

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents Background of the research, Questions and Scopes of the Research, Objective and significance of the research, Operational definitions, and Systematization of the Research.

A. Background of the Research

The use of language in everyday human life is very important and becomes the basis of social life in human relations. In using language with the main purpose as a means of communication, the most important thing is the achievement of good communication with the fulfillment of the intent and message to be conveyed. To fulfill this, the word is one of the element or unit in language which is important to convey meaning.

In speaking or writing, words symbolize and communicate meaning. It has a meaning when it is spoken or written. In writing, words are typically separated by spaces and can be used independently. Even though words can stand by themselves however some written words, such as *the* and *of*, are not basic free forms since they make no meaning on their own. Verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs are the four main word classes.

Some words can form a phrase and a clause. A clause is the most fundamental unit of grammar, consisting of a subject, a verb phrase, and, occasionally, a complement. Some words can also be used to construct a sentence. A sentence is a grammatical unit. There must be at least one main

clause in it. A sentence starts with a capital letter and concludes with a full stop in writing. A sentence is essentially an arrangement of words.

The use of several words to form sentences can be unified and be used in speaking, communicating both in speaking and writing. Furthermore, the usage of sentences might be viewed as a work of art. One of them, for example, is a song lyric. In the song lyrics, texts or words of a song are distinguished from the music. Unlike the others, the sentences utilized or structured in song lyrics are usually slightly different, and this is partly because the composer focuses on a story or a context related to the information to be given in song lyrics.

There are many kinds of grammatical rules and word orders. Focus on the effectiveness of language in making a coherent sentence, linguistics that study more specifically about this is ellipsis. In term of creating the effectiveness in writing or speaking, the omitting process is one of the solution, and it is better known as ellipsis. An ellipsis is the omission of a word or phrase or clause that is considered unnecessary also to make a sentence mat and avoid repetition.

Ellipsis can be analyzed from various sources of discourse, one of which is written text that can be taken from novels, movie scripts and others. However, after examining and looking for data objects, the researcher found that a song can also be used as an object of research, as evidenced by this analysis which was made using several song lyrics. Ellipsis can be used when

there is a word that has been specifically explained previously, and then it is discussed again in the next words or sentence so that the word can be omitted.

A simple conversational example;

A: What are you looking at?

B: The tree.

The full form of B's reply would be: "I am looking at the tree". Another simple written example: The taller child was very outgoing, the smaller much more reserved. Here we could find the omitted words in the second clause are "child" and "was". That is an example of using ellipsis in a conversation.

From all the above explanations about main data, the researcher gives two samples of the thesis main data taken from Skylar Grey's song.

Datum 1: [...] for me?

Sentence: *Can't you just smile baby, for me?* (L. 14)

The sentence above is the original lyric. Researcher found ellipsis used by songwriters. Researchers found the use of ellipsis in the lyrics of the song. The use of ellipsis is found in the word after the comma and before the word *for*. This lyric line of the song is basically a question. In this line of lyrics, the songwriter uses a comma. This comma considered as a sign that there is use of ellipsis in the lyrics of the song.

Moreover, the data above shows that between two sentences that are connected by a comma are related and the same refers to one thing. Both sentences discuss about question "can't you smile for me?" Based on the context of the whole sentence, it can be found that there are words or phrases

that are omitted after the comma. The omitted word found in this song lyrics line is the word *smile*. If the word *smile* used, the phrase after comma becomes *smile for me?*

The complete form:

Can't you just smile baby, [smile] for me?

Based on the explanation above, the use of ellipsis is after the comma and before the word *for*. The omitted word in that lyric of the song is a verb *smile*. If the word *smile* is still used, the sentence becomes more complete and less confusing. However, the word *smile* has been used before so if it is reused it will cause repetition of words which can make the sentence not concise. Therefore there is the use of ellipsis. The word *smile* considered as a verb, so the type of ellipsis used in this song lyrics is verbal ellipsis. The word *smile* is a lexical verb. In verbal ellipsis, the omission of a lexical verb is called a lexical ellipsis.

Datum 2: [...] harder than the rest

Sentence: *That's why I work so hard, harder than the rest* (L. 6)

In the sentence above is the original lyric. There is an ellipsis used by the songwriter. In that lyric line of the song, the researcher finds the use of ellipsis it is found in word after the comma and before the word *harder*. The word *harder* does not have a subject and reference but still refers to the subject at the beginning of the sentence. This is because the use of commas indicates that the words are a single sentence. Besides that, the word *harder*

is also related or has been previously mentioned. So it can be concluded that the subject of the word *harder* is still *I*, and it still refers to the verb *work*.

Moreover, the omitted words are *I* and *work*. Because the subject *I* and the verb *work* already exist in the previous sentence, so that it is become *less* necessary to repeat, and the songwriter omitted it. And the reader, or in this case, the listener, can still understand the song's context. With this clause, the sentence after comma would become *I work harder than the rest*.

The complete form:

That's why I work so hard, [I work] harder than the rest

Based on the explanation above, the ellipsis found in the clause *I work* which has been omitted. The clause *I work* is not repeated and has been represented by the previous sentence which is still relevant in context. The omission of the clause *I work* aim to avoid repetition and excess meaning of a sentence, as well as to emphasize that the sentence is still related to the previous sentence. Since the omission is a clause which contains of the word *I* as subject and the word *work* as predicate. Therefore, the ellipsis type used is clausal ellipsis. In clausal ellipsis, the omission of the subject plus the finite element in the verbal group is called modal ellipsis.

From above explanation, it is known that Ellipsis is almost similar to substitution, where ellipsis is often referred to as zero substitution. In a use of substitution, words are not completely eliminated but are changed or replaced with words that refer to the word in question. However, the intended use of

both ellipsis and substitution has the same purpose. And substitution is also divided into several types depending on its use in the text.

Furthermore, the song lyrics chosen by the researcher as the data source and analyzed the ellipsis used in the song. In analyzing ellipsis in a song lyric, it is important to pay attention to the whole context of lyrics to get the whole idea. Ellipsis can be easily analyzed in a written text. A written text has several sentences and those sentences are bound by clauses, phrases and so on. A text also has relationship with the other texts. This relationship means cohesion.

Cohesion in the text is indeed very important and must be considered. Related to this according to Halliday and Hasan (1976, p.5), cohesion is a part of the system of a language. Cohesion also lies in the systematic resources of reference, ellipsis/substitution, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Cohesion is very important to learn because it is closely related to the linguistic structure which is very often found and needed in every way. We can analyze cohesion mostly in the texts. The lyrics of the song are the kind of text that the researcher uses to analyze.

In writing a text, there are many things a writer has to learn and perceive. Because in order to make the reader understand the meaning and content of the text as a whole, a writer is required to write properly and correctly by paying attention to varied aspects in terms of structural, formatting, lexical and also grammatical. Readers will also be able to distinguish and confirm the ability of a writer supported the results of his work.

Outside the text, there is such a thing as context, which is important in understanding a discourse that has a certain meaning caused by the background of a conversation by the speaker and other factors. In the traditional static approach, context is considered a relatively fixed set of parameters that remain constant during a communicative exchange and serve as the background for the comprehension of utterances. Context can also create a relationship between the writer and reader, giving a deeper understanding of the intent and direction of the writing.

Fetzer (2017; as cited in Renkema, 2018, p.152) said that according to the dynamic approach, context is permanently updated and negotiated during the production and comprehension of utterances. Along these lines, every new sentence may alter the perception of the current context, so that discourse is considered to be not only context-dependent but also context-creating. Most importantly, in examining how language functions and how meaning is created in different social contexts the researcher need to understand the research method discourse analysis.

In terms of discourse analysis, we tend to acknowledge that there is another understanding than simply matter, particularly the existence of a discourse side. Writing context normally is going to be terribly troublesome for a writer to explain. However in essence, discourse analysis focuses more on the contextual concept of a text. It is more focused on the author, not on the reader. Therefore, this material for discourse analysis is quite complex and complicated to study.

The song lyrics themselves also have an appeal for researcher, because sometimes song lyrics are able to make someone understand the meaning of the song more deeply than just singing or listening to the song. Because a song is a work of art, song lyrics frequently include other components such as feelings, emotions, and the use of appropriate and free words and language. Sentences that are used as song lyrics will be arranged into several lines, and several lines into stanzas. Those stanzas will be combined into a song.

The coherent lyrical integrity turns into a complete song. A song is a composition consisting of lyrics and music, with the aim of being sung and created a feeling or emotion. A song is made by combining music or melody with singing voices. The song lyrics used are also varied with repetition and variation of sections to become a song. Singing a song by conveying song lyrics is the same as communicating. The purpose of the song comes from the songwriter and delivered or sung by the singer. But of course a songwriter wants the best in making songs.

However, a song must also pay attention to the style of language, order or sentence patterns that are good and correct. Song listeners must have an understanding which is why it is important for songwriters to reduce excessive meaning. Singing a song by conveying song lyrics is same as communicating. A singer acts as a communicator or a sender in charge of conveying messages while song listener acts as a recipient.

The purpose of the song comes from the songwriter and delivered or sung by the singer. A singer is someone who uses their voice to sing. Anyone

who sings qualifies as a singer. Some people do singing for a living (professional singers), while others do it for fun (amateur singer), the singer sang and convinced the contents of the song as well as possible. In this analysis, the researcher chose to analyze the songs of an American singer, songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist named Holly Hafermann or better known by her stage name Skylar Grey.

As a singer and songwriter from America, Skylar Grey has a distinctive style of language and singing. The writing of the lyrics of Skylar Grey's songs is also inseparable from the arrangement of words in lyrics that use several grammatical rules or word order. Based on the explanation above, the researcher chose to analyze the ellipsis of the song lyrics. The use of ellipsis in song lyrics can make song lyrics more interesting and also aims to avoid excessive meaning in a song. This study analyzes the lyrics of Skylar Grey's songs in The Natural Causes album (2016).

B. Questions and Scopes of the Research

In order to analyze ellipsis in the song lyrics, the researcher must look at and examine each line in the lyrics carefully and must be perfectly able to interpret the meaning or intent of the writer or composer of the song. To have the option to investigate the issue, the author forms the following research question.

1. Questions of the Research

- a. What are the functions of ellipsis in the the Skylar Grey's song lyrics?
- b. What are types of ellipsis that exist in the Skylar Grey's song lyrics?

2. Scopes of the Research

The researcher tries to find the ellipsis used in the lyrics and explains why it is used and what it means and also the correlation within texts or lines in the lyrics. Main theories used are Halliday and Hasan (1976), Brian Paltridge (2012), Jan Renkema (2018). By classifying and analyzing the lyrics, the researcher can find the ellipsis and its mean of use. The researcher also needs to determine the type of ellipsis used in the song. The songs as object data are taken from Skylar Grey's album.

C. Objective and significance of the research

1. Objectives of the Research

Based on the question of research above, objectives of this research are as follows:

- a. To explain the functions of elliptical-sentence in the Skylar Grey's song lyrics.
- b. To describe the types of ellipsis in the Skylar Grey's song lyrics.

2. Significance of the Research

This research analysis will help to reduce misunderstanding and misinterpreting of song lyrics, which is commonly happen because of the difference between the song we have been read and the song we have been heard. Moreover, some sentences maybe grammatically wrong but meaningfully correct or at least still related. The existence of an attachment to the meaning of the sentence is the thing discussed in this study. So, it is hoped that the message and intent to be conveyed by the

songwriter can be perfectly understood every single line of the song lyrics.

D. Operational Definitions

1. Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis study further towards a sentence or phrase which has an attachment that can only be understood through understanding the context. Also in its discussion, discourse analysis includes a broader understanding and can be influenced by social life, environment, and behavior and so on. This study is not only related to the linguistic scope but also parts of sociolinguistics, anthropology, psychology.

2. Cohesion

Cohesion means a unity of text which means that the text has a continuity of meaning or meaning. There is a relationship between one sentence and another which is marked by references, substitutions, conjunctions and so on. This relationship can also distinguish a text in terms of lexical and grammatical form. The cohesion of a text will be obvious and easier to recognize.

3. Grammatical Cohesion

Grammatical cohesion is one of two types of cohesion. Other than grammatical cohesion there is lexical cohesion. Grammatical cohesion consists of reference, substitution, and ellipsis. Lexical cohesion consists of reiteration and collocation. Grammatical cohesion means the cohesion that is expressed through grammatical aspects within a text or sentence.

4. Ellipsis

Ellipsis means deletion of several words or phrases that are part or elements of sentence-forming elements. This omission is done to avoid redundant meaning and repetition. Usually, this ellipsis is also used because the subject has already been used or explained clearly in the first sentence. There are three types of ellipsis, Nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis and clausal ellipsis.

Nominal ellipsis means the omission of the head and all its function. And also the word function not head from the modifiers head status is upgrading. Verbal Ellipsis means the omission of verbal group presupposes several words because it is already used. Clausal ellipsis means the omission of modal ellipsis that occurs to response to a question commonly the Wh-questions.

5. Linguistic Structure

Linguistic structure means learning about language through a language system which is the theory that the language consists of formal systems or units such as Phonology, Syntax, Semantics and others. Linguistic structure studying language more deeply can be studied from various aspects and elements.

E. Systematization of the Research

Systematization of the research aims to make a well-formatting composition. The research is divided into five chapters, and the researcher compiles as follow:

Chapter I: The introduction consists of the background of the research and the aims of the writer of choosing the main data, questions and scopes of the research, objective and significances of the research, operational definitions, and systematization of the research.

Chapter II: The theoretical description consists of discourse analysis, cohesion, and research of the relevance.

Chapter III: Methodology of the research involves some methods of the research, procedures of the research, the technique of the data collection, technique of the data analysis, and data source.

Chapter IV: Data analysis consists of data descriptions, data analysis, and interpretation of research findings and discussion.

Chapter V: The conclusion and the suggestion where the researcher gives the summary of the conclusion related to the data analysis, suggestion related to the significances of the research.