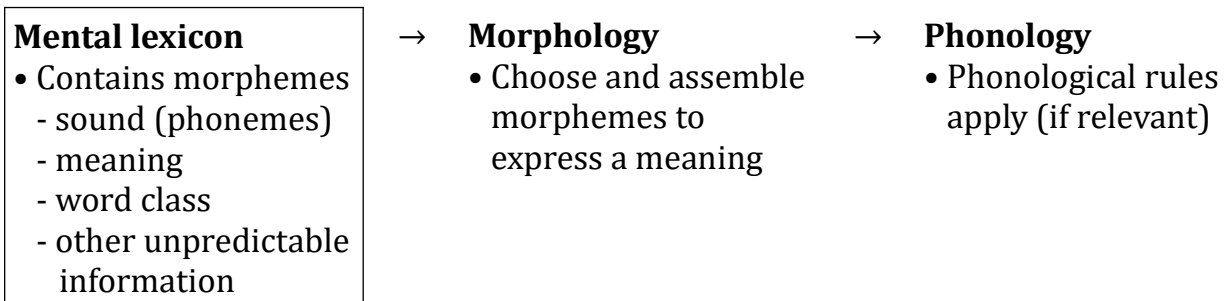


Morphology in the mental grammar

- (1) We have made the following proposals about morphemes and morphological structure:
- (a) A morpheme is a **minimal unit of sound-meaning correspondence**
 - (b) The relationship between a chunk of sound structure and a meaning is arbitrary (< Saussure) — which is to say **unpredictable**
 - (c) Thus, a morpheme, including its sound shape and meaning plus any other unpredictable information (such as its word class or any irregular behavior), must be memorized by the learner and **stored in the mental lexicon**
 - Implication: Morphemes are stored at the **phoneme** (not allophone) level of representation
 - (d) Words are built by **choosing** one or more morphemes from the mental lexicon and **combining them**
 - The meaning of the word is built from the meaning of its parts
 - The sound shape of the word may undergo phonological rules (including allophone rules and sometimes also exceptional, morpheme-specific rules), if the environments of the rules are met
 - Remember to think about selecting a **root** and **affixes** to combine, ***not*** starting from a “dictionary form” and *removing* some morphemes before adding others
 - (e) Complex words, or even phrases, can also be stored in the mental lexicon if their meaning is unpredictable (example: idioms)
- (2) A diagram: The lexicon, morphology, and phonology



Examples:

/siro/ ‘white’, A /-i/ NONPAST (for A)	→	/siro-i/ <i>white</i> -NONPAST ‘is white’	→	[ɕiroi]
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