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**Svitlana DYSHLEVA**

*PhD in Philology, Senior Lecturer at the Department Foreign Philology, National Aviation University, 1, Huzara Ave, Kyiv, Ukraine, 03058*

**ORCID:** 0000-0003-4151-0288

**Yaroslava KHYZHUN**

*PhD in Philology, Senior Lecturer at the Department Foreign Languages in Professional Purpose, National Pedagogical Dragomanov University, 9, Pyrohova Str., Kyiv, Ukraine, 02000*

**ORCID:** 0000-0002-1932-6655

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## STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ELLIPTIC SENTENCE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**Goal.** *The article is devoted to the study of the problem of the functioning of an elliptical sentence in modern English, the study of its structural features and cognitive-communicative characteristics.*

**Methodology.** *The methods of structural-grammatical, semantic-syntactic, functional-communicative analysis were used in the work which were applied taking into account the organic unity of semasiological and onomasiological principles of interpretation of speech and speech phenomena.*

**The scientific novelty** *is to prove the integrative nature of the ellipse as a symbiosis of the process and result of harmonization of the form and content of speech messages.*

*The starting point of the work is the understanding of the ellipse as one of the active phenomena of syntactic derivation, aimed at simplifying the material structure of the sentence which is based on the ergonomics of the sentence. The result of this process is an elliptical sentence that can be formed on the principles of both paradigm and syntagm. In the first case it is historically systemic, in the second – situationally and contextually determined. It is proved that the syntactic ellipse is a phenomenon of two orders: in it process and result intersect and interact; its procedural side is the cognitive and logical basis for the generation of thought, effective – its compact arrangement in real communication conditions. Elliptical arrangement of a sentence is not involuntary, but in accordance with clearly defined patterns that outline the ways and means of using the sentence in its materially incomplete form without violating the meaning. As a combination of process and result, an elliptical sentence is one of the effective ways to harmonize the form and content of speech messages. The scope of the ellipse in communicatively autonomous units is limited to intra-sentence frames. It is used as a means of enhancing imagery, contrast, expression which contributes to the mental-speech harmonization of the message, the mechanism of which is based on implications. In a discursively related statement the ellipse has an external sentence. Its actualization occurs through integration into supra-phrase unity with its motives, guidelines, tactics and strategies. The most favorable communicative environment for him is conversational, journalistic and advertising discourses.*

**Conclusions.** *The article defines the role and place of the ellipse among related and related phenomena, the means of distinguishing it from them with the subsequent selection of its types, classes and subclasses. Particular attention is paid to linguocognitive modeling of various structures, variants and invariants of elliptical sentences. In terms of functional and communicative perspective, a thorough analysis of elliptical sentences is carried out, taking into account the actual articulation, communicative dynamism and act-speech structure. An elliptical sentence is presented in two modes of its use – as an autonomous predicative unit and as a communicatively connected, in which the use of the ellipse is enhanced by the motives, attitudes and tactical and strategic principles of speech activity.*

**Key words:** *ellipse, elliptical sentence, syntactic derivation, model, actual articulation, speech act, discours.*

**Світлана ДИШЛЕВА**

*кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, доцент кафедри іноземної філології Національного авіаційного університету, 1, просп. Любомира Гузара, м. Київ, Україна, 03058*

**ORCID:** 0000-0003-4151-0288

**Ярослава ХИЖУН**

кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, доцент кафедри іноземних мов за професійним спрямуванням Національного педагогічного університету ім. М. П. Драгоманова, вул. Пирогова, 9, м. Київ, Україна, 02000  
**ORCID:** 0000-0002-1932-6655

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## СТРУКТУРНО-ФУНКЦІОНАЛЬНІ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ ЕЛІПТИЧНОГО РЕЧЕННЯ В АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ

**Мета.** Стаття присвячена дослідженню проблеми функціонування еліптичного речення у сучасній англійській мові, вивченню його структурних особливостей та когнітивно-комунікативних характеристик.

**Методологія.** У роботі використані методи структурно-граматичного, семантико-синтаксичного, функціонально-комунікативного аналізу, що застосовувалися з урахуванням органічної єдності семасіологічного та ономазіологічного принципів інтерпретації мовних і мовленнєвих явищ.

**Наукова новизна** полягає у доведенні інтегративної природи еліпсису як симбіозу процесу та результату гармонізації форми і змісту мовленнєвих повідомлень.

Вихідною точкою роботи є розуміння еліпсису як одного з активних явищ синтаксичної деривації, спрямованих на спрощення матеріальної структури речення, основою якої складає ергономіка речення. Результатом цього процесу є еліптичне речення, здатне утворюватися на принципах як парадигматики, так і синтагматики. У першому випадку воно є історично системним, у другому – ситуативно і контекстуально обумовленим. Доведено, що синтаксичний еліпсис – феномен двоєдиного порядку: у ньому перетинаються і взаємодіють процес і результат; його процесуальною стороною є когнітивно-логічні основи породження думки, результативною – її компактне аранжування у реальних умовах спілкування. Еліптичне аранжування речення відбувається не мимовільно, а згідно з чітко визначеними зразками, які окреслюють шляхи й способи використання речення у його матеріально неповному вигляді без порушення змісту. Будучи поєднанням процесу й результату, еліптичне речення є одним із дієвих способів гармонізації форми й змісту мовленнєвих повідомлень. Сфера дії еліпсису в комунікативно автономних одиницях обмежується внутрішньореченнєвими рамками. Він використовується як засіб посилення образності, контрастності, експресії, що сприяє мисленнєво-мовленнєвій гармонізації повідомлення, механізм якої базується на імплікації. У дискурсивно зв'язаному висловленні еліпсис має зовнішньореченнєву спрямованість. Його актуалізація відбувається через інтеграцію в надфразову єдність з її мотивами, настановами, тактиками і стратегіями. Найсприятливішим комунікативним середовищем для нього є розмовно-побутовий, публіцистичний і рекламний дискурс.

**Висновки.** У статті визначено роль і місце еліпсису серед близьких та суміжних явищ, наведені засоби відмежування його від них з подальшим виділенням його типів, класів та підкласів. Особлива увага приділена лінгвокогнітивному моделюванню різних структур, варіантів та інваріантів еліптичних речень. У плані функціонально-комунікативної перспективи здійснений ґрунтовний аналіз еліптичних речень з урахуванням актуального членування, комунікативного динамізму й актомовленнєвої будови. Еліптичне речення подано у двох режимах свого використання – як автономної предикативної одиниці і як комунікативно зв'язаної, у якій використання еліпсису посилюється мотивами, установками і тактико-стратегічними принципами мовленнєвої діяльності.

**Ключові слова:** еліпсис, еліптичне речення, синтаксична деривація, модель, актуальне членування, мовленнєвий акт, дискурс.

**Formulation of the problem.** An integral feature of the cognitive-communicative paradigm is that it postulates a holistic consideration of language and its units in the context of thought and speech activity (N. Arutiunova, O. Vorobyova, V. Karasyk, O. Kubriakova, O. Selivanova, I. Shevchenko, D. Blakemore, M. Coulthard, P. Denler, R. Lenecker, J. L. May). The problem of nonverbal reference in syntax is still far from being solved. The appeal to the theoretical achievements of cognitive-discursive linguistics opens new possibilities in the interpretation

of the phenomenon of «ellipse» as a process and as a result of the interaction of explicit and implicit meanings. This raises a number of issues that need to be studied in the light of the current state of linguistic thought. First, despite some advances in linguistics in describing the structural and semantic specifics of the ellipse, there are no scientific papers on the description of its species and types on the material of the English language. Secondly, although the mechanism of production of an elliptical sentence has attracted the attention of many linguists, its cognitive-communicative has

not yet been the subject of special analysis. Third, a special node of the problem is the communicative basis for the production of elliptical structures.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** «Ellipsology» acquires a special development in the XIX century when the diversification of scientific approaches to the study of ellipses began – formal-grammatical (K. Becker), proper-grammatical (F. Blatz, J. Grimm), psychological (G. Delbruck, G. Paul) which was supplemented in the twentieth century, semiotic (S. Balli, K. Bühler) and generative (O. Paducheva, F. Droste). However, neither the structuralist, nor the cognitive-communicative paradigm of linguistics has yet developed a unified and consistent view of the syntactic ellipse. It continues to be interpreted within the framework of «completeness / incompleteness of the sentence» and the principle of «reproducibility / non-reproducibility», which determine its broad (L. Barkhudarov, M. Bloch, B. Ilyish, D. Crystal etc.) and narrow (P. Lekant, N. Raevskaya, M. Bryant, G. World etc.) understanding. Disagreements based on these are a constant companion of all ellipsological theories from their inception to the present day. Both broad and narrow understanding of the syntactic ellipse contributed to the development of such aspects as structural typology (D. Gudkov, P. Edborn, Y. Schwartz), the role and place in colloquial speech (M. Alcantra, N. Bertomen), prosodic and stylistic features (R. Duducheva, E. Kovalenko, R. Reznik, E. Trofimova). However, none of the works raised the question of the cognitive-communicative nature of the ellipse. Such intelligence is not provided by special investigations made on the basis of Ukrainian (P. Dudyk), Russian (T. Kolokol'tsov, V. Yurchenko), German (A. Betten, W. Gunther), French (A. Dari, R. Le Bidou) and English (W. Lancher, J. Mercent) languages.

**The aim of the work** is to study the structural features of the functioning of the elliptical sentence of modern English, as well as to describe its cognitive-communicative potential.

**Presenting the main material.** In traditional and modern grammatical studies, the ellipse is interpreted as a syntactic universal, based on the operation of reducing structurally and semantically significant components of the sentence within the general trend to simplify the superficial form of speech messages (L. Barkhudarov, M. Bloch, P. Dudyk, B. Ilyish,

P. Lekant, M. Swan, J. Mercent). Syntactic ellipse is a phenomenon of two orders: in it process and result interact and intersect. Its procedural side is the cognitive-semantic principles of thought generation, the result of which is its compact arrangement in real conditions of verbal communication. At the heart of the ellipse is the principle of compactification of predicative units on the basis of ergonomics of speech.

Phenomena of extralinguistic reality, reflected in various structures of thinking, are verbalized according to certain models that reflect the nominative structure of the sentence (I. Vykhovanets, A. Zagnitko, I. Susov, R. Lenecker). According to the eminent linguist P. Lekant, «...linguocognitive arrangement of the ellipse is not arbitrary, but according to clearly defined patterns that reproduce the ways and means of its use in a materially abbreviated form without any violation of propositional content» (Lekant, 1996; Katsnel'son, 1992).

The ellipse of semantics in the sphere of a simple sentence is based on the possibility of omitting the system-relevant components of the sentence, which in different combinations form varieties of the ellipse. The ellipse of predicate semantics is characterized by a certain asymmetry, as it is inherent only in some types of predicates – absolute (*OK, we in place* / A. Hailey) and relative (*Who knew it? – My maid \_ \_* / R. Chandler), as well as relative dynamic (*He admired his teacher. Michael \_ his teacher too* / Daily Mail). The ellipsis of argument semantics is mainly related to their subject types, among which the most actively eliminated are the experimental (*I am Betsy. \_ Heard about you from my son* / A. Ahlberg) and the descriptive (*My arm. \_ Needs some fixing up* / R. Hogan). Circumstantial arguments are less productive and object arguments are less active. The combined ellipse in the field of a simple sentence has a predicate-argument character and can be both double and triple. The first is the omission of a predicate and one argument (*Where were you? \_ \_ In my room* / C. Brown), the second – a predicate and two arguments (*Can I see them \_ \_ Not now* / L. Edmonds).

In a compound sentence there is no rigid causal relationship between its functional-semantic types and the nature of the ellipse of components in subordinately connected parts – the main (*He's a road warrior. \_ Thinks he's the only one out*

*there* / J. Collins) and subcontracting (*A tale-bearer is as bad thief*). The main prerequisite for the use of an ellipse in a complex sentence is its synsemanticity, i.e. the inadequacy of one component without the support of another. An ellipse appears in a complex sentence where there is every possibility for its operative decoding by anaphoric regression. These are sentences that are an introductory component of complex speech acts with verbs of thinking, desire, reasoning (to think, to reckon, to suppose, to assume, to believe, to wish, to want) or formative phrases like to be sure, to be needles, to be glad, to be aware: *\_ Reckon, it's a better pill to swallow* / B. Haning; *\_ Always sure they've been so clever about the whole thing* / A. Christie.

The number and nature of missing components in an English sentence depends on: a) the position of the component to be ellipsed in a simple sentence; b) from the position of the constructive part of a complex sentence in the sentence whole (Sigal, 2016; Kustova, 2012). The main cognitive prerequisite for syntactic ellipsis is the speaker's assessment of the possibility of adequate decoding of the content reported by his communicative partner. This occurs within the framework of a twofold thinking and speaking guidelines: the speaker's desire to avoid cognitive dissonance and, accordingly, to preserve cognitive consonance. This syncretic intention is the driving force that regulates the omission of meaningful components of both simple and complex sentences.

Articles, auxiliaries, and pronouns are actively reduced in idioms. This often changes the grammatical status of the phraseological unit – the translation of the predicative unit to the nominative category (omission to save in *A stitch in time \_ \_* turns the proverb *A stitch in time saves nine* into an idiom). It is thanks to the ellipsis, for example, that ten- or nine-word paremias can be reduced by almost half (*Better the devil you know (than the devil you don't)* emotionally significant information).

The same applies to proverbs and sayings, in which the predicative core is subject to simplification processes – predicate, argument, but not both together. Their omission is due to the elliptical impregnation, i.e. regardless of the contextual environment (*A wise man changes his mind, a fool never will \_ \_*). The most common in these structures is a single, double ellipse. Not

the last place here is occupied by the linear length of the paremia, on which depends the number of omitted constructs: the simpler the material structure, the fewer components it falls; the greater the length of the phraseological unit, the more components can be omitted in it.

In the English folk riddle, the number of more than one omitted component occurs in 80 %, which is explained by its size: the larger the test volume of riddles, the more abbreviated components in it (Cheyf, 1995; Espersen, 1998). (*\_ \_ Not alive, but \_ contains souls* / Plane); *What has six legs, \_ \_ two heads, \_ \_ four ears, and \_ \_ two hands, but \_ walks on four feet?*). The latter tend to be used in the form of elliptical splices (several omitted elements in one speech block). In the riddle, the ellipse «works» to reduce the shape while preserving the content to the greatest extent.

Unlike proverbs, sayings and riddles with their folklore origins and anonymous authorship, aphorisms occupy a special place in the paremiofund because they have a specific author. It depends on the appropriateness of the condensed representation of thought in the form of an elliptical sentence. It is not so much ergonomic considerations that work here as accuracy and imagery. Eidemic motivation of the author with maximum focus on clusters of essential information allows to compress the material form of the aphorism without any destruction of its propositional content (*Pride breakfasted with plency, \_ dined with novelty, and \_ supped with infamy* / B. Franklin). The defining feature of aphorisms is the fact that they tend to minimize the omitted components, while riddles – to maximize. The scope of the ellipse in paremias does not go beyond the sentence, but is inside it, resulting in an extract of thought, which takes the form of a brilliantly sharpened and perfected sentence, the concentration of meaning in which reaches its apogee.

The ellipse in discursively related statements has syntagmatic origins. Discursively conditioned use of an elliptical sentence is enhanced by motives, instructions and tactical and strategic principles of verbal activity. Last but not least, it is determined by ergonomic factors – the desire of the language personality to materially simplify the design of their messages and, as a consequence, to save speech effort and language resources. The most favorable communicative environment for him is conversational, journalistic and advertising



discourses. The most commonly used ellipse is in conversational-domestic discourse, which is largely due to the illocutionary – perlocutionary specifics of the latter: unpreparedness, spontaneity, arbitrariness, expressiveness (*What did Nona say? \_\_ Not a word \_\_ Not even to Dickie? – Do you and Dickie? – Do you and Dickie? talk about it? – \_\_ Never – Don't you think you should \_\_? / W. Hornsby*) languages reflected in the hierarchy of semantic relations.

In second place on the use of elliptical sentences is the journalistic discourse, which is formed mainly due to the high degree of suggestive and persuasive influence on the collective addressee, as well as the ability to absorb some essential properties of other types and kinds of speech. Headlines are a particularly favorable environment for the ellipse, where it is one of the most effective means of unraveling sentence matter and removing redundancy (*\_ Tortured by evil gang / The Sun; \_\_ Still on the sidelines / Daily Mail*).

The use of elliptical sentences in advertising discourse ranks third. This is explained not by the fact that the ellipse is used less often, but by the fact that this type of speech activity is less represented in the socio-cultural space of communication compared to conversational and domestic and journalistic. The production and use of the ellipse in discourse has predominantly external sentence origins. Verbal arrangement of voice messages in advertising communication is carefully considered in view of their perlocutionary effect, which requires

a balance of propositional content and verbal means: (*\_ \_ Captured \_ \_ Ten times more moisture than a moisturizer \_ / OK*). Ellipse and discourse interact on the principle of means and environment: ellipse is an established means of creating brevity, discourse – a favorable environment for the compression of verbal means.

**Conclusions.** Ellipse is a syntactic derivation phenomenon based on the process of reduction / truncation of material components of a sentence based on the principles of speech ergonomics and associated with the desire of the language personality to harmonize their speech messages by unbundling them. An elliptical sentence can be produced on the principles of both paradigmatics and syntagmatics. Both of them result in non-verbal reference – omission of the constructive component of the sentence without violating its propositional and intentional content. As a phenomenon of the cognitive-communicative order, the syntactic ellipse arises and is produced according to the dialectical law of unity and the struggle of opposites. Such syncretism is a reflection of the contradiction between the form of the syntactic unit and its content, which results in non-verbal reference. A systemological view of the cognitive-communicative potential of the elliptical sentence of the English language may in the future become the basis for linguistic-pragmatic, stylistic, synergistic study of such a universal phenomenon as syntactic lacunarity generated by compression, reduction, partition, purposefully contribution.

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