

# THE USE OF ELLIPSIS BY CHARACTER ‘HAZEL’ IN “*THE FAULT IN OUR STARS*” MOVIE SCRIPT

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## ABSTRACT

Ellipsis is omission of words which has been understood well from the omission will not change the meaning of the utterance itself. We can find mostly ellipsis in spoken language. One of spoken languages we can use as the medium in learning ellipsis is movie script. One of many great movie scripts is *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script by Scott Neustadter & Michael H. Weber. The aim of the research is to find out the use of Ellipsis by ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script. This research is descriptive qualitative research since it analyzes the use of ellipsis by ‘Hazel’ in the movie script. The data are the ellipsis which are used by character ‘Hazel’ in each her utterances in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script from 50 scenes. The result of the research shows there are three 124 utterances consist of 31 Nominal Ellipsis with 25%, 4 Verbal Ellipsis with 3.23%, and 89 Clause Ellipsis with 71.77%. The most dominant type of Ellipsis that used by character ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script is Clause Ellipsis with 89 total numbers and total percentages 71.77%. It means people in having conversation want to be as effective as possible since the most complex grammatical unit is a clause. From this research, I hope the readers, lecturers, and students should apply ellipsis appropriately in their daily conversation in order to avoid misunderstanding in the conversation since ellipsis appears mostly in the informal context and daily conversation.

**Keywords:** *Ellipsis, Movie Script “The Fault in Our Stars”*

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## INTRODUCTION

Communication highly correlates with life since no one could survive in the world without it. In addition to basic needs, good habit, communication skills are necessary, because of its function to make social beings happy and improve the quality of life. The ability to communicate information accurately, clearly and as intended, is a vital life skill and something that should not be overlooked (McFarland 1994:56).

When we have a conversation with the other people. Sometimes we as speaker expect them as listener to recognize what we speak, what we want, what we act by our words. But, in informal conversation, we often leave out words when the meaning can be understood by the listener. This case is called the ellipsis. Ellipsis is omission from the sentence of words needed to complete the constructions or meaning (Hornby 1974:280). In ellipsis, a word or words can be omitted but must be considered that the meaning of the text not make any changes. Ellipsis can show a pause in the conversation, unfinished thoughts or things intentionally delayed or withheld. And to make an effective sentence and to avoid misunderstanding of giving information. In Cohesion in English, the theoretical framework of ellipsis is divided into nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, and clausal ellipsis (Halliday and Hasan 2006).

In the modernization and almost instantaneous era, people prefer watching movies to reading novels as people do not spend a lot of time to obtain the end of the story. Learning English through movies also support one to practice English in listening and speaking skills. In a movie, writers and directors will cut as much as they can, but they never know what will work or not. They write and direct scenes hoping to get the message across and obtain the best performances out of their talent. And also a character in the movie definitely uses the same way of expressing something through dialogue by removing the word deliberately to shorten the time, for example, describing what can no longer be spoken by a character in the story as a very deep emotion, causing the word -said not out to reveal something, marking a long pause, marking a springboard to a suddenness,

events or thoughts that are unexpected or as a sign of the completion of speaking, the paucity of people talking, etc. That's why in speaking, many people find the use of a short sentence or a word missing from the sentence uttered without making any changes to the purpose of the conversation. In this modern times, a simple way is required to communicate. Informal language is often used in daily communication with friends or peers. Most viewers do not know what the concept of an ellipsis is, but they sure appreciate subliminally to use ellipsis as an advantage in watching a movie. As the characters in the film are described from real life in a good way of behaving and speaking. As the case in the movie which will be analyzed, the character is filled by a beautiful teenager named Hazel. The role brought a lesson to the audience. *'The Fault In Our Stars'* movie has the moral lesson to stop complaining and start answering the challenge to make the adulthood in the face of life. Based on the explanations above, the researcher will be analyzed this study by using cohesion theory but focuses on Ellipsis. The researcher has chosen *The Fault in Our Stars* movie as the data source of this research, because while watching this movie, the researcher found some what the character's dialogue omission. It is important to get the types of ellipsis in each utterances that can be found the use of a short sentence or a word missing from the sentence uttered in movie, to avoid the repetition and miscommunication and also to get a good understanding on the whole story in the movie.

The research questions of the present study are: what types of ellipsis are used by character 'Hazel' in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script?, what is the dominant type of ellipsis used by character 'Hazel' in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script? And, what the reasons of ellipsis are used by character 'Hazel' in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script?

## **Ellipsis and Its Types**

### ***Ellipsis***

Ellipsis occurs when something that is structurally necessary is left unsaid (Halliday and Hasan 2006:142). It means that there is something missing in builds

a text but nevertheless understood by the reader or listener. Ellipsis as deletion that occur when the structure of one sentence is incomplete and the missing elements can be recovered from a previous sentence unambiguously. Ellipsis and substitution, as mechanism of cohesion, can be defined, in the simplest way, as language processes within a single text: substitution is a re-placement of one language category with another category, while ellipsis represents complete omission of these categories: ‘Substitution and ellipsis are both devices for avoiding the unnecessary repetition of words or phrases in speech or writing. (Hall&Foley 2003: 328). Ellipsis can economize on sentence space but the writer must be careful to ensure that the omitted words are grammatically compatible and not make any change in meaning. The listener still understands the answers even though some elements of the sentences are missing. Though substitution and ellipsis are same in their nature and function; however, ellipsis is different as it is “substitution by zero” for the sake of economy emphasis or style.

### *Types of Ellipsis*

Halliday and Hasan (2006 : 142) states that ellipsis of three types: nominal ellipsis where some noun is missing, verbal ellipsis where verb is missing and clausal ellipsis where the whole clause is missing as the following:

1. Nominal Ellipsis refers to ellipsis within the nominal group. The function of nominal group as a noun. In general, any nominal group having the function of head filled by a word that normally functions within the Modifier is an elliptical one. Nominal ellipsis occurs within the nominal group is functioning as a noun. In detail, types of nominal ellipsis are functioning as Deictic, Numerative, Epithet or Classifier from the status of Modifier to that of Head.
2. Verbal ellipsis is defined as ellipsis within the verbal group. In other words, verbal ellipsis is technically defined as a verbal group which the structure does not fully express its syntactic features- all the choices that are being made within the verbal group systems. In the verbal group, unlike

nominal ellipsis, there is only one lexical element, and that is the verb itself. According to Halliday and Hasan (2006:170), there are two basic kinds of verbal ellipsis. They are: (a) Lexical Ellipsis and (b) Operator Ellipsis.

3. Ellipsis in the clause is related to mood. Clause ellipsis is the ellipsis between the clauses. Specifically, it is related to the question – answer process in dialogue, and it determines that there are two kinds, they are: (a) Yes/No ellipsis and (b) WH- ellipsis.

### ***Movie***

A movie is a type of visual communication which uses moving pictures and sound to tell stories or inform. People in every part of the world watch movies as a type of entertainment, a way to have fun. For some people, fun movies can mean movies that make them laugh, while for other it can mean movies that make them cry, or feel afraid. Movie also called a film. It is recording photographic images with camera or using animation techniques or visual effects. Usually, the movie tells about our daily life stories or the things around our activities. Movie is so entertaining. It is also provoke thought as well as feeling, to alter the viewer awareness, to provide an experience that transcends the time spent actually sitting in the theater. (www.answer.com)

### ***The Fault in Our Stars (Movie)***

The Fault in Our Stars is a 2014 American romantic drama film directed by Josh Boone, based on the novel of the same name by John Green. The film stars Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, and Nat Wolff, with Laura Dern, Sam Trammell, and Willem Dafoe playing supporting roles. Woodley plays Hazel Grace Lancaster, a sixteen-year-old cancer patient who is forced by her parents to attend a support group, where she subsequently meets and falls in love with Augustus Waters, played by Elgort. The Fault in Our Stars was released on June 6, 2014, in the United States. The film received a positive reception from critics, with praise going to Woodley's performance as well as the script. The film was also a huge box office hit, becoming number one

at the box office during its opening weekend and grossed over US\$304 million worldwide against its budget of \$12 million. It was released on Blu-Ray and DVD on September 16, 2014.

## METHODOLOGY

Descriptive qualitative method was applied to analyze the data. This research would produce descriptive data in form of written words. In this study, the sources of data was derived from themoviescript”*The Fault in Our Stars*”written by Scott Neustadter& Michael H. Weber. Thedata were the ellipsis which are used by character ‘Hazel’ in each her utterances in “*The Fault in Our Stars*” movie script from 50 scenes.

The data were analyzed to find out the use of ellipsis by character ‘Hazel’ in “The Fault in Our Stars” movie script, by identifying the ellipsis which is found in the script, classifying ellipsis in to their types, counting the occurrences of each types of ellipsis by using the percentage formula, finding out the most dominant types of ellipsis is used in this movie script, and describe the reason of using ellipsis in the movie script.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### *Result*

After searching, downloading, watching, reading, identifying, classifying the data into the types of ellipsis in each the utterances by the main character ‘Hazel’ in “*The Fault in Our Stars*” movie script. The writer counted the total number and the percentage of each types of the ellipsis used by character ‘Hazel’ in “The Fault in Our Stars” movie script. All types of ellipsis and they were shown in the total number in the following table:

Table 1. The total number and percentage of the types of Ellipsis by character ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script.

No.	Types of Ellipsis	Number	Percentages (%)
✓	Nominal Ellipsis	31	25

✓	Verbal Ellipsis	4	3.23
✓	Clause Ellipsis	89	71.77
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>100</b>

The data from table 1 above shows the total number and percentage of the type of Ellipsis by character ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script. It shows that there are 124 utterances consist of 31 Nominal Ellipsis with 25%, 4 Verbal Ellipsis with 3.23%, and 89 Clause Ellipsis with 71.77%. From table 1, the dominant type of Ellipsis that used by character ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script is Clause Ellipsis with 89 total numbers and total percentages 71.77%. The most dominant type of Ellipsis used by character ‘Hazel’ in ‘The Fault in Our Stars’ movie script is Clause Ellipsis. It means people in having conversation want to be as effective as possible since the most complex grammatical unit is a clause. In this case, a main character ‘Hazel’ uses the most Clause Ellipsis in her utterances because in this movie, ‘Hazel’ more usual conveys her utterances by V.O (Voice Over). As same as Hazel is talking about a story of her life in formal or a public situation. It means that the sentences are used more complex with the clause groups so that the audiences more understand what the aim of Hazel’s expressions.

### ***Discussion***

After collecting and analyzing the data, it shows that all types of ellipsis used by character ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie and found the most dominant type that Hazel used as the main character is clause ellipsis. The occurrences of clause ellipsis in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie are 89 in from the entire movie. The scriptwriter usually used the ellipsis for practically, to avoid the repetition and make the beauty or interesting text. In this case, a main character ‘Hazel’ uses the most Clause Ellipsis in her utterances because in this movie, ‘Hazel’ more usual conveys her utterances by V.O (Voice Over). Halliday and Hasan (2006) defined it as “*an ellipsis in the clause is related to mood. Specifically, it is related to the question – answer process in dialogue and it*

determines that there are two kinds, they are: (a) Yes/No ellipsis and (b) WH-ellipsis". It means the scriptwriters use ellipsis between the clause in Hazel's sentences to economize on sentence space and to emphasize or style a part of the structure that has been omitted and can restrict possible readings, express otherwise in effable meanings, clarify discourse functions and establish rapport between Hazel and others.

Example:

- 1) On the one hand, you can sugar coat- the way they do in movies and [] romance novels.

The element is simply missed out in the sentence is "*the way they do in romance novels*" and it is a clause ellipsis. So the complete sentence should be: **On the one hand, you can sugar coat. The way they do in movies and the way they do in romance novels.**

- 2) Why [] stop there?

In this sentence above, there is something missing is "*do you*". It is a WH- Ellipsis. And it is the part of the clause. There is the mood element is left in and only the residue is ellipsed. So the complete sentence should be: **Why do you stop there?**

- 3) What [] ?

In this sentence above, there is an ellipted element "*do you mean?*" The sentence should be : "**What do you mean?**" It is a the whole clause of WH-Ellipsis.

- 4) No. [] I'm just... []

It should be : **No, I do not. I am just tell you about "An Imperial Affliction".** There is ellipted element is '*I do not*' and '*tell you about "An Imperial Affliction"*'. The sentence is Yes/No Ellipsis. in a yes/no question- answer may involve ellipsis of the whole clause.

- 5) No [] .

It should be : '**No, it does not have zombies**'. There is ellipted element is '*it does not have zombies*'. The sentence is Yes/No Ellipsis. in a yes/no question- answer may involve ellipsis of the whole clause.

The minor type of ellipsis that used Hazel in this movie is verbal ellipsis, because Hazel is seldom to answer the addresses' question with verbal groups.

As found by Al-duleimi (2013), Jabeen and Iqbal (2013) found that the use of ellipsis in religious texts are to economize on sentence space and to emphasize



or style a part of the structure that has been omitted and can restrict possible readings, express otherwise ineffable meanings, clarify discourse functions and establish rapport between the addresser and the addressee. In a play “The Bear” by Anton Checkhov, they found that the use of ellipsis is to avoid the burdening repetitions within the text and to make the whole text coherent. And also Setiyorini (2013) found that the application of ellipsis in the *Transformers 3 “Dark of the Moon”* movie script by Ehren Kruger is to avoid the repetition and make the text beauty.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

### *Conclusions*

After analyzing the ellipsis in each dialogue by the main character ‘Hazel’ in “*The Fault in Our Stars*” movie script, conclusions are drawn as the following. First, There are three types of ellipsis found in each utterance by the main character ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script. They are Nominal Ellipsis (25%) with 31 utterances, Verbal Ellipsis (3.23%) with 4 utterances, and Clause Ellipsis (71.77%) with 89 utterances. The total number of Ellipsis is 124 utterances that are used by character ‘Hazel’ in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie script.

Second, Clause Ellipsis is the dominant types of ellipsis used in the dialogues (71.77%). It means the clause ellipsis is used in order to avoid the repetition of clause because it has been stated before. Hazel in having conversation wants to be as effective as possible since the most complex grammatical unit is a clause.

Finally, the type of ellipsis used in movie script in order to make an effective sentence. It also can make the sentence in the script more interesting and to be understood by the audience. In this case, a main character ‘Hazel’ uses the most Clause Ellipsis in her utterances because in this movie, ‘Hazel’ more usual conveys her utterances by V.O (Voice Over). It means the scriptwriters use ellipsis between the clause in Hazel’s sentences to economize on sentence space and to emphasis or style a part of the structure that has been omitted and can

restrict possible readings, express otherwise in effable meanings, clarify discourse functions and establish rapport between Hazel and others.

### ***Suggestions***

To In relation to the conclusions, and the research findings, there are some suggestions needed to be considered. For the students of English Department who further studies be conducted towards the ellipsis in other field to gain more information about ellipsis. It is expected that the scriptwriter of movie must concern about the use of ellipsis in her/his script or dialogue, so the ideas or the message of her/his words can be easily understood by the audience or the listener. From this research, the writer hopes the readers, lecturers, and students should apply ellipsis appropriately in their daily conversation in order to avoid misunderstanding in the conversation since ellipsis appears mostly in the informal context and daily conversation.

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