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A Study of Ellipsis and Elision in English

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A R T I C L E I N F O

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A B S T R A C T

Ellipsis & elision are widespread phenomenon in English. Using ellipsis in spoken and written forms denotes mastery of the language whether in native or non-native language .Elision, on the other hand , shows how some sounds in connected speech can be omitted.

This research presents a study of ellipsis and elision . It introduces some definitions of ellipsis and elision and its value in English language besides other subjects that are related with the title of the research.

Section one is the introduction . Section two deals with ellipsis and an exclusive attempt to deal with ellipsis in embedded structures, concepts of ellipsis according to traditional, structural and transformational view . While section three deals with elision, its definition ,historic elision in English and its types . Section four is the conclusions followed by bibliography.

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دراسة للحذف والأخفاء في اللغة الإنكليزية

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الخلاصة:

الحذف والاخفاء ظاهرتان واسعتان في اللغة الانكليزية . حيث يستخدم الحذف في لغة الكلام وفي لغة الكتابة ليبين السيطرة على اللغة الانكليزية سواء لمتكلميها الاصليين او غيرهم . الاخفاء من جهة اخرى يوضح كيف ان بعض الاصوات ضمن الكلام المترابط يمكن اخفائها.

يقدم هذا البحث دراسة للحذف والاخفاء في اللغة الانكليزية. حيث يقدم بعض التعاريف واهميتها في اللغة الانكليزية بالإضافة الى مواضيع اخرى تتعلق بعنوان البحث

يقع البحث في أربعة فصول , يقدم الفصل الاول مقدمة يطرح تلخيص للمواضيع التي ستطرق اليها الباحث . يتناول الفصل الثاني الحذف تعريفه وانواعه وقواعده اما الفصل الثالث فيقدم الاخفاء تعريفه انواعه واستخداماته من الناحية النحوية والصوتية. اما الفصل الرابع وهو الفصل الاخير فيتضمن النتائج التي توصل اليها الباحث متبوعا بقائمة المصادر.

1.Introduction

Misunderstanding some utterances is attributed to grammatical phenomenon called ellipsis. Native speakers subconsciously use ellipsis to avoid redundancy in both spoken and written forms consequently. Non- native learners are required to develop the skill employing ellipsis in speech and writing if they want to show a complete mastery of the language.

Elision on the other hand is a process where one or more phonemes are dropped , usually to simplify the pronunciation that also causes a problematic area in understanding speech for non –native speakers

The position of ellipsis in embedded structure causes syntactic confusion between obligatory and optional ellipsis. Elision is the omission of one or more sounds (such as a vowel , a consonant or a whole syllable) in word or phrase producing results that is easier for the speaker pronunciation. Sometimes sounds maybe elided for euphonic effect .

This research aims at :

1. identify the topics of ellipsis linguistically,
2. describing optional and obligatory construction of English ellipsis,
3. drawing attention to the existence of ambiguity in English through the application of ellipsis transformation,
4. shedding light on syntactic, phonological and semantic ellipsis in English such problematic areas which may require more explanations to ease the process of teaching and learning language, and
5. clarifying elision and its types with reference to a historic revision of elision in English.

This research is limited to presenting ellipsis and elision either optional or obligatory kinds in embedded structure

The present study follows these steps :

1.presenting some definitions briefly for such topics, its classifications and its relations with other concepts,

2.giving an idea about the points of view of traditional and structural school of grammar on ellipsis and elision, and

3.showing the transformational treatment concerning ellipsis and elision in English embedded structure.

This study hopes to make the non- native speakers of English imitate the native speakers in their speech and writing correctly and without mistakes. It also hopes to make them differentiate between obligatory and optional ellipsis and elision in English.

2 . Ellipsis

2.1 Definitions of Ellipsis:-

Ellipsis is one of the most important terms that the researcher focuses on. It is a process or result of leaving out part of a construction , (Harthman & Stosk ,1977: 60).

While Crystal (1985 : 107) refers to ellipsis as a term used in grammatical analysis referring to a part of a sentence structure which has been omitted for the reasons of economy, emphasis or style, as in the following examples :-

(a)What are you studying? I am studying English .

(b)What are you studying ? English .

Crystal (1985 : 390) refers to another term called reduction which is defined as " the form that refers to a clause (reduced clause) which lacks one or more of the elements required to enable it to be used as a full independent construction "

Ellipsis usually indicates an intentional omission of a word, sentence or whole section from a text without altering its original meaning(Ellipsis – Wikipedia. Org.) .

2.2 .Concept of Ellipsis According to Traditional, Structural and Transformational Views:

Our main task here is to investigate deeply the elliptical construction starting with the traditional and structural approaches and then deal with transformational grammar approach in analyzing the syntactic, phonological and semantic notion of the ellipsis.

2.2.1 The Traditional View :

Many items can be omitted in subordinate clause , as mentioned by the traditional grammarians, but the speaker and listener should understand the missing part(Eckersley & Eckersley, 1988 : 315).

According to the traditional grammarians, ellipsis means " the process or result of omitting some part of words or sentence". The words or missing part is often said to be understood or necessary to make the construction complete (Abbas, 2003 : 4).

2.2.2 The structural View :

The structural grammarians also use the term of ellipsis. Clarck (1977 :16) claimes that certain words can be omitted when they are repeated elsewhere in the sentence usually earlier. So let's clarify the following example:

A)Shall we go by bus or shall we go by train ?

B) Shall we go by bus or train ?

We can understand from the example above that the second presence of " shall we go " is deleted because it has been mentioned previously.

For the variability of ellipsis, Quirk et.al (1998 : 621) mentions that " the elliptic words precisely recorerable (and) the insertion of missing words results in ungrammatical sentence.

A) John will not jump into the water.

If he is afraid to jump into the water

B) John will not jump into the water.

If he is afraid to

So, example (A) shows that it is ungrammatical sentence but (B) is grammatical.

2.2.3 The Transformational Grammarians View :

The term of " embedding " in transformational generative grammar(T. G . G) means "the process of inserting a constituent structure into a matrix structure" According to the transformational grammarians, the term of embedded clause refers to the constituent clause. while the main clause is called the matrix clause.

T. G .G. ellipsis is an operation which eliminates a constituent of input phrase marker . In classical T. G. G. , it is accounted for imperative sentence where the subject and auxiliary verb of an underlying sentence is called as in :

Kick the ball, from, you kick the ball.

On the use of deletion , trasformationalists have suggested that the deleted element must be recoreable , thus, the deletion transformation must specify the elements to be deleted and the effects of the ellipsis must be clearly indicated in the resultant structure, (Crystal , 1985 :87).

As a result of embedding, several elements can be deleted from the embedded structure for various reasons . Such ellipsis is classified into two kinds optional and obligatory. Optional ellipsis involves the omission of redundant items for one reason or another in accordance with the theory of linguistics. In optional ellipsis we can delete some item or leave. As in :

Have you read the book (that) told you about . (Allertion, 1979 : 314).

It is obvious that the relative pronoun in the example above can be omitted optionally because both of the two cases are acceptable.

Obligatory ellipsis, on the other hand, means that we must remove (an) item (s) from a sentence because their occurrence on the surface structure makes the sentence ungrammatical. Obligatory ellipsis is applied for two main reasons : to avoid ungrammatical sequence or to avoid repletion, as we clarified in the example above (Abbas, 2003 : 5-6).

2.3.Types of Ellipsis

In this section , the researcher tries to present ellipsis syntactically , phonologically and semantically with the illustration of certain examples.

2.3.1 Ellipsis in Syntactic Structure

The term syntax means the analysis of the structure of phrases and sentences. So , this structure will undergo a sort of ellipsis . Such ellipsis in syntactic structure may appear in the form of finite and non- finite clauses.

2.3.2 Ellipsis in Finite Clause

2.3.2.1 Ellipsis in Relative Clause

Relative clause undergoes an optional ellipsis . That is to say, we can use the relative pronoun or omit it , as

Did you find the book (which) I gave you. (Abbas (2003 : 7)

The relative pronoun is omitted according to its position in the sentence . The following statements show the cases of optional ellipsis,

A) The relative pronoun can be optionally deleted if the sentence is in the passive
   A :I saw the house which was attacked yesterday.
   B : I saw the house attacked yesterday.(Liles , 1971 :96)
B) When the relative pronoun followed by an auxiliary with the present participle, it can be omitted, we omit the relative pronoun with auxiliary
   a)The book that is lying on the floor belongs to me.
   b) The book lying on the floor belongs to me. (Abbas, 2003 :10)

C) If the function of the relative pronoun is an object, it can be deleted .

a) The joke which Suha told me is indeed funny.

b) The joke Suha told me is indeed funny.(Klammar , 1977 :276).

D) When the relative pronoun precedes the subject , it can be omitted. :

a) The stories which he invented were incredible .

b) The stories he invented were incredible . (Leech, etal ,1982 : 116)

But there are some cases in relative clauses, we can’t omit the relative pronoun, such as :

A : The relative pronoun can't be omitted if it functions as the subject of the sentence :

a) The thief who stole the money is now in jail .
b) The thief stole the money is now in jail .(Hurford, 1994 : 219)

B : Fowler (1977 : 144) states that " ellipsis must not take place if the constituent is marked perfect aspect" such as :

a) My uncle who had travelled to Paris came home .
b) My uncle had travelled to Paris came home .

C: According to Robert (1977 : 232) "when other material precedes wh –form , it can't be deleted "

a : The claim with which William concluded his lecture is uncertain .

b: The claim with William concluded his lecture is uncertain .

There is also ambiguous relative clauses which may result when ellipsis is applied . For that , Ibrahim (1988 : 71) states that ambiguous sentence have more than one deep structure as in the following example :

a : He painted the car in the garage .

b : He painted the car which was in the garage.

c : He painted the picture of the car when he was in the garage.

Thus, ambiguous relative clause occurs when the relative pronoun is deleted randomly, so the surface structure of the sentence will hold different interpretation.

2.3.2.2 Ellipsis in Comparative Clause :

Comparative Clause undergoes omission to get the grammatical sentence . This ellipsis can be found optionally or obligatory . Thus, some elements must be deleted and others may or may not be omitted .

a : Bill is taller than he seems tall .

b : Bill is taller than he seems .

In the previous example above (a) represents ungrammatical structure because of the repetition of “tall “ and (b) is grammatical , so ellipsis here is obligatory .

On the contrary, the following examples represents optional ellipsis.

a : Ann can knit mittens faster [than Pam can knit mittens] .

b : Ann can knit mittens faster [than Pam can] .

c : Ann can knit mittens faster than Pam. (Leech, etal ,1982 : 117)

In the previous example above (c) what remains is prepositional phrase (p.p) because “than” behaves as preposition .

If adjective (adj.) in constituent clause , as Langacker (1972 : 103) claims , is identical with the (adj.) matrix clause , it can be deleted as in :

a : My house is bigger than your house is big .

b : My house is bigger than your house .

We can note that adj. can be omitted in comparative clause but it can be applied to many or any element that is identical as shown in this example :

a : Carlson has many more friends than Andrew has a friend .

b : Colley drives as skillfully as Reeves drives skillfully . (Abbas , 2003 : 15)

Consequently, the element which is deleted.

(a) is a noun (N) in (b) is an adverb .

In the case of verb , Lees(1969 : 173) states “ there is no necessity to reduce the second verb when the two subjects are different “ . Let’s consider the following illustration :

a : Joan reads more books than Smith reads.

b : Joan reads more books than Smith .

Both sentences are acceptable, but if the subject is the same , but we compared different dimensions, the embedded cannot undergo deletion. It must be a complete clause.

a : Charley is as wide as he is tall .

b : Charley is as wide as tall . (Abbass, 2003 : 16)

If the subject and verb phrase of the clause are the same, the subject and the verb phrase can be removed as in :

a :The children like spaghetti ; as much as they do / like ravioli .

Not all comparative clause accept ellipsis but there is an example , especially the sentence which have an ambiguity :

a : Charley likes Mary more than Susan .

The sentence in (a) is ambiguous since it is not clear whether Susan is the subject of the clause Susan likes Mary or the direct object than Charley likes Susan.

This ambiguity can be removed by replacing Susan with pronoun . The first Susan will be replaced by she and by her in the second .

b : Charley likes Mary more than she .

c : Charley likes Mary more than her . (Mc Cawley, 1985 :3)

2.3.2.3 Ellipsis in Coordination :

Firstly, we must know something about what is meant by coordination. It means two or more clause joined together by using one of these conjunctions (and ,but ,or)(Quirk and Green _Baum, 1973 : 254).

The process of ellipsis takes place in coordinate clause according to the following points :

A : We can omit the conjunction that joins the coordinate clause :

a : Slowly and Stealthy he crept towards his victim.

b : Slowly , Stealthy, he crept towards his victim.

B :English allows conjoined clause to be reduced where certain constituents are repeated. This phenomenon is known as “ conjunction reduction “ . In the example below , we’ll use the letter [e] for empty to mark the resulting from reduction

a)Today , Suha goes to an art exhibition, Nada [e] to the observatory and Omer [e] to the cinema. (Ibid : 257)

b)Alex visited Dorchester in March, [e] [e] Ringwood in April and [e] [e] piddle trenthida early in June.

It is obvious that example (a) has no empty slot which represents the (goes) and example (b) has two empty slots representing (Alex visited)

This kind of ellipsis can be called (gapping) because it leaves a gap in the middle of some clauses or phrases .

C. The coordinator allows omission of the subject clause if the subject is co-referential with that of the preceding linked clause :

I may see you tomorrow or (I) may phone later in the day .

D : English allows omission for the auxiliary if the subject of coordination clause are different, we omit the identical auxiliaries .

Suha should clean the sitting room and Luma (should) clean the kitchen . (Quirk and Green Baum , 1973 : 254) .

It is accepted that if we have more than one auxiliary , it can be omitted :

John must have been playing football and Mary (must – have been) doing her homework.

Besides, we can omit the subject and the auxiliary if they are identical .

Mary has washed the dishes, (Mary has) dried them and (Mary has) put them in the cupboard.

To sum up, we have to apply deletion in coordination in order to avoid repeated elements as well as ungrammatical structures .

2.3.3 Ellipsis in Non – Finite Clauses :

Ellipsis will be applied in infinitive and gerund. As kind of non- finite clause, different items can be deleted from each clause according to certain conditions.

2.3.3.1 : Ellipsis in Infinitive Clause :

Infinitive is constructed of " to infinitive " that it keeps one form

I would like to read .

The infinitive has different items that may or must be omitted according to certain context such as identical noun phrase deletion (Equi)and deletion of " to " ….etc.

2.3.3.2 Ellipsis of (To) :

(To) is obligatory omitted with verbs of perception as well the verbs make and let :

a) My father did not let the boy speak .

b)Morgan saw the police come .

c) We heard Mary sings

To support such ellipsis, Jacabson (1978 : 386) states that the existence of (to) is well evident in the passive construction of these verbs

The police was seen to come .

Marth was heard to sing .

On the contrary, there is no "to infinitive " with the verbs like watch in the passive construction.

Mary watched the thief steal a car from the park.

The thief was watched to steal a car from the park.

In the cases of verb helps, as meaning of assistance, hot cases are acceptable

Max helped Mary to find her things.

Max helped Mary find her things (Ibid : 388).

2.3.4 Ellipsis in Gerund Clauses :

A gerund is a verbal noun . It has the same form as the participle , but it differs from the latter in meaning and function. The present participle functions as a modifier while the gerund always does the job of a noun :

A sitting room (gerund)

A sitting boy (participle) (Abbas, 2003 : 34)

2.4. Phonological Ellipsis

In English some words may lose certain sounds (consonants or vowels) according to certain circumstances or according to fixed rules . Such operation is called Elision .Elision can be found in initial position within the word or in final position for making the pronunciation easy in rapid casual speech. Crystal (1985 : 20) and Lass (1984 : 186) classify phonological ellipsis according to its position into three terms :

1. Aphaeresis : it is initial deletion as in :
   I am …I'm .
   I have …. I've .
   Or loss of initial (k) before (n) as in :
   Knife …./naïf /
   Knight …../nait/
   2.Syncope (Syncopation) : It is a formative – internal ellipsis . The term is most frequently used for vowels loss . We can see the result of syncopation in comparisons of American and British forms of certain words as in :
   Secretary /sekreteri / vs. /sekritri/
   Dictionary /dikʤeneti/ vs. / dikʤnri/
2. Apo cope (apocopation) : It is the loss of final element .
   In English final /t/ is omitted before a word beginning with another consonant as in :

Lost time / los taim/ (ibid : 186) .

2.5.Semantic Ellipsis :

The main task of this section is to show the application of ellipsis within the third component of linguistics " semantics " and we mention the term "anaphora" and " proforms " as the best reprehensive example .

2.5.1The Application of Ellipsis in Proforms

We must know what is meant by proforms . It is well defined by Crystal (1980 :286) as " a term used in some models of grammatical description to refer collectively to the items in a sentence which substitute for other items or construction ."

Proform is regarded as a semantic application of ellipsis because we specify what kind of expression can be interpreted or constructed as the antecedent of a given proform.

In proform we omit an expression from the sentence that is mentioned elsewhere in the same sentence, the first mention of this expression is called antecedent but the expression proform , as in the following :

a)Do you like the woman with the blue hat ?

b)Yes, I like her . (Rodford , 1981 : 62)

In the example (a) above , the (NP) " the woman with the blue hat " is regarded as the antecedent and " her " is a proform of the NP , so we can call it " a pronoun phrase ". We have another example that has the same constituent .

a)What do think of the guy who wrote the unbelievable boring book on transformational grammar ?

b) I can't stand him . (Rodford , 1981 : 62)

In example (b) "him " occurs in typical NP position in the sentence " the guy who wrote that unbelievable book on transformational grammar " and it is substituted by having another constituent as illustrated in the following example :

a) Have you ever been to Paris ?

b)No, I have never been there .

The word “there “ is prepositional phrase (pro – pp) in that it occupies the same sentence position as the p ,p “ to Paris “ which considers as the antecedent of the proform “there “

In the case of having “ it “ as a proform, also we shall omit an expression in the sentence and replaced by “it “ as in the following example :

a) Mary has finished her assignment .

b) I don’t believe it .

I find the lid of the kettle , I’ll give it to you . (Ibid : 66)

If we want to analyze the last example, we’ll notice that there is a deleted expression “ the lid of the kettle “ we omit it and replace by “ it “ which is a proform of the antecedent. The semantic interpretation of “ it “ that it can be interpreted as having a NP its antecedent .

The same idea can be used when we use “ one “ as a proform in the following example :

I like this very tall girl more than that one .

The example above is paraphrased from the sentence

I like this very tall girl more than I like that very tall girl . (Ibid : 93)

“ very tall application can be an antecedent “ of “ one

The same application can be found with adverbials as in :

We saw John at 6 o’clock. We told him then that we would be coming to the party(Quirk and Green . Baum , 1973 : 260) .

It is obvious that the antecedent “ at 6 o’clock “ is an adverb. And we have a proform “ then “ which can be interpreted as an adverb of the antecedent.

2.5.2. The Application of Ellipsis in Anaphora :

Anaphora can be defined as a term used to refer to the process of having linguistic unit referring back to some previously mentioned unit or meaning. It marks the identity between what is being expressed and what has already been expressed (Badea , 2008 : 2).

If you want an umbrella, you can borrow this [this umbrella]

In this example the missing noun is re – constructed anaphorically . In this case , the semantic link of the antecedent is identity of sense anaphora . So in the example above , the first mention of umbrella is considered as an antecedent , whereas the second which is anaphora. Let's try another example :

If you want a hat , I've got a collection [collection of hats] here .

The two examples above are the best ones for anaphoric ellipsis which is found in (this umbrella) and (collection of hats) (Hudson . 2004 : 25)

Anaphoric ellipsis is found after prepositional phrases and verbs such as :

-When I came to the tree , I walked round (round it) three times .

- Don't ask me when I'll be back, because I don't know (know when I'll be back)

-When they asked my name, I told them (them it).

All the examples above of elliptical noun, is the complement of the preceding words. Nevertheless, there is an exception that we cannot omit the repeated prepositions and verbs as in the following example :

- I found the second clue before Mary the first [Mary found the first].
- - He sat on the floor and she lay the bed [on the bed] (Ibid : 86)
  We can use anaphora in another style, i.e., we have a noun or noun phrase which can be considered as an antecedent but the anaphoric expression, we shall omit the (N) or (NP) and we shall replace them by a special pronoun,, so we can consider this operation a kind of deletion because we shall use the semantic interpretation to specify what we shall omit, so let's use the reciprocal pronoun as a kind of anaphora :
  John likes Mary and Mary likes John.

John and Mary likes each other. (Radford, 1987 : 364)

In the example above “John and Mary” is the antecedent and “each other “ is the anaphoric expression.

Reflexive pronoun can be considered anaphoric reference as Radford (1988 : 25) illustrates in this example :

The students believe themselves to be innocent .

Here, also we have an antecedent represented by “ the students “ and anaphora represented by “ themselves “ (Ibid 63)

Thus from what we displayed, let’s make a difference between proform and anaphora. The proform is a matter of substitution whereas the latter is a matter of interpretation. Even when we use the semantic deletion in the two examples above.

3. Definitions of Elision :-

Elision can be defined as the process where one or more phonemes are dropped, usually in order to simplify the pronunciation. It may occur for both vowels and consonants. Although, it is much more common for consonants . We have extreme cases of vowels reduction or weakening to the point that the vowel is no longer pronounced at all , such as in words like “ police “ “correct” or “suppose” being realized as /plis/

/Kirekt/ or /spu:z/ . In rare cases such as in some realizations of the words perhaps both consonants and vowel elision may even occur at the same time . Elision “ According to Harthman & Stork (1972 :75) elision refers to an omission of speech sound between syllables or words in connected speech, usually for ease of pronunciation , as in

There is ……There’s .

Elision, as Morely (1979 : 52) points out, is the omission or dropping out of sound or sounds resulting in shortened speech form .

While Johnes (1984 : 133) states that elision is the dropping of a sound which once exist or which still exists in precise speech.

Underhill (1998 : 61) indicates that elision is a natural result of the speech organs cutting corners in connected speech , mainly towards boundaries.

Hudson (2000 : 414) refers to elision as deletion or loss of phonemes and emphasizes universality of this phenomenon . “

Also Elision can be defined as the omission of sounds in connected speech (Crystal ,2003 :158)

The deletion or loss of phonemes" is almost found in all languages .

3.1 Historic Elision in English :

In this respect , Elgin (1979 : 95) mentions a phonological rule that /g/ is elided when it occurs before a word final nasal as in :

Sign ,/sain/ , design /dizain / . However , /g/ is pronounced when followed by a suffix as in signature /signicha/and designation /dizignashin/

Kuiper and Allan (1996 :75) state certain instances in which there are silent consonants that reflect the earlier pronunciation and they have no longer been pronounced even in careful speech , e.g;

Wright , knee, gnaw , thistle , fasten, walk, lamb …etc.

On the other hand, Fromkin et al (2003 :310) agree with Hudson (2000 :412) to state a rule by saying of which /b/ in old spelling is omitted when it occurs finally preceded by a nasal consonant as in :

Limb /lim/ , climb /klaim/

However , Hudson (Ibid) notes that the stop consonant /b/ is retained when a suffix is added as in : *limb /lim/ , limber / limba/*

3.2 Elision in English :-

This section is concerned with the conditions that govern the elision of single phonemes such as consonants and vowels as well as the elision of whole syllables.

3.2.1 Types of Elision in English

A) Elision of Consonants :-This section deals with phonemes whose elision primarily depends on their environment. It differ from one consonant to another and to particular consonant sounds together with maintaining regular speech rhythm and speed. Gimson (1976: 297) clarifies the different cases of consonant elision under rapid and colloquial speech. AL- Hamash (1982 :163)states that English language rarely or never has double consonants, while Arabic is full of examples of double consonants. In Arabic we have (shadda) double consonants , that consonant is doubled. In English, even if we write a word with double consonants, we always say it with one consonant . The following words are pronounced with single , not double consonants : (according , annoy , affect offer arrange …etc. Now we can notice the following example:-

“last time” It is not said with double /tt/ but with one /t/ as follows :/ la:s taim/

B) Elision of Vowels: In certain relatively long words, a vowel is omitted to reduce the number of syllables in the word, for example, the word ‘history’ is pronounced as /histri:/ (Ibid)

1. **Elision of /t/ and /d/**

   Linguists affirm that /t/ and /d/ are considered the most commonly elided phonemes in English. Finch (2005 :44- 45) points out that such a type of elision is due to “ casual speech” as illustrated in the following examples :

   Mostly /mousli/ handsome /ha:ns^m/

   Collins and Mess (2008 : 12) say that the sequence /t/ is reduced in the following forms

   Ought to /o:t o / went to /wento/

   2. Elision of /h/

   In casual speech , the phoneme /h/is elided when it occurs in weak forms of function words as in :

   I think he will have told her …./ai think ð will ðv told ð /

   3.Elision of /v/

   Gimson (1977 : 143) indicates that the phoneme /v/ in the word (of) is elided when followed by a cross band :

   Losts of them …../losts ð thim /

   4 .Elision of a whole syllable :

   Crystal (2003 : 247) states that a whole syllable may be elided especially when there is a parted consonant as in :

   Library…/laibrðri/ …./laibri/

   Particularly …./pðtikjulði/ …./pðtikjuli/

   3.2.2.The Elision of Vowels :

   This section is primarily concerned with the elision of vowels in contracted forms and weak syllables , such types of elision can be initial or medial according to the text in which they occur as illustrated in the following points :

   a) Elision of initial vowels:

   Gimson (1977 : 297) says that vowels are elided when they followed by a consonant and preceded by a word – final consonant :

   Not alone…../notðloun /…../notllon/

b) Elision of Medial vowels :

Gimson (1977 : 143) indicates that the sound /6/ disappears when it follows a separate sounds such as /p/, /t/ and /k/

Potato /pðteitou/ …../pteitou/

Elision in the word final consonant clusters is frequently simplified by elision, particularly before another word beginning with a consonant ,e.g. last / la:s/ post , just /ʤas/ near , tinned /tin…tim/ meat, bald /bo:l/ patch, you mustn't /masn/ lose it; and sometimes before a vowel, especially after syllabic /n/, e.g. he wouldn't /wodn/ eat it .Quirk (1964 :301)

3.3 Some Phonological Rules in Elision :

It is unknown for us how we should practice elision unless we have fixed rules should be followed , i. e . if a certain sound followed by another, the latter should be deleted and the following rules will make it clear :

1. Loss of weak vowels after p, t, k :
   Today / t h dei/
   Canary / k h neri /
   Tomato / t h meitu /

2.Weak vowel before n , r and l is disappeared and n, r and l will become syllabic :

Tonight /tnait/
Correct /krekt/

3 .If we have consonant cluster, three consonants followed each other, the middle consonant will be disappeared :
Acts /ǽks/
Looked back /luk bǽk/
Scripts /skrips / (Katamba , 1989 : 277)

4.Loss of final (v) in (of) before consonant :
Lots of them / lots ov thim/
Waste of money /weist mni / (Roach ,2000 : 143)

5.[g] is omitted after [y] for example :

Sing /sig/

[g] is omitted also when it occurs before a syllable final (n) as in :

Reassign /rizain / (Ibid : 145).

4. Conclusions

This simple research has reached the following points :

1.The terms ellipsis, omission , reduction and elision are different words referring to similar idea " the missing of identical elements for certain purposes . "

2.Such terms appear in different schools of grammar but the most prominent term that is used by the transformationalists is ellipsis.

3.The main forms of syntactic ellipsis is represented by the optional and obligatory notions. The latter must be applied to get grammatical structure as well as to avoid repetition.

4.In phonology, we apply the notion of ellipsis for the ease of pronunciation .

5.Proform and anaphora are the best forms of semantic ellipsis . In both cases we use semantic interpretation to specify the ellipsis items .

6.A very wide spread ellipsis is found in syntax especially the identical elements in relative clauses, comparative and coordinate clauses , which are finite clause and in non – finite clause, in infinitive and gerund clause.

7.Elision in English occurs in some sounds only. They are /d/ and /v/ . The sound /t/ is omitted in constructed forms, and reduction of two similar successive consonants into one such as /t/ in "want to " and similar structure. Also the elision of initial vowels

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