

**VERB ELLIPSIS IN CHARLES DICKENS'S NOVEL: "BLEAK HOUSE"  
ELLIPSIS VERBA DALAM NOVEL CHARLES DICKENS: "BLEAK HOUSE"**

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**Abstract**

This research entitled "Verb Ellipsis in Charles Dickens's Novel: Bleak House" discusses about the existence of verb ellipsis in the clause of the novel. The research uses theory from Nunan in his book entitled "Introducing Discourse Analysis" (1993). This research also uses theory from McShane in his book entitled "A Theory of Ellipsis" (2005). In addition, this research uses descriptive method to analyze the data based on the discussion. The data are taken from the novel Bleak House by Charles Dickens because it has many words that are omitted although the reader can still understand. Based on the analysis, the data can be indicated as verba ellipsis. It also includes the type of verba ellipsis, which is gapping. The data can be indicated as gapping because the verb can be omitted in the second part of the clause since it contains the same verb, such as verb position in the first and second clause. In other words, gapping is an ellipsis process that makes unseen verb. Additionally, this research is made to describe the role of verba ellipsis in the clause or in the conversation of the novel. Moreover, it also completes the previous research to discuss ellipsis especially about verb ellipsis.

**Keywords:** Verb, Ellipsis, Gapping, Omitted.

**Abstrak**

Penelitian ini berjudul "*Verba Ellipsis in Charles Dickens's Novel: Bleak House*" membahas tentang keberadaan ellipsis verba dalam klausa pada sebuah novel. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori dari Nunan dalam bukunya yang berjudul "*Introducing Discourse Analysis*" (1993). Untuk mendukung teori dari Nunan, penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori dari McShane dalam bukunya yang berjudul "*A Theory of Ellipsis*" (2005). Selain itu, penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif untuk menganalisa data berdasarkan pembahasan. Data

diambil dari novel *Bleak House* karya Charles Dickens karena banyak terdapat kata yang dihilangkan meskipun pembaca masih dapat mengerti. Berdasarkan analisa, data bisa diindikasikan sebagai ellipsis verba. Data tersebut juga masuk ke dalam tipe ellipsis verba yaitu gapping. Data bisa diidentifikasi sebagai gapping karena kata kerjanya bisa dihilangkan di bagian selanjutnya pada sebuah klausa sebab itu mengandung kata kerja yang sama. Seperti posisi kata kerja pada awal dan akhir klausa. Dengan kata lain, gapping adalah proses ellipsis yang dibuat untuk kata kerja yang tidak terlihat. Sebagai tambahan, penelitian ini dibuat untuk menjelaskan peran ellipsis verba pada sebuah klausa atau pada sebuah percakapan di dalam novel. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga melengkapi penelitian sebelumnya untuk menjelaskan lebih dalam tentang ellipsis khususnya pada ellipsis verba .

**Kata Kunci:** Verb, Ellipsis, Gapping, Dihilangkan.

## Introduction

The concept of cohesion is related to how meaning in language is created. To construct every word, there are many ways to learn how to string up the words as well such as the role of ellipsis in novel. Halliday and Hassan particularly stated (1976: 144) something is structurally left unsaid but still understood. From the quotation, it can be seen that ellipsis is something unseen but can still be understood by the reader.

There are three types of ellipsis, which are nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis. Nunan (1993: 25) states, "*Ellipsis occurs when some essential structural element is omitted from a sentence or clause and can only be recovered by referring to an element in the preceding text*". It means that the purpose of ellipsis is to know that the merger of the text depends on systems which support the unity of sentence.

In addition, there are some previous researches that discussed about ellipsis entitled "*Peran Konstruksi "so" Dalam Membentuk Kohesivitas Pada Novel Pride and Prejudice Karya Jane Austen*" by Monika Br Kaban (2012). It describes about how cohesive devices construct the meaning in a text. In addition, the previous research analyzes all grammatical cohesive devices: ellipsis, substitution, and conjunction.

Moreover, the writer is interested to analyze more deeply about ellipsis especially in verbal ellipsis. The research shows how verbal ellipsis occurs in the conversation of novel. Additionally, it describes what kind of cohesive device that appears in the data.

## Data Source

The data for this research are taken from *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens. The writer interests to analyze verbal ellipsis in the novel and chooses *Bleak House* by Charles Dickens. The novel is chosen because it has many data that indicated as verbal ellipsis. Moreover, in the data, there is one of type verbal ellipsis, which is gapping.

## Theoretical Review

This research use theory from Akindele (2011) which mentions, *“cohesive devices are identified and highlight as they connect one another to form a whole”*. The quotation means that cohesive devices use to describe about the meaning in a text. In addition, cohesive devices in grammatical consists of ellipsis, substitution, and reference.

Ellipsis is the omission of parts of a sentence when they can be presumed from what has already taken place in the text. McShane states *“Ellipsis is a universal property of natural language, but its scope and means of realization differ substantially from language to language”*. (2005: 152). Ellipsis have three types, which are nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis.

In order to complete the description, McShane also states *“there are four well-studied configurations in which English permits verbal ellipsis: Gapping, stripping, Sluicing, and VP ellipsis”*. (2005: 151). Those types are process to describe verbal ellipsis from the context which can be relevant to its interpretation. It becomes a structural unit when its elements are connected with each other.

Gapping is one of type in verbal ellipsis, it explains about the existence of verb in the second part of clause or sentence. McShane particularly stated (2005: 152) that gapping is licensed by parallelism between the antecedent and ellipsis clause. It means that gapping occurs in parallel and non-parallel but the context of the clause is ellipsis.

## Research Method

This research using descriptive method to confirm the explanation of the theories that already exist. Sugiyono particularly stated (2007:14) that *“metode deskriptif analisis adalah yang digunakan untuk menganalisa dengan cara mendeskripsikan atau menggambarkan data yang telah terkumpul sebagaimana adanya”*. Thus, the writer analyzes the research based on the situations in the conversation of the novel. It can be indicated that the research describes the issue of the discussion.

## Findings and Discussion

### Data 1

'My Lady's cause has been again before the Chancellor, *has it*, Mr Tulkinghorn?' says Sir Leicester, giving him his hand.

Yes. [*it has*]" Mr Tulkinghorn replies.

### Analysis

The data above is the conversation between Mr Tulkinghorn and Sir Leicester. The type of sentence is interrogative, where Sir Leicester asked something to Mr Tulkinghorn. *Has it* indicated as verbal ellipsis because in the next part of conversation, it has omitted. Although the word *has it* omitted, the reader can still understand through the relation of cohesive device.

### Data 2

While Mr Tulkinghorn may *not know* what is passing in the Dedlock mind at present, it is very possible that he may [...].

### Analysis

The data above shows verbal ellipsis between the first clause and the second part of the clause. In the first clause, there is word *not know* that include to verbal ellipsis. In the second part of the clause, the word *not know* has omitted. It have the same verb as first clause and to avoid the repetition of the word, the data use one of type verbal ellipsis, which is gapping.

### Data 3

I *felt* the distance between my godmother and myself so much more after the birthday, and [...] so sensible of filling a place in her house.

### Analysis

The data above shows non-parallel of gapping. In the first clause, the word *felt* is verbal ellipsis because in the next of clause the word *felt* has omitted. The verbal ellipsis in the data has type as gapping because it has the same verb. Although the data is gapping, it can be indicated as non-parallel because in the first and second clause have the same subject and verb.

### Data 4

She *has* beauty still and [...] fine face.

## Analysis

The last data is a sentence that indicated as verbal ellipsis. The word *has* omitted in the next of the clause, which separated by conjunction *and*. It omitted because the second clause have same verb, the data includes as gapping because verbal ellipsis has specified in the first clause.

## Conclusions

From four data in this research, it can be indicated as verbal ellipsis. Although all the data is verbal ellipsis, it uses different kind of sentence. The first data is interrogative, which is conversation between Mr Tulkington and Sir Leicester. The rest of data (data 2, 3, and 4) is a clause that shows about gapping between first clause and second clause. The sentence in the data divided by the existence of conjunction *and*.

Technically, verbal group shows structure that does not fully express such as in finite or tense. The second data shows verbal ellipsis between the first clause and the second part of the clause. The third data shows non-parallel of gapping, although the data is gapping, it can be indicated as non-parallel because in the first and second clause have the same subject and verb. Then, the fourth data is a sentence that indicated as verbal ellipsis which separated by conjunction *and*.

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