More interesting is that *many people* seems to be barred from moving at all under these circumstances. That is, even to the right of *there*, moving *many people* seems to violate some constraint of the system:

4. *There are likely many people$_i$ to be t_i at the party.

It is a bit surprising that this should be the case. By assumption, *many people* lands in **Spec**-**T** - that is, just to the left of *to* - on its way to the left edge of the clause in (1). Furthermore, this cannot be intrinsically motivated (such as for case checking), or *many people* would never be licit in its original small clause position, as it is in (2). *many people*, it seems, either makes it "all the way to the top," or it doesn't move at all. But if the intermediate movement is not motivated by anything intrinsic to the phrase - i.e. is in some sense "optional" - something must prevent it from happening in cases like (2) where the expletive is present.

The addition of *phase*s to the Minimalist toolkit begins with (Chomsky 2000)'s solution to this problem.

If the intermediate movement step is real in (1), then the most straightfoward way to rule it out in (2) (thus avoiding the ungrammatical (3)) is to somehow require *there* to enter the derivation at that point, blocking it at the source. This is the approach (Chomsky 2000) takes, proposing a **Merge over Move** principle that, all else equal, requires the derivation to proceed with a **Merge** operation at junctures where both **Merge** and **Move** are available and motivated. The tree diagram below shows such a juncture:

TP
T — VP
to$_{[EPP]}$ be *many people* at the party