X: Chapter Ten : VP shells .

It is argued in his chapter that VPs have a complex structure, comprising of an inner VP and an outer vp and that some (e.g. AGENT) arguments originate within the outer vp shell ;while other (e.g. THEME) arguments originate within the inner VP shell. In the discussion of the syntax of ergative verbs , there are many of these verbs that may have a single complement , as shown in sentence (1)(v) or may be three -place predicates, as shown in sentences (1)(i) and (ii).

1.

(i) We *rolled* [the ball] [down the hill]. (transitive: three -place predicates)

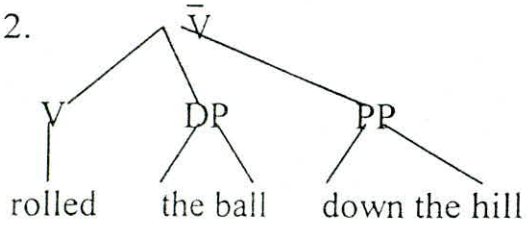
(ii) He *filled* [the bath] [with water].

(iii) *He *rolled* [the ball].

(iv) *He *filled* [the bath]. (intransitive use)

(v) The ball *rolled* [down the hill].

In sentences (1)(i) and (ii), the subject is the first , the object is the second , and the PPs are the third; and if we delete the PP in any of these sentences , this leads to ungrammaticality ,as shown by sentences (1) (iii) and (iv).

In the merger operation which forms phrases in an inherently binary operation ,combining constituents in a *pairwise* fashion, we cannot accept (2) as the structure of the $\bar{V}$ in (1)(i).

2.