specialised discourse



- Different perspectives on the same reality (Temmerman 2000)
- Different socioprofessional groups (Gaudin 2003, Diki-Kidiri 2010)
- Different communicative scenarios, participants, purposes (Cabré 1999)

# Denominative variation with cognitive consequences



■ Reflects a viewpoint

■ Affects the way the concept is understood

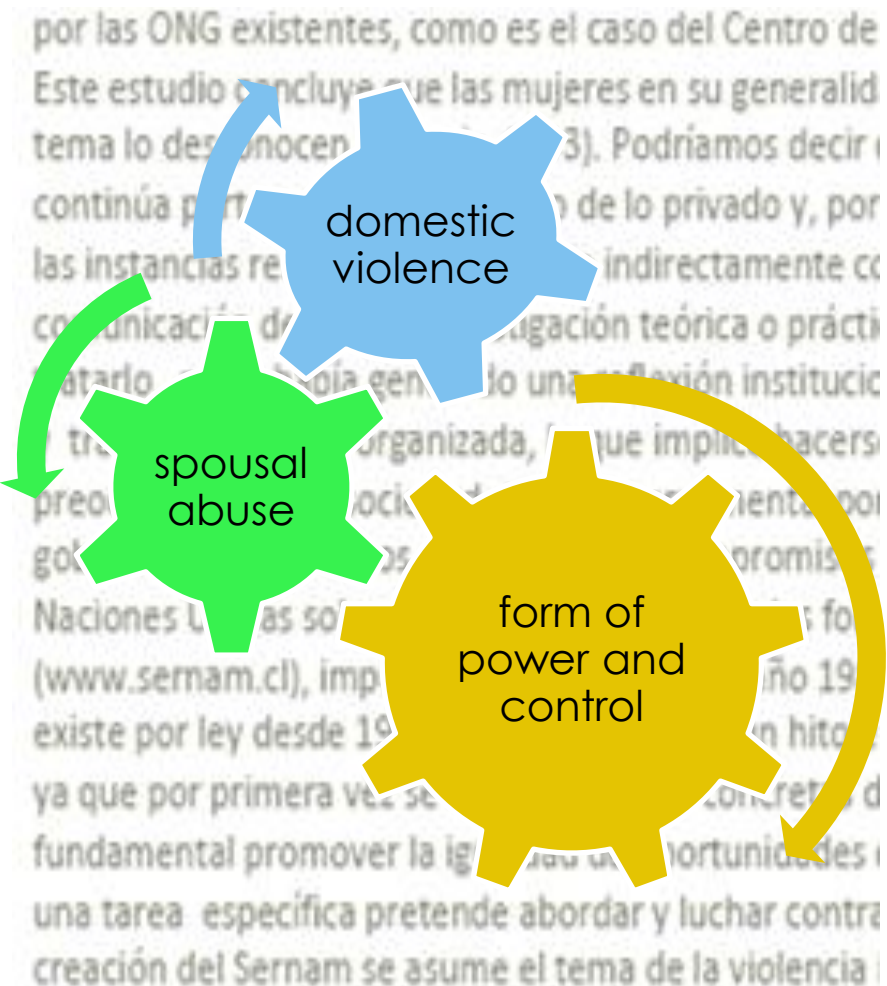
# Intra-textual term variation



- Stylistic function
  - Avoid repetition
  - Creative, expressive needs
- Cognitive function
  - Knowledge construction and transfer

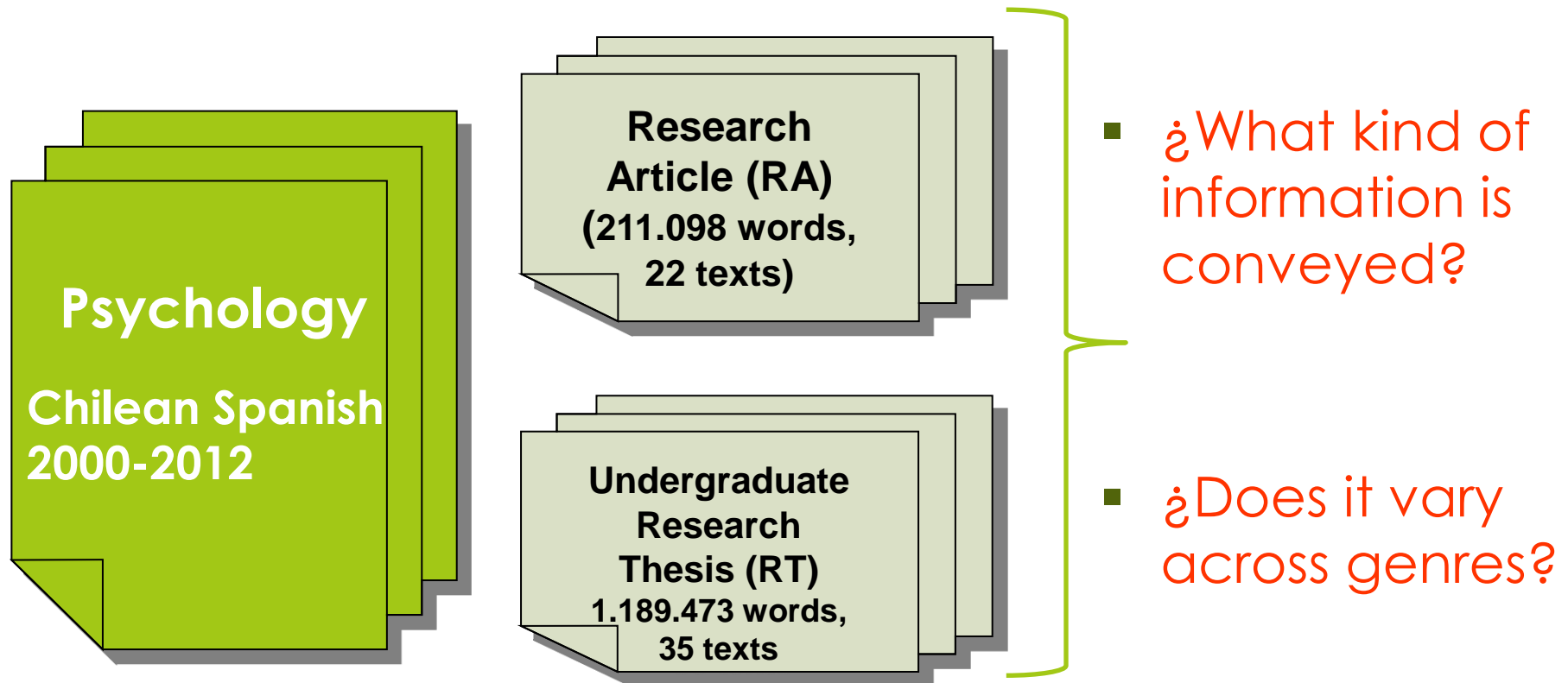


# Term variation has a cognitive function



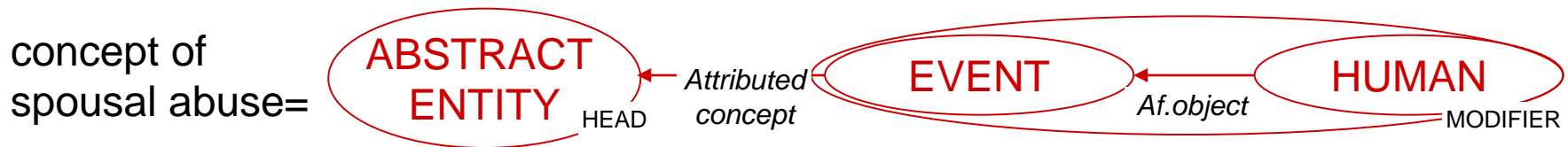
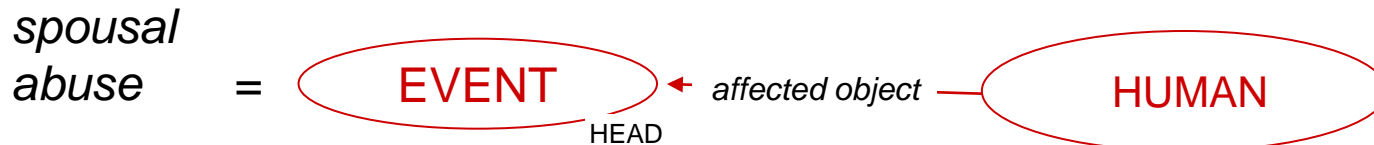
- Emphasises different conceptual features (Mortureux 1997; Freixa 2002)
- Provides a enriched conceptual representation (Rogers 2004)
- Contributes to text coherence (Collet 1997, Adelstein 2002)

# Role of Intra-textual Term Variation in knowledge construction



# Methodology

- Conceptual information displayed by term variants

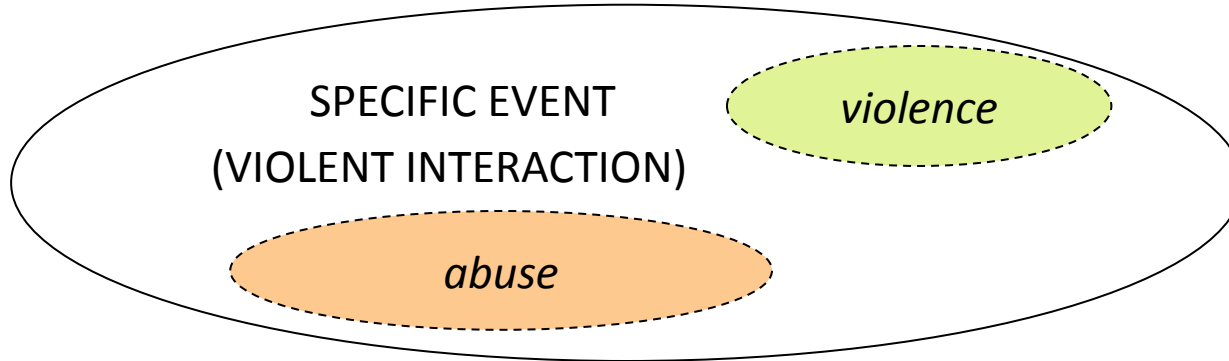


# Results

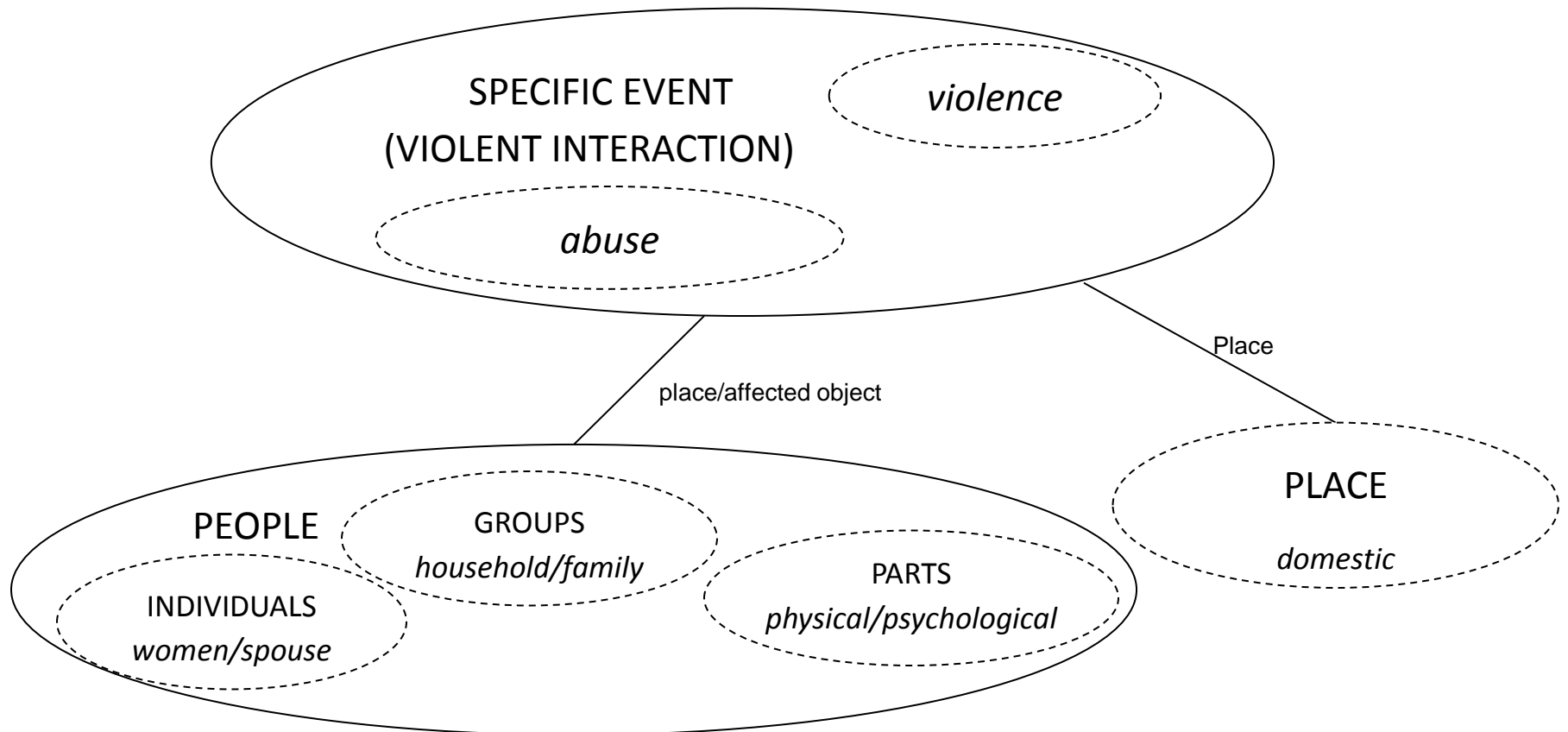
- Role in knowledge construction
  - Intracategorical information
    - Concept characteristics and dimensions
  - Intercategorical information
    - Relationship with other concepts within structure of subject field

# INTRACATEGORIAL STRUCTURE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(TP 2005\_84) : *Violence, violence against women, domestic violence, process of violence, concept of spousal abuse, situation of household violence, family violence against women*

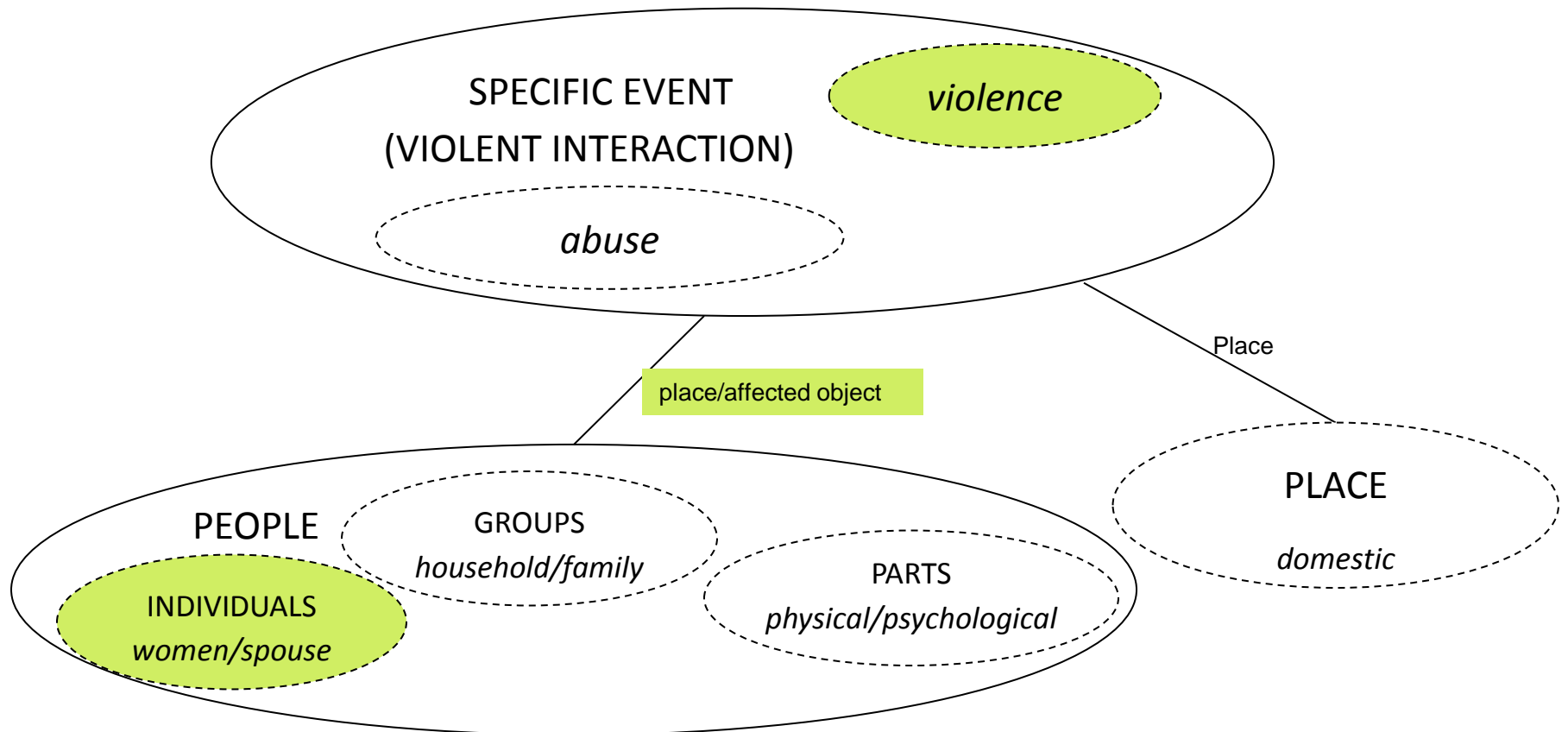


# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



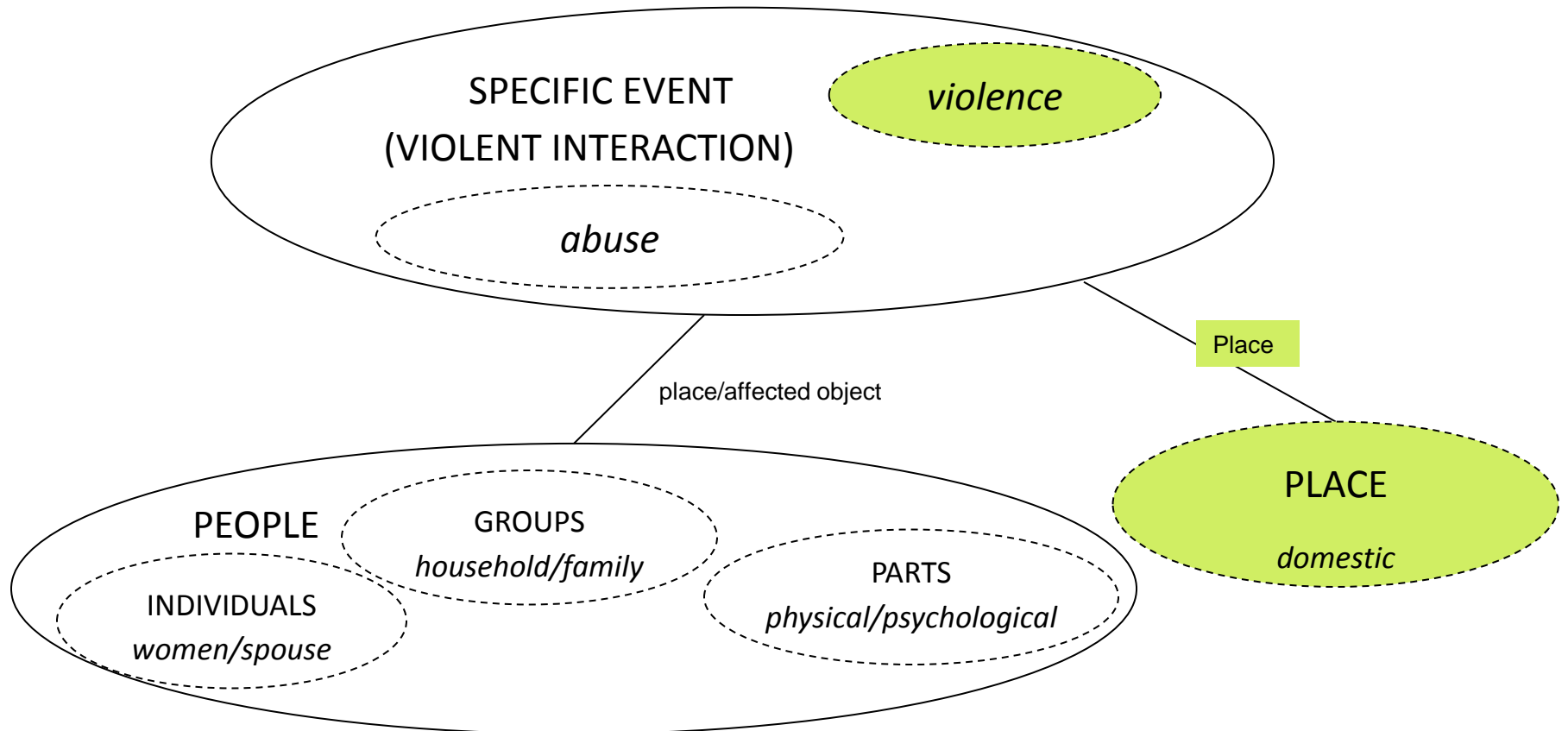
# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*Violence, violence against women*



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

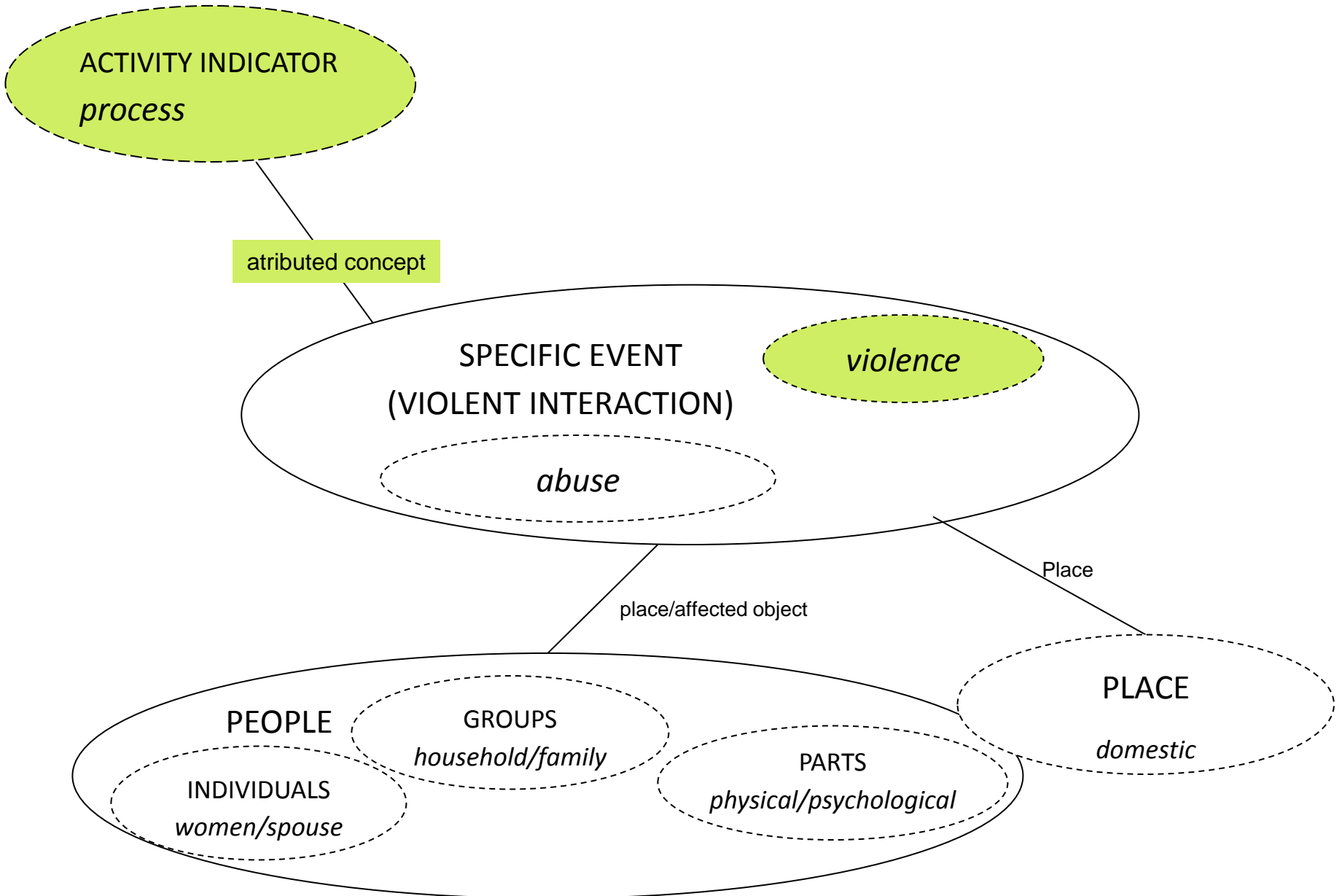
*Violence, violence against women, domestic violence*





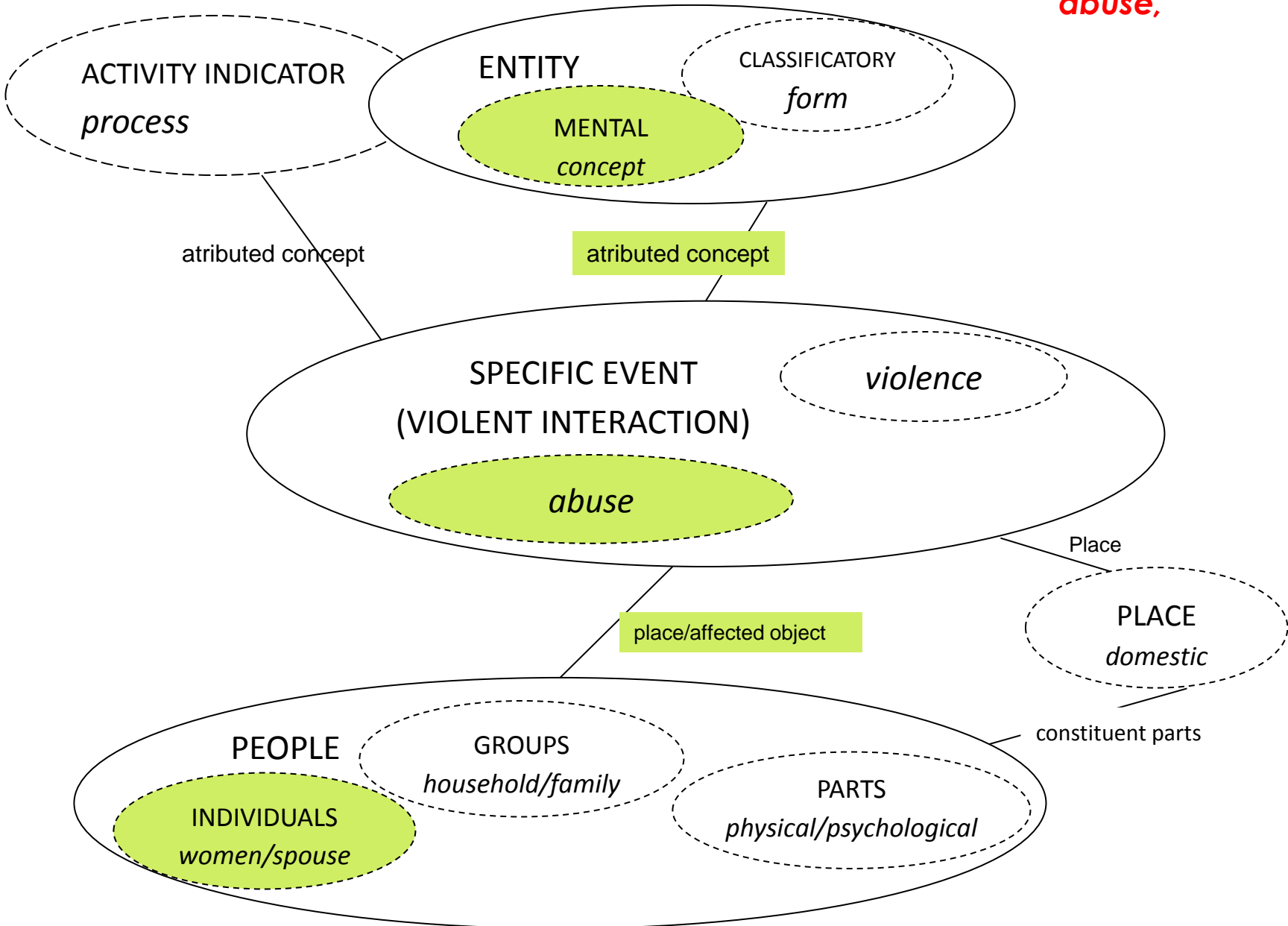
# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*Violence, violence against women, domestic violence, process of violence*



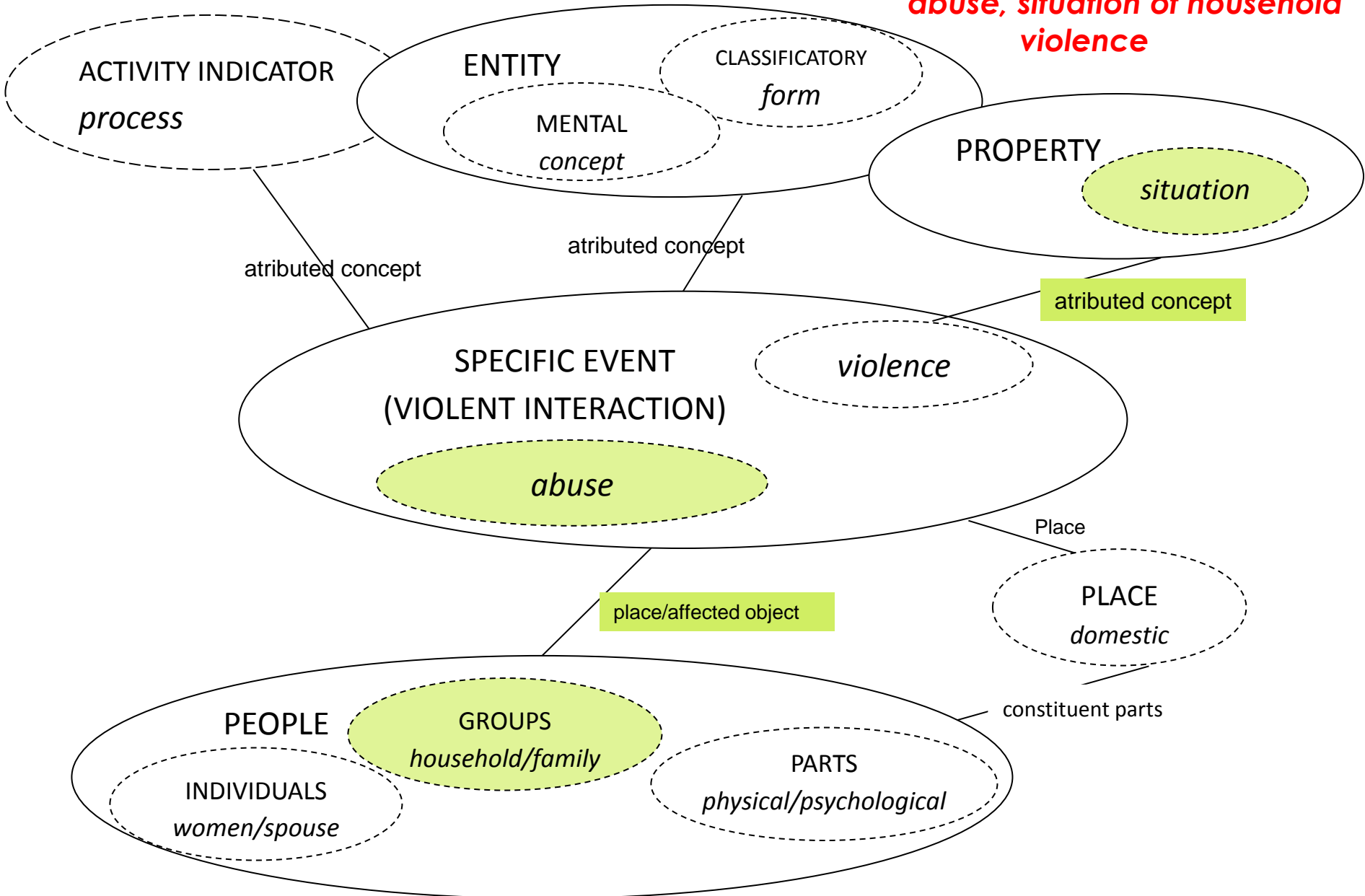
# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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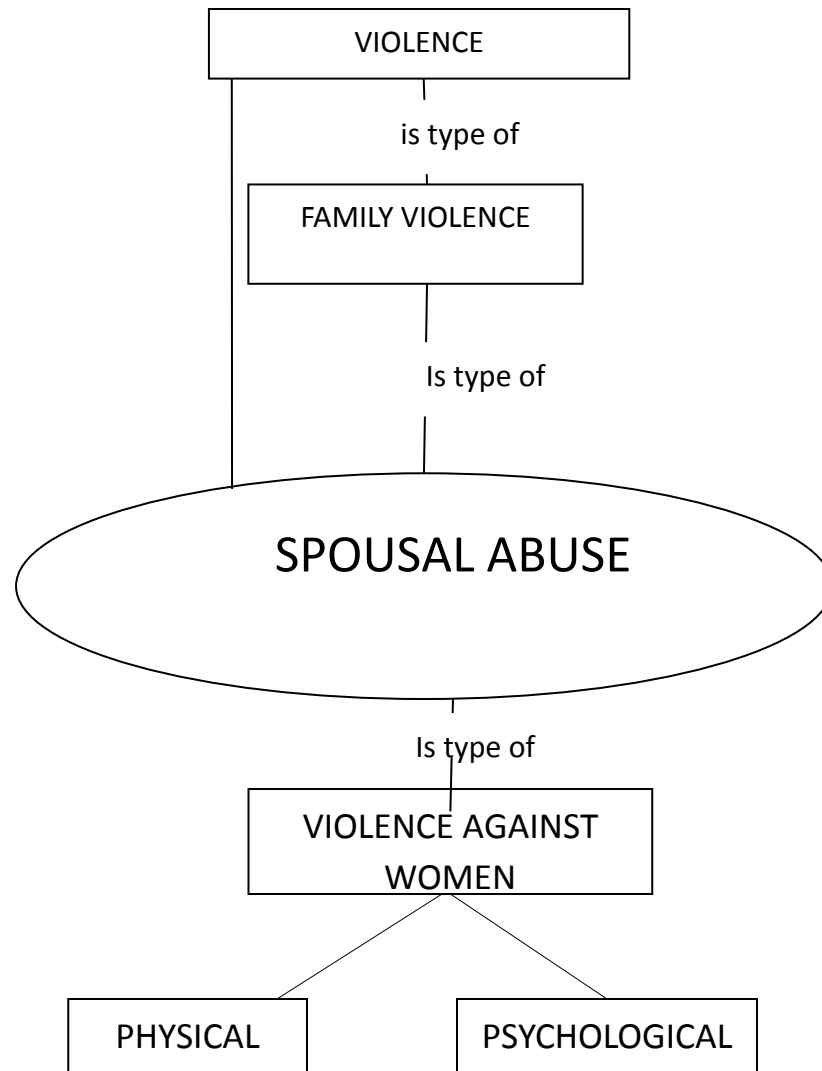
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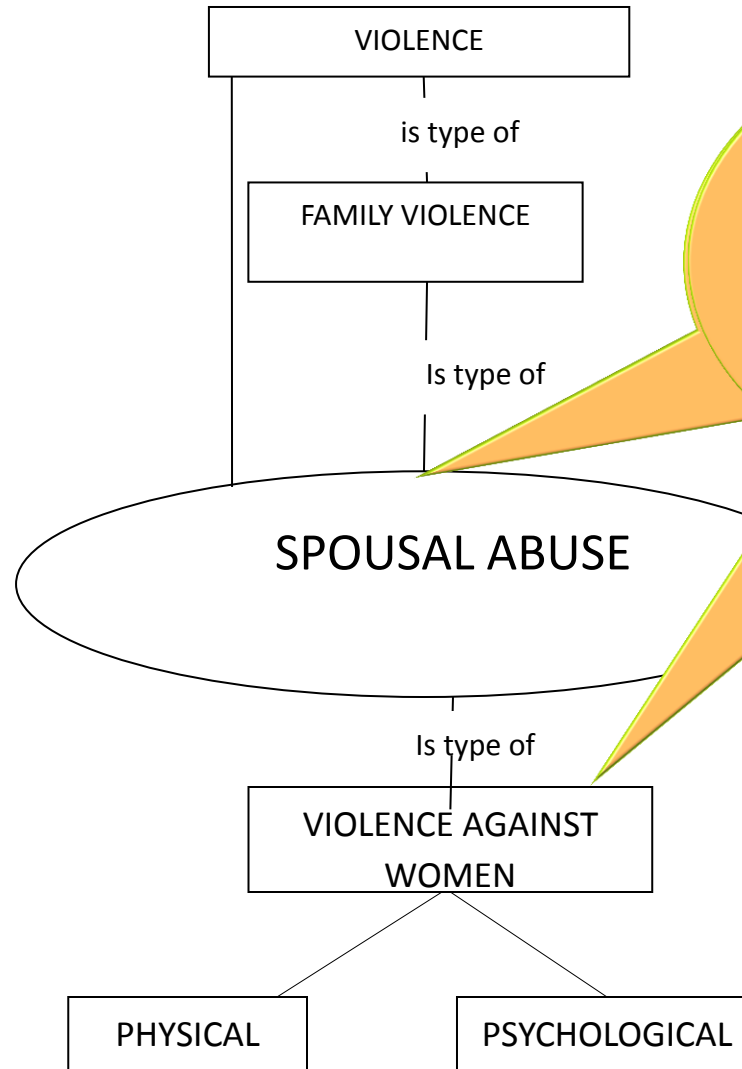
# Results

- Role in knowledge construction
  - Intracategorical information
    - Concept characteristics and dimensions
  - Intercategorical information
    - Relationship with other concepts within structure of subject field

# INTERCATEGORIAL STRUCTURE (TP 2005\_84)



# INTERCATEGORIAL STRUCTURE (TP 2005\_84)



“For the first time in history **family violence against women** was recognised as a human right violation”

# Results

- Role in knowledge construction
  - Intracategorical information
    - Concept characteristics and dimensions
  - Intercategorical information
    - Relationship with other concepts within structure of subject field
- Term variation and text parts
  - Relationship between communicative purpose and term choice

# Scientific article (AIC-5)

1. Title

Pacientes diagnosticados con VIH/SIDA

Seropositivo

Caso

2. Introduction

Persona con VIH/SIDA

Personas infectadas

■ dynamics of cognition

3. Methods

Pacientes diagnosticados con VIH/SIDA

Sujetos

Participantes

Personas

muestra

■ Strong contextual dependency

4. Results

Pacientes de nuestro estudio

Sujetos del estudio

5. Discussion

Pacientes con VIH/SIDA

Personas con VIH/SIDA



# Conclusions and future work

## ...SO FAR

- ▣ First qualitative results on intratextual term variation
  - ▣ Intra and intercategory structure
  - ▣ Relationship with text parts

## FUTURE WORK...

- ▣ Quantitative analysis in bigger corpus
  - ▣ Are differences statistically significant?
- ▣ Does variation improve comprehension?
  - ▣ Reading comprehension tests

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