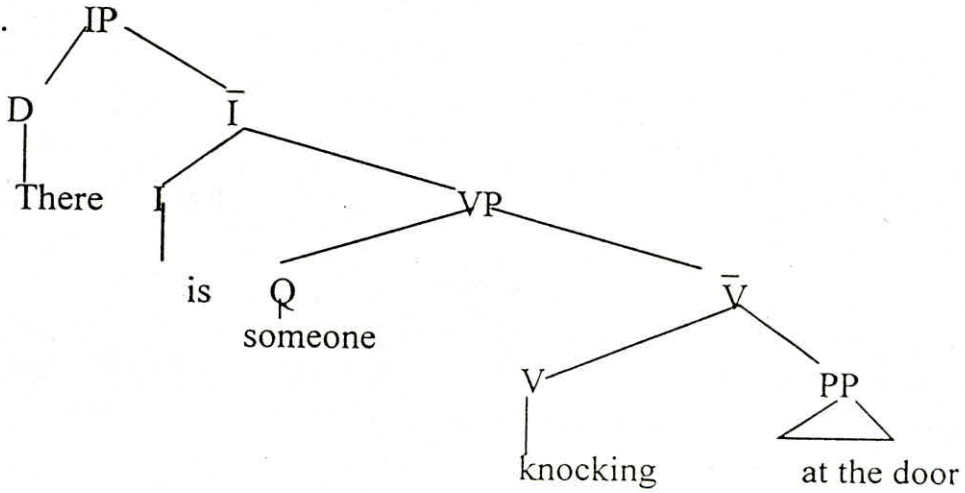
5.



The head V constituent (=knocking) of the VP merges with its PP complement (=at the door) to form a verbal expression which is conventionally termed a V̄ (V`=V -bar) *knocking at the door*, which is predicated to the pronominal quantifier *someone*, so forming the overall VP *someone knocking at the door*.

However, in a sentence such as 6(i), we assume that *someone* originates in spec-VP but " **raised** into spec-IP " because it is a "nonexpletive structure."(153) This is in keeping with the assumption "that constituents can *move* from a lower to a higher position within the sentence containing them" (153) (e.g. auxiliaries can move from I to C ,and operator expressions can move from VP -complement position to CP -specifier position). Thus, *someone* originates in spec-VP and remains *in situ* in expletive structures; but in nonexpletive structures ,it is raised, as shown in 6(ii):

6(i) *Someone* is knocking at the door.