Clausal Ellipsis in English and Arabic: A Contrastive Analysis
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Abstract

Ellipsis is a syntactic phenomena common to all languages. It is used to avoid redundant or dull aspects and to produce a more acceptable statement economy. This paper, on the other hand, is on a specific sort of ellipsis known as clausal ellipsis. Such phenomena have been studied in both English and Arabic, revealing both differences and commonalities. Finally, there are certain similarities and contrasts between English and Arabic in terms of clausal ellipsis.

Keywords: *ellipsis, clausal, part, whole, difference*

الملخص

الحذف هي ظاهرة نحوية موجودة في جميع اللغات. يتم استخدامه لتجنب العناصر المتكررة غير الضرورية أو المملة ولتحقيق تماسك أكثر ملاءمة للبيان. ومع ذلك، فإن هذا البحث يتناول نوع خاص من القطع الناقص وهو ما يسمى القطع الناقص. وقد تم التحقيق في هذه الظاهرة باللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية مع إظهار الاختلافات والتشابهات. وأخيرًا، لوحظ وجود بعض أوجه التشابه والاختلاف بين اللغتين الإنجليزية والعربية فيما يتعلق بحذف فقرة.

1. Clausal Ellipsis in English
1.1 Ellipsis: Definitions

Bussman (1999: 356) states that ellipsis refers to omission of linguistic units that are needed because of either syntactical rules or lexical properties (e.g. verbal valence). There are different constructions that can be interpreted as ellipsis:

(a) Co-ordinating reduction, where identical material is left out: *He had too much to drink but I didn't (gapping).*

(b) Lexical ellipsis, which signals valence-required complements, e.g. It is now your chance to deal the cards.

(c) Previously illustrated content is frequently excluded in questions and answers: Who is coming tomorrow?—Caroline (will be arriving tomorrow).

(d) Infinitive and participial constructions can be studied as regular kinds of ellipsis if the subject is omitted: Louise quit smoking.

(e) In imperatives, the subject is required to be deleted: Go home! (ibid).

In this sense, Brown and Millar (2013: 150) define ellipsis as "the omission of words, phrases, or clauses that are recoverable from context." They can sometimes be recovered straight from the text, as in "Have you seen the book on the table? - Sorry, I haven't [seen...table], where the piece

"seen the book that was on the table" is omitted. Sometimes they must be recovered indirectly from text and other context (Have you finished your homework? - I am[doing my homework], where doing and my do not appear in the first utterance.)home! (ibid).

As a result, Leech (2006: 36) notes that ellipsis refers to the grammatically permitted removal of one or more words from a sentence in which the omitted words may be accurately rebuilt. Here are several examples (showing the point at which ellipsis occurs):

(a) That vehicle is older than this one.

(b) Have you seen Samantha lately? No, I have not.

(c) The majority of children have traveled more than their parents.

 (d) Boys will be boys, and girls ^ girls.

These examples demonstrate (a) noun ellipsis, (b) predication ellipsis, (c) predicate ellipsis, and (d) verb phrase ellipsis. Usually, as in these examples, the lost words can be rebuilt since they occur in the context. For example, in (a), the ellipsis prevents the word automobile from being repeated. In its role of avoiding repetition, ellipsis is analogous to substitution and is frequently referred to as "substitution by zero" (ibid).

1.1.1 Clausal Ellipsis: Overview

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976: 197), a clause is represented by an expression of several speech functions such as a statement, a question, a response, and so on. In this regard, McCagg (1990:325) asserts that clauses in English, which are used to represent various speech functions such as statement, inquiry, response, and so on, have a two-part structure that consists of a modal element and a propositional element. Clausal ellipsis is the ellipsis of an entire clause or a portion of a clause, as shown in the following example:

A: Have you ever visited the Great Wall of China?

B: Twice, yes.(I've visited the Great Wall twice)

Some elliptical structures require some parts to be present outside of the text, such as in the following dialogue:

A: Are you feeling better today?(=Are you feeling better today?)

B: A lot better.(=I'm feeling lot better today.)

Clausal ellipsis is a complex relationship; there is no obvious boundary between verbal and clausal ellipsis. The former entails the absence of nonverbal aspects from the clause's structure.

Verbal ellipsis in this case is always accompanied by the omission of related clause parts, which are in the same part of the phrase as the relevant piece of the verbal group. In operator ellipsis, the subject is omitted when the finite component of the verbal group is omitted; in lexical ellipsis, all complements and adjuncts are omitted when the nonfinite element of the verbal group is omitted (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 194).

McCarthy (1991: 44) claims that clausal ellipsis occurs when clause elements are missing, most notably subject-pronoun omission (doesn't matter, hope so, sorry, can't help you, etc.). Whole clausal component stretches may also be eliminated. Whole clausal component stretches may also be eliminated. For example, if you had stayed here as I suggested, they would undoubtedly be. (From The Chronicles of Narnia script-dialog transcript)

This type of sentence is known as clausal ellipsis since it contains some kind of substitution for the main verb and an object pronoun, resulting in the form: "If you'd stayed here like I suggested, they definitely would be" (ibid).

1.1.1.1 Types of Clausal Ellipsis

According to Halliday and Matthiessen (2004: 563), there are two kinds of clausal ellipsis that are:

1.1.1.1.1 Yes/No Ellipsis

This type can be divided into two categories:

(a) The entire clause. In a yes/no question — answer sequence, the answer may include an ellipsis of the entire clause, such as:

A. You mean you were interested in him as a man outside of work?

B. Oh, absolutely. [: In private, I was interested in him as a guy.]

Another illustration:

A. Have you yet been interviewed by Bedford?

B. No. [: I have not yet been questioned by Bedford.]

(c) Part Clause Ellipsis. As an alternative to ellipsis of the entire clause, ellipsis of just one component of it, the residue, may be used. As an example:

A. Mum, are you having fun with your dinner?

B. I am [: enjoying my meal].

1.1.1.1.2 Ellipsis WH

• The entire clause. The entire sentence is normally removed in a WH- sequence, save for the WH-element itself or the item that is the response to the WH-element. As an example:

A. What books have you read?

[: I have read] B. The Lord of the Flies.

• A provision of the clause. The mood element is sometimes left in a WH- phrase or its response, and only the Residue is ellipsed. For instance, consider the WH-subject:

- **• Modal ellipsis occurs in answer to a wh-question that asks 'what'. The subject is presupposed in this context based on what has been mentioned previously. As an example:**

- **A: What were they up to?**

- **B: We're holding hands.**

• Proposal-based Ellipsis refers to message constructs in which mood and polarity are the primary components. This ellipsis appears in yes/no questions and statement responses. As seen in the cases below, the subject is presupposed by a reference item."

- **- Has the plane touched down?**

- **- It has, indeed.**

-• Telegraphic ellipsis refers to telegram-like abbreviated or unfinished linguistic constructions such as newspaper headlines, headings, titles, songs, and children's speech.

2. Clausal Ellipsis in Arabic

2.1 Concept of Ellipsis

According to Hammuda (1998: 139), ellipsis is utilized for rhetorical and stylistic goals. Arabs are very interested in brevity, which usually entails omitting extraneous language components. He (ibid) adds that there should be a reference for the elliptical part, which means that when some words are omitted, the pattern of the entire sentence leads thinking to infer what the missing words are.

Furthermore, according to Abul Makaarim (2007: 200), ellipsis signifies eliminating an element without affecting its case. So, despite its absence, the elliptical element is recognized since

it is recoverable from the context. Depending on the situation or mental evidence, the speakers may eliminate what the listener can understand.

In this regard, Versteegh (2006: 19) defines ellipsis as a discourse phenomena, in that the interpretation of the absent constituent sometimes depends on something mentioned in an earlier sentence - maybe even by another speaker.

In (1), for example, the sentential subject of the embedded phrase, inni afta il-bàb 'that I open the door', is omitted, leaving only the negated predicate. The first clause contains an antecedent that is morphologically, syntactically, and semantically equivalent to the missing part, making interpretation easier. (1) ḥàwilt   in- aftaḥ il-bàb (I tried to open the-door.

An ellipsis's antecedent might be included in prior discourse rather than a preceding clause. An ellipsis's antecedent might be included in prior discourse rather than a preceding clause.

Thus, (Alansaary, 1991: 692) concludes that Arab linguists state that ellipsis requires many conditions such as the existence of situational evidence, a reported speech, ellipsis should not be confirmed because it is contrary to confirmation, and ellipsis should not result in the abbreviated element being too short.

2.1.1 Clausal Ellipsis: Definitions

According to Muhammad (2010: 743), clausal ellipsis involves eliminating the entire clause and is more common than other types of ellipsis. According to Alharthi (2019: 30), clausal ellipsis denotes the deletion of phrases that are rarely observed in contexts other than the Qur'an. This is an example of a sentence being removed from its context, which can lead to misinterpretation.   As an example:

"فَسَقَىٰ لَهُمَا ثُمَّ تَوَلَّىٰ إِلَى الظِّلِّ فَقَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ فَجَاءَتْهُ إِحْدَاهُمَا تَمْشِي عَلَىٰ اسْتِحْيَاءٍ قَالَتْ إِنَّ أَبِي يَدْعُوكَ لِيَجْزِيَكَ أَجْرَ مَا سَقَيْتَ لَنَا ۚ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُ وَقَصَّ عَلَيْهِ الْقَصَصَ قَالَ لَا تَخَفْ ۖ نَجَوْتَ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ"

"So he watered (their flocks) for them; then he turned back to the shade, and said:" O my Lord! truly am I in (desperate) need of any good that Thou dost send me!" Afterwards one of the (damsels) came (back) to him, walking bashfully. She said: "My father invites thee that he may reward thee for having watered (our flocks) for us." So when he came to him and narrated the story, he said: "Fear thou not: (well) hast thou escaped from unjust people."

1. **Ellipsis of the suffixed 'nūn'** of the dual and plural forms. This is illustrated in the following example.
   - "Those (two) who hit Zaid". الضاربا زيداً
   - "Those who hit Amr". الضاربو عمراً

Thus, the suffix نون (nūn) in both (الضاربان) (those two who hit) and (الضاربون) (those who hit) in the above examples is omitted.

2. Ellipsis of exceptive items

An example of the omission of an exceptive item is:

In the above example, the exceptive item (this money) is supposed to come after () (alone). It can also be omitted in sentences such as: (nothing more). The adverbial item (this money) that follows (more) is absent here.

This can be found in phrases like (I swear that I will depart.), which is an elliptical form of ( ) (I swear by Allah, God, that I will leave).

Although sentence deletion is widespread in Qur'n, it distinguishes formulations in which a sentence is omitted outside the context of Qur'n. These include responses to questions, constructs of (ni ima and bi'sa: verbs of praise and blame), after the conditional (inna: even though), and so on. Below are examples of omitted sentences in an answer to a question and after the conditional (inna):A: وإنْ كان فقيراً   Even though he is poor!

B: وإنْ

In B, the whole sentence وإنْ كان فقيراً (Even though he is poor) is omitted, (ibid: 31)

3. Comparison between English and Arabic

It has been found that the current analysis demonstrates that components distinguishing elided units in a clause are required in both languages. Both languages speak to the notion that it is not necessary for the meaning to be retrieved using the same expression. Furthermore, it demonstrates that clausal ellipsis in Arabic is more revealing in the Qur'an than in any other context since the lack of a sentence may imply a sense mistake. Furthermore, English provides examples of ambiguity when ellipsis is applied to some reported speech sequences.

Conclusion

The following points are concluded:

English Clausal Ellipsis

1. Ellipsis refers to the removal of linguistic units that are required due to syntactical constraints or lexical features (for example, verbal valence).

2. Clausal ellipsis occurs when clause elements are removed, most notably subject-pronoun omission (doesn't matter, hope so, sorry, can't help you, etc.).

3. There are two types of clausal ellipsis: yes/no ellipsis involving the entire sentence and ellipsis of portion clause. The second form is wh- ellipsis, which includes both the entire clause and a portion of the clause.

Arabic Clausal Ellipsis

1. 1. Ellipsis is utilized rhetorically and stylistically. Arabs are very interested in brevity, which usually entails omitting extraneous language components.

2. 2. Clausal ellipsis refers to the deletion of an entire clause and is more common than other types of ellipsis.

3. 3. There are two sorts of clausal ellipsis: ellipsis of the suffixed 'nn' and ellipsis of exceptive elements. Clausal ellipsis appears frequently in the Holy Quran.

4.

5.

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