building up trees in successive layers from bottom to top." (A. Radford ,1997:79)

Considering now the features carried by each word in (v) ,and how they are checked. (1) The features of the pronoun *he*:

- Its head-features: a third person masculine singular nominative pronoun

-Its specifier -and -complement -features: does not allow a specifier or complement

(2) The features of *was*:

- Its head -features :past tense
- Its specifier-features :require first or third person singular nominative subject. These specifier-features are checked against the head-features of *he,* resulting in the erasure of the specifier features of *was* (since all specifier-features are uninterpretable) and of the nominative Case-feature of *he.* As for third person singular head -features of *he* ,these are not erased since they are interpretable.
- Its complement features (in its use as a progressive auxiliary) :require a complement headed by a verb in the *ing*-participle form.

(3) The complement features of *getting* is a phrase headed by an adjective (its complement-selection properties is categorial in nature) :*cross with Mary*.

(4) The complement features of *cross* is a prepositional phrase headed by the preposition *with* (its complement-selection properties is lexical): *with Mary*.

(5) The complement features of the preposition *with* is that it requires a complement headed by an objective -case feature (e.g. *me*). It is to be noted that the fact that *Mary* can be used as the complement of *with* suggests that Mary must carry covert objective Case.