Exercise

"Children generally have more problems in acquiring uninterpretable grammatical features than in acquiring interpretable ones." (A. Radford ,1997:80) Identify the nature of the errors made by these children ,as shown by the following sentences, and discuss their derivation.

(i) I can building a tower.
(ii) She didn't goed home.
(iii) My can make a pie.
(iv) Mummy is help me.
(v) Me'll have that.
(vi) Him don't want it.

The child acquires the interpretable features first; e.g. the singular determiner *a*. But the uninterpretable grammatical features such as the inflectional head-features of nonfinite verbs are not acquired, rather he treats *can* as auxiliary *be* (i.e. taking an +*ing* complement instead of the uninflected infinitive form).