4.2.Grammatical Features

The above tree diagram "provides only a partial representation of the overall grammatical structure of the corresponding sentence." (A. Radford ,1997:67) Just as the phonetic and semantic properties are represented in terms of sets of features ,the grammatical properties may also be represented by in terms of sets of features. For example, the /m/ sound is distinguished from the /b/ sound in terms of the phonetic feature [nasal]; and the nouns *boy, girl, kid, kitten*, and *puppy* may be shown to represent the semantic feature [YOUNG]. Likewise, "words carry three sets of grammatical features: **head- features** (which describe their intrinsic grammatical properties) , **complement - features** (which describe the kinds of complements they take) and **specifier-features** (which describe the kinds of specifier/subject they can have)." (A. Radford ,1997:67) For example, *are* carries the **head-feature** [Pres], indicating that it is a present -tense form (its status as an auxiliary is indicated by the category label I attached to the node containing *are*), its **complement - features** is that it **selects** a verbal complement carrying the participial inflection *+ing,* and its **specifier- features** include a Case feature (i.e. it requires nominative Case and not objective Case), and (person/number) agreement features ,shown in abbreviations as [2/PNom], meaning that *are* in *We (politicians) are trying to better ourselves* requires a second person or plural subject or specifier carrying nominative Case.

The head-features of the complementizer *that* include a feature such as [Decl] ,indicating that it introduces declarative (statement-making) clauses such as in *That we are trying to help you.* Its specifier -features indicate that it cannot have a specifier; and its complement -features indicate that it requires a complement headed