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| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Revisiting the Syntax of English Imperative from a Minimalist Perspective

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| ABSTRACT
This paper tackles the syntax of English imperatives. It revisits the syntactic structuring of English imperatives from a minimalistic perspective. It investigates what the most appropriate positioning for the imperative verb in English is and what really stirs the structuring of imperative in English. To tackle this topic, this paper implements a descriptive, analytic, qualitative, minimalist-based method. In accordance with minimalism, this paper gives priority to the imperative feature. It comes up with a new projection proposed to be within CP, labeling it 'Imperative Phrase'. The head of this projection is assumed to have an inherently valued and interpreted [Imperative]. This feature, as this paper postulates, is what urges the syntactic derivation of the whole imperative construction.

| KEYWORDS
Imperative, discourse, Imp^0, minimalism, projection, interface

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1. Introduction

The imperative structure is one of the most challenging topics to be handled. However, in light of the most recent syntactic advancements of minimalism, this paper revisits the syntactic derivation of English imperative sentences. It attempts to offer a novel analysis for the formation of such a type of sentence, fundamentally exposing the misleading appearance of their verbs. This paper is concerned with what really urges the construction of the English imperative and the appropriate slot for the imperative verb.

Actually, there are four main theoretical proposals posited in the literature, the first of which appeals to the CP hypothesis. It is represented by Potsdam (2007) and Bennis The second proposal assumes that the cartographical structure of imperatives parallels that of subjunctive structures. This view is represented by Kruger (2012). The third proposal appeals to the VP-internal hypothesis. It is represented by Potsdam (1995) and Jensen (2003). The fourth proposal is the Functional Projections (=FPs) hypothesis. It is represented by Potsdam (1995) and Medeiros (2013).

Tackling such an intricate structure of imperative clauses attribute is not an easy task, but it may contribute to the field of syntax. The significance of this paper also lies in its tracing of English imperatives from the perspective of the most recent syntactic advancement in minimalism. Indeed, although there are a number of previous linguistic studies that have investigated the issue in question, some of them have handled it from the perspective of the standard transformational generative grammar theory, while others have not come up influentially with sufficient conclusions concerning the appropriate projection of imperative constructions in English.

2. Related Literature

This section exhibits some of the most prominent theoretical views postulated in the literature regarding both minimalism and proposals related to imperative clause structuring. It is to give a firm background upon which one can discuss and analyze English imperatives in their light. Needless to ensure that these positions would not be taken for granted but discussed, compared and then evaluated for the sake of getting a model syntactic framework for imperatives in English.

2.1. Minimalism

This sub-section is devoted to exhibiting what minimalism is. It also shows most of its significant notions and concepts that are essential to proceed with our discussion of imperatives.

To analyze the syntactic structure of sentences, clauses and phrases, a number of different theories and approaches have actually been posited in the literature, the most prominent of which are the Phrase Structure Rules, the 1950s Standard Theory and the Modified Standard Theory, and X'-Theory. These are followed by some other advanced generative grammar theories, ending with the Phase Approach, which is largely considered to be the most crucial advancement in the MP till now. Hence, MP is the most recent linguistic advancement in generative syntax.

What prioritizes MP from other precedent theories is that it appeals to the very essence of UG, which assumes that the human mind has an embedded linguistic preprogrammed system installed with principles simply shared among all language speakers. Such principles are what make humans easily able to acquire any language used around them. Thus, MP seeks to reflect these principles, attempting to simplify and minimalize the seemingly over-loaded processes that go within the Faculty of Language (=FL). Accordingly, it calls for simplicity when generating linguistic structures. By elaborating on the explanatory potentials of syntactic mechanisms and operations, it actually attempts to simplify the depiction of syntactic procedures that are supposed to take place within the human mind. It also attempts to portray how optimal the linguistic architecture within FL is. This goes in one way with the held postulation that syntactic derivation begins in narrow syntax, the stage in which structuring is assumed to be invariant and the same cross-linguistically (Chomsky, 2004; Kruger, 2012; Robert & Van Valin, 2002). The narrow syntax is actually presumed to be instant coordination between the lexicon and the semantic interface.

Minimalism has actually come in compliance with most notions given in the previous theories of generative grammar— which attribute the inborn linguistic capability to FL— such as the notions of binary-branches computation and cyclicity in movement. Put in other words, it substantially relies on the influential instantiations of UG, in that all languages have similar principles and distinct parameters (Chomsky, 2004; Radford, 2009; and Bošković, 2010). Principles are fixed and shared in all languages, whereas parameters are binary alternatives attributed as being language-specific. As a matter of fact, MP proceeds with the very conceptualization of principles and parameters (=P&P), whereby one could argue that not only principles but also parameters are natural and in-built within FL. Under the umbrella of minimalism, however, there has actually been a tendency to focus on the principles more than on parameters. That is, it highly neglects language-specific postulations in favor of "general [principled] considerations of computational efficiency" (Chomsky, 2005: 1; see also Chomsky, 2004).

Within the framework of P&P, it has been argued that there are two underlying structures, namely, Deep Structure (=DS) and Surface Structure (=SS), and that syntactic variations among languages are but due to their differences in their SSs (cf. Hornstein, 2018; Andreu & Gallego, 2009; and Radford, 2009). Out of DSs, SSs are constructed by means of 'Grammatical Transformations' (cf. Chomsky, 1965, 2002; and Chomsky & Lasnik, 1977). In contrast, MP has rejected that assumption, blending the two structures into one, viz. numeration; and that is instantiation by the operation Merge (Andreu & Gallego, 2009; and Neske, n.d.). Further, it argues for the reduction of the computational system when computing any construction in any language to more general shared principles. It calls for minimal syntactic models and representations that are applicable to all languages (cf., e.g. Neske, n.d.). So that, instead of the schemata in figure (1) below, it has employed the one in figure (2):

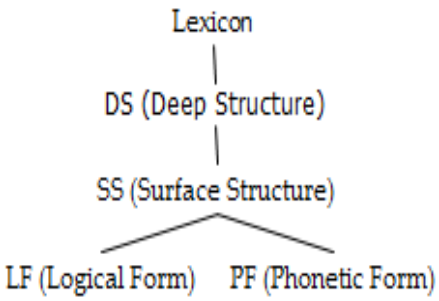

Figure No. 1

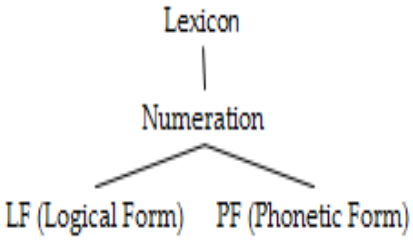

Figure No. 2

Based on that, MP has proposed a new syntactic vision. It argues that, for computing language, there is a computational system along with a lexicon, and this computational system is endowed with the capacity to operate linguistic constructions in terms of the articulatory-perceptual and conceptual-intentional systems (Chomsky, 2004; Irurtzun, 2009; Radford, 2009; and Al-Balushi, 2011).

Furthermore, it significantly investigates how to correlate sound with meaning, i.e. the articulatory-perceptual system and the conceptual-intentional system, respectively. Those systems, in turn, are argued to interface with PF and LF across which constructed structures pass. Actually, the passage of computed structures is permissible when they meet the LF and PF conditions; however, if there is a phonological or semantic illegibility or mismatch, those structures crash (cf. Radford, 2009; Bošković, 2010; Neske, n.d.; and Robert & Van Valin, 2002). That is, they must be checked by them to make sure that they have met the principle of 'full interpretation' (Hornstein, 2018). Full interpretation actually means that features of every computed constituent transferred to LF and PF must be interpreted (either inherently or even derivationally). For a feature to be 'interpretable', it must be legible at the semantic interface. In contrast, for a feature to be 'uninterpretable', it is illegible at the semantic interface; and this is because they have no semantic content.

If a feature is not interpretable at the very interfaces of LF and PF, the structure crashes there. On the contrary, once a transferred phrase converges with the conditions of the two interfaces, that very phrase is permitted to pass and be spelt out. Thus, it is largely assumed that there is a complementary dependency relation between the computation system and the two interfaces. Such a dependency is the core of the Strong Minimalist Thesis, which signifies that there is a strong mutual interrelationship among all the computational systems, the interfaces and the other linguistic systems.

Thus, features that are inherently uninterpretable (and/or unvalued) must derivationally go into Agree on the relation with other constituents/nodes that have interpretable (and valued) counterpart features.[1] Accordingly, MP holds the in-consensus old view that External Merge (=EM) and Internal Merge (=IM) operations— besides Agree— are essential for the computation and interpretation of syntactic features and components (Asudeh & Toivonen, 2006; Safir, 2007; Cinque & Rizzi, 2008; and Citko, 2014). Hence, MP relies on the two compositional operations EM and IM, along with the operation 'Agree'. They are instantiated by features that are uninterpretable and/or unvalued (cf. Vainikka, 2007). Needless to say that all such processes taking place in the computational system of human language (C_{HL}) occur exactly and instantly before articulating a certain constructed structure in a recursive manner. Recurrence is what distinguishes simple structures from complex ones.

In terms of MP, there are three main layers which a clause is assumed to be constructed within. The first is the *v*P/VP layer, in which semantic roles are assigned for internal and external arguments (i.e. for complement arguments and subject arguments, respectively). TP is the second layer embodying other functional projections that denote, for example, aspect and mood. CP is the third layer which is more oriented toward discourse and illocutionary speech acts. This very layer, hence, is actually assumed to be the locus of all features of the other layers. Fundamentally, MP seeks to exhibit the mysterious underlying inner procedures and computations that are in effect when constructing a piece of language, within the agreed-upon cartography, in terms of 'economy' condition.

Cartography has an apparent complex elaboration. However, such an elaboration is but for exhibiting and constructing each structure in a detailed and so simple manner that is assumed to reflect what is going on in the human mind. Generally, going in parallel to MP, cartography is concerned with sketching the different underlying projections presumed to emerge in the narrow syntax when structuring a piece of language. Like MP, it also attempts to account for cross-linguistic variations (Kruger, 2012). It can be considered a correlative ligature between "argument structure […] to the lexicon-syntax interface" (Cinque & Rizzi, 2008:

[1] Nevertheless, features of expletive-*there*— e.g. [Num]— are not inherently interpretable nor can they be interpreted over the course of the derivation. However, it does not crash at the interfaces.

50). It could actually exhibit the notion of Relativized Minimality (Rizzi 1997; and Cinque & Rizzi 2008) in a more vivid manner. Being a locality condition, Relativized Minimality holds the restriction that no element can move to a node if there is another matching element intervening between the two so that the priority of being in such a relation is between the two more adjacent elements (and/or nodes).

Concerning the cartography of a sentence, it has been widely assumed that it has two main domains; the first is TP and the second is the left periphery of CP; each of which entails a number of other projections. For a tensed sentence, TP has the schemata that are roughly shown in figure (3) below:

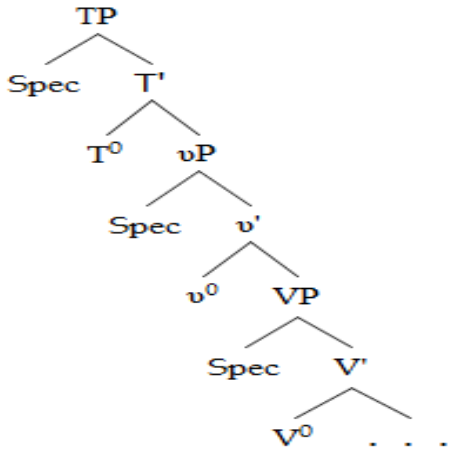

Figure No. 3

For CP projection, it is postulated that it is split into a number of other underlying projections. Such projections are Force Phrase (=ForceP), Topic Phrase (=TopP), Focus Phrase (=FocP) and Finiteness Phrase (=FinP). ForceP determines the type of a clause, whether it is declarative, interrogative or exclamatory in force. TopP and FocP, on the other hand, are to host topicalized and focused constituents, respectively. FinP is to determine whether a clause is finite or nonfinite. The split projections of CP are roughly shown in the following figure:

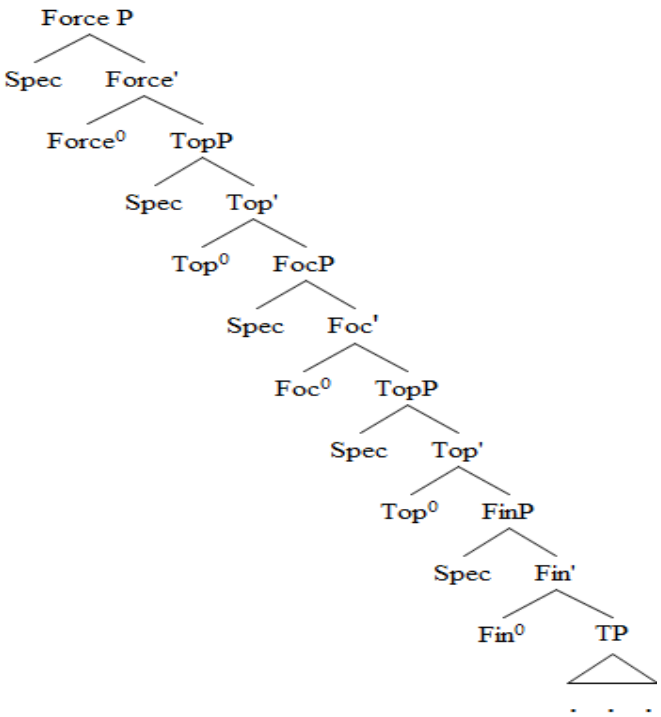

Figure No. 4

Further, Speas & Tenny (2003) propose that there is an abstract Speech Act Phrase (=SAP) higher than CP. This layer is assumed to embody not only the 'utterance content' but also the participants' 'speaker' and 'hearer' and the relationship between them.

2.2. Previous Studies on Imperatives

In the literature on imperatives, there have been four main theoretical proposals, the first of which, represented by Potsdam (2007) and Bennis (2015), argues that the syntactic architectural cartography of imperatives is the same as that of interrogatives and declaratives, and what distinguishes imperatives from the other clause types is just a feature in the complementizer head (=C^0). This position, thus, appeals to the CP hypothesis. It assumes that the imperative verb merges on V^0 or T^0 and then undergoes an internal merge (=IM) operation onto C^0. In effect, Potsdam argues that the syntactic structuring of imperatives, be it negative or emphatic, is symmetric to that of interrogatives. For the emphatic imperative in example (1) below, for instance, he argues that the auxiliary verb *do* undergoes IM from T^0 to C^0, as manifested in Figure (5). This, based on his account, parallels interrogatives, as in example (2), schematized in Figure (6) below.

1. Do you help them!

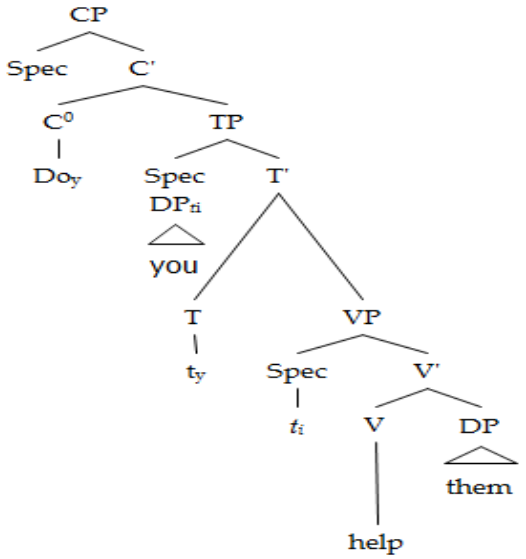

Figure No. 5

2. Do you help them?

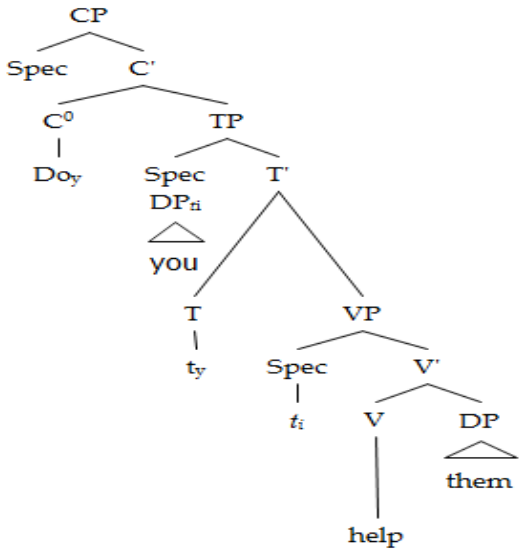

Figure No. 6

Han (1999) also argues that there is a CP layer when constructing an imperative and that this C^0 is the locus of the "imperative operator" and its host. He presents the schemata in Figure (7) (Inflectional Phrase (=IP) is labelled here Tense Phrase (=TP), and this goes in line with the advancements of syntax).

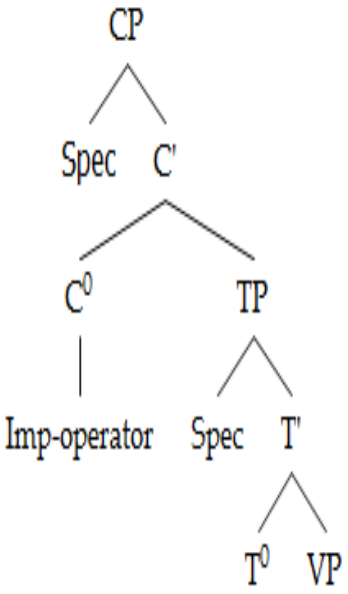

Figure No. 7

Han (1999, p. 165) argues that C^0 "encodes a directive force". C^0 is thus considered to be the locus of impertiveness. The imperative verb, accordingly, is urged to undergo IM to C^0 to check that force.

Following the spirit of CP analysis, Bennis (2015), analyzing imperatives in Dutch, argues that imperatives are structured within an imperative ForceP that has [Imp]. In other words, he states that as there is Topic Phrase (=TopP) for topicalized phrases and QuP (=Question Phrase) for interrogatives, for instance, there is ImpP (=Imperative Phrase) for imperatives. Nevertheless, he has not displayed any characteristic for this projection, nor has he tackled its nature. However, this assumption, this paper argues, goes in line with the spirit of minimalism.

The second theoretical proposal posited in the literature concerning the structure of imperatives, represented by Kruger (2012), adopts the argument that the syntactic cartography of imperatives, though having some similarities, differs from that of other clause types, i.e. from those of interrogatives and declaratives. For Stockwell, Schachter and Partee (1973), as cited in and followed by Kruger (2012), imperatives have cartography that parallels those of subjunctives. However, this modal is applicable to imperatives in some languages, e.g. English, but not to other languages, e.g. Arabic, which exhibit distinct and overt morphosyntactic features that differ from those of subjunctives.

Employing the CP split projections, Radford (2009) claims that $Force^0$ has two complementary facets. The first demonstrates one of the binary features [-wh] or [+wh] for declaratives or interrogatives, respectively. The second facet, in contrast, is [Imp] for imperatives. Imperatives, as also assumed by Radford, lack Finiteness Phrase (= FinP), Mood Phrase (=MoodP) and TP. Such a difference in $Force^0$, Radford states, is what gives imperatives the function of asking and requesting; declaratives with the canonical function of asserting; interrogatives with the function of questioning; and exclamatives with the surprise function.

The third proposal, represented by Potsdam (1995) and Jensen (2003), accounts for the structure of imperatives in terms of a VP-internal hypothesis. For Jensen (2003), for instance, the VP-internal structure in English imperatives is similar to that of English declaratives. He attributes the difference between imperatives and declaratives to the different features of their T^0s. Put simply; he assumes that imperatives T^0 has [Imp] and [Addressee] whereas declaratives T^0 has Declarative Feature (=[Decl]). So, for imperative constructions like (3) below, for instance, he employs the syntactic schemata in Figure (8) below:

3. You open the door.

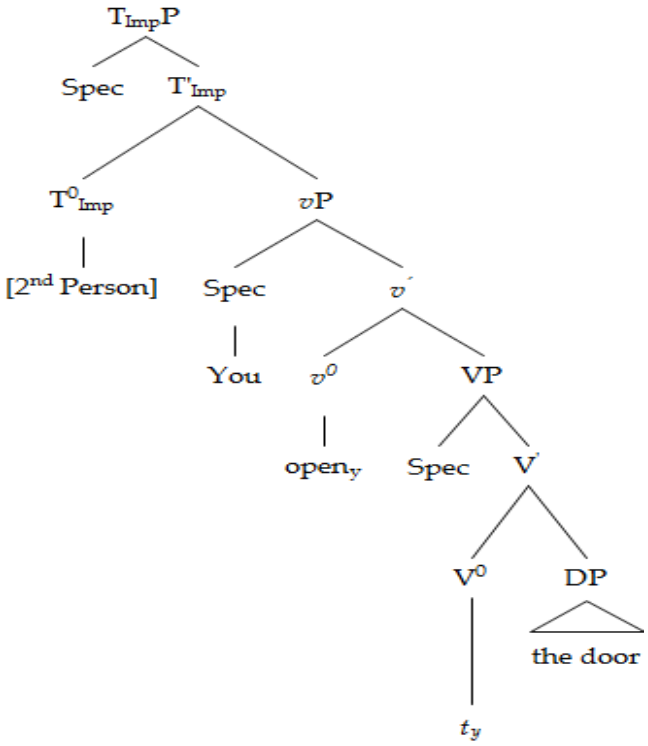

Figure No. 8

Concerning neutral imperatives (viz. imperatives that are non-negative and non-emphatic) in terms of VP-internal hypothesis, the imperative, as claimed by Potsdam (1995), is basically a VP, and its (covert) subject appears on its Spec (i.e. on Spec-VP). The general cartographic schemata for this view are manifested in Figure (9) below:

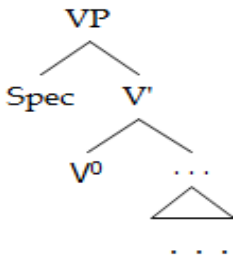

Figure No. 9

For negative and emphatic imperatives, on the other hand, Potsdam (1995) assumes that there is a need for a higher functional projection, namely, TP. The schemata proposed by him are shown in Figure (10) below (TP replaces the traditional IP):

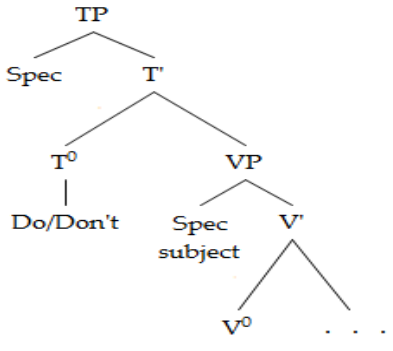

Figure No. 10

The fourth proposal, represented by Potsdam's (1995) second alternative account for constructing imperatives and by Medeiros (2013), revolves around the Functional Projections (=FPs) hypothesis. It argues that imperatives has a different syntactic structure from those of declaratives and interrogatives. Contra her first account, Potsdam (1995) proposes the functional projection (=FP) analysis by which she claims that there are two functional projections above VP. The argument here is mainly based on imperatives having auxiliaries stuff, VP ellipsis, floating quantifiers, and adverb placement. According to this postulation, the imperative subject and the emphatic/negative verb reside within these functional projections, as shown in Figure (11) below:

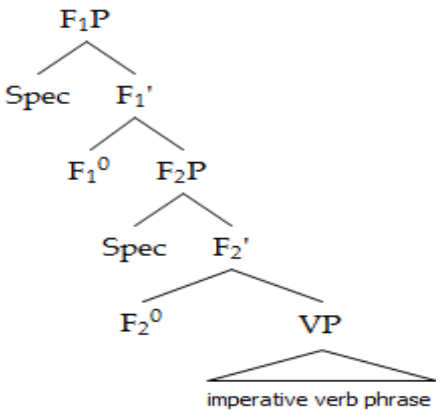

Figure No. 11

Based on the schemata in Figure (11) above, Potsdam argues that the imperative subject has two slots to reside on, namely, either Spec-F_2P or Spec-F_1P. It is assumed to be on Spec-F_1P in subject-verb imperatives but on Spec-F_2P in verb-subject imperatives. The imperative verb in both cases, however, is claimed to be on F_1^0.

Worth mentioning that based on the semantic differences between inverted negative imperative quantifier scope to that of negative imperatives, Potsdam (2007) deviates from the FP hypothesis when analyzing imperatives. She argues that NegP in imperatives is within the CP layer and not, as is the case with negative declaratives, within the TP domain.

Calling for economy and minimalism in representation, Rupp (2003) too, refutes the FP hypothesis. Rather than implementing FP, which has no significantly distinct role to play when constructing imperatives, IP (i.e. TP in recent syntactic terms) takes its role. According to this, for the imperatives like example (4) below, he argues for the slightly modified schemata in Figure (12) below (ibid, p. 92):

4. Do not try again!

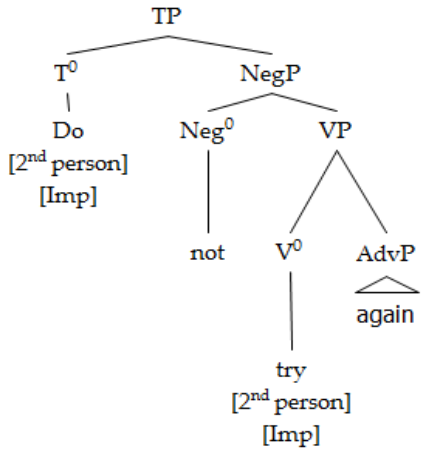

Figure No. 12

Regarding derivative characteristics of imperatives, Medeiros (2013) argues that, for constructing imperatives, there are two components. The first is related to syntax, and the second is related to semantics. For him, imperatives need to be accounted for in terms of syntax because they encode a weak sort of modality within them. Imperatives need to be viewed in terms of semantics, according to him, due to the speech acts they accompany. Put plainly, Medeiros (2013, p. 10) states that "imperatives encode weak

necessity modality and can (in some languages must) occur in performative contexts." And this makes a discourse-syntax interrelation between discourse speech acts and syntactic computation.

Imperatives cross-linguistically, as Collberg and Håkansson (1999)_ (cf. also Rupp, 2003)_ state, can be categorized into two types, i.e. true imperatives and surrogate ones. True imperatives have distinct imperative inflections attached to them. Surrogate imperatives, in contrast, have no such distinctive inflections. That is, the forms of their verbs are similar to that of infinitives. Evidently, English imperative verbs have no imperative inflections realization. So, English imperatives are surrogates.

Concerning subjects in English imperatives, English actually is one of the PRO-drop languages because its subjects have consistent overt phonological realization but, as Radford (2009) puts it, in four cases: imperative null subjects, finite null subjects, non-finite null subjects, and truncated null subjects. One of the main reasons behind the consistent overt realization of its subjects is the nature of its verbs as being poor with inflections. Based on that, the covert subject in English imperative is widely argued to be 2nd person and cannot be 1st person or 3rd person (cf. Alćazar and Saltarelli, 2014: 3; Ryding 2005; Bennis, 2015). However, imperative subjects in English can be 1st person or 3rd person, and this is because the imperative subject can be the addressee and can be not so (cf. Rupp, 2003; Portner, Pak and Zanuttini, 2014). Rupp (2003) actually restricts this possibility to surrogate imperatives.

With perspective to tense, English imperatives are argued to have no tense and, accordingly, no TP projection (cf. Platzack and Rosengren, 1998). As argued by Stefanowitsch (2003), imperatives are tenseless but finite, and they cannot contain modals[2]. In contrast, Collberg and Håkansson (1999) argue that there is [T] with surrogate imperatives (e.g. English imperatives) while true ones lack it. Kruger (2012), however, assumes that there is a lack of tense and modality, but there is; he proceeds his assumption, FinP is needed in English imperatives on whose Spec the imperative subject is assumed to be situated.

For Platzack and Rosengren (1998), for example, imperatives do not have even FinP, TP, or MoodP projections. Similarly, some other scholars, e.g. Beukema and Coopmans (1989), claim that imperatives lack TP, AgrP (=Agreement Phrase) and CP projections. Further, for Jensen (2003), imperatives have (vP and) TP but not CP. Jensen, however, argues that there is a sort of competition between different values of [T], and such a competition is assumed by him to be between T_{Decl} (=$Tense_{Declarative}$) and T_{Imp} (=$Tense_{Imperative}$) when constructing imperatives.

Knowing that English imperatives can be either neutral, emphatic or negative, as in examples (5) through (7) respectively,[3] in both emphatic and negative ones, there is an overt phonological realization for the auxiliary verb *do* (cf., e.g. Potsdam, 1995).

5. Open the window!

6. Do open the window! [*emphatic imperative*]

7. Don't open the window! [*negated imperative*]

3 Imperative projection in English

The aim of the present section is to present a novel formalized argument that could depict the influential underlying pattern by which the English imperative is minimally constructed.[4] Needless to say that the account proposed here is fundamentally based on overt syntactic, discourse and propositional properties that imperatives possess. Also, as would be obvious throughout the discussion here, the account goes in line with the most recent notions of minimalism and phase approach. However, it provides some updates and modifications to the views related to imperatives, which are posited in the literature.

To account for the structuring of imperatives in English, this study— contrary to the postulations posited in the literature, such as the VP-internal hypothesis, FP assumption, and CP hypothesis to some extent— presents a complete novel hypothesis along with accompanying postulations, based on the morphosyntactic, discourse and propositional properties of imperative constructions.

[2] Modality is generally categorized into two main types, viz. epistemic and deontic (cf. Angordans, Posteguillo and Andreu-Besó 2002) Unlike the first, the second is allowed within the construction of imperative since it adheres to the semantic essence of imperatives, and this is, consequently, what allows the possible realization of the Model Phrase (=ModP) projection (cf. Kruger 2012).

[3] Actually, unlike English and Arabic, e.g., in some languages, like Spanish and Italian, "imperatives cannot be negated" (Han 2001, p. 289; Han 1999). However, negation there can be expressed with "negative infinitivals" or "subjunctives".

[4] Noteworthy stating that this formalized argument is concurrently being applied by the authors on imperatives in Arabic for the sake of identifying its cross-linguistic applicability.

The study proposes that there is a specific projection— preferred to be labelled as ImpP— within the CP layer. The labelling here is actually in accordance with Kruger's (2012, p. 4) and Cinque and Rizzi's (2008) cartographic mode of labelling "phrase structures [...] according to the functional content of each projection". And as Kruger (2012, p. 19) puts it, "[c]artography and [m]inimalism [...] inform each other in many ways". That is, they complement one another, and this consequently strengthens the proposed schemata that this study posits, mainly since it gives much significance to [Imp] by giving a distinct projection for it *per se*. Actually, [Imp] within the CP layer has been largely advocated for in the literature (cf. Elghazi, 2016**)**. The proposed schemata in this study, thus, is roughly shown in Figure (13) below:

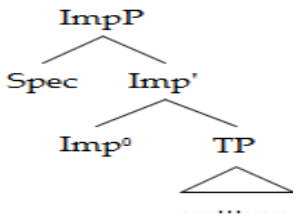

Figure No. 13

The proposition of such a cartographic projection is not presented in vain. On the contrary, it manifests a number of analytic solutions to some syntactic ambiguities and a systematic mechanism accounting for the structuring of imperatives along with their different distinctive properties. Such a distinct projection with its own features is what gives a distinguished interpretation of imperatives at LF. To concretize how the mechanism of this proposed projection works, let's observe the following English imperative example along with its postulated syntactic schemata:

8. Open the door!

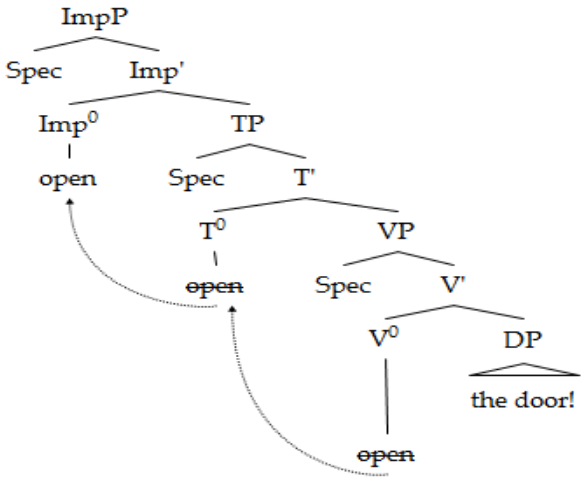

Figure No. 14

As manifested in Figure (14) above, the researcher argues that, by means of IM, the imperative verb *Open* first merges on V^0 essentially to value the [V] of V^0. Then it moves cyclically onto T^0 and then to Imp^0 (cf. Potsdam, 2007; Bennis, 2015). It moves to Imp^0 both to check its [Imp] and to value the [V] of Imp^0. That is to say; the researcher postulates that the Imp^0's features— e.g. [V]— need to be interpreted and valued. It is the unvalued [V] of Imp^0, e.g., which attracts the verb to Imp^0, and this, in turn, contributes to the interpretation fulfillment of [Imp] of the moved verb. In effect, the postulation that the imperative verb moves to Imp^0 to check its [Imp] is actually supported by Rizzi and Cinque's (2016, p. 141) declaration that "contentive elements move in the inflectional field and pick up (or check) [(covert)] inflectional affixes in their functional extended projections". It also goes in line with Kruger's (2012) assumption that imperative verbs fundamentally get fronted to the CP layer.

Noteworthy saying that the imperative operator on Imp^o in English imperatives, as the researcher argues, is unmarked. That is, it is covert. In English, it is only determined through its retaining of imperative verbs in their base-like forms. Thus, in accordance with that, the English imperative verb moves onto Imp^0 to check the value and to get the interpretation of its (un)marked imperative operator's feature.

Approving ImpP as a projection within the CP layer is also supported by the evident higher position of the *do*-support auxiliary, which is present in the case of negation, emphasis or contrast. Example (9) below supports the point:

9. Do (you) help your mother!

This example manifests as the researcher argues that the auxiliary verb here has a position higher than the TP projection. That is, the auxiliary verb *Do* here is argued to locate within the CP layer, mainly on Imp^0 (cf. Potsdam, 2003, 2007 for a similar view). Significant to state here that, going in line with Potsdam (2003, 2007), the (overt) subject is assumed to reside on Spec-TP. The main verb in imperatives with auxiliaries, as in example (9) above, is assumed to merge and also reside on V^0.

Another point to be discussed is related to a different form of imperatives in English. Let's observe the following example:

10. Could you open the door, please?!

The apparent form in example (10) above is interrogative. However, the study argues that it has a 'polite' imperative flavor since the prominent function is "directive" (cf. Portner, Pak and Zanuttini, 2014; for a contra view, see Stefanowitsch 2003). Based on that, the study postulates that not only is the ImpP in effect, but also the ForceP projection. That is, the head of the ImpP projection is for granting [Imp] to the imperative verb and subject, as well; and the head of the ForceP projection is to determine the overall type of the clause, i.e. mainly whether it is flavored with an interrogative style or not. To make the point more evident, let's observe the following Figure:

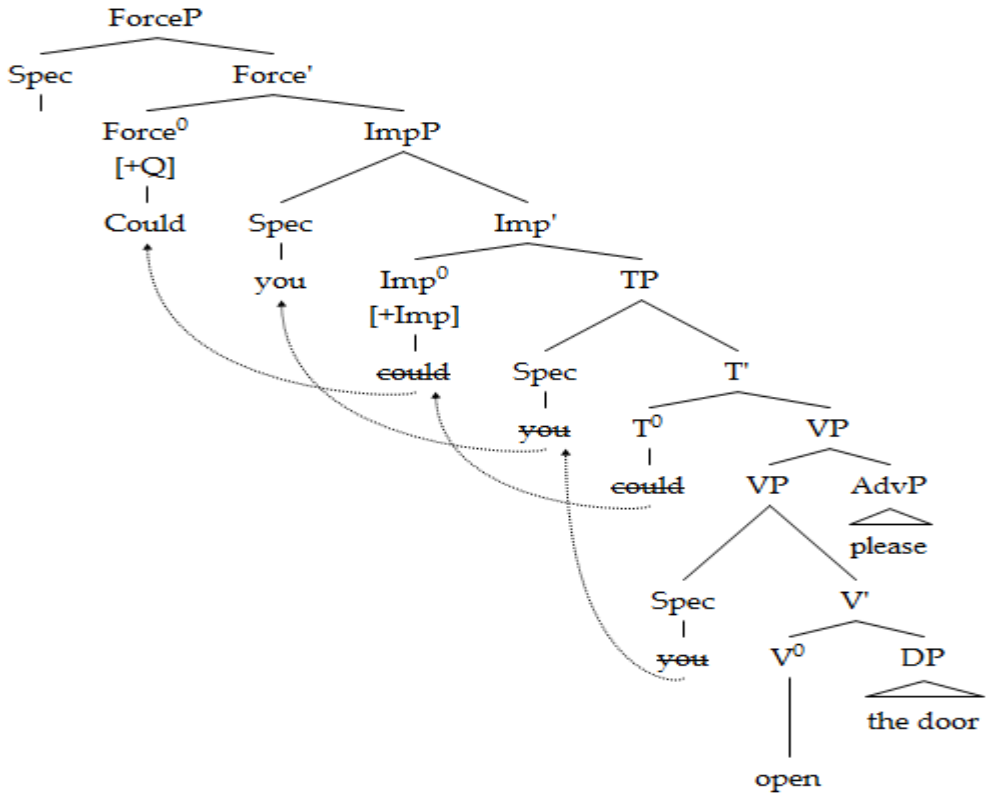

Figure No. 15

The study postulates that the modal verb *could* move from its base-generating slot T^0 to Imp^0 and then to $Force^0$ in a successive cyclic manner to value and interpret its unvalued and uninterpreted [Imp] and [+Q] (= [+Question]), respectively. So, when getting transferred to the interfaces, namely, to the semantic interface and the phonological one, the whole phrase gets an integrated flavor of both the directive and interrogative modes. The semantic interface interprets it as a request, and the phonological interface grants it a request intonation. Thus, ImpP, along with ForceP, contributes to the full interpretation of imperative clauses. Such an occurrence can actually be considered proof that, even in English imperatives, there can be an active ForceP along with the ImpP within the CP layer.

Imperatives, including requests and strong emphatic command constructions, can be structures that have a semi-interrogative form. That is, they contain inverted subjects-auxiliary verbs. Example (11) below, along with its postulated Figure (16), elucidates the point (cf. Potsdam, 2003):

11. Do you open the door!

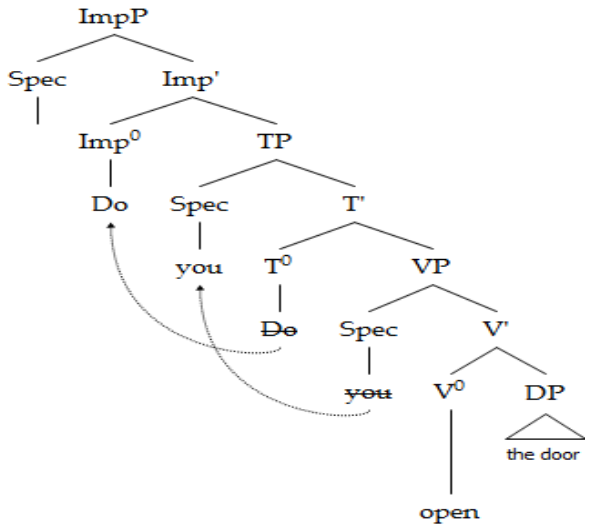

Figure No. 16

Though apparently similar to the structure of interrogatives, the imperative construction here is postulated to merely have the emphatic inverted auxiliary verb *Do* that moves from its base-generating position T^0 to Imp^0 primarily to check its [Imp]. The residence of the emphatic verb on Imp^0 (that has semantic [Emphasis]), the researcher argues, is considered a barrier for the imperative subject *you* from moving to Spec-Imp.

Following Shormani's (2017 and 2021) view, the researcher argues that imperative T^0 has [T] and ϕ-features. The researcher agrees with the literature argumentation that [T] exists in imperatives, and it has almost a permanent null realization in English imperative (cf. Collberg and Håkansson, 1999; Jensen, 2003). To account for this view, since the subject in English imperative has an evident semantic interpretation, and since phonetically realized subjects generally need a case assigned to them (cf. Chomsky, 1993; Quicoli, 1996), then the overt subjects in English imperatives, the researcher argues, can be said to have Nominative Case (=[Nom]) which is generally unmarked. As traditionally widely known, [Nom] is assigned by [T] on the verb. Put simply, the possible presence of subjects in imperatives ensures that there is a licenser for their presence and that licenser is [T]. Thus, English imperatives are best viewed to have null phonological [T].

Putting that into consideration, the study, however, extends that argumentation by saying that imperative T^0 has identical and not only similar ϕ-features of the imperative subject‗ in addition to the presence of [Imp],‗ but these features are phonologically unmarked in English due to being poor in (overt) inflections (cf. Han, 2001; Radford, 2009). The study also argues that the significance of [T] in imperative entails not present but only future, even when the overt syntactic structure has a null inflection (i.e. unmarked) on the imperative verb. The apparent base-like form of the imperative verb here does not necessarily indicate the nullness of [T], the study argues, but rather it could signify the strong effectiveness of Imp^0's [Imp] and its features. The point is more evident through the following examples:

12. Don't hiss any word, will you?

13. Open the book, will/won't you?

In addition to the general pragmatic sense of futurity behind imperative constructions (Abdiah, 2010), the overt future "tensed" helping verb *will* in question tags like the ones in examples (12) and (13) above strengthens our argument that the T^0 of the first part of each clause above (namely, the imperative T^0) has an unmarked future value of [T]. What gives the examples above an imperative reading, the study argues, is primarily [Imp] inherited by the ImpP (which is mostly discourse-oriented due to its accompanying prominent speech act) and then percolated to the imperative subject and verb.[5]

[5] Worth saying that all branches of linguistics including syntax, phonology, morphology, discourse analysis, interact and interface with one another (Shormani, 2017).

Accordingly, the study postulates that Imp^0 mainly has [Imp], [Adrs], [Specification] (=[Speci])[6] and that the entailment of futurity in the imperative is ascribed, as the study argues, to the activeness of FinP. Contra Radford (2009), FinP activation is evident, for instance, by the future marker *will* in English question-tagged imperatives. ForceP activation is also evident in the formation of an imperative clause in interrogative form. And even when these two projections, namely, FinP and ForceP, are active, the imperative subject and verb raise to the ImpP projection to value their unvalued [Imp]. They move to be consistent with the Full Interpretation Principle and structural economy. And this goes in line with the general view that functional heads are presented in the syntactic derivation when they have active features to be valued (cf. Chomsky, 2004; Chierchia, 2004). Based on this, the study argues that the postulation of the ImpP projection is adequately justified.

Going in line with Shuhama's (2014) view of the possible effectiveness of TopP and/or FocP for the sake of contrast, the researcher postulates the hierarchal schemata in Figure (17), representing the underlying structuring of imperative construction:

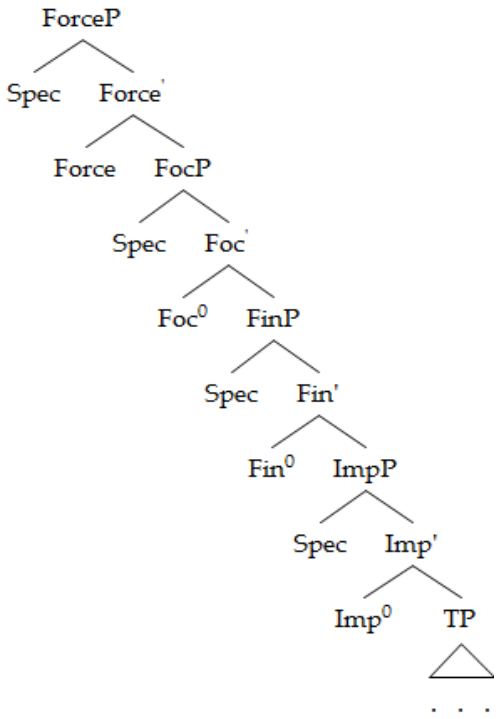

Figure No. 17

A piece of evidence that such a hierarchal sequence of FocP is appropriate in relation to ImpP are the following examples (see Shuhama, 2014, for similar data):

14. *This book* $_{FocP}$ *don't* $_{Imp}$ anyone read___!

15. **Don't* $_{Imp}$ *this book* $_{FocP}$ anyone read ____!

The examples above show that the ImpP projection is preceded by FocP. Regarding the FinP projection in comparison to that of ImpP, the researcher argues that ImpP has an intermediate position between FinP and TP, so it becomes an effective barrier for the overtness of [T] on the imperative verb.

4 Conclusions

This paper has tackled the syntax of English imperatives in terms of the newest advancements in syntax, i.e. from a minimalist perspective. The paper has postulated that there is a significant role played by syntactic features, and this goes in line with minimalism. Based on that, the paper has proposed a new projection within the CP layer, labelling it ImpP. This projection grants imperative clauses a syntactic identity different from that of other types of clauses. This projection is roughly represented in Figure (18) below:

[6] The assumption that Imp^0 has [Speci] goes in line with Rupp's (2003) and Portner, Pak and Zanuttini's (2014) argument that the subject of imperatives can be not the addressee.

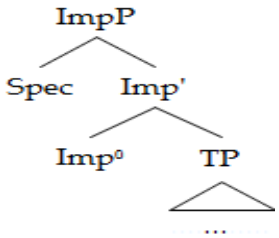

Figure No. 18

Imp^0 is assumed to have an inherently valued [Imp] that is considered a crucial factor for constructing English imperatives. This study also concludes that the English imperative has an unmarked [T] with future value. The sense of futurity is ascribed to the future syntactic verbal markers present in imperative question tags in addition to the pragmatic sense of imperatives. Such an explicit projection, along with its accompanying features, can be considered a humble contribution to the field of English syntax. Since this paper is just limited to imperatives in English, the paper suggests applying the proposition of the new projection ImpP to the syntax of other languages.

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Bio-notes

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