Exercises

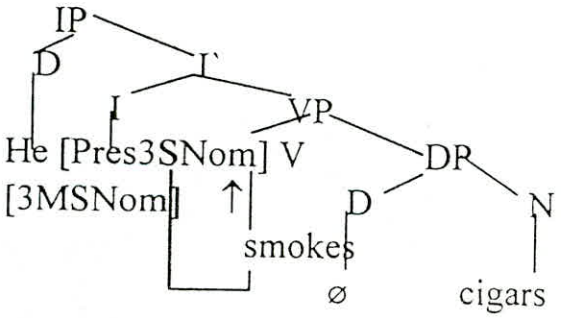
I: Discuss the derivation of each of the following (adult) sentences, drawing a tree diagram to represent the structure of the overall sentence and saying why the relevant derivation crashes or converges.

1. He smokes cigars
2. *Smoke he cigars?
3. *If he smokes cigars?
4. Does he smoke cigars?

In addition, discuss the derivation of each of the following child sentences produced by children aged 2-4 years, and identify the nature of the child's error in each case:

5.Is the clock is working?
6.Did we went to somebody's house?
7.Does it opens?

Model answer for 1



This tree is made by the merging of the ∅ determiner with noun *cigars* to form a DP; then merging this DP with the verb *smokes* to