

A Situated Theory of Ellipsis

by Marjorie McShane

Table of Contents

Preface

CHAPTER 1. Getting Started **1**

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Theory Across Language Modules
 - 2.1 The Purview of the Theory
 - 2.2 The Premises of the Theory
 - 2.3 The Body of the Theory and the Description it Supports
 - 2.4 The Justification for the Theory
 - 2.5 The Methodology Employed in Developing the Theory
- 3 Why Develop a New Theory of Ellipsis?
 - 3.1 Ellipsis as Part of Reference
- 4 Syntactic Ellipsis: Background
 - 4.1 Licensing and Recoverability
 - 4.2 Sentence Grammar vs. Discourse Grammar
 - 4.3 Discourse-Oriented Languages
 - 4.4 Direct and Reverse Valency
 - 4.5 Parallelism
 - 4.6 Coordination
 - 4.7 In Opposition to Coordination: Assertion & Elaboration
 - 4.8 Does Obligatory Syntactic Ellipsis Exist?
 - 4.9 What Has Understandability Got to Do with It?
- 5 Semantic Ellipsis, and Reference as Distinct from Coreference
 - 5.1 Words and Collocations that Require Reference Resolution
 - 5.2 Syntactic Structures Known to Imply Unexpressed Information
 - 5.3 Unfilled Slots in Instances of Ontological Concepts
- 6 Ontological-Semantic Text Processing and Practicality
- 7 Conventions

CHAPTER 2. Object Ellipsis: Preliminaries **30**

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Categorizing Objects by Function
- 3 Case-Marking: Types, Sources and Realizations
 - 3.1 Case-Marking in Russian
- 4 Elided Objects and their Antecedents
- 5 Elided Objects Cross-Linguistically

CHAPTER 3. Direct Object Ellipsis with a Like Antecedent **39**

- 1 Introduction

2	Coordinate Structures	
2.1	Coordinated VPs	
2.2	Coordinated Clauses	
3	The Assertion & Elaboration Strategy	
4	A Gerund Phrase is Involved	
5	Subordinate Structures	
6	More Lexico-Semantic and Pragmatic Factors	
6.1	Referent Mismatches	
6.2	Gender Agreement Quandaries	
6.3	Repetition Structures for Verbal Emphasis	
6.4	The Verb has Narrow Selectional Restrictions	
6.5	Another Word in the Contexts Suggests the Elided Element	
6.6	The Structure is a Set Phrase	
7	Using the Parameters and Values for Cross-Linguistic Comparison	
8	Applying the Description	
4	DIRECT OBJECT ELLIPSIS WITH A NOMINATIVE ANTECEDENT	73
1	Introduction	
2	The Antecedent is a Nominative Subject	
3	The Antecedent is an Independent Nominal	
4	The Inventory of Parameters and Values	
5	Using the Parameters and Values for Cross-Linguistic Comparison	
6	Applying the Description	
5	DIRECT OBJECT ELLIPSIS WITH AN OBLIQUE ANTECEDENT	82
1	Introduction	
2	Referential Expression vs. Pronominal Antecedent	
2.1	Factors that Block Ellipsis Despite a Pronominal Antecedent	
3	The Nature of the Clause Complex	
4	Case-Marking Effects	
4.1	The Antecedent is Configurational Genitive	
4.2	The Antecedent is Partitive Genitive	
4.3	The Antecedent is an Accusative Object of a Preposition	
5	Narrow Selectional Restrictions of the Ellipsis-Clause Verb	
6	Paired Adverbs	
7	The Assertion & Elaboration Strategy is Signalled by a Lexical Entity	
8	Common Semantic or Pragmatic Context	
9	Rhythm, Prosody	
10	The Interaction of Factors in Typical Examples	
11	Discussion	
6	ELIDED LEXICALLY CASE-MARKED OBJECTS	99
1	Introduction	
2	Ellipsis in Verbal Repetition Structures	
3	Ellipsis in Other Structures	
4	Applying the Description	

7 UNEXPRESSED OBJECTS THAT DO NOT OR MAY NOT REPRESENT ELLIPSIS	104
1 Introduction	
2 Clear-Cut Non-Selection	
3 Clear-Cut Modal-Induced Non-Expression	
4 Clear-Cut Non-Expression of Generalized Human Objects	
5 Non-Selection or Generalized Human Non-Expression?	
6 Modal-Induced or Generalized Human Non-Expression?	
7 Generalized Human Non-Expression or Ellipsis?	
8 Non-Selection or Ellipsis?	
9 Non-Selection or Modal-Induced Non-Expression?	
10 Non-Expression of Objects in a Series of Verbs	
11 Commentary	
8 HEAD NOUN ELLIPSIS... OR NOT?	116
1 The Facts	
2 Discussion	
9 VERBAL ELLIPSIS WITH A SINGLE LICENSOR	122
1 Introduction	
2 Gapping	
3 Stripping	
4 Sluicing	
5 Verb Phrase Ellipsis	
10 VERBAL ELLIPSIS WITH A COMBINATION OF LICENSORS	139
1 Introduction	
2 Orienting the Description Toward Processing	
2.1 Compile a List of Syntactic Structures	
2.2 Prepare the System to Diagnose Each Type of Category	
2.3 Compile a List of Common Collocations	
2.4 Describe Special Subtypes	
3 Processing Algorithm	
4 The Parameters and Values for Cross-Linguistic Description	
11 ELLIPSIS OF MINOR PARTS OF SPEECH	165
1 Ellipsis of Conjunctions and Relative Pronouns	
2 Ellipsis of Prepositions	
3 Ellipsis of Conditional Particles	
4 Ellipsis of Reciprocal and Reflexive Particles	
12 DEPENDENCIES IN ELLIPSIS: A POLISH CASE STUDY	177
1 Introduction	
2 Background Grammatical Notes	
3 The Data	

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Syntactic Ellipsis with Coreference: More Phenomena
 - 2.1 Subject Ellipsis
 - 2.2 Object Ellipsis with an Extra-Linguistic Antecedent
 - 2.3 Non-Finite Clauses
- 3 Syntactic Gaps without Coreference
- 4 Semantic Ellipsis
 - 4.1 Unexpressed Agents in Passives
 - 4.2 Agentive Impersonals
 - 4.3 Unexpressed Experiencers and Possessors
 - 4.4 Unexpressed Arguments in Derived Nominals and Embedded Verb Forms
- 5 Language Strategies
 - 5.1 Dialogue Strategies
 - 5.2 Sentence Fragments Contributing to a Whole
 - 5.3 Nominal Sentences
 - 5.4 Unagentive Impersonals
- 6 Closing Thoughts