ELLIPSIS PHENOMENON IN SENTENCES FOUND IN NOVEL SHERLOCK HOLMES

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Abstract

Ellipsis is one of phenomenon in language use. Traditionally, ellipsis is the grammar means that avoids repetitions, abandons the old information, highlights key words and make the context connected tightly. The structure of the sentence that occur ellipsis phenomenon of course will have changed and quite different with the common grammatical sentence which used the rules but still have same meaning.cNovel *Sherlock Holmes* was chosen as the data source of this research because there are a lot of type ellipsis phenomenon found. It mainly aimed at investigating types of ellipsis phenomenon occurred in the novel completed by showing the structure of constituent that construct the sentences in tree diagram. The discussion is not only in Syntax view point, this research also tries to describe the function of the ellipsis, because actually ellipsis is not only used for the speaker's economy but it can have many other function such can remove ambiguity, can convey non-expressible aspect of meaning, can establish discourse coherence and contribute to a positive rapport with the hearer. The data focused on the sentences that got from narration and dialogs that found in a fictional private detective novel. The method of collecting the data used direct observation method by reading the novel which contains 1059 pages, then collected the sentences which occur ellipsis, checked the structure of the sentences while choosing some sentences that represent various sentence structure of elliptical phenomenon and functions based on theory used. After the data collected, they analyzed by some theories. The types of ellipsis phenomenon analyzed using Kiss and Alexiadou (2015) collected theories, then the structure investigated by Brown (1991) theory, and the function analyzed by Hendricks & Spenader (2005) theory.

Keywords: *Ellipsis phenomenon, type, syntactic structure, function.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Language as its function is used in communication. Language is used to express idea, knowledge, information, and feeling to other people in written and spoken. Ellipsis is one of phenomenon in language use. Traditionally, ellipsis is the grammar means that avoids repetitions, abandons the old information, highlights key words and make the context connected tightly. According to Kiss and Alexiadou (2015:563), ellipsis is the omission of elements that are inferable from context, and therefor crucially constitutes a mismatch between form and meaning; there is no form, but the meaning is understood nevertheless. Although speaker do something omitted specific constituent in his/her utterance-spoken or written- but the hearer or the reader will understand the whole meaning of the utterance. It means, the omitted that happened has function but not change the meaning of the utterances. Sometimes ellipsis used not only for avoiding repetitions but make the utterance more rhetorical.

Talking about ellipsis that related to syntax, semantic and pragmatic. The structure of the sentence that occur ellipsis phenomenon of course will have changed and quite different with the common grammatical sentence which used the rules but still have same meaning. The meaning that occurred will be able to understand by the appropriate context. There is lot of ellipsis phenomenon happened in discourse, one of them is in written text such a novel. In novel we can find various phenomenon of language use by the author to make the story leave a certain impression, interesting and not boring in reading it. The plot that describe should be cohesion and the paragraph should be cohesive. Not only the narration of the story the dialogs that are occurred there mostly wanted to make the reader drifting in the story. Ellipsis phenomenon of course be one of the most phenomenon there. It will be lot types of ellipsis show in the novel which can be analyze widely in syntax theory to find out their constituent structure. But to know how it's happened that need analyzing the function of the occurrence. Pragmatic view point can help us to investigate it.Using ellipsis sometimes is the best way, or even the only way, to express a given meaning. Ellipsis can restrict

possible readings, express otherwise ineffable meanings, clarify discourse structure, and establish rapport between speaker and hearer or writer and reader.

There are a lot of novel that can be analyzed related to elliptical phenomenon, but not all of elliptical phenomenon types can be found in a specific novel. This research then focuses on elliptical phenomena in "Sherlock Holmes" novel by *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*.

"Sherlock Holmes" novel is a fictional private detective created by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle which known as a consulting detective in the story for the proficiency with observation, forensic science, and logical reasoning that borders on the fantastic in investigating cases. "Sherlock Holmes" is arguably the best known, with *Guinness World Records* as the most portrayed movie character in history. This novel is decided to represent as the data due to its well-known novel and covers the elliptical phenomena required in this research. The specific thing that this research focused on 1) to find out the types of elliptical phenomena's found in "Sherlock Holmes" novel, 2) the constituent structure of the elliptical phenomena's that occur in sentences in "Sherlock Holmes" novel, and 3) the functions of the elliptical phenomenon found.

II. MATERIALS AND METHOD
2.1 Material
This research deals with the theory overviewed by Kiss and Alexiadou (2015:565) about the elliptical phenomena to identify the types of the elliptical phenomenon. The demonstration of the elliptical phenomena into the hierarchical tree diagram based on Brown and Miller (1991) theory and the function of ellipsis uses theory from Spenader (2005).

2.1.1 Ellipsis
Ellipsis is a grammatical phenomenon whereby the structure of the sentence is abbreviated, avoiding redundancy. According to Kiss and Alexiadou (2015:563), ellipsis is the omission of elements that are inferable from context, and therefor crucially constitutes a mismatch between form and meaning; there is no form, but the meaning is understood nevertheless.

2.1.1.1 Types of Ellipsis
There are nine (9) elliptical phenomena mentioned in the theory, Those types of elliptical phenomena will be described as follow:

1. VP-ellipsis
    Typically, English VPE leaves the main (non-finite verbal) predicate and its arguments unpronounced.

2. Sluicing
    Ross, cited in Kiss & Alexiadou (2015) work, examined a phenomenon he named sluicing: in a clause with a *wh*-element, the whole clause following this element can be left out if it has an antecedent.

Since it is the whole clause that is elided, sluicing is considered a kind of IP-ellipsis or clausal ellipsis. We will see later on that there are other kinds of clausal ellipsis as well, that do not involve a *wh*-element.

3. NP-ellipsis
    Ellipsis does not always target a smaller or larger portion of the clausal spine; it can also apply within nominal phrases.

4. Fragment Answers
    In fragment answers, the whole clause is elided except for the constituent that is the answer to a question, and it is this question that provides us with an antecedent. The most influential analysis of fragments according to Kiss & Alexiadou (2015) is Merchant's (2004) work, in which he argues that the fragment constituent moves to the left periphery of the clause, and that what follows is deleted at PF.

5. Stripping
    A type of ellipsis that is very similar to fragment answers in the sense that there is only one constituent surviving the ellipsis in the clause, is stripping (or bare argument ellipsis). The difference is that stripping typically occurs in coordinated structures, and the remnant is usually accompanied by negation or an intensifier.

Stripping differs from VPE, NPE and sluicing in several respects, as elaborated on in Lobeck (1995). First of all, stripping is only possible in coordination, not subordination.

6. **Gapping**

Gapping is very similar to stripping, but instead of a negator or intensifier, a second contrasted remnant remains.

Gapping occurs in coordinate structure. Redundant material that is present in the immediately preceding clause can be gapped. This gapped material usually contains a finite verb.

7. **Pseudogapping**

A phenomenon that looks like a combination of gapping and VP-ellipsis is pseudogapping. Another remarkable difference with gapping and stripping is that pseudogapping is actually best in subordinated structures, such as comparatives.

8. **Modal Complement Ellipsis**

It is remarkable, however, that there is a type of ellipsis in several of these languages that is reminiscent of VPE.

Aelbrecht (2010) shows that this is not actually a case of VP-ellipsis: it is restricted to elide the complements of (root) modal verbs, and what is elided is more than just the verb phrase.

9. **Null Complement Anaphora**

Null Complement Anaphora elides a complete complement, whereby the elided complement is a finite clause, infinitive phrase, or prepositional phrase. Interestingly, the elided complement could not be a noun phrase.

2.1.2 Hierarchical Tree Diagram

According to Brown and Miller (1991:16), there are number of ways of representing the constituent structure. There are bracketing, labelling, tree diagram and vine diagram. In some cases, the representations of labelled and bracketed string of constituent structure is not easy to read, especially when it deals with structure to represent. An alternative representation of that is the tree diagram. A tree diagram can identify the hierarchical structure of the sentence and provides a precise means of defining syntactic relation.

2.1.3 The Function of Ellipsis

Ellipsis is something left unsaid in a text but has been understood by the reader or hearer. Since it is used in spoken and written language, there must be functions of the usage. Hendricks and Spenader (2005:1) points out some main functions of ellipsis. To give clearer explanation, those functions of ellipsis are discussed below:

a. Speaker's economy

Horn in Hendriks and Spenader (2005:2) explained that there is a systematic interaction between two opposing forces which are called speaker's economy and hearer's economy. These two forces have been reformulated became hearer oriented Q principle and speaker oriented R principle. Q principle means that speaker must say as much as she can, while R principle means that speaker should say no more than she must. Those two principles are not merely in opposition.

It means that they constrain each other therefore the interaction between those two principle results in ellipsis only if the hearer understand the speaker means.

b. Removing readings

Although ellipsis often causes ambiguity but sometimes it can remove ambiguity too for example:

a. A fish walked and a fish talked

b. A fish walked and talked

The first example is ambiguous because one reader can imply that there are two different fishes while another reader may imply that there is a fish did two actions. The second example only makes one conclusion that there is a fish walked and talked.

c. Conveying non-expressible aspects of meaning

There are some sentences that make ellipsis is the only way to express certain meaning like in the following example:

a. The wolves get bigger as you go north from here.

b. The wolves get bigger (than) as you go north from here.

In comparative study like in the example above, ―than‖ should be add after―bigger but in this case it is impossible to add ―than‖ without changing the meaning.

d. Establishing discourse coherence
This function is a well known function of ellipsis for example it will be better to use pronoun rather than repeat the full name because the hearer or reader must have been familiar with this principle. For example:
a). John walked. John talked.
b). John walked. He talked.
In those two examples, (b) is better than example (a).

e. Establishing a positive relationship with the hearer
Brown Levinsons and Morand&Ocker in Hendricks and Spenader (2005) argued that ellipsis is also generally recognized as a positive politeness strategy for example:
a. (Do you)Mind if I join?
b. (Have you) Got any gum?
c. If your husband routinely comes home late with lipstick in his collar, (than he must be having an affair).

2.2 Research Method

This research is qualitative research . This research was presented with the combination of formal and informal method in which the finding of the research was presented by diagram and also with the descriptive explanation on the phenomena according to the theory applied. The sentences that having the omission in its structure were listed according to each types of elliptical phenomena. Those ellipsis sentences that was categorized were re-structured into the complete constituent structure, without having the elliptical process. Furthermore, the re-structured sentences were demonstrated by hierarchical tree diagram in order to provide the detail part of constituents that is elided in the structure and the last it analyzed the function of the ellipsis that have done by the author. There were some selected data that presented in this research as a representation of all data due to numbers of data found from data source.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are 527 total data found which can be categorized in nine types of elliptical phenomenon found in this research, such are 33 data VP-ellipsis, 25 data of sluicing, 118 data of NP-ellipsis, 255 data of fragment answer, 21 data of stripping, 26 data of gapping, 3 data of pseudogapping, 14 data of modal complement ellipsis and 32 data of null complement anaphora. The data that discusses here just ones representative data of those types of ellipsis phenomenon found in three main stories of five main stories that occurred in Sherlock Holmes novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. And present only two analysis of the structure by using hierarchical tree diagram
1. VP-ellipsis
   Data 1
   a. *I may want your help, and so may he Ø. (pg.243)*
   b. *I may want your help, and so may he [want your help].*

In data 1, the elliptical is in the second clause of the sentence. The sentence above is a compound sentence in which constructed by two coordinate clauses with a conjunction *and.* The second clause, which is called the ellipsis clause or elided clause, represents an agreement with positive statement responding to the first clause of the sentence or antecedent clause that the non-finite verbal and its constituents are elided. The non-finite verbal and its constituents are *want your help.* Moreover, there is a finite auxiliary *may* is left behind in front of the elided constituents. This elliptical process is accepted and the meaning can be well understandably without any ambiguity with the unpronounced constituents on it.
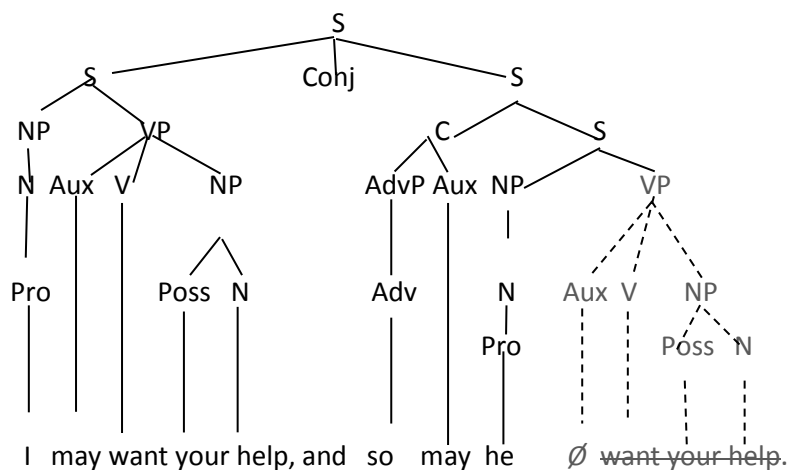
The diagram above illustrates that the elided constituents appear in the second clause of the sentence. The sentence is structured by two nodes marked by S with a conjunction *and* to form a compound sentence. The elided constituents can be found in the second clause of the sentence in which the focus of the deletion is part of the VP. Moreover, it has similar construction or identical as its occurrence in the first clause of the sentence which is VP followed by Aux, V and NP. Despite of its similar part of VP structure, the difference is shown in the second clause of the sentence, there is C as complementizer followed by AdvP and Aux occurs as a result from the form of affirmative agreement responding the statement in the antecedent clause.

Hendricks & Spenader (2005) wrote a well-known function of ellipsis, and anaphoric relation in general, is to establish discourse coherence. The sentence for data 1 is kind of that function.

Data 1: *I may want your help, and so may he [want your help]*.

By omitting the verb phrase in that sentence, it signals that the referent is familiar. So it signals the predicate of the second clause is same with the first clause.

2. Sluicing

Data 2:

a. *I came at once and had a look at the place, but I could not see how Ø. (pg. 233)*

b. *I came at once and had a look at the place, but I could not see how [I came at once and had a look at the place]*.

The ellipsis sentence in data (2) represents the sluicing phenomenon that occurs in interrogative clause. The ellipsis sentence above is a compound-complex sentence. It is constructed by coordinate clauses, a subordinate clause and a conjunction *but*. The first two coordinate clauses are *I came at once and had a look at the place* and the third coordinate clauses are *I could not see how* which is an interrogative clause. Meanwhile, the subordinate clause is unpronounced after *wh*-element *how*. The elided clause is considered to be accepted since there is an antecedent can be found in the previous clauses to cover the meaning of the unpronounced clause in this sentence. So, it does not make any sense of confusion or ambiguity in spite of the whole clause is removed. In line with the characterization of sluicing, it elides everything from a clause that following *wh*-element.

The function of ellipsis phenomenon that showed in the sentence above is called conveying non-expressible aspects of meaning. Because the ellipsis is the only way to express a certain meaning. The full form violates syntactic or semantics constraints.

I came at once and had a look at the place, but I could not see how [I came at once and had a look at the place].

In that sentence, when we put the elided form in that sentence, that make the sentence ungrammatical. The meaning of the sluicing clause is more restricted than the meaning of the full subordinate clause

would have been. In situation where the non elided version is ungrammatical, the elide version has a meaning which is a subset of the meaning that a non elided version would have had.
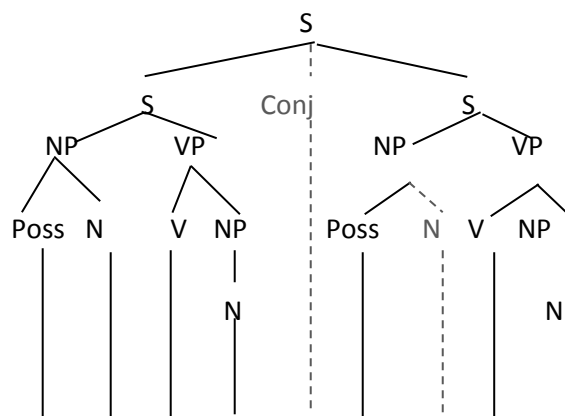
3. NP-ellipsis
   Data 3:
   a. *My name is Sawyer, hers Ø is Dennis. (pg. 42)*
   b. *My name is Sawyer, her [name] is Dennis.*

As illustrated in the sentence (3) above, the sentence represents the elided constituent structure from part of noun phrase that occurs with possessive pronoun. The sentence above is a compound sentence constructed by two coordinate clauses. The first clause or antecedent clause is *My name is Sawyer,* and the second clause or elided clause is *hers is Denis.* The missing part of constituent in NP can be found in the elided clause after the possessive pronoun *hers.* The omitted constituent of NP that identical from the antecedent clause is *name.*

The omission part within the NP in the elliptical phenomena above is demonstrated by hierarchical tree diagram as shown in this tree diagram

My name is Sawyer, Ø   her   ~~name~~ is Dennis.

The function of ellipsis phenomenon in this sentence is as speaker's economy. Because the possessive pronoun 'hers' in the sentence : *My name is Sawyer, hers [name] is Dennis* is recoverable by the hearer or the reader, because some identical element is present in the sentence, this does not yield an explanation for all instances of ellipsis. Horn (1993) argues instead that one function of ellipsis is to restrict the meaning to a subset of the meaning expressed by the corresponding full form.

4. Fragment answer
   Data 4:
   Q: "Who is on duty?"
   a. *"Inspector Bradstreet." (pg.369)*
   b. *Inspector Bradstreet [is on duty].*

The elliptical sentence as shown in data (4) illustrates the Fragment Answers phenomenon in which the single constituent of subject noun is as an answer to the question. The subject noun *Inspector Bradstreet,* is a name of a person that corresponding *wh*-phrase question *Who is on duty.* The sentence in (4b) represents the complete structure of the unpronounced constituents based on its antecedent provided in the question. Although there is only a single constituent presented in responding the question, the hearer is able to understand the meaning correctly without any ambiguity in interpreting the intension. This way of communication is more efficiency and straight to the point since the context is in a dialogue.

The function of ellipsis phenomenon happen in this fragment answer is clearly established discourse coherence. Because the omitted elements in this sentence has been utter in the question.

5.   Stripping

Stripping or bare argument ellipsis is an ellipsis mechanism that elides everything in a clause under identity with corresponding parts of preceding clause but maintains one constituent a property associated with VP-ellipsis, namely intensifier *too* or negation *not*.

Data 12:
   a.   *Then you'll need to kneel down, and me too (pg.68)*
   b.   *Then you'll need to kneel down, and I ['ll need to kneel down] too.*

The striping phenomenon in elliptical sentence as illustrated in (12a) above, it can be seen that the sentence is constructed by two coordinate clauses with a conjunction *and*. The antecedent clause is *Then you'll need to kneel down* and the elided clause is *me too*. The second coordinate clause is having elliptical process. It leaves behind only one constituent of intensifier *too*. Contextually it has correlation with the antecedent clause and semantically it can be interpreted the same meaning as in the preceding clause without any ambiguity.

The function of the elided element in this sentence is establishing discourse coherence, because it signals the similar referent.

6.   Gapping

Gapping is a kind of ellipsis construction in which repeated verbs in coordinate structures are omitted rather than repeated or in other way gapping deletes the second verb of two coordinated clause. More particularly, gapping is very similar to stripping, but instead of a negator or intensifier is left behind, there is a second contrasted remnant remained.

Data 14:
   a.   *The tradesman was put to his trade and the artisan Ø to his calling. (pg. 73)*
   b.   *The tradesman was put to his trade and the artisan [was put] to his calling.*

As illustrated in sentence (14a), this sentence is constructed by two coordinate clauses. The *gap* or the missing constituent of verb phrase can be found in the second coordinate clauses which should be interpreted on the basis of the expressed verbal phrase *was put* in the preceding sentence, and on the basis of the structural and semantic parallelism between the two clauses. It is possible due to it is the same identity of verb phrase that is available in the preceding sentence. In this case, the remnant *to his calling* is left behind. The reformed sentence is presented in sentence (14b). This elliptical process syntactically allowed and contextually still understandable.

The function of the ellipsis phenomenon in this sentence is as removing reading. Based on (Hendricks: 2005), as removing reading, ellipsis which often introduces potential ambiguity, can also remove ambiguities. As (Levin& Prince: 1986) explain more in sentence example which has two reading namely a symmetric and an asymmetric. According to the symmetric reading, the two events expressed by the two conjuncts are understood as independent. According to the asymmetric reading the first event is interpreted as the cause of the second event.
   a.   *The tradesman was put to his trade and the artisan Ø to his calling. (pg. 73)*
   b.   *The tradesman was put to his trade and the artisan [was put] to his calling.*

In sentence (*a*) the omitted infinite and finite verb (was put) makes this sentence has the symmetric reading which not rise an ambiguity meaning. So the omitted constituents in this sentence can be a clue that the coherence relation between the two conjuncts should be interreted as a contrast relation rather than a causal or temporal relation.

7.   Pseudogapping
   Data 16:
   a.   *So I offered to typewrite them, like he did Ø his. (pg. 293)*
   b.   *So I offered to typewrite them, like he did [offer to typewrite] his.*

The sentence in (16a), it represents the elliptical phenomenon of pseudogapping particularly due to it involves a verb as the elided constituent while nonverbal element of direct object is left behind as remnant. Moreover, similar case like VP-ellipsis, pseudogapping always leaves behind an auxiliary verb. In this case, the auxiliary verb that is left behind is *did* as well as a direct object of pronoun *his* as remnant. Meanwhile, the verb phrase *offer to typewrite* is omitted and it is recoverable referring to the identical constituent structure in antecedent clause. So the second clause in which a subordinate clause of the sentence can be interpreted *like he did offer to typewrite his* as illustrated in sentence (16b).

The function of this ellipsis phenomena is as speaker's economy. The elided material is recoverable by the hearer or the reader of the novel because some identical elements such are *offer to typewrite* are presented in the previous clause. By adding or eliding these elements the meaning of the sentence will be similar. So it will be better to be elided for economizing.

8. Modal Complement Ellipsis

Modal Complement Ellipsis phenomenon is illustrated in sentence (18a) which appears in complex sentence. The main clause of the sentence is *She showed me* and the subordinate clause is *as I told you she would.* The case of MCE phenomenon is presented in the subordinate clause of the sentence in which the whole part of constituent after modal *would* is omitted. Those missing part is recoverable in the context due to it has an antecedent in the main clause of the sentence *She showed me*. So, the complete structure of the elided clause can be interpreted *as I told you she would show me* as presented in sentence (18b) with the missing part is written in the bracket.

Data 18:
   a. *She showed me, as I told you she would Ø. (pg. 258)*
   b. *She showed me, as I told you she would [show me].*

The function of the elided elements in this sentence is as establishing discourse coherence, because the elements that want to say that is a familiar referent that has been showed before. The hearer of this sentence will be known clearly the meaning of the elided elements because it's related to the preceding discourse context.

9. Null Complement Anaphora
Data 19:
   Q. *"What was he doing during that time?"*
   a. *I don't know Ø. (pg. 52)*
   b. *I don't know [what he was doing during that time].*

It can be classified into NCA phenomenon due to it elides a complement clause. The predicates that license null complement anaphora in this case is the verb *know*. The complement clause that is removed from the structure is *what he was doing during that time* referring to the phrase in the antecedent clause. The antecedent clause is in *wh*-phrase *What was he doing during that time* and the elided clause is interrogative *I don't know*. So the elided clause can be interpreted *I don't know what he was doing during that time* as in sentence (19b). Despite of its deletion, the meaning of the whole sentence can be well understandably. The function of that ellipsis phenomenon is as establishing discourse coherence because the referent is already said before in the question. So the answer that contains ellipsis element should has relation with the question that being a familiar thing.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion of this research, all of the nine elliptical phenomena are found in the three main stories of "Sherlock Holmes" novel by *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*. The three main stories are *A Study in Scarlet, The Sign of Four* and *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Those types of elliptical phenomena are VP-ellipsis, Sluicing, NP-ellipsis, Fragment Answers, Stripping, Gapping, Pseudogapping, Modal Complement Ellipsis, and Null Complement Anaphora. Among all phenomena, the phenomenon of Fragment Answers is the most frequently phenomenon found. The elliptical process is acceptable and grammatically correct as long as there is an antecedent provided in the preceding sentence, otherwise the sentence may not be well understandably and can be ungrammatical. Therefore, the elided structure is recoverable by its antecedent. Moreover, based on the demonstration of hierarchical tree

diagram, basically the structure of the ellipsis sentences has the same constituent structure with the antecedent. The function of ellipsis phenomenon that found from this novel just as speaker's economy, removing readings, conveying non-expressible aspects of meaning and establishing discourse coherence. Function as establishing a positive relationship with the hearer is not found related to the type of ellipsis structure phenomenon theory that used in this research.

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