

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Ellipsis

In this chapter, the researcher needs to explain about ellipsis and its types. Ellipsis is the omission of an item in order to avoid repetition. Beaugrande (1985: 133) wrote “Ellipsis is the omission of surface expressions whose conceptual content is nonetheless carried forward and expended or modified by means of noticeably in complete expression”. It can be said that ellipsis does not change the meaning of an expression, although the changes really exist in the surface expression.

While Nunan (1993:25) stated that ellipsis occurs when some essential structural elements is omitted from a sentence or clause and can only be recovered by referring to an element in preceding text.

Example: Sylvia : I like the blue hat, how about you?

Mary : I prefer the green. (Nunan, 1993: 25)

In the dialog above the question is impossible to answer. However, if we know what was said before we can guess what Mary meant in her utterance. The full answer should be “I prefer the green hat”.

Furthermore, Cook (1989: 20) wrote that ellipsis is the omitting part of sentences on the assumption that an earlier sentence or the context will make the meaning clear. In the researcher’s view, one can understand what it should be in the omitting part if he or she knew the sentence or utterance that was said before.

Example: A : Would you like a glass of tea?

B : Yes, I would, (Cook, 1989:20)

In the example above, instead of answering with *yes I would like a glass of tea* it can just say *yes I would* knowing that *like a glass of tea* will be understood.

Ellipsis is commonly practiced in formal and communicative use of language; this fact of ellipsis is to avoid the needless repetition in communicative events. Allen and Widdowson in Brumfit and Johnson (1979: 122) add that Ellipsis is a kind of property of the natural use of language.

Halliday and Hasan (1985: 143-144) assert that ellipsis is a kind of device for identifying something by referring it to something that already stated or expressed or something is known to tell at least understood by the hearer. For example:

A : Telephone

B : in the bathroom

A : OK.

The speaker and the hearer do not realize that they have already used ellipsis. However, they know the complete expression in the conversation.

They are:

A : There is telephone for you!

B : I am in the bathroom. Could you take that for me?

A : OK I will do it for you. (Halliday and Hassan, 1989:143)

In addition, Carter, et al. in Novitri (1999:19) said that, in spoken language, ellipsis tend to be used by speakers, especially for those who have known each other well. In this addition the speakers have already shared their background of knowledge that brings them close to one another. Due to this it is not necessary to state everything explicitly that is why the source of missing information has to be understood either y the speaker or the reader. The missing information or structural slots can be sentences, clauses or other elements.

Another example of ellipsis is given in dialog below:

A : Can I borrow your pen?

B : Yes, but what happen to yours?

Here the nominal group “yours” is elliptical and its non-elliptical version would be “your pen”

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993:148)

From the example above I conclude according to Michael Swan (1995: 208), ellipsis is in a very informal style, article, pronouns and auxiliary verb are often left out, bringing a more important word to the front of the clause.

2.2 Types of Ellipsis

Halliday and Hasan (1985: 146-225) mention that ellipsis can be divided into three kinds: nominal, verbal, and clausal ellipsis.

2.2.1 Nominal ellipsis

Nominal Ellipsis is the ellipsis when within the nominal group (Halliday and Hasan, 1985:147). A nominal ellipsis contains a nominal group. In systematic linguistics, a nominal group consists of a head and an optional modification. The modifying elements include some modifiers that precede the head and some modifiers which follow it. These are referred to a pre modifier and a post modifier.

Example : Those two fast electric trains with pantographs.

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993:148)

The head is trains, the pre modifier is formed by those two fast electric and the post modifier by with pantographs.

Pre modifier usually consists of a deictic, a numeral, an epithet, and a classifier. Represented here by those, two, fast, and electric. A post modifier is represented by a qualifier. It is represented by with pantograph.

The deictic is normally a determiner, the enumerative is a numeral, the epithet is an adjective and classifier is a noun. There may be sub modifier at various places: these are usually adverb like so, very, and too. The qualifier is normally a relative clause or prepositional phrase. (Halliday and Hasan, 1985: 147)

In the following example, it can be seen that an ellipsis occurs in the nominal group:

A : Which last longer, the curved rods or the straight rods?

B : The straight are less likely to break.

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993:145)

Straight is an epithet, its function as modifier I the question but as a head in the response. The straight is elliptical nominal groups. Thus the missing word in B' answer is *rods*.

The structure of the nominal groups is that of optional modification.

(a). Deictic is a determiner which consist of:

(1) Specific deictic: possessive, demonstrative, and *the*

(2) Non-Specific deictic: *each, every, any, either, no, a, neither, and some*

(3) Post-deictic: *other, some, different, identical, usual, regular, certain, add, famous, well-known, typical, obvious.*

(b) Numeral is expressed by numeral which consists of:

(1) Ordinal: *First, next, last, second, third, fourth, etc.*

(2) Cardinal: *the three, those three, the some three, etc.*

(3) Indefinite quantifier: *Much, many, more, few, several, a little, lots, a bit.*

Etc.

(c) Epithet is typically fulfilled by an adjective.

2.2.1.1 Deictic as Head

Deictic can be divided into three parts. They are:

1. Specific deictic

Specific deictic are possessive include both noun and pronoun , demonstrative (*this, that, these, those, and which*) , and *the*.

Example :

- a. Here the other guinea-pig cheered, and was suppressed.

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993:145)

From the above example it can be seen that *the* is deictic and *other* is post deictic.

2. Non-specific deictic

Non-specific deictic are *each, every, any, either, no, neither, a, and some, as well as all and both*. These are occur as head of elliptical nominal except *every*, but *a* and *no* have to be represented by the forms *one* and *none* respectively.

Example:

“I won’t be introduced to the pudding, please. May I give you some?”

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993:157)

In the above example, it can see that there is a nominal group (*the pudding*) and the head is *pudding*. In the second clause, some is nominal ellipsis, since the full form is some *puddings* and the head changes from pudding into some which is a deictic.

3. Post-deictic

The words functioning as post deictic element in the nominal group are not determines but adjectives. There are some adjectives used commonly in deictic function and others used occasionally in this way; the frequent ones include: *other, some, different usual, odd, famous, well known, typical, obvious.*

Example:

A group of well - dressed young men suddenly appeared on the stage. One of the bowed to the audience; the others stood motionless.

(Halliday and Hasan , 1993:161)

Here, there are two nominal ellipsis, *one of them and the others.*

2.2.1.2 Numeral as Head

The numeral element in the nominal group is expressed by numeral or other quantifying words. They are: *ordinals, cardinals, and indefinite quantifiers.*

1. The ordinals

The ordinals are: first, next ,, last , second , third , etc.

Example :

Have another chocolate.- No thanks that was my third.

(Halliday and Hasan , 1993:161)

In the above example, the nominal elliptical group *my third* is specific deictic of possessive pronoun *my* and ordinal *third*. The full form of the

sentence becomes *Have another chocolate – No, thanks ; that was my third chocolate.*

2. Cardinal numeral

Cardinal Numeral are also frequent in ellipsis, and may be preceded by any deictic and also by post deictic adjectives such as *the usual three, the same three.*

Example :

Have another chocolate.- No thanks; I've had may three.

The nominal elliptical group *my three* is specific deictic possessive *my* and cardinal numeral *three*. The full form of the sentences is *Have another chocolate.- No thanks; I've had my three chocolate.*

3. Indefinite quantifiers

The indefinite quantifiers are items such as *much , many ,few , several ,a little, lots, a bit , hundreds , etc.* In the utterance *can all cats climb trees?- they all can; and most do*, The indefinite quantifiers *most* presupposes *cats*.

2.2.1.3 Epithet

The function of epithet is typically fulfilled by an adjective. This can be found both in the comparative. However, it is more focused on superlative forms.

1. Superlative adjective

The Superlative adjective precedes other epithet is usually accompanied by *the* or *possessive deictic*.

Example :

“Apples are the cheapest in the autumn. (the cheapest is an elliptical group)

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993:167)

The above sentences is elliptical, it can see that there is a missing part in it. *The cheapest* is an elliptical group presupposing some items such as *fruit*.

2.2.2. Verbal Ellipsis

An ellipsis (tical) verbal group presupposes one or more words from a previous verbal group. According to Halliday and Hasan (1985: 167) assert that verbal ellipsis is the ellipsis within the verbal group. The following examples represent verbal ellipsis.

A : Have you been swimming?

B : Yes, I've. (Halliday and Hasan, 1993;169)

The missing part is *have been swimming*. In fact, the full sentence is; Yes, I've been swimming.

A : What have you been doing?

B : Swimming. (Halliday and Hasan, 1993;169)

The B's answer can be interpreted as I've been swimming. There are two types of verbal ellipsis, they are: lexical and operator ellipsis.

2.2.2.1 Lexical Ellipsis

Any verbal group not containing a lexical verb is elliptical. Halliday and Hasan (1985; 170) give the explanation of lexical ellipsis that it is the type of ellipsis in which the lexical verb is missing from the verbal group. All the modals can, could, will, would, shall, should, might, must and is to (here is to stand for the forms am to, is to, are to, was to, and were to) none of them can function as lexical verb but, they can follow a lexical verb, if they are in an ellipsis. Example:

A : Is John going to come?

B : He might, he was to, but he may not

C : He should, if he wants his name to be considered.

In this conversation *might*, *was to*, *may not* and *should* are elliptical verbal group. Each of them can be filled by the missing lexical verb *come*. Therefore, they will sound *might come*, *was to come*, *may not come*, and *should come*.

2.2.2.2 Operator Ellipsis

Halliday and Hasan (1985:174) said that operator ellipsis involves only the omission of operator; the lexical verb always remains intact, and in operator ellipsis the subject also always omitted from the clause, Example :

1. They must have been watching and being watched.

The verbal form *must have been* is omitted. Its non-elliptical is the *must have been watching and they must have been being watched*.

2.2.3 Clausal Ellipsis

A clausal, according to Halliday and Hasan (1993) has two – part structure which consist of modal and propositional element.

Example : The Duke was going to plant a row of poplars in the park
(Modal elements) (Prepositional element)

(Halliday and Hasan, 1967: 197)

Clausal Ellipsis occurs when the modal or prepositional elements is omitted from the sentence.

2.2.3.1 Modal Ellipsis

Modal Ellipsis contains modal elements. Modal element consists of subject and auxiliary, such as john was, they ware, I am, etc.

Example : A : What was the duke going to do?

B : Plant a row of poplars in the park.

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993;197)

In the answer, the modal element is omitted; the subject and the finite operator *was* . So there is operator ellipsis in verbal group the full expression will appear like: *The duke was going to plant a row of poplars in the park.*

Typically, modal ellipsis occurs in response to a WH-question asking what. Example :

A : What were they doing?

B : Holding hands. (Halliday and Hasan, 1993 : 198)

Modal elements *they* and *were* are omitted. They should fill the response. Thus, it will be *they were holding hands.*

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that modal ellipsis is an ellipsis where the modal elements are omitted.

2.2.3.2 Propositional Ellipsis

Halliday and Hasan (1985:196 – 202) said that propositional ellipsis contains propositional elements. Propositional element is the element apart from modal element, such as verb and adverb. Example :

A : Who was going to plant a row of poplars in the park?

B : The duke was.

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993;198)

Here there is omission of the complement and adjunct and the lexical verb plant; so there is lexical ellipsis in the verbal group. The complete sentence is *the duke was going to plant a row of poplars in the park*.

Typically, propositional ellipsis occurs in response to statements and yes/no question, as in:

A : Has the plane landed?

B : Yes, it has.

(Halliday and Hasan, 1993: 198)

It can be conclude that propositional ellipsis where the propositional elements are omitted.

2.3 The Function of Ellipsis

Ellipsis is deletion of certain lingual unit that has been mentioned previously. The function of the ellipsis, namely:

1. For the effectiveness of the sentence
2. To achieve value economics in language usage
3. To achieve cohesion aspect of discourse
4. To activate the mind of the listener or reader something that disclosed in the unit said.

2.4 The use of Ellipsis

Ellipsis is used to indicate that there are passages omitted quotations (direct quote). The use of ellipsis according Keraf (2004 : 132) that more practical in speak to use word that a little bit because it doesn't repeat the same word so can deliver intent is complete and easy to understand.

2.5 Relevance Studies

The idea on writing this research based on some thesis that supplies relevant information about Ellipsis.

First, the relevant studies of Rahayu (2017), *A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OD ELLIPSES IN A CONVERSATION OF MERRY MADAGASCAR FILM*. This study discusses the ellipsis in Merry Madagascar film with objectives of this study are to describe the kinds of ellipsis and the purpose of using ellipsis in the film. The research findings of number 1 show that four kinds of ellipsis of found in the film are: (1). General ellipsis (38 sentences), (2). Ellipses at the beginning of a sentence (6 sentences), (3).Ellipses after auxiliary verbs (3 sentences), (4). Ellipsis in noun phrase (1 sentence). The research findings number 2 shows that the purpose of using ellipsis by all characters is to prevent avoids repetition word. With these findings it can be concluded that the ellipsis aims to clarify the avoid repetition in communicating so that what is conveyed can be understood and its meaning can be conveyed.

Second, the relevant studies of Nofitson (2014), *AN ANALYSE OF COHESIVE DEVICES OF HEADLINE NEWS IN THE JAKARTA POST*. The objectives these studies are to; 1) know kind of cohesive devices appear in The Jakarta Post and 2) describe the dominant of cohesive devices found in Headline news of The Jakarta Post.

Nofitson (2014) studied conducted this research by using descriptive qualitative design. The finding of this research showed that there were 350 data of ties i.e. reference (102 or 29, 14%), substitution (1 or 0, 29%) and Ellipsis (10 or 2,86%) conjunction (149 or 42,57%).

In her research that there was little difference in the analysis of figures conducted by Nofitson (2014), she doing the research for all item of cohesive devices. Both of the researchers above, they have similarity result to those found for studies of subject Ellipsis, but are suggestive of differences based on authorial intentions and the intended audience. While the researcher examines only focus on Ellipsis by the fifth year students of the English study program of FKIP-UIR.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

Written and spoken discourse display grammatical in each clauses and utterances. According to McCarthy (2000:35), these grammatical links can be classified under three types: reference, ellipsis/substitution; and conjunction. And this research focuses on ellipsis as grammatical device. Ellipsis is commonly expressed through dialogues either spoken or written. Ellipsis cases are various. Principally the ellipsis cases are same, that is, leaving out

some word. It is obvious that the analysis of a text contains many related to, for instance, the problems of proposition, of cohesion and of ellipsis. The analysis in this research focuses merely on ellipsis within some test. The test is dividing into several kinds of ellipsis. Halliday and Hasan (1985: 146-225) mention that ellipsis can be divided into three kinds: nominal, verbal, and clausal ellipsis. The test in this research will be limited to the student's mastery of ellipsis by the fourth year students of the English study program of FKIP- UIR.

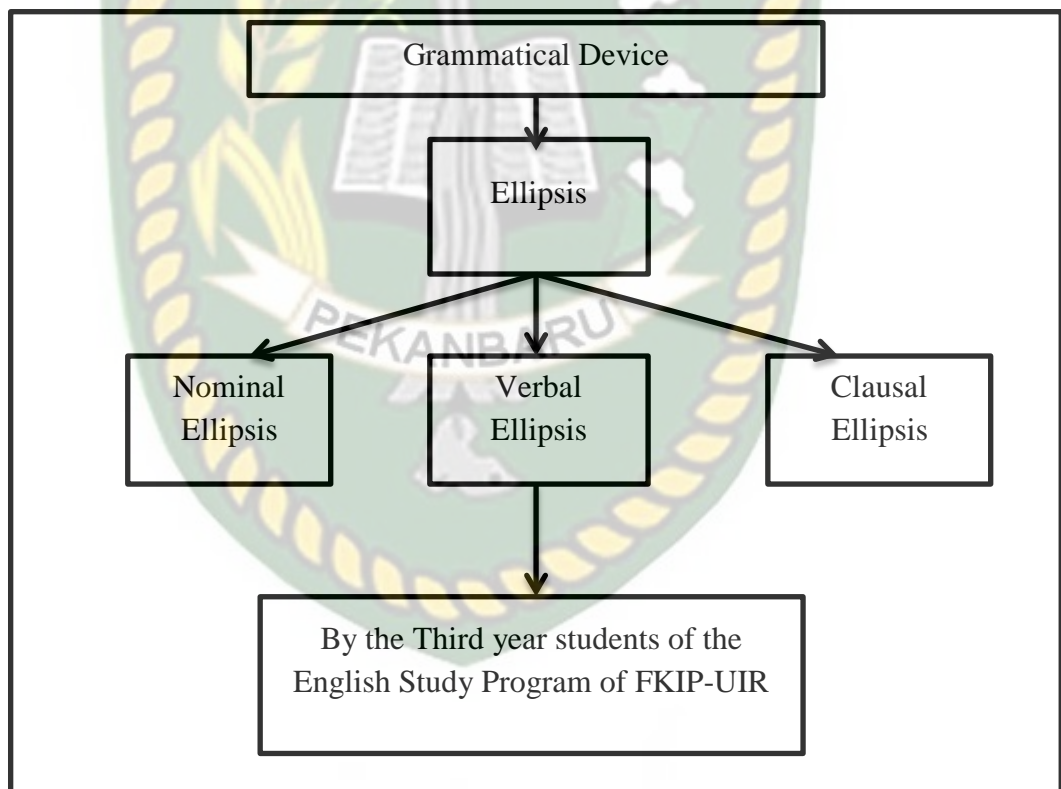


Figure 2.6 Conceptual Framework

2.7 Assumption

In this study, the authors suspect three type of ellipsis that indirectly appear in our daily conversations, In addition to, the author has observed and analyzed the conversation itself, before. And, the explanation of these of these results will be described in the next chapter. In other words, the author describes the use of some type of ellipsis used in every day.

