(v) John seemed to understand the problem.
(vi) My goldfish seems to have escaped.

It is essential in this respect to show how the thematic roles that are assigned to arguments are constrained by a UG principle called θ-**criterion.**

5. θ-criterion

Each argument bears one and only one θ -role ,and each θ -role is assigned to one and only one argument. (Chomsky,1981:36)

The θ-**criterion** determines that verbs like *try* θ- mark their subjects whereas, verbs like *seem* do not. This is demonstrated by (6).

6.
(i) [$_{IP}$ He does [$_{VP}$ *t* seem [$_{IP}$ *t* to [$_{VP}$ *t* enjoy syntax]]]]

(ii) * [$_{IP}$ He does [$_{VP}$ try [$_{IP}$ *t* to [$_{VP}$ *t* enjoy syntax]]]]
(iii) [$_{IP}$ He does [$_{VP}$ *t* try [$_{IP}$ to [$_{VP}$ *PRO* enjoy syntax]]]]

Given the assumption that auxiliaries, infinitival *to* and raising predicates do not θ- mark their subjects , the only θ-role assigned to the pronoun *he* in (6(i)) will be that of EXPERIENCER argument of *enjoy* ;therefore the θ-**criterion** will be satisfied. But the pronoun *he* has to raise to become the subject of *does* for reasons of **greed** (i.e. to check its nominative case). It also has to raise in a cyclic fashion in order to satisfy the **shortest movement principle.** In (6(ii)) ,on the other hand, the pronoun *he* "ends up with two different θ-roles " (182): as the EXPERIENCER argument of *enjoy* and *AGENT* argument of *try*; and this leads to a violation of the θ-