

Introduction to Linguistics:

Phonology: encoding words

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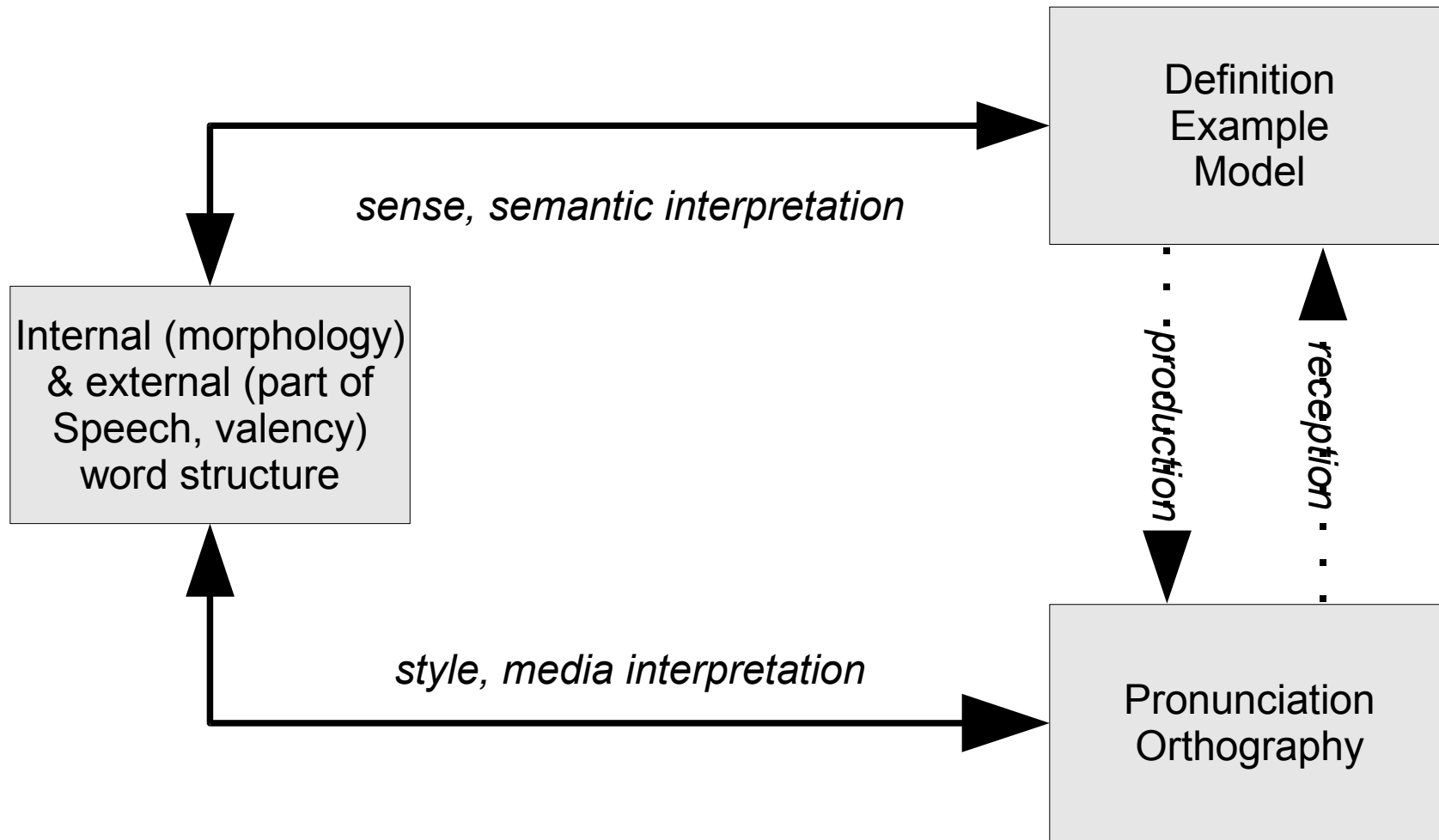
B.A. British And American Studies
Basic Module 2

Winter Semester 2006/2007

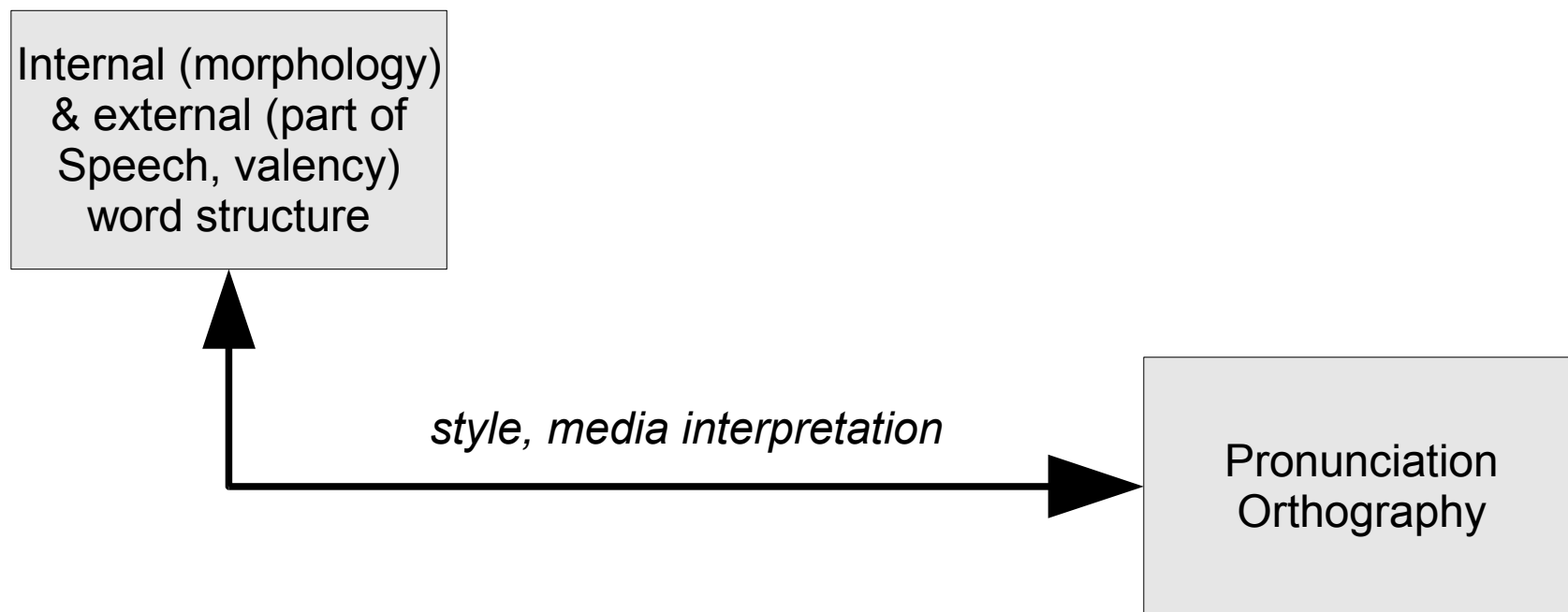
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PHONOLOGY:
ENCODING WORDS WITH
PHONEMES
(acoustic encoding)
or
GRAPHEMES
(visual encoding)

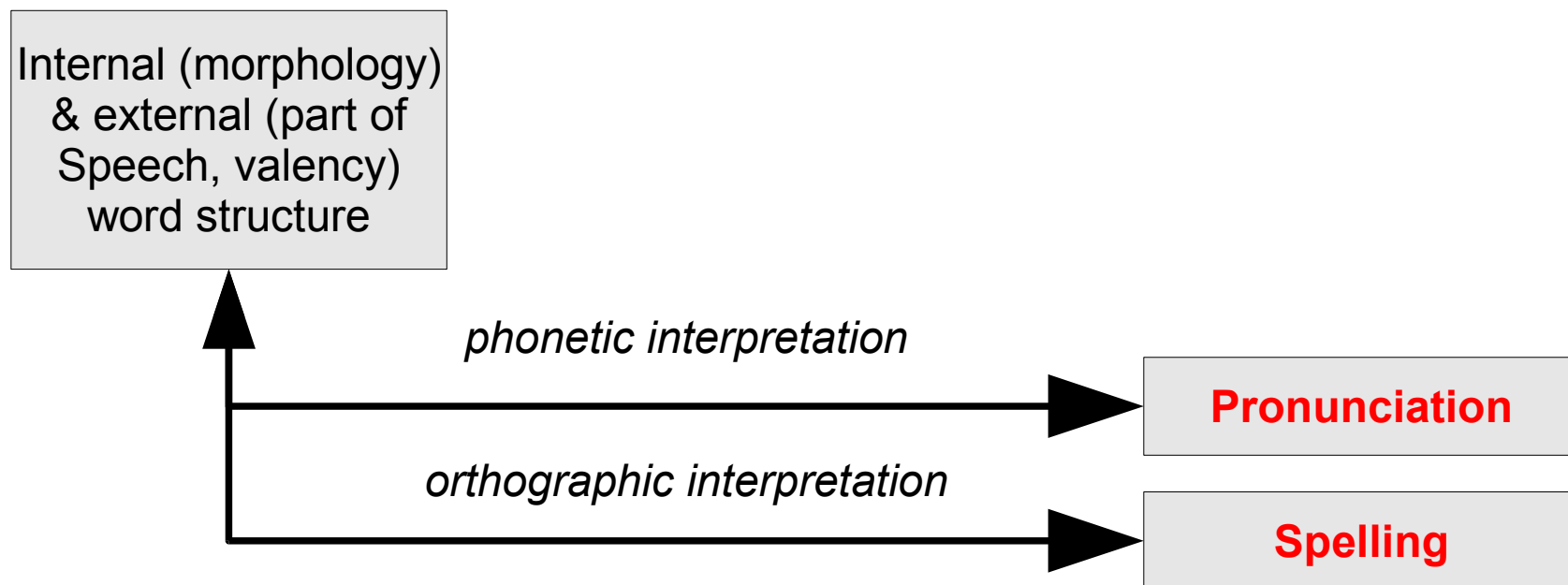
Words, stems, etc. are SIGNS



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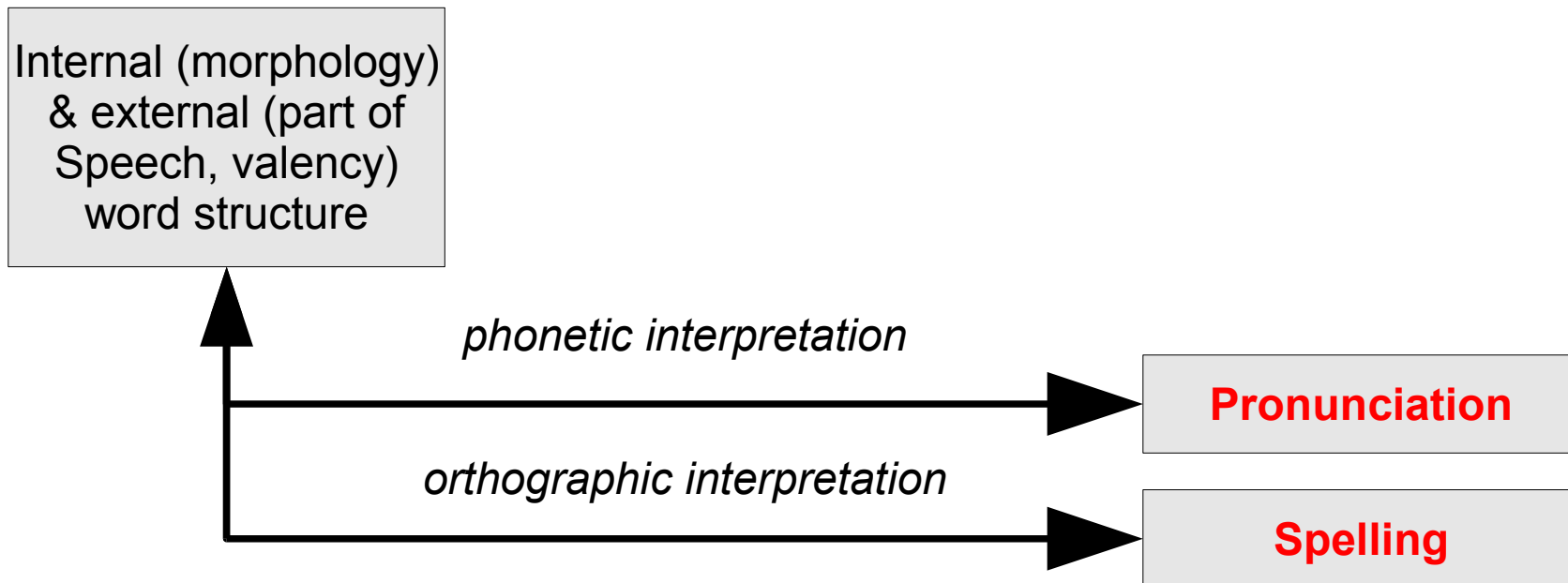


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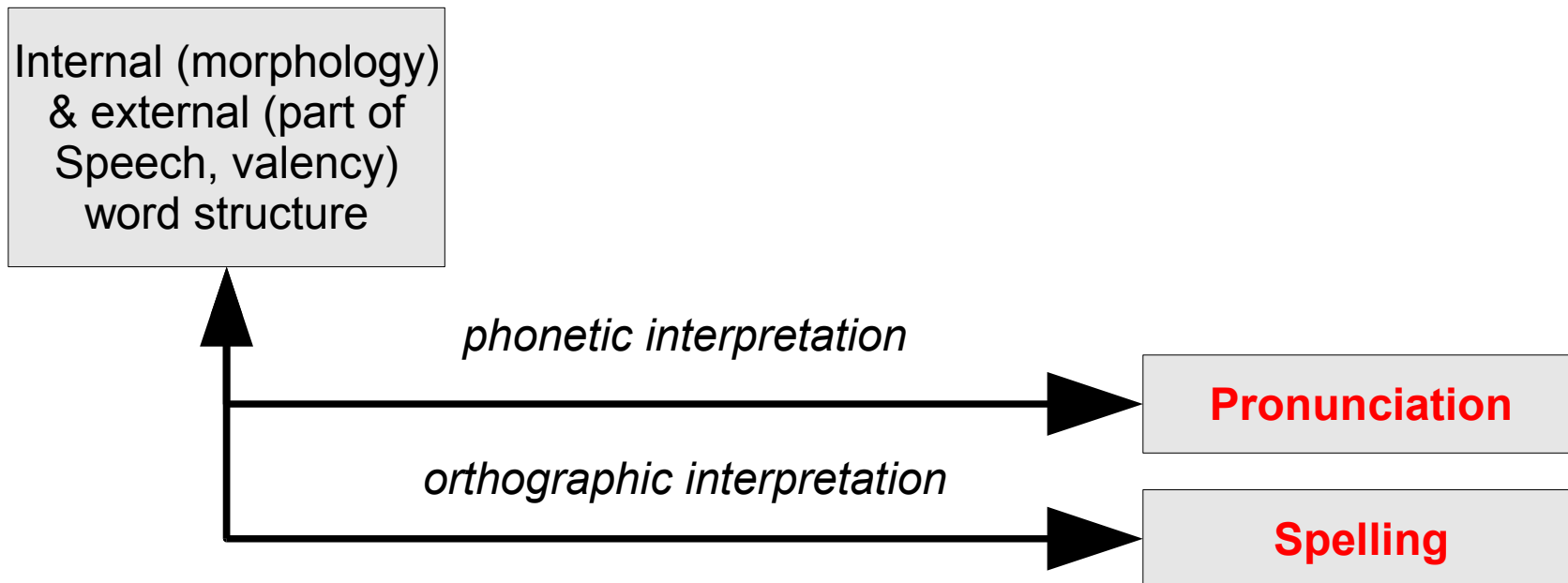
Realisation of words

- Pronunciation rules (acoustic modality)
- Spelling (visual modality)
- Sound-spelling rules (inter-modality conversion)

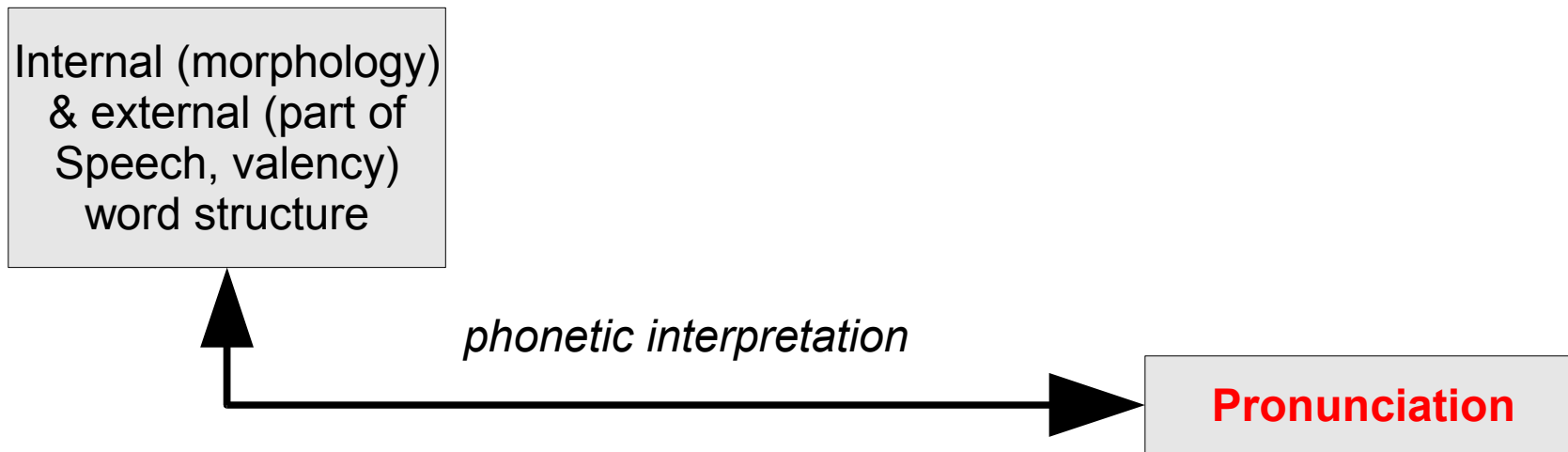


Rendering structures

- Pronunciation rules (acoustic modality)
- Spelling (visual modality)
- Sound-spelling rules (inter-modality conversion)



Representation of sounds.



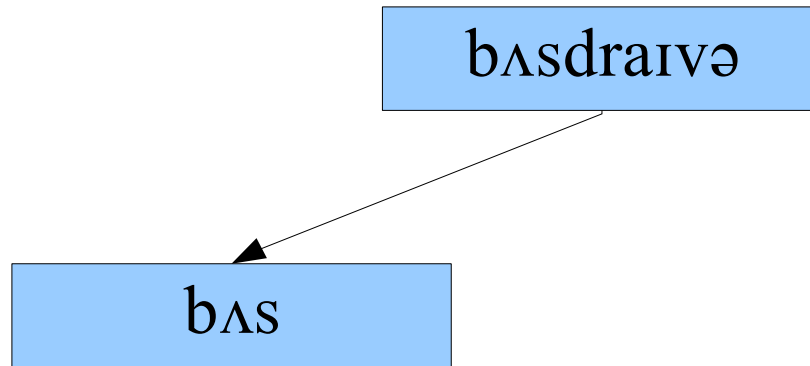
Representation of sounds.

- The prosodic hierarchy:
 - phonemes:
 - function: “smallest word-distinguishing segments”
 - internal structure: “configurations of distinctive phonetic features”
 - external structure (see syllables)
 - rendering: “contextual variants”, “allophones”
 - syllables:
 - function: “word distinguishing phoneme configurations”
 - internal structure: “configurations of sequential features (consonantal, vocalic; voiced, unvoiced; ...) and simultaneous features (tone, accent)
 - external structure (word)
 - rendering: a function of the rendering of phonemes

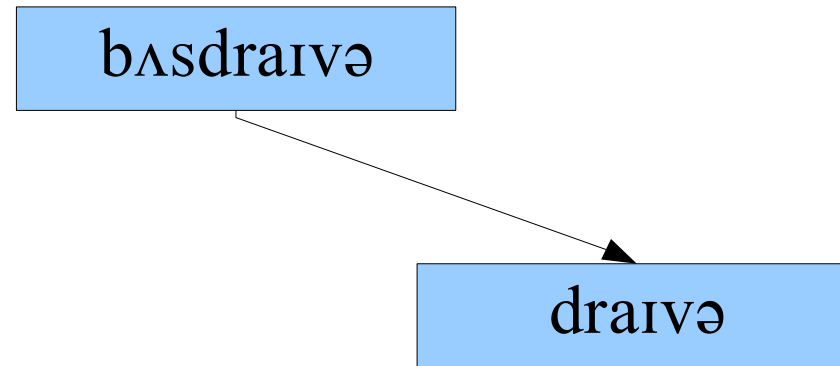
Syllables

bʌsdrɑɪvə

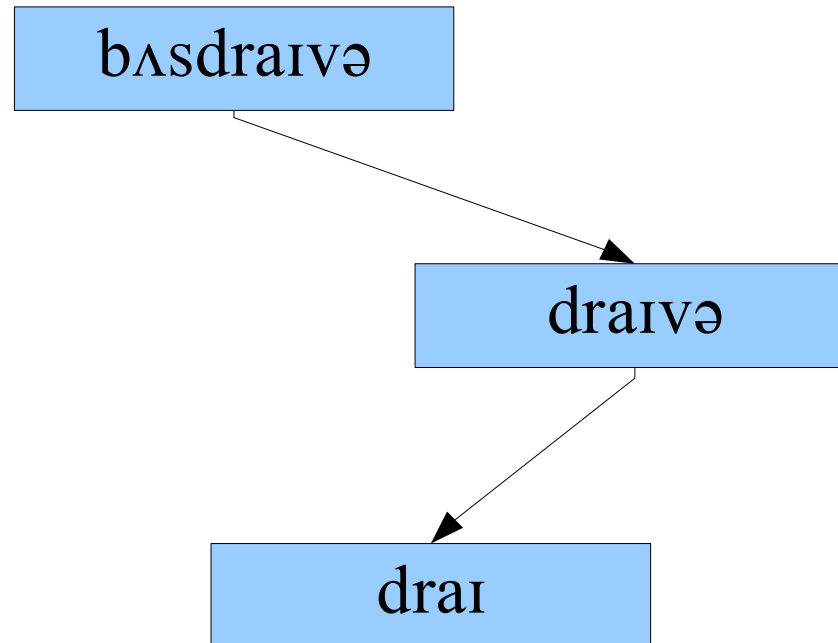
Syllables



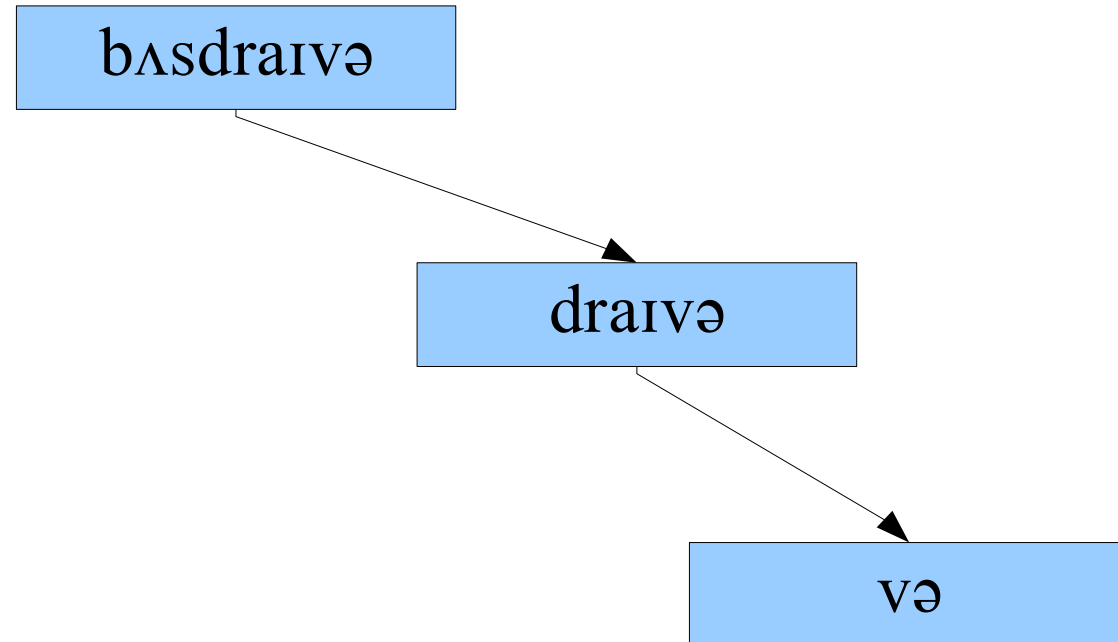
Syllables



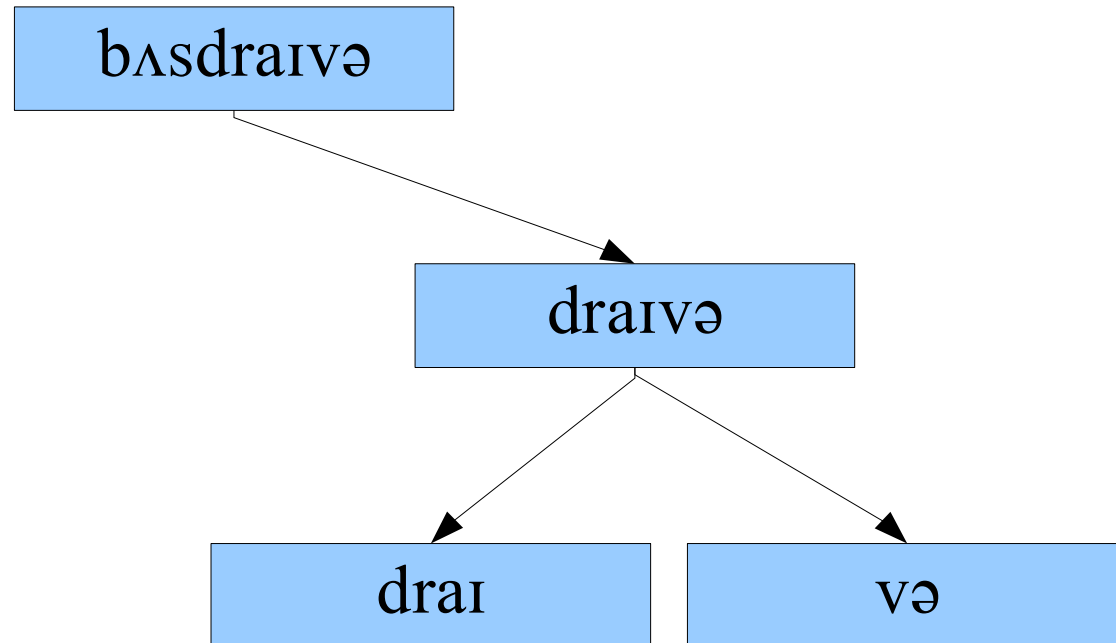
Syllables



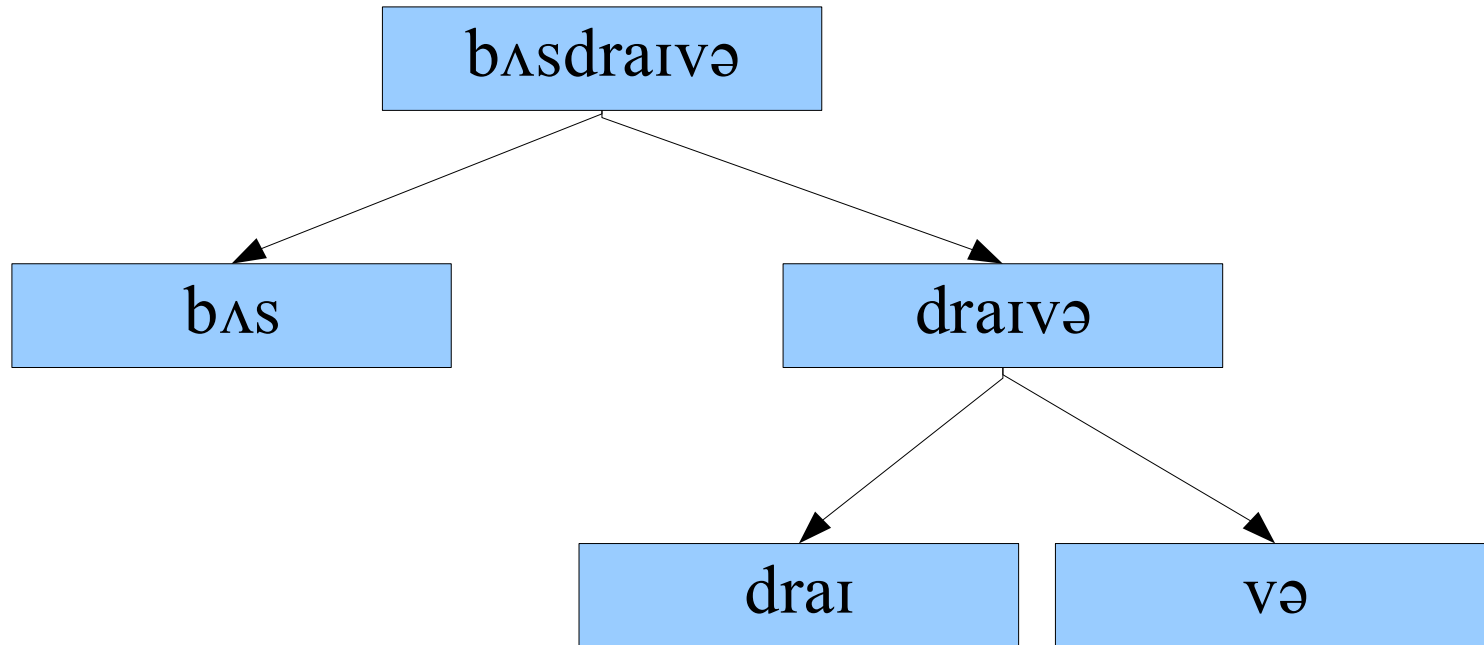
Syllables



Syllables



Syllables

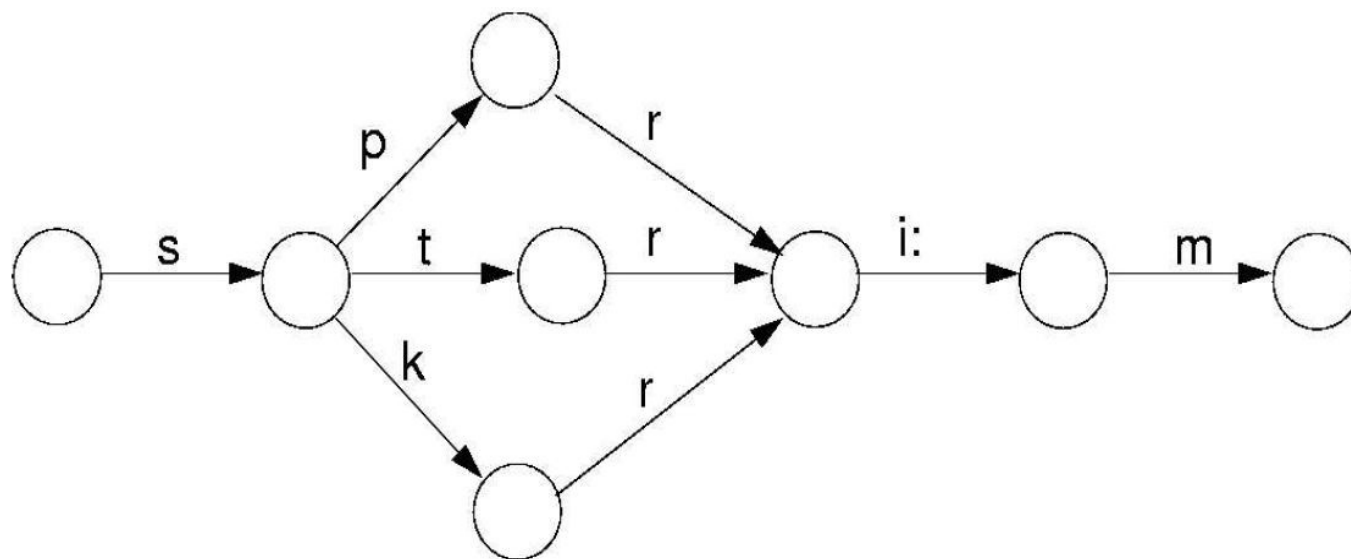


Tasks

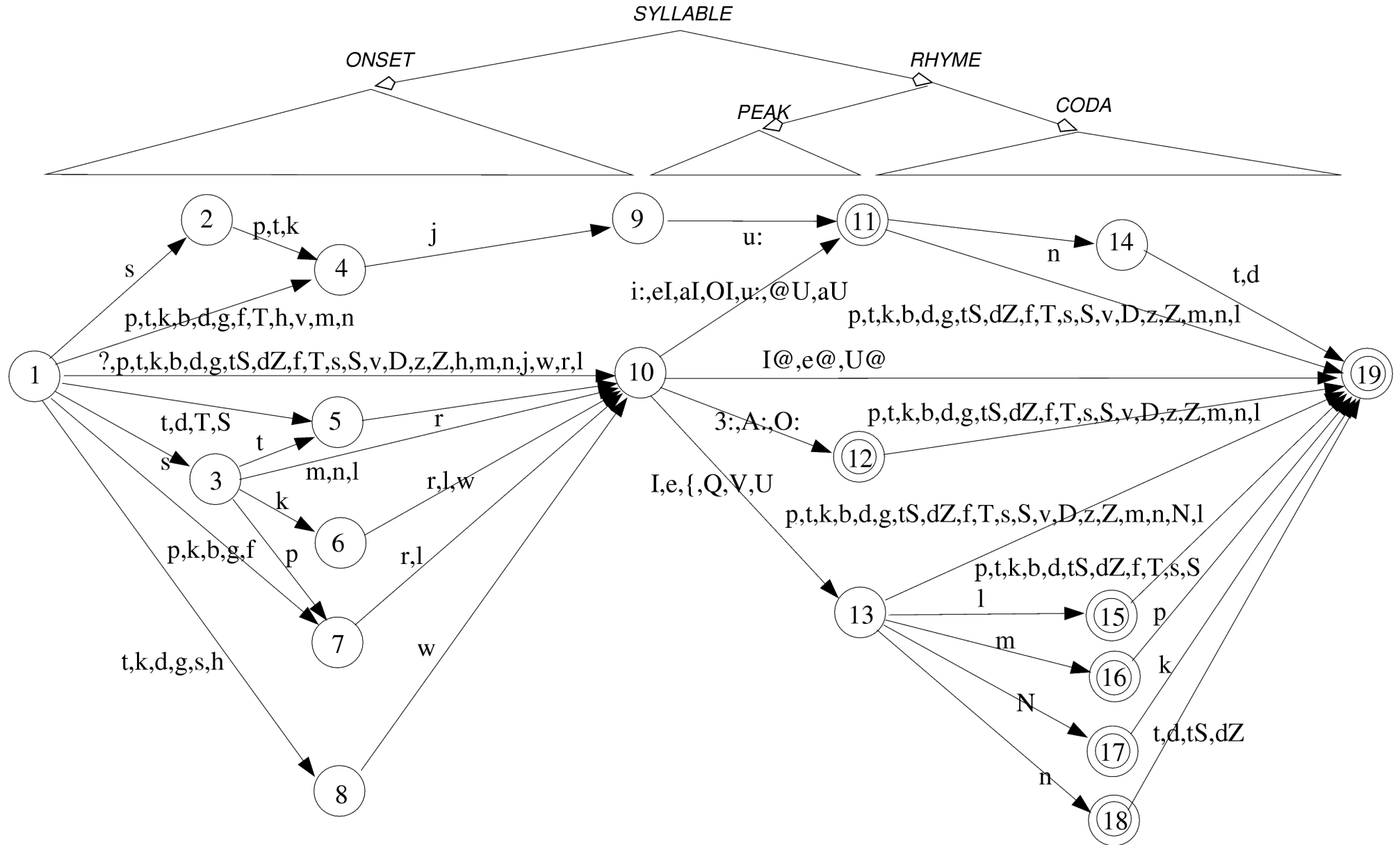
- Define:
 - syllable
 - phoneme
- Find examples of 5 not-too-short words
 - transcribe them (don't worry about accuracy - maybe check in a web dictionary)
 - divide them into syllables

Basics of English Syllable Structure

- Basic syllable structure:
 - CCCVCCC, e.g. /streɪndʒ/ - but affricates /dʒ/, count as 1 phoneme, though phonetically they have 2 parts.
- More detailed syllable structure as a map
 - this kind of map is sometimes called a *transition network* or a *state diagramme* - each transition from one circle/node/state describes the correct position of one phoneme.



More about English Syllable Structure



Phonemes

- There are several ways of defining phonemes, depending on which of the four sign components is focussed:
 1. the minimal word-distinguishing sound segment (based on the *contrastive function* of phonemes)
 2. The smallest unit of a syllable (based on *external sound structure*)
 3. Consists of distinctive features (based on the *internal sound structure*)
 4. Consists of a set of allophones (based on the *rendering* of phonemes)

Description of sounds

- For general pronunciation representation in the lexicon:
 - *phonemic transcription*
 - just enough phonetic detail to distinguish words
- For detailed representation of speech pronunciation:
 - *phonetic transcription* based on
 - articulatory phonetics (about speech production)

Interactive Sagittal Section

IPA Chart IPA fonts

Transcription systems for English

- remember the other dimensions of speech description:
 - acoustic phonetics (about speech wave transmission)
 - auditory phonetics (about speech perception)

Examples of pronunciation information

OneLook Multiple Dictionary

Spelling-to-sound rules

- Spelling: VISUAL modality
 - *ghoti* ...
- “i before e except after c”, consonant doubling
- Graphemes:
 - character combination corresponding to a phoneme
- Transcribe phonemically (without stress marks):
 - *If the bread dough is tough, knead it roughly, even though when you're through you'll have had enough and will throw it at the ceiling.*
 -
- Task:
 - make a list of 5 spelling rules
 - make a list of 5 main spelling problems

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 - /ɪf ðə brɛd dəʊ: ɪz tʌf ni:d ɪt rʌfli: i:vən ðəʊ: wɛn juə θru: ju:l əv hæd ɪnʌf ənd wɪl θrəʊ ɪt æt ðə si:lɪŋ/
- Task:
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HOMework

English and German: tasks

- Pronunciation:
 - List
 - the consonants of German which do not occur in English
 - the consonants of English which do not occur in German
 - the vowels of German which do not occur in English
 - the vowels of English which do not occur in German
- Spelling:
 - List
 - the characters of German which do not occur in English
 - the characters of English which do not occur in German
 - 5 English graphemes containing more than one character
 - 5 German graphemes containing more than one character

See you next week!