

Research article

Ellipsis in Dialogue Between Characters in Knives Out Movie

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Abstract.

The paper discusses the kinds of ellipsis in dialogue and the condition of dialogue where ellipsis can exist that used by main and supporting characters in the movie. This paper aimed to analyze the types of ellipsis that found in the dialogue of Knives Out movie and in what condition ellipsis are taken place. In this research writer used the movie entitled “Knives Out” by Rian Johnson as the data source. The writer applied some methods of research like watching the movie and quoting some dialogues on the collecting the data. In analyzing the data, the writer applied the theory of Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum in their book entitled A University of Grammar of English (1985) as the main theory and supported by other theories that are relevant to this topic. The result of the research showed that the ellipsis in dialogue from Knives Out consist of repetition, expansion and replacement. These kinds of ellipsis are taken place in three conditions of dialogue, they are, question and responses, statement and question, as well as statement and statement.

Keywords: ellipsis, phonology, character movie

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1. INTRODUCTION

As an international language, English has an important role in communication, to share informations and beliefs, exchange ideas and feelings, make plans and solve problems. All communication is based on how each of us perceives, or sees and interprets, or explains information. The ability to communicate increases when it is understood that observations are selective (Philips, 1983: 3). The activity of communication between two people call a dialogue. Dialogue is a dialogue where there is a free flow of meaning in a group and diverse views and perspectives are encouraged (Hargrove, 1995:176).

As we know, dialogue can be done anywhere and by anyone. It can be done with people who are known by the speaker, can also with strangers. Dialogue is held to ask some questions or to convey something. It can be done directly, by telephone, by


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chatting in social media, and many more. Besides that, many dialogues are there in a fiction or non-fiction like movie, novel, comic and so on.

In the movie, there are many artist or character, they are categorized into main character and supporting character. To build a story so the audience understands the storyline and its plot, there are dialogues between characters in the movie.

Knives Out movie is one of the famous movie, not only in Indonesia but also in other countries, because of that, this movie has a lot of viewers and got high ratings. Besides that, each character in the movie has an important role to clarify the story of this movie. This movie tells about the case of an old man who died by suicide. But there was a detective who suspicious that the old man had been killed. The investigation began with asking some alibis from each family member. Because of that, in this movie, there are many dialogues which are very important to understand in order to find the answers of the case, because there will be many puzzles to be found.

In those dialogues, there are also many Ellipsis which are used by some characters. Ellipsis is most commonly used to avoid repetition, and in this respect it is like substitution (Quirk & Sidney, 1985:251). The use of ellipsis in dialogs often happens in movie. People use to speak with elliptical sentences in spoken language when they speak to other people.

Based on the background, there are several previous studies are used as references in this study. Herlina (2016) conducted a study entitled "*The Analysis of Ellipsis in The Chronicles of Narnia Film by Clive Staples Lewis*" showing that there were three types of ellipsis elements that occurred in analysis of ellipsis in The Chronicles of Narnia film. The most frequent types were verbal ellipsis occurred 22 times (55%), clausal ellipsis occurred 17 times (42.5%), and nominal ellipsis occurred only once (2.5%). Verbal ellipsis was the most productive types. It occurred more than 50 % of all the types the analysis of ellipsis in The Chronicle of Narnia film. In addition, Masniati (2011) also conducted a study which entitle "*The Analysis of Ellipsis in the Novel the Short Second Life of Bree Tanner by Stephenie Meyer (A Syntactic Approach)*". Researcher found there are three types of elliptical sentence occurred in the novel and their functions. The types of elliptical sentence are nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis. The functions of nominal ellipsis is as head of noun group, verbal ellipsis and clausal ellipsis are as a statement, question or answer. Therefore, Rizka (2006) also doing similar study entitled "*The Analysis of Ellipsis in Nathaniel Hawthorne's the Scarlet Letter (The Study of Syntactic and Semantic)*". Ellipsis may happen to words, phrases, or clauses in a sentence. Ellipsis is used to avoid the repetition of word, and it does not change the meaning of text.

Moreover, based on previous study above, this research is different from those previous study that has been explain before. This reseach analyze what types of ellipsis are found in the dialogue of Knives Out movie and in what condition ellipsis are taken place. Moreover, this research aim to analyze ellipsis that found in the dialogue of some characters in Knives Out Movie. Ellipsis in dialogue which are used by some characters in that movie are analyzed from dialogues in this movie.

2. METHOD

This research is using qualitative research in order to describe the result of data analysis. Data source of this research were some characters in that movie, like main character and supporting character. Knives Out movie is chosen because that movie tells about a case of an old man's death that must be solved by some detectives. The data were collected by using observation and taking note methods. The movie is watched for several times, and then ellipsis in dialogue are classified based on their kinds, after that it must be written in the note. Ellipsis in dialogue of some characters in Knives Out movie are analyzed based on theory applied in order to the types and in what condition ellipsis taken place are obtained.

3. II. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Ellipsis in Dialogue of Knives Out Movie

There were some Ellipsis in dialogue of some characters in Knives Out Movie. In one dialogue of course there were the first speaker and the second speaker. The first speaker asked a question or said a statement, and the second speaker answered the question or statement from the first speaker. The answered can be a respond, a question and a statement too. Because that, there were three types of condition in the dialogue, such as: question and respond, statement and question, statement and statement.

3.2. Question and Response

In this type of dialogue, the first speaker will ask the question and the second speaker responded the question from the first speaker. In the question and response dialogue of the characters in Knives Out movie, there were three types of ellipsis that are found in this condition, such as: repetition, expansion and replacement.

3.1.1.1 Repetition

Repetition in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker repeats what is said by the first speaker. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Detective Blanc : To see Harlan?

Joni : To see Harlan

Before ellipited, the dialogue can be like this:

Detective Blanc : To see Harlan?

Joni : (Yes, I want) to see Harlan.

Dialogue above can be found when Detective Blanc interrogates Joni (Harlan's daughter-in-law). He asked Joni the reason why she came to Harlan's house early. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into repetition because the second speaker (Joni) just give a respond by repeats what is said by the first speaker (Detective Blanc) with "to see Harlan" without adds or replaces some words.

3.1.1.2 Expansion

Expansion in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker adds to what is said by the first speaker. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Detective Elliot : His mom? How old is she?

Linda : We have no idea.

Before ellipited, the dialogue can be like this:

Detective Elliot : His mom? How old is she?

Linda : We have no idea (how old she is).

Dialogue above can be found when Detective Lieutenant Elliot interrogates Linda (Harlan's daughter), about Harlan's death case. He asked a question to Linda about the age of Harlan's mom, the Great-nana, but Linda doesn't know that. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into expansion because the second speaker (Linda) give a respond by adds to what is said by the first speaker (Detective Elliot) with "we have no idea" without repeats or replaces some words.

3.1.1.3 Replacement

Replacement in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker replaces what is said by the first speaker with new material. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Elliot : Did anyone besides the family show face?

Linda : Fran, the housekeeper.

Before ellipted, the dialogue can be like this:

Elliot : Did anyone besides the family show face?

Linda : Fran, the housekeeper (beside the family who show face).

Dialogue above can be found when Detective Elliot interrogates Linda to investigate the case of Harlan's death. He asked Linda besides the family, who else was come at Harlan's birthday. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into replacement because the second speaker (Linda) give a respond by replaces what is said by the first speaker (Detective Elliot) with new material or by answering directly with "Fran, the housekeeper" without repeats or adds some words.

3.2.1. Statement and Question

In this type of dialogue, the first speaker will give a statement and the second speaker answered the statement from the first speaker with the question. In the statement and question dialogue of the characters in Knives Out movie, there were three types of ellipsis that are found in this condition, such as: repetition, expansion and replacement.

3.1.1.4 Repetition

Repetition in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker repeats what is said by the first speaker. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Detective Elliot : This is Benoit Blanc

Richard : Benoit Blanc?

Before ellipted, the dialogue can be like this:

Detective Elliot : This is Benoit Blanc

Richard : (Is this) Benoit Blanc?

Dialogue above can be found when Detective Elliot interrogates Richard to investigate the case of Harlan's death. Richard asked Detective Elliot about the man behind

Elliot and then he introduces Detective Blanc. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into repetition because the second speaker (Richard) just give a question by repeats what is said by the first speaker (Detective Elliot) with “Benoit Blanc?” without adds or replaces some words.

3.1.1.5 Expansion

Expansion in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker adds to what is said by the first speaker. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Harlan : You're free of it.

Walt : Are you firing me?

Before ellipted, the dialogue can be like this:

Harlan : You're free of it.

Walt : (I'm free of it because) you are firing me?

Dialogue above can be found when Harlan stopped Walt from his publishing company and Walt be surprised like he didn't accept it. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into expansion because the second speaker (Walt) give a question by adds to what is said by the first speaker (Harlan) with “Are you firing me?” without repeats or replaces some words. That question can be answered by the first speaker with yes or no, not with the new material.

3.1.1.6 Replacement

Replacement in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker replaces what is said by the first speaker with new material. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Detective Blanc : I'm here at the behest of a client.

Linda : Who?

Before ellipted, the dialogue can be like this:

Detective Blanc : I'm here at the behest of a client.

Linda : Who (is a client that behest you)?

Dialogue above can be found when Detective Elliot interrogates Linda to investigates the case of Harlan's death and she asked the reason that why there is another detective (Detective Blanc) in that case, and the Detective Blanc said the reason why he in there

because of the behest of someone. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into replacement because the second speaker (Linda) give a question by replaces to what is said by the first speaker (Detective Blanc) with “Who?” without repeats or adds some words.

3.2.2. Statement and Statement

In this type of dialogue, the first speaker will give a statement and the second speaker answered the statement from the first speaker with the statement too. In the statement and statement dialogue of the characters in Knives Out movie, there were three types of ellipsis are found in this condition, such as: repetition, expansion and replacement.

3.1.3.1 Repetition

Repetition in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker repeats what is said by the first speaker. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Marta : That’s because he wanted you to build something from the ground

Ransom: Build something from the ground

Before ellipted, the dialogue can be like this:

Marta : That’s because he wanted you to build something from the ground

Ransom: (that’s because he wanted me to) build something from the ground

Dialogue above can be found when Marta and Ransom in the restaurant after leaving the Harlan’s house, Marta said Harlan wanted Ransom to build something from the ground. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into repetition because the second speaker (Ransom) just give a statement by repeats what is said by the first speaker (Marta) with “build something from the ground” without adds or replaces some words.

3.1.3.2 Expansion

Expansion in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker adds to what is said by the first speaker. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Detective Elliot: Wow, seems like all his kids are self-made overachievers

Richard : Sure

Before ellipted, the dialogue can be like this:

Detective Elliot: Wow, seems like all his kids are self-made overachievers

Richard : Sure (seems like all his kids are self-made achievers)

Dialogue above can be found when Detective Elliot interrogates Richard to investigate the case of Harlan's death and Detective Elliot give a statement that the all of Harlan's children are self-made overachievers. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into expansion because the second speaker (Richard) give a statement by adds to what is said by the first speaker (Detective Elliot) with "Sure" without repeats or replaces some words.

3.1.3.3 Replacement

Replacement in the ellipsis of dialogue is when the second speaker replaces what is said by the first speaker with new material. In Knives Out movie, this type of ellipsis can be seen as follows:

Dialogue

Marta : Harlan, I can't

Harlan : You can

Before ellipted, the dialogue can be like this:

Marta : Harlan, I can't

Harlan : You can (Marta)

Dialogue above can be found when Marta gives a wrong medicine to Harlan but there is not an antidote, so Harlan can die. Marta wants to called an ambulance but Harlan refuse. He wanted to save Marta so she will not to be suspect in the case of Harlan's death. Based on the function of ellipsis (minimize the dialogue and avoid the repeating of words in questions), the dialogue must be omitted. Dialogue above categorized into replacement because the second speaker (Harlan) give a statement by replaces what is said by the first speaker (Marta) with new material or by answering directly with "You can." which is contrary to the Marta's statement without repeats or adds some words.

4. CONCLUSION

There are some points that can be concluded from the analysis above, most commonly used to avoid repetition, and in this respect it is like substitution is called Ellipsis. The function of ellipsis is not only to minimize the dialogue, but also to avoid the repeating of words in the dialogue. It can also be concluded that Ellipsis can be found in the dialogue of movies.

As the data source, the movie entitled “Knives Out” shows that the used of Ellipsis are various. Types of Ellipsis are used here, such as, Repetition, Expansion and Replacement. These Ellipsis can be found in some conditions of dialogue like, Question-Response, Statement-Question and Statement-Statement. In this paper, there are 2 Repetitions, 14 Expansions and 17 Replacements in the Question and Response conditions. There are 4 Repetitions, 2 Expansions and 6 Replacements in the Statement and Question conditions. There are 1 Repetition, 6 Expansions and 6 Replacements in the Statement and Statement conditions. The majority of Ellipsis in Dialogue which are found in the Knives Out Movie is Replacements.

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