Spanish ,etc., but not in colloquial English) , that makes sentence (16) (i) ungrammatical. **Preposition stranding** is the separation of the preposition from its complement.

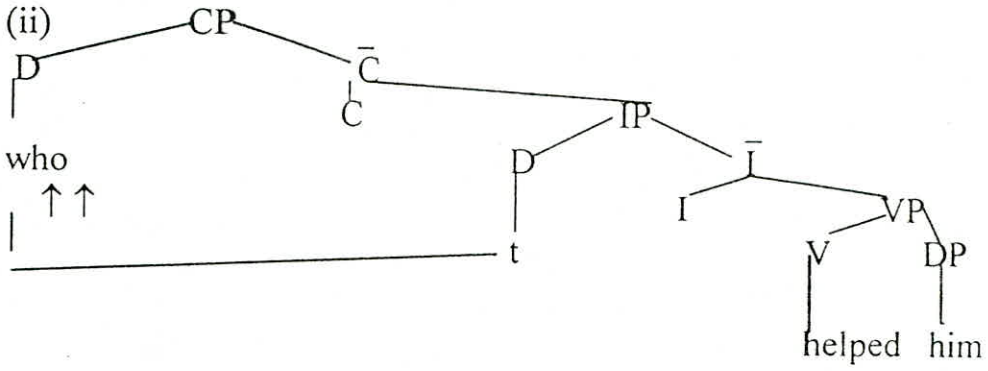
(16) (i) ***Whom** were you talking **to** ?
(ii) **To whom** were you talking **?**
(iii)* **Talking to whom** were you?

As for the ungrammaticality of (16) (iii), this is due to the **economy principle** "(which requires that only the *minimal* constituent required to ensure that the [wh] specifier-feature of COMP can be checked should be preposed)." (142)

The assumption that the defining characteristics of wh-questions is that they contain a wh-specifer (i.e. a wh-operator in spec-CP) is called into question in sentence (17)(i) with its derivation in (17)(ii) since it does not trigger auxiliary inversion.

(17)(i)Who helped him?

(ii)



Accordingly , following Grimshaw (1993) sentence (17)(i) is simply an IP since *who* does not move to spec-CP, as shown in (18).