which is assigned the theta role AGENT by the causative light verb. Finally, the causative light verb (i.e. the vp) merges with an abstract INFL to form I-bar ,and the subject *we* raises into spec-IP to check it nominative case. And by assuming that the agentive light verb is transitive, it can check the objective case carried by the DP *the ball.*

The VP shell analysis can account for the fact that adverbs such as *gently* can be positioned either before or after *the ball*, as shown in sentences (6).

6.

(i) We *gently* rolled the ball down the hill.
(ii) We rolled the ball *gently* down the hill.

The sentences of (6) (i) and (ii) , with the different positions occupied by the adverb *gently* reflect a subtle meaning difference: the former "means that the action of initiating the rolling motion was gentle" (204) ; while the latter sentence "means that the rolling motion itself was gentle." (204) This semantic difference is reflected by their difference in derivation ,as shown in (7) and (8).