The Use of Ellipsis in Political Speech

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Abstract- This research intends to investigate ellipsis that is used in some selected political speeches , identifying the types of ellipsis used in these political speeches , Pointing out the most frequent type of ellipsis used in the political speeches understudy. In addition to that, Finding out the reason behind politicians' tendency of use a specific type of ellipsis rather than others. To full fill the aims above, it is hypothesized that not all types of ellipsis are used in political speeches. Additionally, a noun- phrase ellipsis is more frequent in use than others. However, ellipsis may occur in different texts or discourses and the political speeches is one of these. However, without investigation no one can determine which type of ellipsis is more common in such discourse than others and what are the reasons behind this prominence. This paper investigates all types of ellipsis used in some political speeches, to show why the politician intends to choose a specific type of ellipsis more than others. The whole results reveal that ellipsis is present in the political speeches and it is used as a devise that helps in making the speech coherent. However, nominal ellipsis is more common . Finally, Ellipsis is also used in political speeches as a syntactic device that heads to achieve persuasion which is the main goal for any political speeches.

Key words : Ellipsis , Political Speeches , Nominal Ellipsis , verbal Ellipsis

I. INTRODUCTION

Ellipsis means deleting or omission. The word ellipsis is a creek word meaning to fall short or leave out. [https://www.Vocabulary.com]

Finch (2005: 87) defines ellipsis as a term used to describe the omission of a word or phrase from a sentence, when they are substitutable from a text. In other words, in certain context it is possible to leave out a word or phrase rather than repeating it. (Forrakhhpey, 1999: 284) Swan (1995: 172) mentions that sometimes words are omitted to avert repetition or when the interpretation of a sentence can be understood without repetition of some words. For example:

1- "what time are you coming?"
- "about ten"
He said this sentence instead of "I'm coming about ten".
2- "Seen Lucy"
In this sentence (2) she said this instead of "Have you seen Lucy".
3- I shall be at Bill.
Here, Bill refers to the place where Bill is leaving.   Another example gives by Quirk (1973: 99)

The Problem

Ellipsis may occur in different texts or discourses and political speeches is one of these. However, without investigation no one can determine which type of ellipsis is more common in such discourse than others and what are the reasons behind this prominence. This paper investigates all types of ellipsis used in some political speeches. to show why the politician intends to choose a specific type of ellipsis more than others.

The Aims

 The paper aims to achieve the following objectives:
1. Identifying the types of ellipsis used in some political speeches.
2. Pointing out the most frequent type of ellipsis used in political speeches.
3. Finding out the reason behind politicians' tendency of use a specific type of ellipsis rather than others.

Hypothesis

To Full fill the aims above, it is hypothesized that not all types of ellipsis are used in political speeches. Additionally, noun- phrase ellipsis is more frequent in use than others.

The limits

The study is limited to investigate all types of ellipsis used in political speeches. Four elected speeches which are taken from the net, are chosen for this study. These speeches are presented by Obama, Bush and Clinton.

The Value:

It is hoped that this study will be valued as it tries to present a general frame work of ellipsis which is common phenomena in political speeches.

II.   LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Ellipsis

First of all, Ellipsis can be defined as a lexical- grammatical tool including the deletion of a portion of a clause , and semantic components can be retrieval from the previous text. Ellipsis is described by Renkeme (1993: 38) as ' substitution by zero '. There are also three types of ellipsis : nominal (1) , verbal (2) , and clausal ellipsis (3) (Halliday and Hassan , 1976 : 146).

(1) These biscuits are stale . *Those* are fresh.

(2) He participated in the debate, but you *didn't.*

(2) Who wants to go shopping ? *You* ?

However , It is very crucial to know how to use the ellipsis more than knowing the name . Ellipsis is a subject of study that can be studied from different linguistic perspectives However, ellipsis represents or can be used in two jobs :

The first function of ellipsis : The term can be used as a tool reveal a basic pause of hesitation, this can assist the writer to mimic a hesitation while he is writing something .

The second function of **Ellipsis:** In addition to all what we have mentioned the ellipsis reveals a deletion of words.

In other words, This function can be termed as ***an ellipsis of deletion*** .It cannot be regarded as a stylistic function of the ellipsis, but can be regarded as a device or tool that linguists can use to connect the fact to their basic texts and this can save time and effort.

www.christopheraltman.wordpress.com/tag/ellipsis/functions

2. 2. Types of Ellipsis

In English grammar, three main types of ellipsis can be recognized: Verb- phrase ellipsis, Noun- phrase ellipsis and clauses or final ellipsis.

2. 2. 1. Verb- Phrase ellipsis

Horn (2004: 391) explains that in this type of ellipsis, the verb- phrase is omitted from an a utterance and its intended meaning is recovered from context for instance:
4. George Claimed he won the election and Ali did too (= Won the election) (Greenbaum, 1996: 280)
 According to Swan (1980: 178), verb- phrase ellipsis may occur at the beginning or at the end of the verb- phrase as in the examples below:
5. Car's running badly (The car's)
at the beginning of the sentence.
6. I was planning to go to Paris next week, but I can't (I can't go to Paris …) here verb- phrase ellipsis happened at the end of the sentence, (Hur ford, 1983: 72)
Dowuing (2006) explains that auxiliary verbs can be replaced by a verb- phrase to get rid of repetition. However, the auxiliary verb in fact has a strong Pronunciation and contractions that are not used except in negatives as in following sentence:
7. He said he'd written but he hasn't. (hasn't written).
8. I'll come and see you when I can (= can come and see you)
Parrott (2000: 320) argues that more than one auxiliary can be used when there is more than one auxiliary verb, the ellipsis of most of them happens after the first.
9. You wouldn't have enjoyed the film, Yes I would (would have …)

2. 2. 2. Noun- Phrase ellipsis

According to Longman dictionary (2006: 637), noun- phrase ellipsis is a linguistic phenomenon in English where a noun phrase is omitted or left out when they are unnecessary in a sentence because they have already been referred to or omitted, considered the following sentences:

10. Peter and John were there.

11. I write articles on current affairs for news paper and magazine.

Quirk (1973: 268) mentions that within the noun phrase there may be ellipsis of the head, for example:

12. Old and young men were invited.

The subject is elliptical for Old men and young men. In contrast, there is no ellipsis, for the normal interpretation, for instance:

13. the same students are both honest and clever.

Swan (1980: 177- 178) explains that a noun that is repeated can be deleted after an adjective if the meaning is obvious , particularly , when we are talking about a common kind of selection .

14. What kind, of potatoes would you like?

"Boiled (potatoes) please".

He (ibid) adds, that noun phrase can be omitted after most determiners and similar words .

15. Those are Helen's gloves and these (gloves) are mine.

Hurford (1983: 73), also, argues that noun phrase ellipsis may occur at the final words of famous names.

16. She will be the Beethoven with the London philharmonic tomorrow night.

Additionally, Downing (2002: 195) studies that noun- phrase ellipsis may occur after the conjunctions "even if" and "and".

17. Peter started first (and) then Colin (started)

2. 2. 3 Clause phrase ellipsis

This type of ellipsis is subdivided in to two categories:

1. Ellipsis in coordination clauses.

This type in its turn, is subdivided into two types:

A- ellipsis of subject (and auxiliaries).

Identical subject of coordinated clauses are ellipted as in the following example:

18. Ali ate cheese and (Ali) drank a glass of beer.

Quirk (1973: 261) states that, sometimes the subject and the auxiliary are identical ellipsis as in example below:

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

Quirk (ibid) adds that in the ellipsis of coordinators, the known entities are appeared in the first clause and the deletion is in later clauses.

B. Ellipsis of auxiliary only:

If the subjects of coordinated clauses are different there may be ellipsis of an identical auxiliary. Consider the following example.

20. "John should clean the shed and peter (should mow the town".

If there is more than one auxiliary, it is normal for all to be ellipted as in the sentence below:

21. "John must have been playing football and Mary (must have been) doing her home work".

Parrott (2000 : 105) states that clausal ellipsis refers to the deletion of a portion of the clause or all of it. However, propositional ellipsis occurs in responses to statements and yes/no questions, where the subject is presupposed by a reference item:

a. The plane has landed.—Has it?

b. Has the plane landed?—Yes, it has Typically ,modal ellipsis occurs in responses to a Wh- questions 'what (did, does, do): a. What were they doing? (ibid)

III.   DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Three political speeches announced by Bush, Clinton and Obama are examined in the issue of Ellipsis. The results are in the tables below:

Table (1): Frequency of Ellipsis in Bush's Speech

Types of Ellipsis	Frequency of Occurrence	%
Nominal	12	52.17%
Verbal	9	39.13%
Clausal	2	8.69%

Total	23	100%

Table (2): Frequency of Ellipsis in Clinton's Speech

Types of Ellipsis	Frequency of Occurence	%
Nominal	10	58.82%
Verbal	7	41.17%
Clausal	0	0%
Total	17	100%

Table (3): Frequency of Ellipsis in Obama's Speech

Types of Ellipsis	Frequency of Occurrence	%
Nominal	19	55.88%
Verbal	11	32.35%
Clausal	4	11.76%
Total	34	100%

IV.   FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

It is noticed in table (1) that Bush has used ellipsis in all its types as it is indicated below:
1. nominal is 12 (52.17%).
2. verbal is 9 (39.13%).
3. clausal is 2 (8.69%).
This means that nominal ellipsis is the most common one among them.
Concerning table (2) Clinton has used just two types of ellipsis as it is shown in the following categories:
1. nominal is 10 (58.82%)
2. verbal is 7 (41.17%).
3. clausal is 0 (0%)
In addition, the nominal type is the most frequent one.
As far as table (3) is concerned, Obama similar to Bush has used all the types of ellipsis and still the nominal is the most prominent one.
1. nominal is 19 (55.88%)
2. verbal is 11 (32.35%).
3. clausal is 4 (11.76%)

     There is a great deal of variation in the frequency of Ellipsis. Among these political speeches. Some categories of ellipsis are highly recurrent like "nominal", and "verbal". This may be due to the fact that Bush, Obama and Clinton avoid mentioning the subject or the verb in their speeches. As political figures, they want to persuade the audience about certain topic or concept and ellipsis is one of the syntactic markers or devices that help in achieving persuasion.

V.   CONCLUSION

Throughout the analysis of political speeches announced by (Bush, Clinton and Obama) the following conclusions can be shown:
1.   Ellipsis is present in the political speeches and it is used as a devise that helps in making the speech coherent.
2.   Nominal ellipsis is more common in occurrence than the other times of ellipsis (verbal and clausal).
3.   Ellipsis is also used in political speeches as a syntactic device that heads to achieve persuasion which is the main goal for any political speeches.

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