

ELLIPSIS AS A COHESIVE DEVICE IN THE NEWS ONLINE: A DISCOURSE

ANAYLYSIS

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis elipsis serta menjelaskan fungsinya sebagai perangkat kohesi dalam teks berita daring. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan data berupa kalimat-kalimat yang mengandung elipsis dalam artikel berita daring. Data dikumpulkan melalui teknik dokumentasi dan dianalisis berdasarkan teori elipsis yang dikemukakan oleh Halliday dan Hasan (1976). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat sembilan data elipsis, yang terdiri atas tujuh **nominal ellipsis**, satu **verbal ellipsis**, dan satu **clausal ellipsis**. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa **nominal ellipsis** merupakan jenis elipsis yang paling dominan digunakan dalam teks berita daring. Penggunaan elipsis membantu menghindari pengulangan unsur leksikal sehingga informasi dapat disampaikan secara lebih ringkas tanpa mengurangi kejelasan makna. Dengan demikian, elipsis berfungsi sebagai perangkat kohesi gramatikal yang menjaga kesinambungan dan keterpaduan informasi dalam teks berita daring.

Kata Kunci: Ellipsis, Perangkat Kohesi, Analisis Wacana, Berita

Abstract

This study aims to identify the types of ellipsis and explain their functions as cohesive devices in online news texts. This study employed a descriptive qualitative method, with the data consisting of sentences containing ellipsis collected from selected online news articles. The data were collected through documentation and analyzed using Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory of ellipsis. The findings revealed nine instances of ellipsis, consisting of seven nominal ellipses, one

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verbal ellipsis, and one clausal ellipsis. The results indicate that nominal ellipsis is the most dominant type used in online news texts. The use of ellipsis helps avoid unnecessary lexical repetition, allowing information to be presented more concisely without reducing clarity. Therefore, ellipsis functions as a grammatical cohesive device that maintains the continuity and coherence of information in online news texts. identifying, selecting, and classifying sentences containing ellipsis. The collected data were then analyzed descriptively based on the types of ellipsis.

Keywords: Ellipsis, Cohesive Device, Discourse Analysis, News

Introduction

English plays a crucial role in today's world because it functions as a medium of communication in many different contexts. For instance, it is used in magazines, newspapers, on the internet, in advertisements, and in various television programs such as movies, YouTube content, talk shows, and others. In the era of globalization, learning English has therefore become essential, especially for students.

Nonetheless, due to a variety of causes, students and others sometimes find it difficult to grasp English. One of the challenges is that pupils have trouble understanding the meaning of sentences. Comprehending the meaning of a sentence in a written or spoken language is difficult. As a result, students must examine the meaning of a phrase by understanding the relationship between sentences in written text or utterances in spoken text. They should be aware of the text's cohesiveness in order to have a better understanding of it.

As we known, language is not just about what is said, but also about what is deliberately left out. In written communication, writers often omit certain words or phrases that can already be understood from the surrounding context, allowing the text to flow more smoothly without unnecessary repetition. This phenomenon is known as ellipsis, and it plays an important role in making a text feel coherent and well-connected. Rather than restating information that has already been established, writers use ellipsis to keep their writing concise while still maintaining clarity of meaning.

In the context of online news, ellipsis is often used to create brevity and efficiency in presenting information. Journalists tend to omit certain linguistic elements that readers can easily infer from the context, which helps maintain the flow of information in news reporting.

Therefore, analyzing ellipsis in online news texts can provide insight into how cohesion is achieved and how meaning is constructed in journalistic discourse.

According to Halliday and Hasan, cohesion can be realized through several linguistic devices, including reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Among these devices, ellipsis is particularly interesting because it involves the omission of certain linguistic elements that can be understood from the context. Ellipsis allows writers to avoid unnecessary repetition and produce a more concise text while maintaining clarity and coherence.

Within their framework, Halliday and Hasan (1976) provide a detailed classification of ellipsis into three main types based on the grammatical unit that is omitted:

1. Nominal Ellipsis: occurs when a noun or noun phrase is omitted because the reader can understand it from the context. The main noun is left out since it has already been mentioned. For example, in "*Several proposals were submitted. The most promising ones were accepted,*" the word *proposals* is omitted after *most promising* because its meaning is clear from the previous sentence.
2. Verbal Ellipsis: it happens when a verb or group of words that act like a verb is left out because the reader can understand it from what was said before. The predicate is left out because it has already been mentioned earlier in the text. For example, in "Who finished the report? Sarah did," the verb phrase "finished the report" is not included after "did" because it is understood from the question.
3. Clausal Ellipsis: refers to the omission of an entire clause or a major part of it when the meaning can already be understood from the context. In this type, only a small part of the expected clause appears while the rest is left out. For example, in the question "Was the decision approved?" the response "Yes, it was" omits the full clause the decision was approved.

The related study about this topic has been done before. Early research focused on identify the types of grammatical cohesion used in the speech by Hizbullah et al. (2022). Another relevant study was conducted by Abdulrahman (2018), which investigated substitution and ellipsis were rarely used by students, as they tended to rely more on reference devices.

Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by examining how ellipsis works as a cohesive device in English online news articles. It uses the framework proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) in their book *Cohesion in English*. In more detail, the research tries to find the different types of ellipsis nominal, verbal and clausal in the texts chosen for the study. It also looks at how this ellipsis join together to make sense of online news texts. This analysis will help us

understand how journalists work together online and show that ellipsis, which is often ignored, is actually an important part of online news.

Research Methodology

The analysis of the selected online news articles shows that ellipsis is frequently used as a grammatical cohesive device to create connections between clauses and sentences. Three types of ellipsis were identified in the data, namely nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis. Among the nine identified instances, seven are classified as nominal ellipsis, while verbal ellipsis and clausal ellipsis each occur once. These results suggest that nominal ellipsis is the most dominant type employed in the selected news texts.

The findings further indicate that nominal ellipsis is mainly realized through the omission of nouns or noun phrases that can be easily recovered from the preceding context. Verbal ellipsis occurs when part of the verbal group is omitted because its meaning has already been established in the previous clause, whereas clausal ellipsis involves the omission of part of a clause whose meaning can be inferred from the surrounding discourse. Although verbal and clausal ellipsis appear less frequently, both contribute to maintaining cohesion by linking related information and minimizing unnecessary repetition.

Overall, the study confirms that ellipsis plays a significant role in producing cohesive and concise online news discourse. The findings are consistent with Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory, which explains that ellipsis functions as a grammatical cohesive device by omitting linguistic elements that can be recovered from the context. Therefore, the use of ellipsis enables online news writers to present information efficiently while preserving the clarity and continuity of the text.

1. Research Method

This study employed a descriptive qualitative research design because it aims to describe and interpret linguistic phenomena found in written discourse rather than to measure them statistically. A descriptive qualitative approach was considered appropriate since the study focuses on identifying the types of ellipsis and explaining their functions as cohesive devices in online news texts.

The data of this study were collected from selected online news articles using the documentation technique. The collected data, consisting of clauses, phrases, and sentences containing ellipsis, were analyzed based on the theory of grammatical cohesion proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976). The analysis involved identifying, classifying, and interpreting the

types and functions of ellipsis in order to explain how they contribute to cohesion in online news discourse. To ensure the reliability of the findings, the researcher repeatedly reviewed the data and compared the analysis with the theoretical framework.

2. Time and Place of research

This research was begun from March 2026 to June 2026. It covered the period during the author conducted the research, starting with preparation, data collecting, and data analysis. Majority this research was conducted in the author's own home and occasionally at the library.

3. Object/Source of Research data

This study's primary data consists of online news articles selected from several online news platforms. These articles contain clauses, phrases and sentences with ellipses. These articles were chosen because they provide authentic examples of written discourse and contain linguistic features that are relevant to analysing ellipsis as a cohesive device in online news discourse.

The secondary data for this study comprise books, journals and other relevant references relating to discourse analysis, grammatical cohesion and ellipsis. In particular, the study employs the cohesion theory proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976), particularly their classification of ellipsis as nominal, verbal, or clausal. These secondary sources support the analysis and interpretation of the data.

4. Data Collection Techniques

The data were collected through the documentation technique. First, the researcher searched for online news articles from selected online news platforms that were relevant to the topic of the study. Next, the researcher selected several news texts that were considered suitable for the analysis of ellipsis in online news discourse. After that, the researcher read the selected texts carefully several times in order to understand their content, context, and discourse structure.

During this process, ellipses were classified and noted in clauses, phrases, or sentences in the news texts. These were then classified according to the types of ellipsis identified by Hasan and Halliday: nominal, verbal, and clausal. Finally, all the collected data were compiled and organised into tables to facilitate further analysis.

5. Data Analysis Technique

At this stage, the researcher identified the types of ellipsis present in the selected online news texts, using the classification system proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976): nominal, verbal and clausal ellipsis. Each datum was then analysed to determine the omitted linguistic element and explain its relationship with the surrounding text. The researcher then interpreted the function of each ellipsis to explain its contribution to the cohesion and coherence of the online news discourse. Finally, the findings were described qualitatively to reveal the patterns of ellipsis used in the selected news texts.

6. Research Instruments

The main instrument of this research was the researchers themselves, as is common in qualitative research. The researchers played an active role in selecting the online news texts, identifying the data containing ellipsis, classifying the types of ellipsis based on Halliday and Hasan's theory (1976), and interpreting their functions in creating cohesion within the discourse.

In addition, supporting instruments used in this study included data sheets and analysis tables. These instruments were used to record the identified ellipsis, classify them into nominal, verbal, and clausal ellipsis, and organize the findings for further analysis.

Research Result And Discussion

Based on the analysis, the researcher found that various types of ellipsis are used as cohesive devices in the selected online news articles. The data reveal the occurrence of Nominal Ellipsis, Verbal Ellipsis, and Clausal Ellipsis. From the nine data identified, Nominal Ellipsis appears most frequently with seven occurrences, while Verbal Ellipsis and Clausal Ellipsis each occur only once. This finding indicates that online news writers tend to employ nominal ellipsis more frequently to avoid unnecessary repetition while maintaining textual cohesion.

The analysis shows that nominal ellipsis mainly occurs through words such as *some*, *others*, *one*, *two*, and numerical expressions that replace nouns or noun phrases mentioned earlier in the discourse. Because the omitted elements can be recovered from the preceding context, readers are able to understand the intended meaning without repeated lexical items. In contrast, the only example of clausal ellipsis appears in a sentence where part of the clause is omitted because its meaning is clearly understood from the surrounding context.

These findings suggest that ellipsis contributes significantly to the cohesion of online news texts by eliminating unnecessary repetition while maintaining clarity and continuity of information. The predominance of nominal ellipsis indicates that online news writers tend to omit recoverable nominal elements more frequently than verbal or clausal elements in order to produce concise and cohesive discourse. This finding is consistent with Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory, which identifies ellipsis as one of the grammatical cohesive devices that creates connections between ideas within a text.

The following section presents each identified instance of ellipsis, together with its classification and detailed analysis based on Halliday and Hasan's (1976) theory of grammatical cohesion.

Result of research

Datum 1

"Some Republicans told reporters they thought Trump would eventually sign the bipartisan bill into law. Others expressed confusion about the sudden shift from the president."

The elliptical item in this datum is the word "*others*." It is classified as nominal ellipsis because it omits the noun "*Republicans*", which has already been mentioned in the preceding sentence. The complete form can be interpreted as "*other Republicans*." The omitted noun can be recovered from the previous context, namely "*Some Republicans told reporters...*".

This omission occurs to avoid repeating the same noun in the following sentence. Instead of restating "*other Republicans*", the writer uses "*others*" to refer to the same group in a more economical way. As a result, the relationship between the two sentences remains clear and cohesive. The use of nominal ellipsis in this datum helps connect the ideas across sentences and supports the flow of information in the news text. Therefore, "*others*" functions as a cohesive device because it maintains textual continuity while reducing repetition.

Datum 2

"Some lawmakers indicated the canceled signing of the housing bill may be a largely symbolic gesture, if an exasperating one..."

The word "*one*" in the phrase "*if an exasperating one*" is categorized as nominal ellipsis because it stands for the noun "*gesture*" mentioned earlier in the same clause, namely "*a*

largely symbolic gesture.” The complete form of the expression can therefore be interpreted as *“if an exasperating gesture.”*

In this datum, the writer does not repeat the noun *“gesture”* in the second part of the clause because it has already been introduced previously. Instead, the noun is omitted and represented by *“one.”* This omission creates a more concise expression while keeping the meaning clear to the reader. The omitted element can be easily recovered from the preceding context, so the sentence remains cohesive and understandable.

Datum 3

“Lacerda is one of 23 Epstein accusers Reuters identified who’ve faced threats, harassment and intimidation by trolls, haters and other foes, some after speaking publicly about their abuse, others after their identities were exposed in the Justice..”

The words *“some”* and *“others”* in this datum function as nominal ellipsis because the noun *“Epstein accusers”* (or women) is omitted but can be clearly recovered from the preceding part of the sentence. The complete meaning of the clause can be interpreted as *“some accusers faced harassment after speaking publicly about their abuse, while other accusers faced harassment after their identities were exposed.”*

The noun is not repeated because the writer assumes the reader can retrieve it from the previous context. This omission helps avoid unnecessary repetition and creates a more concise sentence. As a cohesive device, the ellipsis links the different groups of victims within the same sentence while maintaining continuity of meaning.

Datum 4

“Some victims are accused of seeking money or attention, branded as prostitutes or grifters. Others, particularly those from Russia or Eastern Europe, have been called foreign spies.”

The word *“others”* in the second sentence is categorized as nominal ellipsis because it omits the noun *“victims”* mentioned in the previous sentence. The full form can be interpreted as *“other victims.”*

The writer uses *“others”* instead of repeating *“victims”* in order to make the discourse more economical and less repetitive. The omitted noun remains recoverable from the preceding sentence, so the meaning is still clear. This omission contributes to textual cohesion because it creates a semantic link between the first and second sentences by referring to the same participant group, namely the victims.

“In dozens of cases, Henderson said, the information remained public even after she had reported the errors. Some were corrected within days, but others went unaddressed for weeks or were reposted..”

The words “*some*” and “*others*” in this datum are examples of nominal ellipsis because they omit the noun referring to the previously mentioned problem items, namely the errors, cases, or instances of unredacted information. The complete interpretation can be expressed as “*some errors were corrected within days, but other errors went unaddressed for weeks.*”

This ellipsis occurs due to the noun has already been introduced in the earlier context, so repeating it would be redundant. By omitting the noun and using “*some*” and “*others*,” the writer can contrast two outcomes more efficiently. In terms of cohesion, this ellipsis helps connect the sentence internally by marking comparison between one set of cases and another while keeping the discourse concise.

Datum 6

“Then came the phone calls: dozens in a night from unknown numbers, some silent, others mocking her abuse.”

This datum can be analyzed as clausal ellipsis because the clause elements that would normally complete the predication are omitted. The phrase “some silent, others mocking her abuse” can be expanded into “some of the phone calls were silent, while others were mocking her abuse.”

The omitted elements are recoverable from the earlier part of the sentence, specifically “the phone calls.” Because the subject and verb can be understood from context, the writer omits them to create a compressed and dramatic reporting style. As a cohesive device, the ellipsis allows the sentence to remain concise while still clearly contrasting two types of calls. It also strengthens the rhythm of the narrative, which is common in journalistic writing.

Datum 7

“NYU researchers identified just 17 public housing authorities that have tested time limits. None of the programs were designed for only two years and 11 abandoned the restriction...”

The numeral “11” in this datum functions as nominal ellipsis because it omits the noun “*programs*” or “public housing authorities,” which has already been mentioned in the preceding

sentence. The complete meaning can be interpreted as “11 programs abandoned the restriction” or “11 public housing authorities abandoned the restriction.”

Instead of repeating the noun, the text uses the numeral as the head of the noun phrase. This makes the sentence more concise while preserving clarity, because the omitted noun is recoverable from the preceding context. In terms of cohesion, this ellipsis creates a direct semantic link between the two clauses and avoids unnecessary repetition.

Datum 8

“A federal judge last month said several of the class action plaintiffs were required to arbitrate their claims. Others did not sign arbitration agreements, so the case has remained in court.

The expression “did not” in the sentence “*Others did not sign arbitration agreements*” can be categorized as verbal ellipsis because it refers to the verbal process introduced in the previous clause. The preceding sentence explains that several plaintiffs were required to arbitrate their claims because they had signed arbitration agreements. In the following sentence, the clause “*Others did not sign arbitration agreements*” contrasts those plaintiffs with another group. The auxiliary “did not” represents the omitted verbal process “sign arbitration agreements,” allowing the writer to avoid repeating the same verbal phrase.

As a grammatical cohesive device, this verbal ellipsis creates a connection between the two clauses through the shared verbal meaning “sign arbitration agreements.” The omitted element can be easily recovered from the preceding context, enabling readers to understand the intended meaning without ambiguity. Consequently, the use of ellipsis reduces unnecessary repetition, strengthens the contrast between the two groups of plaintiffs, and contributes to the cohesion and coherence of the discourse.

Datum 9

“Walkout by U.S., others did not derail G20 meeting’s focus...”

The expression “others did not” in the headline “*Walkout by U.S., others did not derail G20 meeting’s focus*” can be categorized as clausal ellipsis because part of the clause is omitted and its meaning can be recovered from the preceding context. The omitted clause may be interpreted as “others did not walk out” or “others did not perform the same action.” Rather than repeating the complete clause, the headline uses the auxiliary “did not” to present the information in a more concise and economical form, which is a common feature of journalistic headlines.

As a grammatical cohesive device, this clausal ellipsis links the second part of the headline to the first by referring back to the action performed by the U.S. The omitted clause is understood from the surrounding context, enabling readers to infer the intended meaning without unnecessary repetition. Consequently, the ellipsis creates a clear contrast between the action of the U.S. and that of the other participants while contributing to the cohesion and coherence of the headline.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that ellipsis is used as a cohesive device in online news discourse, although not all types of ellipsis proposed by Halliday and Hasan were found in the selected data. From the nine data analyzed, eight data were identified as nominal ellipsis and one datum was identified as clausal ellipsis, while verbal ellipsis was not found.

The findings show that nominal ellipsis is the most dominant type of ellipsis in the selected online news texts. It frequently appears in forms such as some, others, one, two, and other nominal expressions that omit nouns or noun phrases already mentioned in the preceding context. This type of omission helps journalists avoid unnecessary repetition, make the text more concise, and maintain cohesion between clauses and sentences.

Meanwhile, clausal ellipsis appeared only once in the analyzed data, which indicates that this type of ellipsis is less common in online news discourse. In addition, verbal ellipsis was not found in the selected articles. This may suggest that online news writing tends to preserve verbal structures more explicitly in order to maintain clarity, accuracy, and directness of information. Since news texts are written to deliver factual information efficiently and clearly, journalists may prefer nominal omission rather than verbal omission, which can sometimes create ambiguity if the omitted verbal element is not easily recoverable.

Therefore, the researcher suggested that online news discourse tends to employ nominal ellipsis more frequently than verbal or clausal ellipsis, since nominal omission allows writers to keep the text concise without reducing the clarity of information. In contrast, verbal ellipsis does not appear in the selected data, indicating that online news texts tend to maintain verbal elements explicitly. However, among the three types of ellipsis, nominal ellipsis is the most dominant, clausal ellipsis occurs only in limited cases, and verbal ellipsis does not appear in the selected data.

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