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## FEATURES OF ELLIPSIS

USAGE IN DIALOGICAL SPEECH OF ENGLISH AND AZERBAIJANI LANGUAGES

### **CARACTERÍSTICAS DEL USO DE ELIPSIS EN EL HABLA DIALÓGICA DE LOS IDIOMAS INGLÉS Y AZERBAIYANO**

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#### ABSTRACT

Ellipses are often used in written and lively spoken language, making the phenomenon a highly relevant subject of study. In the process of communicating with each other, people invariably face the need to shorten their remarks. The reasons for this can vary greatly: the interlocutors may be in a hurry to tell an interesting story, wish to make their speech easier for each other to understand, or want to recreate an informal atmosphere in a conversation. The problem of ellipsis has always aroused the interest of linguists. For many centuries, researchers have sought to explain this phenomenon, identify its main features, and propose a classification of elliptical sentences in various languages. Azerbaijani and foreign linguists have made significant progress on the issue, especially in the English language, although consensus is yet to be reached on many linguistic aspects of ellipsis. Considering the above, the main purpose of this article is to study the phenomenon of ellipsis from a theoretical and practical point of view and to consider the effect of ellipsis on the grammatical structure of sentences and its processing features in modern English and Azerbaijani dialogues.

**Keywords:** Ellipsis, Dialogical speech, Elliptical sentences, Complete sentences, Incomplete sentences.

#### RESUMEN

La elipsis se utiliza a menudo en el lenguaje escrito y hablado, lo que convierte a este fenómeno en un tema de estudio de gran relevancia. En el proceso de comunicación entre personas, invariablemente se enfrentan a la necesidad de acortar sus comentarios. Las razones para esto pueden ser muy diversas: los interlocutores pueden tener prisa por contar una historia interesante, desear que su discurso sea más fácil de entender para el otro o querer recrear una atmósfera informal en una conversación. El problema de la elipsis siempre ha despertado el interés de los lingüistas. Durante muchos siglos, los investigadores han tratado de explicar este fenómeno, identificar sus principales características y proponer una clasificación de las oraciones elípticas en varios idiomas. Los lingüistas azerbaiyanos y extranjeros han logrado avances significativos en el tema, especialmente en el idioma inglés, aunque aún no se ha llegado a un consenso sobre muchos aspectos lingüísticos de la elipsis. Teniendo en cuenta lo anterior, el objetivo principal de este artículo es estudiar el fenómeno de la elipsis desde un punto de vista teórico y práctico y considerar el efecto de la elipsis en la estructura gramatical de las oraciones y sus características de procesamiento en los diálogos modernos en inglés y azerbaiyano.

**Palabras clave:** Elipsis, Discurso dialógico, Oraciones elípticas, Oraciones completas, Oraciones incompletas.

## INTRODUCTION

Dialogue as a natural form of communication is located in the area of intersection of research interests in many social sciences concerned with the various aspects of human activity related to communication. The problems of dialogue research form the core of separate scientific areas, such as dialogue analysis and theory of speech acts, and are included in the more general area of communicative research (Yeomans et al., 2023). To master dialogical speech in a particular language, we first need to know its structural and semantic features. Studying the structure of the dialogue allows interlocutors to economically express their communicative intentions (Fisher et al., 2023). The dialogue has many features of its own, such as ellipticity, the presence of introductory words, interjections, words – “placeholders of silence”, and speech clichés. In this study, we will focus on one of the features of dialogic speech – ellipticity.

An ellipsis (from ancient Greek *ἔλλειψις* – to lack) is the deliberate omission of an element of a statement that is easily restored in a given context or situation. According to the definition given in the linguistic dictionary of terms by Akhmanova:

ellipsis is the omission of an element of a statement that is easily restored in a given context or situation. An elliptical utterance is an utterance that, in contrast to a detailed utterance, has an abbreviated form and is used in specific situations, such as, for example, in fluent dialogical speech. (Akhmatova, 2004, p. 525).

As Nelyubin (2007, p. 119) defines it, “ellipsis is a stylistic figure consisting of omitting some implied element of a sentence”.

Ellipsis in language comes in various forms, each serving a unique purpose in communication. Some of the primary categories in English are:

1. Noun-Based Omission: This involves dropping a noun or noun phrase. Consider this example:
  - Full sentence: “I’m buying a house, and she’s buying a house as well.”
  - Shortened version: “I’m buying a house, and she’s buying one as well.”
2. Verb-Centered Omission: Here, we leave out a verb or verb phrase. For instance:
  - Complete statement: “He enjoys swimming, and she enjoys swimming.”
  - Condensed form: “He enjoys swimming, and she does too.”

3. Clause Removal: This type eliminates an entire clause. For example:

- Original: “We will attend the concert, and they will attend the concert.”
  - Streamlined: “We will attend the concert, and they will as well.”
4. Middle-Verb Omission: This specific form of clause removal drops the shared verb in coordinated phrases:
    - Full expression: “Sarah speaks French, and Tom speaks German.”
    - Shortened: “Sarah speaks French, and Tom German.”
  5. Focused Reduction: This technique removes all but one crucial part of a sentence, emphasizing a particular element:
    - Complete: “I enjoy reading novels, and I enjoy reading magazines.”
    - Condensed: “I enjoy reading novels, and she enjoys magazines.”
  6. Question-Based Omission: This occurs in forming wh-questions by omitting the question’s antecedent:
    - Original statement: “I’m aware that someone is arriving.”
    - Elliptical question: “I’m aware someone is arriving, but I’m not sure who.”

The above examples illustrate how ellipsis serves to make language more efficient by allowing speakers to cut out unnecessary repetition while preserving the message’s clarity. Familiarizing oneself with these types can enhance both language understanding and effective communication. However, some linguists consider ellipsis to be a degradation of language, the destruction of traditional rules of grammar, and the denial of standards of right and wrong – a linguistic deformation that can lead to complete misunderstanding among English speakers (Lekant, 2004, p. 233). A more reasonable version is the one that interprets the emergence and spread of elliptical structures. This is due to the tendency to save linguistic resources, which is one of the laws of language development, determined by the human desire to improve linguistic forms with minimal expenditure of mental and physical energy on communication (Wahlster, 2023). As seen above, elliptical structures often have a simple structure and a high degree of information capacity. These factors contribute to their communicative prevalence, which is due to the communicative and pragmatic tasks of utterance. Because of that, in dialogical speech, the use of ellipsis plays a significant role in communication.

For example, the pragmatic function of ellipsis in political interviews has been explored by Mammadov & Agamaliyeva (2023), showing that certain languages, including English, exhibit specific patterns of ellipsis usage. Additionally, the influence of different languages on each other, such as Chinese and English on Japanese, can impact the manner features in speech. In the study of spontaneous spoken English, it is argued that a better understanding of speech properties can be achieved by considering grammar as something accomplished in the act of speaking (Haselow, 2017). This idea is further supported by the theory that repetition in speech, reflected through elements like ellipsis, substitution, and reference, can enhance communication. Anticipative interlocutive dialogism is a concept where speakers anticipate their recipients' replies in a dialogical manner, relying on sequential patterns and elements for effective communication (Bres et al., 2016). Because of that, in both English and Azerbaijani, the surrounding dialogue provides essential cues that allow listeners to fill in the gaps left by ellipsis. This reliance on context means that ellipsis is more prevalent in informal speech, where participants share a common understanding of the topic being discussed.

On the other hand, since the comparison of different languages, such as Russian, Persian, or Azeri, to English texts can reveal unique features of grammar and lexicon, The goal of this research is to analyze the features of the use of ellipsis in dialogic speech in English and Azerbaijani languages. For this, comparative linguistics techniques were used, aiming at unraveling similarities and differences between both languages in the use of this important linguistic and communicative resource.

## DEVELOPMENT

### Elliptical Sentences in the English Language

Modern language science shows great interest in the problems of elliptical sentences, which can be used both in oral colloquial speech and in works of fiction. Phenomena such as informality and ease of communication make it possible to shorten the statement and use only those parts of the sentence that are necessary to understand the meaning. Therefore, the study of ellipses is necessary to understand the processes associated with the economy of linguistic means that occur in all modern languages.

An analysis of the development trends of such a linguistic phenomenon as ellipsis allows us to conclude that the need to save linguistic resources is one of the main reasons for the emergence of elliptical sentences. According to most scientists, incomplete sentences arise mainly in colloquial speech. It should be noted that the most

widespread tendency in language is to shorten utterances. At the same time, the study of the means of language economy has become relevant relatively recently. There is a contemporary need to convey more information, i.e., to increase the information capacity of a statement, due to the development of technological progress, the quantity and quality of not only oral but also written communication between people. A wide variety of means of saving in different stylistic groups makes it possible to convey emotional, stylistic, and semantic shades.

The problem of ellipsis is one of the most controversial in linguistics, and one or another interpretation of it depends on the researcher's understanding of the essence of linguistic units in general. For the traditional grammar of the English language, it seemed undoubted that every sentence is characterized, first of all, by the presence of a subject-predicate structure and that any apparent deviation from this structure should be explained as the phenomenon of an ellipsis, i.e., "omission" or "implying" of certain elements of the sentence structure (Galperin, 2012, p. 75).

Analysis of elliptical sentences shows that there are no clear boundaries between complete and incomplete sentences. The structural patterns of sentences are created in speech and, when stabilized, become language models. The factors that determine the place of such constructions on the "transitivity scale" are the presence of synonymous and modal-temporal series, as well as lexical and grammatical meanings of word forms, etc. Elliptical sentences are adjacent to constructions that are stable phraseological combinations, as well as some familiar word forms: "Merry Christmas," "Happy New Year," "Many happy returns," and so on. Such structurally incomplete constructions are semantically complete.

### Elliptical sentences in the Azerbaijani language

Sentences with an elliptical construction are a syntactic form with a unique descriptive color. Elliptical sentences allow the speaker to express many ideas using few words at any given moment. For example: *Bülbül gülü sevr, insan Vətəni (sevr) (Atalar sözü); yaradıcılıq ehtirası o qədər güclü olur ki, geriye yol qalmır, yalnız irəli (getməlisən)* and so on. Since intonation plays a decisive role in elliptical sentences, such sentences are colorful. There are 4 types of sentences according to intonation in the modern Azerbaijani language: 1) narrative sentence, 2) question sentence, 3) command sentence, and 4) exclamatory sentence. Based on this classification, we consider it appropriate to group elliptical sentences according to the appropriate classification according to intonation (Bakhtin, 1979, p. 24).

Elliptical narrative sentences are ordinary descriptive sentences that provide information about a fact or an event of either an objective reality or an imaginary one. Information in these sentences is either confirmed or denied. In narrative sentences, as is known, information is given only about any object, and the usual sentence intonation prevails here. A narrative sentence is a common sentence. For example: *Əli hümməti ilə (ucalar), quş qanadı ilə (uçar); Çoban dayağı ilə, gəlin duvağı ilə (bəlli olar); Varlinin mali (çox olar), kasıbın övladı (çox olar) (Atalar sözləri)* and so on.

Elliptical interrogative sentences are sentences used to learn, clarify, or acquire new information. In our language, interrogative sentences are formed by interrogative pronouns, interrogative adverbs, and interrogative intonation. The interrogative sentence performs extremely rich expressive functions in the language and, without exception, replaces all sentence types according to the purpose. Although a question mark may be placed at the end of the sentence, sometimes there are sentences in our language that do not have question content, so-called rhetorical questions. For example: *Onun mənə nə zərəri?; Qardaşın evdə, onun dövlət puluna, idarə işinə nə dəxli?* (Rahimov, 1942, p. 23); *Əsl sual cümlələri: Xoş gördük.. hara belə?; Əli sənsən, gecə vaxtı hardan belə?* (Efendiyev, 2002, p. 12) and so on. Thus, during the transfer of information through elliptical interrogative sentences, gestures, facial expressions, and other factors act as the main auxiliary means.

Elliptical imperative sentences express commands, requests, insistence, advice, or challenges. The imperative sentence stands out for its colorfulness and emotionality. Elliptical imperative sentences are formed due to command intonation, as intonation has a decisive role in commanding sentences. For example: *Artıq söz danışma, sualına cavab ver!; Baxsın gələcəyə hər nurlu düha.; Get öz mənzilində otur* (Budagova, 1961, p. 158).

Elliptical exclamatory sentences express an emotional attitude to a spoken idea. An elliptical exclamatory sentence is accompanied by self-identified intonation and expresses high excitement. The way of expression of thoughts can take different forms depending on the individual's psychological state and mood. For example: *Toydan sonra nağara!; Sənə yağlı bir beş!; Onun pulundan mənə nə!; Zaman bizə bir anadır!* And so on.

Exclamatory sentences are formed based on narrative, question, and command sentences. So, just as narrative sentences, questions, and command sentences are pronounced with their tone, they can be filled with emotion by pronouncing them with a ton higher than the “determined

intonation,” and at this time, exclamation points are formed. For example: *Qoy göyün ulduzu göyə nur saçsın; Yerin də arzusu yerdə gül açsın!* (Vurgun, 2005, p. 45); *Mənim kimi təmiz, günahsız adamı təhqir!* And so on.

Elliptical sentences observed in the Azerbaijani language and distinguished by their variety are widely used in oral speech in modern times. However, in addition to this, elliptical sentences are also used in various styles of the modern Azerbaijani language. Since elliptical sentences have a strong emotional-expressive character, these constructions are used in many styles of literary language.

### The Use of Ellipsis in the Dialogical Speech of the English Language

Dialogical unity is the largest structural and semantic unit of dialogical speech. It consists of two, less often three or four sentences-replicas, closely related to each other in meaning and structure; in this case, the content and form of the first replica determine the content and form of the second, etc., so that only in the combination of replicas is the completeness of this part of the dialogue necessary for understanding revealed (Nemchenko, 2011, p. 149).

Dialogue is the most important area of use of elliptical constructions. It is in replicas of dialogue that part of a sentence can be omitted in two cases: either it is already clear from a previous replica belonging to the interlocutor; or when part of a sentence can easily be omitted if it is not essential. For example: *“Pass the bottle over. Will you?” [Will you pass the bottle over?]* (Stephen, 2014, p. 50).

Depending on whether all members are present in a given sentence, or whether some of them are restored from the context of the sentence, they can be complete (Elliptical) or incomplete (non-Elliptical). On the other hand, in incomplete sentences, missing members are easily restored from the surrounding context. Incomplete sentences are very typical for spoken dialogic speech, especially as answers to questions.

The most characteristic syntactic feature of colloquial speech is the presence of elliptical phrases in it. The omission of individual members of a sentence is the norm of dialogical speech since the very situation in which communication occurs does not require mention of the omitted member of the sentence. Complete sentences in oral speech can sometimes be considered a violation of the norm. They can be used to express irritation, an emphatically official tone, a polite but persistent order, a hidden threat, etc. in dialogical speech. The following expressions can be cited as examples of elliptical phrases that are firmly entrenched in the language as a norm of direct, live,

everyday communication: *Pity you didn't come; Happy to meet you; Ready?*

However, elliptical sentences can also occur outside of dialogue. The problem is that without context it can be difficult to understand the meaning of elliptical constructions, sometimes even impossible in the absence of this. There are features characteristic of language based on which dialogical unity is built. Its construction is accompanied by the correct and appropriate use of constructions using elliptical sentences. Those constructions that are used in Russian, for example, are often incorrectly used in English. Oral speech in modern English is also characterized by the use of a question in the syntactic form of an affirmative sentence. For example: *You been to school?* Also, sometimes an interrogative sentence is used in an elliptical form: the auxiliary verb *to do* is omitted, for example: *Miss Holland look after you and all that?* Such sentences are on the verge of non-literary, colloquial expressions that are used in lively colloquial speech (Galperin, 2012, p. 30).

### The Use of Ellipsis in the Dialogical Speech of the Azerbaijani Language

As in English, there are complete and incomplete sentences in the Azerbaijani language. In complete sentences, the idea is clearly expressed as each part of the sentence used to express an idea is involved. Sentences whose omitted parts can be restored based on the text, situation, form, and content of the parts that make up the sentence are called incomplete sentences.

Just like complete sentences, incomplete sentences are not a new sentence type. When a certain member (or members) of two-component and one-component sentences, which are the main types of simple sentences, is omitted, their incomplete type is formed. The concept of incompleteness – the omission of one or another member – applies to all kinds of sentences: simple and complex, two-part and one-part, short and long. Like completeness, incompleteness is a feature of clauses. Here, we are talking about omitting this or that member (primary and secondary members) and easily restoring it based on the text and the situation. Also, the omission applies not only to the main members but also to the secondary members. For example (Rahimov, 1942, p. 36):

- Ağ, şikayətim var.
- Kimə?
- Ağ, *pristava*.
- Mən özüm də onun yolunu bir həftədir, gözləyirəm.
- Bəs *hara gedib, ağa?*

- *Qaçaq qovma a.*
- *B s s n kims n, a a?*
- *M n - pristavın pomo niki.*
- *Yax ı, s n su ikay tin baxa bil rs nmi?*
- *Yox!*
- *Niy ?*
- *Ba ım a rıyır...*

In this dialogue consisting of 12 replies, sentences 1, 7, 8, and 9 are complete sentences, while sentences 2, 3, and 6 are incomplete sentences with both main members omitted. If we restore the omitted members, those sentences should be: *S nin kim ikay tin var? A a, m nim pristava ikay tim var. Pristav qaçaq qovma a gedib.* Furthermore, sentence 4 is a complex sentence with a subordinate clause with a branch sentence - no omission, while in sentence 5, the subject word *pristav* is omitted: *B s pristav hara gedib, a a?* In the penultimate sentence (*Why?*), we see the predicate and the mediated complement omitted (*S n niy su ikay tin baxa bilm zs n?*) – and in the last one, the main clause of the subordinate compound sentence with the causal branch clause (*M n ona gör su ikay tin baxa bilm r m ki*) is omitted. The 10th sentence (*Yox sözü*) is non-affiliated – it means the same as the sentence “*I can't look at the water complaint*”

In the sentence, the presence of the doer – the subject (*mubtada*) means the presence of news, the presence of the effective verb news means the presence of the word indicating the object – the unmediated completeness, and the presence of the destination determines the presence of the target. Often, in such a relationship, the members that express the “known” are left out, and the members that express the “new” are kept. This situation is related to the actualization possibilities of the parts retained in the sentence: the speaker/writer, avoiding repetition and not wishing to waste time by repeating the known idea, shortens some parts in the speech process to convey the idea more quickly, clearly, and emotionally by expressing a necessary, rational idea, retaining members and resulting in incomplete sentences. For example (Rahimov, 1942, p. 40):

- *Köpək oğlu, zənciri gətir!*
- *Ağ, niyə?*
- *Zəncirləməyə! İt oğlu, niyə getmişdin?*
- *Şikayətə!*
- *Kimdən?*
- *Sudan!*

- Kimə?
- *Pristava!*
- *Nə oldu?*
- *Tapmadım*

As can be seen, in these sentences, there are words, news, mediated and unmediated completeness, and adverbs of purpose. Many of these sentences, which are easily understood within the dialogue, are unintelligible if we remove them from the text. Such omission of the members expressing "known" information has increased the actualization possibilities of the existing sentences. However, complete and incomplete sentences cannot be evaluated equally. In many cases, the omitted part of an incomplete sentence cannot be restored, or its restoration brings redundancy, weight, and repetition to the sentence. Incomplete sentences are only semantically equivalent to complete sentences; we cannot speak of structural equality. Semantic equivalence to the whole sentence itself has a dependent character – changing meaning according to the rest of the text, the context, and the situation.

## CONCLUSIONS

Ellipsis is defined as the deliberate omission of an element of an utterance that is easily restored in a given context or situation. In this research, it was examined the main types of elliptical constructions in the English and Azerbaijani languages and the features of their use in lively colloquial speech. It was found that the main sphere of use for elliptical constructions is dialogue: it is in dialogue that part of the sentence is typically omitted, because it is already clear from the previous reply belonging to the interlocutor, or it is not essential. This happens because there are no misunderstandings between the interlocutors since the use of these elliptical constructions is either clear from the previous context or related to the grammatical construction of the previous sentence. Additionally, ellipses can be manifested in the absence of an auxiliary verb in a question, in various stable expressions, and the use of a question in the syntactic form of an affirmative sentence. Despite the ellipsis is found more frequently in dialogues, various types of incomplete and elliptical sentences are also widely used in art, literature, newspapers, and live conversation.

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