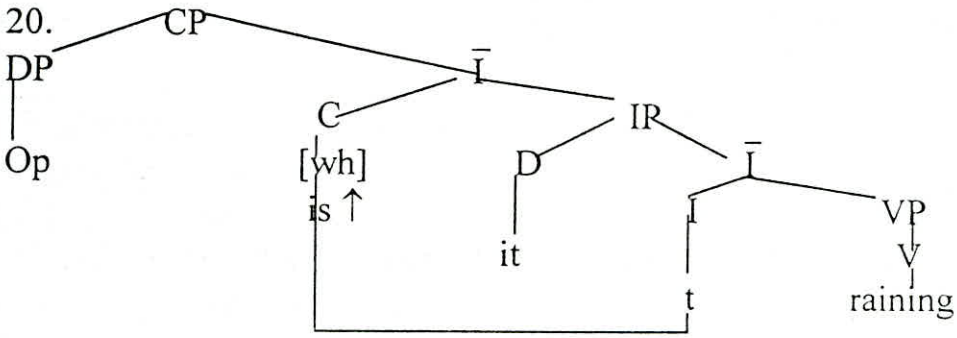
As regards yes-no questions , they contain (as suggested by Grimshaw 1993) " an abstract question operator ...which is directly generated in spec-CP(i.e. which is positioned in spec-CP by merger rather than movement)," (145)as shown in (20).

20.



"**Op** denotes a null yes-no question operator which is merged with the C-bar *is raining* to form the CP Op *is it raining?"* (145) "Given the null operator analysis , we could posit that yes-no questions have essentially the same syntax in present-day English as in Early Modern English , save that yes-no questions could be introduced by the overt operator *whether* in Early Modern English, but are introduced by a covert operator *Op* in present-day English." (145) For example, in Early Modern English we have *Whether had you rather lead mine eyes or eye your master's?(Mrs. Page, Merry Wives of Wndsor,III,ii)* In present-day English , on the other hand, yes-no questions are only introduced by *whether* when they are transposed into reported speech ;e.g. *He asked whether I was feeling better* from *Are you feeling better?, he asked.* Finally, the assumption that yes-no question CPs contain an abstract null yes-no question operator in spec-CP makes the "hypothesis that a clause is only interpretable as a question at LF if it contains an interrogative specifier ...all the more plausible." (146) "A clause can only be interpreted as an interrogative if it contains an interrogative