# The Architecture of Distributed Morphology

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Distributed Morphology – WS 2009/2010
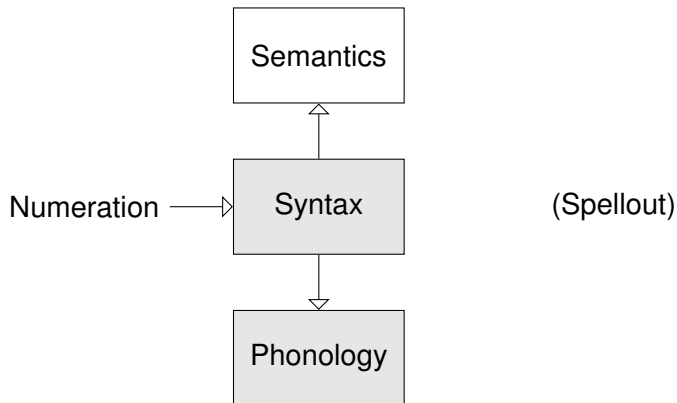
# Overview

Architecture of the Grammar
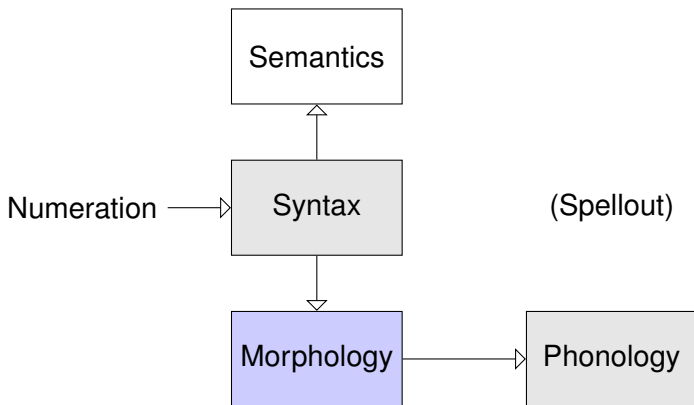
Representations

Vocabulary Insertion

# Minimalist Architecture

Semantics

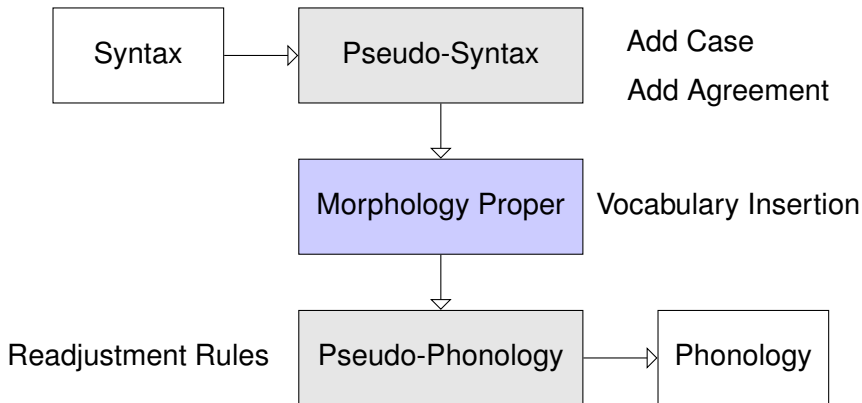Numeration ⟶ Syntax          (Spellout)

Phonology

# Role of Morphology in Distributed Morphology

- ▶ Syntax manipulates abstract heads
  without phonological content

- ▶ Morphology interprets the output of Syntax

# Architecture of Distributed Morphology

# Internal Structure of Morphology in DM
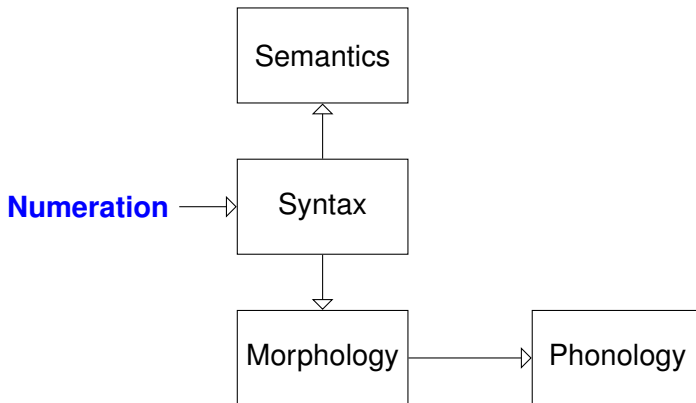
## An Example (Albanian)

| Unë-Ø | shkro-v-a | Kurt-i-t |
|---|---|---|
| I-Nom | write-AOR-1SG | Kurt-DEF-DAT |

'I wrote to Kurt'

# Step 1

## Step 1: Numeration

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{+Det} \\ \text{+1} \\ \text{-pl} \end{array}\right] \quad \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{+Tense} \\ \text{+Aor} \end{array}\right] \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{+Det} \\ \text{+3} \\ \text{-pl} \end{array}\right]$$

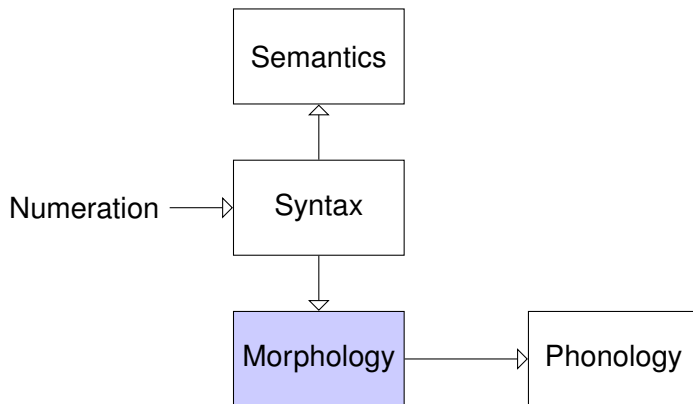$\sqrt{write} \qquad \sqrt{Kurt}$

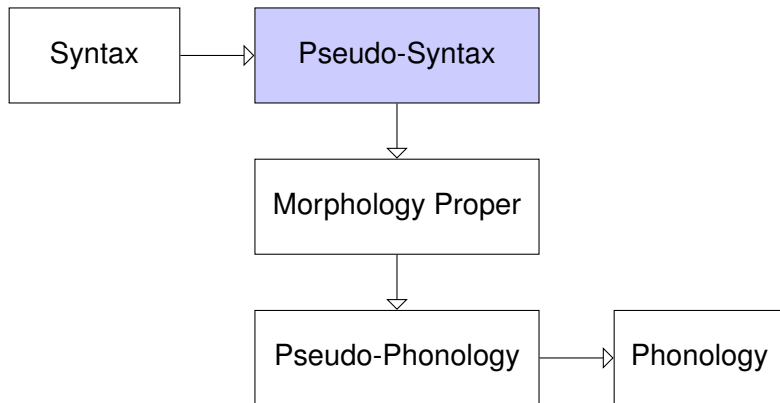$[\text{+v}] \qquad [\text{+n}]$

# Step 2

## Step 2: Syntax

[+D+1-pl]

$((\sqrt{write}$ [+v]) [+Tns +Aor])

$((\sqrt{Kurt}$ [+n]) [+D +3 -pl])

# Step 3

# Step 3

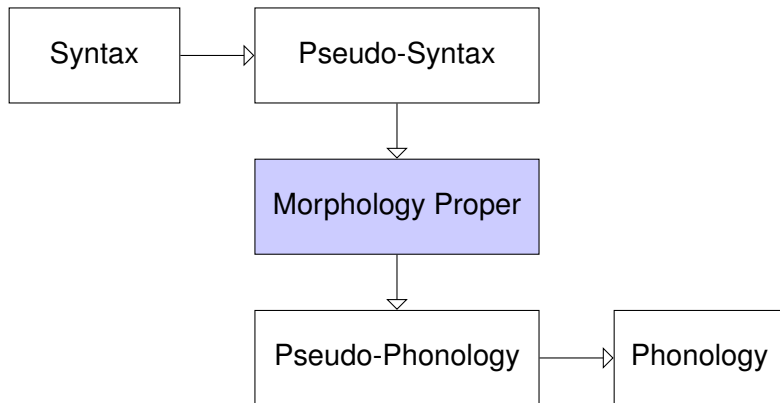# Step 3: Pseudo-Syntax

[+D+1-pl]

$((\sqrt{write}$ [+v]) **(**[+Tns +Aor]**[+Agr +1 -pl])**)

$((\sqrt{Kurt}$ [+n]) [+D +3 -pl])**[+Case +Dat])**

# Step 4

## Step 4: Vocabulary Items

/unë/ $\leftrightarrow$ [+D +1 -pl]

/-i/ $\leftrightarrow$ [+D +3 -pl]

/-v/ $\leftrightarrow$ [+Tense +Aor]

/-a/ $\leftrightarrow$ [+Agr +1 -pl]

/shkrua/ $\leftrightarrow$ $\sqrt{write}$ /____ [+v]

/kurt/ $\leftrightarrow$ $\sqrt{Kurt}$ /____ [+n]
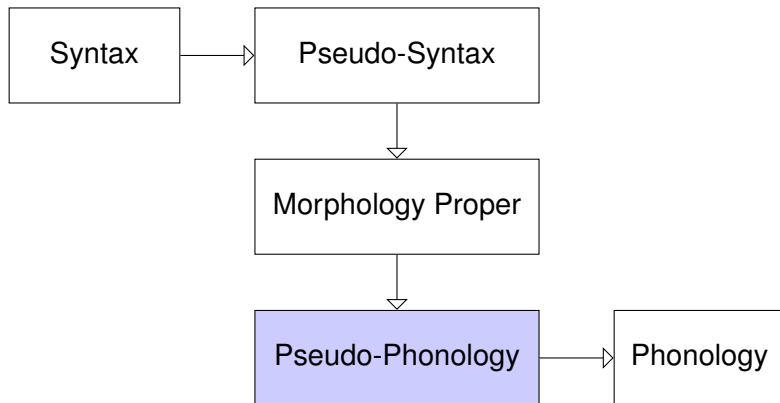
# Step 4: Morphology Proper (Vocabulary Insertion)

[+D+1-pl]
**/unë/**

$((\sqrt{write}$  [+v])  ([+Tns +Aor]  [+Agr +1 -pl]))
**/shkrua/**  **/v/**  **/a/**

$((\sqrt{Kurt}$  [+n])  [+D +3 -pl])  [+Case +Dat])
**/kurt/**  **/i/**  **/t/**

# Step 5

# Step 5: Pseudo-Phonology

[+D+1-pl]        **(cf. *shkrua-j-a*, 'I wrote (Impf.)')**
**/unë/**

(($\sqrt{write}$   [+v])   ([+Tns +Aor]   [+Agr +1 -pl]))
**/shkrua/**      **/v/**          **/a/**
**/shkro/**

(($\sqrt{Kurt}$   [+n])   [+D +3 -pl])   [+Case +Dat])
**/kurt/**        **/i/**          **/t/**

# Why is it called 'Distributed Morphology'

- ▶ Structure Building in Syntax

- ▶ Phonological Spellout in Morphology

- ▶ Morphology is Distributed
  across different Modules of Grammar

# Arguments for Late Insertion

- ▶ Syntax is not sensitive to phonological features of morphological items

- ▶ Avoids duplication of structure building

- ▶ Predictions for Affix Order (Julien, 2000; Trommer, 2001)

- ▶ Allomorphy is sensitive to syntactic context (Trommer, 2001)

- ▶ Morphological Underspecification