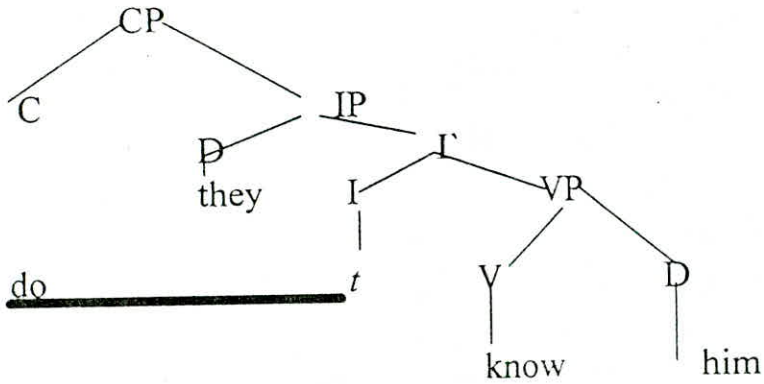
3.



Chomsky (1995) says that "dummy *do* is only used as a **last resort**- i.e. only where needed in order to satisfy some grammatical requirement which would not otherwise be satisfied " (the relevant requirement here is "the need to fill a strong COMP)." (A.Radford,1997: 110) The " **last resort** condition follows from a more general **economy principle** banning the use of superfluous constituents and operations :from this principle it follows that a dummy item like *do* or an operation like *inversion* are used only when there is no other way of satisfying some grammatical requirement (e.g. the need to fill a strong interrogative COMP)." (A.Radford,1997: 110)

When auxiliares in questions move from I to C , the vacated head I position in IP remains in place in the form of an **empty category,** which has the same head -features as *will* (i.e. it occupies the head I position of IP) , the same specifier -features (i.e. it requires a nominative specifier ; i.e. *Will she/* her marry me*?), the same complement -features (i.e. it requires the head V constituent of the VP to be in the infinitive form ; i.e. *Will you marry / * marrying me?*) Thus, the empty category is a silent copy of *will;* i.e. a constituent which has the same grammatical properties of *will (111)* but with no phonetic content. This is called a **trace** of *will* since it