

AN ANALYSIS OF ELLIPSIS ON TAYLOR SWIFT'S SONG LYRICS

By:

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berkaitan dengan penggunaan elipsis yang ditemukan pada lirik lagu Taylor Swift di album *Fearless*. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menyelidiki jenis elipsis, menentukan jenis dominan elipsis, dan juga memberikan alasan penggunaan jenis elipsis dominan dalam lirik lagu. Penelitian perpustakaan dilakukan untuk menggambarkan penggunaan elipsis dalam artikel. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data diambil dari lirik lagu Taylor Swift di album *Fearless*. Terdapat delapan belas lirik lagu di album *Fearless*. Hasilnya menemukan bahwa ada tiga elipsis yang ditemukan di album: *Nominal Ellipsis* (58%), *Verbal Ellipsis* (9,4%), *Clausal Ellipsis* (32,6%). *Nominal Ellipsis* adalah jenis elipsis yang paling dominan. Elipsis digunakan dalam lirik lagu untuk membuat kalimat dalam lirik lagu menjadi efektif, menghindari pengulangan, menghindari kemunculan kata benda yang berlebihan.

Keywords :*Song Lyrics, Nominal Ellipsis, Verbal Ellipsis, Clausal Ellipsis.*

The Background of the Study

Language is a tool of human communication. Communication may be done by oral communication and written communication. Oral communication is transferring the information to other people is done orally or directly. Written communication is expressing in sentence. Human cannot communicate without language, because language has a function to transfer the information from speaker to hearer, such as thoughts, feelings, opinions, and desires other than through some nonverbal forms like gestures, postures, facial expression, etc. In the other hand, people can communicate by orally, body language, and indirectly of in sentence.

Sentence is a system of communication consisting of sounds, words and grammar, or the system of

communication used by the people of a particular country or profession. Structurally, it is a group of interrelated words which has meaning. It is used to give statement, to communicate meanings, to interrogate information, to give command, and to express emotion.

Sentence is smaller than text, but text related to a sentence in the same way that a sentence is related to clause, a clause to a group and so on. Text is the written words in a book, magazine, etc., not the pictures. A text may be spoken or written. Spoken means the process of transferring ideas and feelings or giving information is done orally. Written is the process of transferring ideas and feelings or giving information is done in writing activity, available in novel, short story, article, poem, lyric, etc.

A text has a relationship with the other text. The relationship between text

with others and is the combination between two clauses by non-structural relation is called cohesion. Thus, it can be said that cohesion is a link of meaning for achieving unity in text/discourse using non-structural elements.

Cohesion can be used as the way to unite the sentence, word, clause, and phrase. Those are related to discourse function. Discourse analysis focuses on knowledge about language beyond the word, clause, phrase, and sentence that is needed for successful communication. Discourse has relationship with others, like discourse and society, discourse and pragmatics, discourse and genre, discourse and grammar, etc. In this study, the writer only talk about discourse and grammar, which is the writer focuses on ellipsis in cohesion.

There are parts of cohesion, they are reference, ellipsis/substitution, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Reference refers to systems which introduce the identity of participants. In reference, there are three types of reference, personal reference, demonstrative reference, and comparative reference. Ellipsis is deletion of linguistics unit but retractable from the context. In ellipsis, there are three types of ellipsis, nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis. Substitution is deletion of linguistics unit but replace by other linguistic unit. Types of substitution are nominal substitution, verbal substitution, and clausal substitution. Conjunction refers to words that join phrases, clauses or sections of a text in such a way that they express the logical semantic relationship between them. Types of conjunction are additive, adversative, causal, and temporal conjunction.

Lexical Organization/Lexical Cohesion refers to relationships in meaning between lexical items in a text and, in particular, content words and the relationship between them. Types of lexical cohesion are repetition, synonymy,

antonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, and collocation.

Most people used cohesion in their daily conversation but they do not know that they have used cohesion. People know and understand what they read and hear because of cohesion. We can find cohesion in text. In text, certainly it has cohesion because without cohesion a sentence in text can not stand alone. A sentence is related to another sentence by cohesion.

One of the kinds of text is lyrics. Lyric is express of the song writer's feeling and emotion through the tones and contain vocal parts that are performed by singing and feature words (lyrics), commonly accompanied by musical instruments. By using ellipsis, lyrics more interesting, and to avoid excessive meaning. The writer of this study interested by using song lyrics as her object of the study, because the writer saw that there are ellipses in song lyrics, not only in novels, short stories, and articles in newspapers/magazines. She assumed that ellipsis is the most used in lyrics than others. The other reason why the writer used song lyrics as her object study is she assumed that most of english learners specially for beginners or students used english song as the media for learn. She also assumed that people generally find the difficulty to understand the lyrics of the song. Sometimes they get misunderstanding when they have read or heard the song. Moreover, the sentence becomes grammatically incorrect and the meaning is sometimes affected. Having knowledge of cohesion, will help them to understand what the messages are send by the song writer or singer.

This study analyzes the song lyrics of Taylor Swift's Fearless album for Taylor Swift is

a country music singer, the writer assumed that others researchers in the same case are still rarely researched country music genre. Fearless album is the most popular album than other, so it made her choosing Fearless than other.

The Scope of the Study

The unity of cohesion in sentence or text can be viewed from some part, such as reference, ellipsis, substitution, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. This study is specifically focussed on the ellipsis in Taylor Swift song lyrics in Fearless Album.

The Problems of the Study

The problems of this study are formulated as the following question:

1. What types of ellipsis are used in Taylor Swift's song lyrics?
2. What is the dominant types of ellipsis used in Taylor Swift's song lyrics and what does it means?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is aimed to avoid confusion and misinterpretation of the terms used in the theory or in comprehending the ideas. Thus the following terms are aimed to clear explanation of the research.

Text

Text is 'language in operation' (Halliday, 1978:130; Hartley, 1982:172). It may be realized by speaking or writing. It means that text may be done by spoken and written. Lyrics is a one of spoken text but they have written form. Text may involve any number of participants even a public debate has some kind of unity and rules. A text is a unit of language in use. It is not a grammatical unit, like a clause or a sentence; and it is not defined by its size (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:1). It means that a text may have of any length. One sentence may become a text, even one or two words may become a text. There is no limit of a text. Lyrics have more than one word, it means that lyrics is a text.

According to Ricards (1985:4), a text is a discourse. In terms of its analysis, however, discourse analysis is used for spoken text, and text linguistics for written text. It means that the concept about a text does not necessarily refer to a chain of

sentence only, which are long, and in written form, but it can be in the spoken form. Based on the definitions above, it is obvious that

every sentence in a text or discourse must have semantic relation or unity in spoken or written form.

Cohesion

There are some definitions of cohesion that stated by some scientists. Halliday and Hasan (1976:8) stated that cohesion is a semantic relation between an element in the text and some other elements that are crucial to the interpretation of it. It means that cohesion refers to the relation of meaning in text that exist in it. According to Saragih (2007:58) said that the unity of meaning in text called cohesion. It means that a text is unity or oneness, indeed one of the features of being a text is cohesion. Cohesion refers to the relationship between items in a text such as *words, phrases and clauses*, and other items such as *pronouns, nouns, and conjunction*. (Paltridge 2006:131).

Types of Cohesion

There are four ways by which cohesion is created in English: by reference, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical organization (Halliday 1994:308). Paltridge (2006:130) stated that the main patterns of cohesion are *reference, lexical cohesion, conjunction, substitution, and ellipsis*. Halliday and Hasan (1976:6) stated that the types of cohesion dealt with in Chapter 2-4 (reference, substitution, and ellipsis) are grammatical; than in Chapter 6 is lexical. That dealt with in Chapter 5 (conjunction) is on the borderline of the two; mainly grammatical, but with a lexical component in it. So, this chapter of the study explained the types of cohesion; reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion.

Reference

There are some definitions of reference. Paltridge (2006:131) stated that

reference refers to the situation where the identity of an item can be retrieved from either within or outside the text. It means that reference is to explain back of something that has already mentioned. Reference is the specific nature of the information that is signalled for retrieval. In the case of reference the information to be retrieved is the referential meaning, the identity of the particular thing or class of things that is being referred to (Halliday and Hasan, 1976:31). From the definitions above, the writer stated that reference is refer to the system which introduce and track the identity of participants through the text.

Substitution

Some scientists stated definitions of substitution. Paltridge (2006:141) point that with substitution, a substitute form is used for another language item, phrase, or group. Halliday and Hasan (1976:88) said that substitution is the replacement of one item by another. From the both of definitions, substitution means that substitution is used to help speaker and writer to avoid the repetition of lexical item and replace it with another item but still understood by hearer or reader.

Conjunction

The writer found some definitions of conjunction. Bloor and Bloor (1995:98) stated that conjunction is the term used to describe the cohesive tie between clause or section of text in such a way as to demonstrate a meaningful relationship between them. According to Gerrot and Wignell (1994:124) said that conjunction is the semantic system whereby speaker relate clauses in terms of temporal sequence, consequence, comparison, and addition. From the both of definition, conjunction is the words that combine one word to another word, one phrase to another phrase, or one sentence to another sentence.

There are four types of conjunction, they

aretemporal, consequence/clausal, comparative/adversative, and additive. (1) The first type is temporal. Temporal relations connect clauses depending on whether the action they encode take place at the same time or one after the other. Temporal sequence includes: *then, at first, after, while, meanwhile, finally, since, soon.*

Lexical Cohesion

In this subtitle, some definitions of lexical cohesion are stated by scientists. Lexical cohesion refers to the cohesive effect of the use of lexical items in discourse where the choice of an item relates to the choice that have gone before (Bloor and Bloor, 1995:100). Gerrot and Wignell (1994:121) said that lexical cohesion refers to relationships between and among words in a text. Bloor and Bloor (1995:100) said that one important type of lexical cohesion, probably the one with the strongest cohesive force, is *repetition* (or, *re-iteration*) of the same item.

Ellipsis

There are some definitions of ellipsis. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976:142) stated that ellipsis is something left unsaid. Speakers or writers often used the deletion when they spoken or written. The words which have deleted are omitted in order to avoid unnecessary repetition, but the hearers or readers can still predictable from context of the sentences. Thompson (1996:148) defined that ellipsis is the set of resources by which full repetition of a clause or clause element can be avoided, and by which it can be signalled to readers that they should repeat the wording from a previous clause (or, in some cases, from their own knowledge). From the both definition above, it means that ellipsis can economize the sentences but not make any change in meaning.

Research Design

Research design is aimed to collect and analyze data to get answer to the research question. The research design of

this study is a descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is the method that emphasized to the meaning and description of certain condition which used in daily life. This research is conducted to describe the types of ellipsis and to find the dominant type of ellipsis and its meaning in lyrics of Taylor Swift's Fearless Album.

Sources of Data

The sources of data in this study are taken from Taylor Swift's song lyrics. There are many albums of her, but the data is limited into Fearless Album as the most popular of her album. There are 18 songs in this album to be analyzed, they are: 1) fearless, 2) fifteen, 3) love story, 4) hey stephen, 5) white horse, 6) you belong with me, 7) breathe, 8) tell me why, 9) you're not sorry, 10) the way I loved you, 11) forever and always, 12) the best day, 13) change, 14) untouchable, 15) come in with the rain, 16) superstar, 17) jump then fall, 18) the other side of the door.

Technique of Collecting Data

The technique of collecting data in this study is applied by documentary technique, because the writer collects the data by reading, collecting, and studying all reference books and data related to the study.

The writer has some aspects to collect the data of the study, they are:

1. Listening to all songs
2. Writing the lyrics of all the songs
3. Finding out the lyrics script
4. Studying of all the lyrics script

Technique of Analyzing Data

The data are analyzed by using the following steps:

1. Identifying the ellipsis in lyrics.
2. Classfying ellipsis into their types.
3. Calculating the numbers of each ellipsis types by using the percentage formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{T} \times 100\%$$

P = the percentage number of items

F = frequency

T = the total numbers of each items

4. Finding out the most dominant types of ellipsis.
5. Concluding the finding of the reason of using the dominant ellipsis in song lyrics.

The Data

As had been mentioned in previous chapter, the data are collected from lyrics song of Taylor Swif's Fearless album. There are 18 songs in this album to be analyzed, they are: 1) fearless, 2) fifteen, 3) love story, 4) hey stephen, 5) white horse, 6) you belong with me, 7) breathe, 8) tell me why, 9) you're not sorry, 10) the way I loved you, 11) forever and always, 12) the best day, 13) change, 14) untouchable, 15) come in with the rain, 16) superstar, 17) jump then fall, 18) the other side of the door.

The Data Analysis

After indentifying the data, then, they are classified into the types of ellipsis. The writer takes Fearless lyric as an example how the writer indentifying and classifying the data. The followings are the analyzis of songs by the lyrics.

Fearless

The first lyric is Fearless. It contains of eight stanzas. The stanza that has ellipsis is on the second, third, fourth, and sixth stanza.

I wonder if you know []

I'm trying so hard not to get caught up now

But you're just so cool, [] run your hands

through your hair

Absentmindedly [] makin' me want you

The data above is the second stanza in Fearless. In the first line, there is ellipsis called clausal ellipsis. The clausal that have deleted is I want to ask you to dance. It is called clausal ellipsis because it is consist of subject and predicate. In the third line, there is ellipsis called nominal ellipsis. The nominal that have been

deleted is you. It is called nominal ellipsis because it is a nominal group. In the fourth line, there is ellipsis called clausal ellipsis. The clausal that have deleted is you run your hands through your hair. It is called as clausal ellipsis because it is contain of subject and predicate. After analysing the second stanza, the writer found two clausal ellipses, and one nominal ellipsis.

And I don't know how it gets better than
this
You take my hand and [] drag me headfirst
[] Fearless
And I don't know why [] but with you I'd
dance
In a storm in my best dress
Fearless

The data above is the third stanza in Fearless. In the second line, there is nominal ellipsis, the nominal that have been deleted is you. It is called nominal ellipsis because it is a noun group. In the third line, there is clausal ellipsis, the clausal that have been deleted is it is. It is contain of subject and predicate, so it is clausal ellipsis. In the fourth line, there is clausal ellipsis. The clausal ellipsis that have been deleted is I had not dance. It is contain of subject and predicate, so it is a clausal ellipsis. After analysing the third stanza, the writer found two clausal ellipses, and one nominal ellipsis.

So baby [] drive slow till we run out of
road
In this one-horse town, I wanna stay right
here
In this passenger seat
You put your eyes on me
In this moment now
[] Capture it, [] remember it

The data above is fourth stanza. In the first line, there is nominal ellipsis. The nominal that have been deleted is you. It is called nominal ellipsis because it is a noun group. In the sixth line, there are two omitted nominal ellipses. They are you and you. The underlined words are nominal group, so they are nominal ellipses. After

analysing the fourth stanza, the writer found three nominal ellipses.

You Belong With Me

The sixth lyric song is You Belong With Me. It contains nine stanzas. The stanza that has ellipsis is in first, second, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, and ninth.

In the first stanza, there are ellipses in first, second, third, sixth, and seventh. In the first, there is nominal ellipsis, the nominal ellipsis is to you. In the second line, there is nominal word that have been omitted, it is to her. In the third line, there is verbal ellipsis, the verbal ellipsis that have been deleted are get your humor. In the sixth line, there is nominal ellipsis, the nominal that have been deleted is the kind of music. In the seventh line, there is verbal ellipsis that have been deleted, it is know your story. After analysing the first stanza, the writer found five ellipses, three of them is nominal ellipses, and the others are verbal ellipses.

In the second stanza, there are ellipses in fifth and sixth line. In the fifth line, there is clausal ellipsis that have been omitted, it is I am. In the sixth line, there is ellipsis, the ellipsis that have been omitted is nominal ellipsis, it is I. After analysing the second stanza, the writer found two ellipses, one of them is nominal ellipsis, and the other is clausal ellipsis.

In the third stanza, there is ellipsis in second line. In the second line, there are two ellipses. The first ellipsis is clausal ellipsis, it is I have. The second ellipsis is nominal ellipsis, it is you. After analysing the third stanza, the writer found two nominal ellipses, one of them is clausal ellipsis, and the other is nominal ellipsis.

In the fourth stanza, there are ellipses in first, second, and third line. In the first line, there is clausal ellipsis, the elliptical word is I am. In the second line, there is the verbal ellipsis, the verbal that have been missed is done. In the third line, there are two clausal ellipses, the first and the third line are I am. After analysing the

fourth stanza, it is found three ellipses, they are nominal and two of them are clausal ellipses.

In the fifth stanza, there are ellipses in first and fifth line. In the first line, there is nominal ellipsis, the nominal ellipsis that have been deleted is the smile. In the fifth line, there is clausal ellipsis, it is you're. After analysing the fifth stanza, there are two ellipses, one of them is nominal, and the other is clausal.

In the seventh stanza, there are ellipses in four line. In the four line, there are two ellipses, they are clausal ellipses, the first and the second clausal ellipsis are I am. After analysing the seventh stanza, there are two clausal ellipses, because the elliptical words are the clause group.

In the eighth stanza, there are ellipses in sixth and seventh line. In the sixth line, there are two nominal ellipses, they are I, and with you. In the seventh line, there is nominal ellipsis that have been missed, it is I. After analysing the eighth stanza, it is found three ellipses, all of them is nominal, because they are noun group.

Based on the analysis of You Belong With Me lyric above, the witer found twenty two ellipses; Nominal Ellipsis has ten ellipses (45,46%), Verbal Ellipsis has three verbal ellipses (13,63%), Clausal Ellipsis has nine ellipses (40,91%).

After analysing all the lyrics, the result can be tabulated as in the following table.

No.	Titles of Songs	Types of Ellipsis			Total
		Nominal	Verbal	Clausal	
1	Fearless	6	0	5	11
2	Fifteen	12	3	4	19
3	Love Story	14	0	5	19
4	Hey Stephen	12	4	1	17
5	White Horse	7	1	9	17
6	You Belong With Me	10	3	9	22
7	Breathe	3	1	5	9
8	Tell Me Why	9	0	4	13
9	You're Not Sorry	7	1	0	8
10	The Way I love You	6	0	10	16
11	Forever and Always	8	1	2	11
12	The Best Day	8	0	8	16
13	Change	8	0	3	11

14	Untouchable	2	0	8	10
15	Come in With the Rain	9	2	4	15
16	Superstar	7	3	2	12
17	Jump Then Fall	14	1	2	17
18	The Other Side of the Door	13	4	6	23
Total		155	24	87	266
Percentage		58,3%	9%	32,7%	100%

Research Findings

After analysing the data, the writer found three types of ellipsis are used in the lyrics text of Fearless album. They are nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis. The findings can be presented as followed:

1. The percentages the types of ellipsis are used in the lyrics text of Fearless album are: Nominal Ellipsis (58,3%), Verbal Ellipsis (9%), and Clausal Ellipsis (32,7%).
2. The total number of ellipsis in the Fearless album is 266, it is taken from the total of each ellipsis, that is Nominal Ellipsis 155, Verbal Ellipsis 24, and Clausal Ellipsis 87.
3. The most dominant type is Nominal Ellipsis with the percentage is 58,3%.

Based on the findings, this writer found that Nominal Ellipsis is always presented in all song lyric than the others. This study also found that Nominal Ellipsis is the most dominant that appeared in the lyrics text of Fearless album. It means that the writer of the song lyrics used noun as the most dominant word in his/her lyrics, so the writer of the song lyrics omitted noun in his/her song lyrics to avoid the repetition and to avoid the excessive of the noun.

Conclusions

After analysing the ellipsis in the Taylor Swift's song lyrics in Fearless album, the conclusions are drawn as the following.

1. There are three types of ellipsis found in the Taylor Swift's song lyrics in Fearless album, they are: Nominal Ellipsis (58,3%), Verbal Ellipsis (9%), and Clausal Ellipsis (32,7%).
2. The total number of ellipsis in the Fearless album is 266, it is taken from the total of each ellipsis, that is Nominal Ellipsis 155, Verbal Ellipsis 24, and Clausal Ellipsis 87.
3. The most dominant type is Nominal Ellipsis with the percentage is 58,3%. It means that the writer of the song lyrics used noun as the most dominant word in his/her lyrics, so the writer of the song lyrics omitted noun in his/her song lyrics to avoid the repetition and to avoid the excessive of the noun.
4. The types of ellipsis used in song lyrics to avoid the repetition of words by omitting unnecessary words which can be predicted from the context, in order to make an effective sentence.

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INTERNET RESOURCES

<http://www.taylorswift.com/fearless/lyrics>