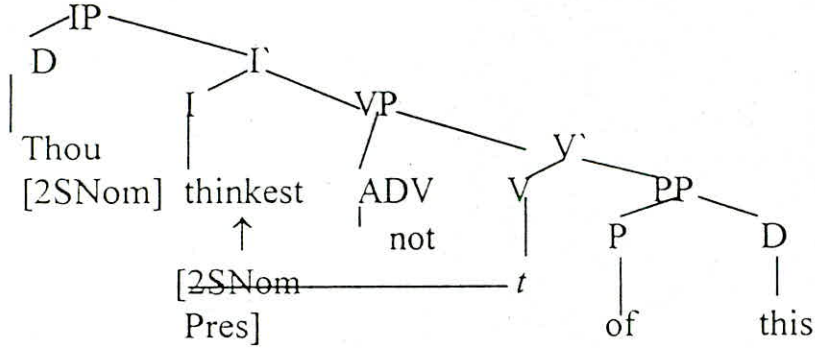
across languages in respect of whether finite verbs carry strong or weak agreement-features ,and that the relative strength of these features determines whether nonauxiliary verbs can raise to INFL, and whether null subjects are permitted or not." (120)

As for the reason why finite verbs should raise out of V into I in languages such as EME where they carry strong agreement features, this is provided by **checking theory.** As finite verbs in EME carry strong agreement features, they raise to INFL in order to check their strong agreement features (i.e. its person/number specifier features) against those of the subject occupying the specifier position within IP. This is because "movement checks strong features which would otherwise remain unchecked." (120) This is illustrated by the analysis of the sentence *Thou thinkest not of this now (Launce, Two Gentlemen of Verona IV, iv) :*

6.



Since *thinkest* has strong agreement features and since subject-verb agreement involves a local checking relation between INFL and its specifier , *thinkest* (i.e. V) raises to INFL(i.e. I). This way *thinkest* can check its [2SNom] specifier -features against the corresponding [2SNom] head -features of *Thou* ; and as the two sets match , the specifier -features of *thinkest* are erased along with the nominative case-feature of *Thou* because it uninterpretable. Thus, the movement of *thinkest* ensures that the derivation does not crash and