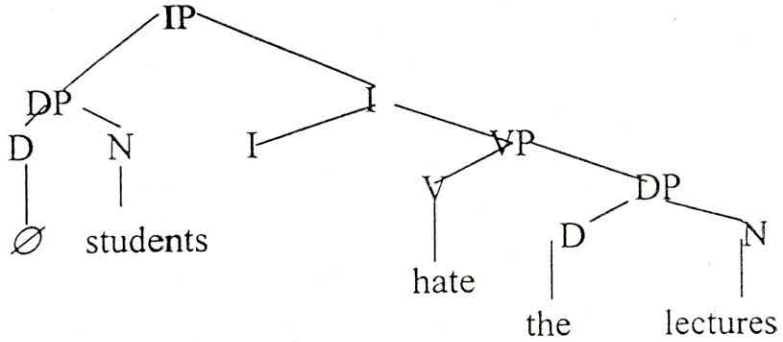
abstract INFL constituent to form the I-bar INFL *hate the lectures* ;and then merging this I-bar with the DP ∅ *students* to form the IP below:



Evidence in support of positing a null third person determiner ∅ comes from the fact that a sentence like (i) can only be tagged by a third person pronoun like *they*:

*Students hate the lectures, don't they/ * we/ * you?*

Also, the fact that we use the dummy present-tense auxiliary *don't* in the tag supports the claim the sentence is an IP headed by a null present-tense INFL. The relevant present-tense head -feature percolates up from the verb hate to INFL, which must contain a tense-feature in order to be interpretable at LF; i.e. an unfilled INFL *attracts* the tense-feature carried by the head verb of the verb phrase.

The complement-features of the verb *hate* indicate that it requires a complement whose head carries an objective -Case head-feature. The complement of *hate* is the DP *the lectures* , and the head word of this DP is the determiner *the*. Even though determiner *the* does not overtly inflect for Case, it has covert Case -features (indicating that it can be either nominative or objective -e.g. nominative in *The door opened* and objective in *Opened the door).* Therefore," the objective complement-feature of *hate* can be checked against nominative / objective head-feature of *the* , and