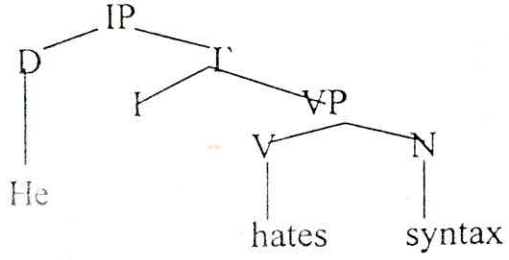
process by which a constituent ...is given a null phonetic form, but retains its grammatical and semantic properties." In other words, *e* is the silent counterpart of *could* in the first clause in 6(i). This assumption accounts for (i) the fact that the subject has nominative Case (*she*) and the fact that we have the perfective auxiliary in its uninflected form (*have* and not *has*). Having the grammatical properties of *could, e* requires a nominative specifier and an uninflected form of the auxiliary *have.*

A further argument for the ellipsed *could* comes from "*cliticization* (a process by which one word attaches itself in a leechlike fashion to another)". (A.Radford,1997: 89)

7.
(i)*You've done your duty.*
(ii) *We've seen the Mona Lisa.*
(iii) **He could have seen her, or [she' ve seen him]*

In English ,the auxiliary *have* cliticizes in sentences 7 (i) and (ii) ; but it cannot cliticize in 7(iii). As *have* "can only cliticize onto an immediately preceding word ending in a vowel or dipthong" , "*have* is blocked from cliticizing onto *she* " because "the presence of the null auxiliary which intervenes between *have* and *she.*" (A.Radford,1997: 90) "Thus, the *null* **INFL** analysis seems entirely appropriate for elliptical finite clauses." (A.Radford,1997: 90)

Auxiliary finite clauses may also be treated in much the same way as that of IP structures headed by a null I constituent.