# THE ANALYSIS OF ELLIPSIS IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S THE SCARLET LETTER

## (The Study of Syntactic and Semantic)

**SYNOPSIS**

**HERLITA RIZKA**[1]

**63702030**




**JURUSAN SASTRA INGGRIS**

**FAKULTAS SASTRA**

**UNIVERSITAS KOMPUTER INDONESIA**

**2006**

[1] Program Strata-1 Jurusan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Sastra Universitas Komputer Indonesia
Jl. Dipati Ukur 112 Bandung 40132
Email: azka2005indy_chery@yahoo.com.

## ABSTRACT

The title of the research is **The Analysis of Ellipsis in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter (The Study of Syntactic and Semantic)**. The writer analyzes ellipsis to find out what kind of changes appear in ellipsis, from syntactic point of view. Besides, the writer also wants to know the meaning of words, phrases and clauses in elliptical sentence, and what kinds of context contained in them. The writer gets the data from the novel "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

The method used in the research is descriptive. The writer analyzes data, and then the data are described according to the theory as the base of the research, so the writer can get the conclusion from the research. Ellipsis may happen to words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. Ellipsis is used to avoid the repetition of word, and it does not change the meaning of text.

## *ABSTRAK*

*Penelitian ini berjudul* ***Analisis Elipsis dalam Novel*** **The Scarlet Letter** ***Karya Nathaniel Hawthorne (Kajian Sintaktis dan Semantis)****. Penulis menganalisis elipsis untuk mengetahui perubahan apa saja yang muncul pada elipsis ditinjau dari segi sintaktis. Selain itu, penulis juga ingin mengetahui makna apa yang terkandung pada kata, frasa dan klausa yang dielipsiskan dalam suatu kalimat, dan konteks apa yang terkandung di dalamnya. Data diperoleh penulis dari novel "The Scarlet Letter" karya Nathaniel Hawthorne.*

*Metode yang digunakan pada penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif. Penulis menganalisis data, kemudian mendeskripsikan berdasarkan teori yang menjadi dasar penelitian ini, sehingga penulis dapat mengambil beberapa simpulan dari penelitian ini. Elipsis dapat terjadi pada kata, frasa, ataupun klausa dalam suatu kalimat. Penggunaan elipsis dimaksudkan untuk menghindari pengulangan kata, dan elipsis yang terjadi tidak mengubah makna teks.*

## SYNOPSIS

Language is the way of communication in social interaction. To communicate through language, people use sentence to give their own ideas. Comprehending of sentence will be reached by the listener or reader if he or she can understand what the speaker or writer informs. Sometimes, there are one or more elements that can be omitted if the meaning of them has been understood, and it is called ellipsis. In English, ellipsis has certain characteristics, and not all the words, phrases or clauses can be omitted. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing ellipsis further, from syntactic and semantic point of view. This research is entitled "The Analysis of Ellipsis in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter (The Study of Syntactic and Semantic)". The writer analyzes ellipsis to find out what kind of changes appear in ellipsis. In addition, the writer wants to know the meaning of words, phrases and clauses in elliptical sentence, and what kinds of context contained in them. In this research, the writer uses the descriptive method. The writer analyzes data, and then the data are described according to the theory used as the base of the research.

Ellipsis derives from Greek; that is 'elleipen' means 'left'. According to Halliday, ellipsis is something left unsaid, and there is no implication here that what is unsaid is not understood. In other words, ellipsis is something that can be understood without saying. Halliday divides ellipsis into three categories; those are clausal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis and nominal ellipsis.

The first category is clausal ellipsis. Clausal ellipsis consists of modal ellipsis and propositional ellipsis. Modal ellipsis is associated with a context that there is no choice of mood in the clause. Mood is the choice of declarative, interrogative or imperative. In modal ellipsis, polarity is determined, and the subject can be presupposed from what has gone before. Typically, modal ellipsis occurs in WH-question. Meanwhile, propositional ellipsis is associated with those instances where the mood and the polarity are the principal components of the sentence. Typically, propositional ellipsis is used to response the statements and yes/no questions.

The second is verbal ellipsis. Verbal ellipsis is ellipsis within the verbal group. The same as clausal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis is also divided into two subcategories; those are operator ellipsis and lexical ellipsis. Operator ellipsis is ellipsis from the left; that is the omission of operator, whereas the lexical always remains intact. On the contrary, lexical ellipsis is ellipsis from the right; that is the omission of the last word, which is the lexical verb.

The last category is nominal ellipsis. Nominal ellipsis is ellipsis within the nominal group. The type of nominal ellipsis is determined by elements that replace the Head. In general, any nominal group has the function of Head filled by a word that normally function within the Modifier is an elliptical one. Therefore, nominal ellipsis involves the upgrading of a word functioning from the status of Modifier to the status of Head. Element often replaces the Head such as deictic, numerative and epithet. Deictic consists of specific deictic (it is usually fulfilled by possessive, for example: mine, his, hers), non-specific deictic (it is fulfilled by

determiner, for example: each, any, some, both, no) and post-deictic (it is fulfilled by ‘other’, ‘another’). Meanwhile, numerative element in the nominal group is expressed by numeral that forms three subcategories i.e. cardinal, ordinal and quantifier. And the function of epithet is typically fulfilled by an adjective in positive, comparative and superlative form.

These are some examples of the elliptical sentences based on the above theory:

Data 1:

“I will keep thy secret, as I have his”, said Hester. (TSL, 87)

From the sentence above, syntactically, ellipsis occurs after the word his that has the category of possessive pronoun. The ellipsis is specific deictic, and the word that has been omitted is secret. At first, his in the sentence above is Modifier, and secret is Head. His derived from phrase his secret. The word secret is omitted, so the category of his changes from possessive adjective to possessive pronoun. Besides, the upgrading of word functioning occurs in the word his from the status of Modifier to the status of Head. Also, the structural shift occurs from noun phrase i.e. his secret to word i.e. his. The complete sentence is “I will keep thy secret, as I have his (secret)”, said Hester.

The meaning of the phrase his secret, semantically, has been represented by the word his. Ellipsis in the sentence does not change the meaning of text. The meaning of the sentence above is ‘Hester will keep the secret of person that is talking with her’. This ellipsis is anaphora because the omitted word refers to the word that has been told before.

Data 2:

Two or three times as her mother and she went homeward, and as often at supper-time, and while Hester was putting her to bed, and once after she seemed to be fairly asleep, Pearl looked up, with mischief gleaming in her black eyes. (TSL, 206)

From the sentence above, syntactically, ellipsis occurs after the word two, and that word is cardinal number. The omitted word is the word times that acts as a Head. At first, the word two is Modifier of the word times. However, because the word times is omitted, so the upgrading of word functioning occurs in the word two from the status of Modifier to the status of Head. It is concluded that there is a structural shift on this elliptical sentence, that is from the noun phrase two times becomes the word two. The complete sentence is "Two (times) or three times as her mother and she went homeward, and as often at supper-time, and while Hester was putting her to bed, and once after she seemed to be fairly asleep, Pearl looked up, with mischief gleaming in her black eyes".

Through the context of the whole sentence, semantically, it can be summarized that the meaning of the word times that is omitted has been represented by the meaning of the word two. Ellipsis that occurs in this sentence does not change the meaning of the text. The meaning of the sentence is 'while Hester going home, having dinner or lulling Pearl, he often gazes her. This ellipsis is cataphora because the omitted word refers to the word that will be told later.

From the research, the writer concludes that the structural shift occurs in the clausal and verbal ellipsis from clause to phrase and from phrase to word. While, in nominal ellipsis, the structural shift is in the changing of noun phrase to word, so the upgrading of word functioning occurs in the word that is not omitted from the status of Modifier to the status of Head. Besides, there is a change of category in specific deictic (nominal ellipsis), that is from possessive adjective to possessive pronoun. In elliptical sentence, syntactically, occurs the structural shift. However, it does not change the meaning of the context. The word, phrase and clause that are omitted often occur in word, phrase and clause that have been told before, and it is called anaphora. However, in nominal ellipsis (especially numerative fulfilled by cardinal), the omitted word has the context of cataphora as the omitted word refers to the word that will be told later.

Based on the whole research, the writer suggests to the next researchers to take further study of ellipsis. They can analyze the ellipsis not only in syntactic and semantic study, but also analyze it based on the ambiguity or based on the theory of cohesion.