
**APPLYING TRANSFORMATIONAL GENERATIVE GRAMMAR ON ELLIPSIS
ANALYSIS OF THE SHORT STORY *HILLS LIKE WHITE ELEPHANTS* BY
ERNEST HEMINGWAY**

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ABSTRAK

Tulisan ini mengkaji struktur dasar, proses transformasi dan tipe yang terjadi pada kalimat-kalimat yang mengalami pelesapan elemen atau *ellipsis*. Penulis mengambil data dari sebuah cerita pendek berbahasa Inggris yang berjudul *Hills Like White Elephants* karangan Ernest Hemingway. Dalam mengumpulkan data, metode yg digunakan adalah metode observasi, sedangkan dalam menganalisis data, metode yang digunakan adalah metode distribusi. Kedua metode tersebut merujuk pada metode yang dikemukakan oleh Sudaryanto (1993). Teori utama yang digunakan dalam menganalisis data adalah teori ellipsis oleh Quirk dan Greenbaum (1990) dan Transformational Generative Grammar yang dikembangkan oleh Huddleston (1976). Data yang dianalisis adalah lima belas kalimat yang mengalami *ellipsis*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat enam macam proses transformasi yang terjadi pada kalimat yang mengalami pelesapan, yaitu *conjunction shift*, *deletion*, *particle shift*, *not placement*, *do-support* dan *affix hopping*. Elemen yang sering dihilangkan dalam kalimat adalah subjek, *auxiliary* dan predikat.

Kata kunci: *ellipsis, struktur dasar, proses transformasi*

ABSTRACT

This research deals with the base structures and the transformational processes that are used to find out the types of ellipsis occur in the ellipted sentences in the short story entitled *Hills Like White Elephants* by Ernest Hemingway. In collecting the data, the method used is observational method, while in analyzing the data is ditributional method. Both are referring to the methods proposed by Sudaryanto (1993). The main theory used to analyze the data are ellipsis as developed by Quirk and Greenbaum (1990) and Transformational Generative Grammar by Huddleston (1976). The data analyzed are fifteen sentences that contain ellipsis. The result shows that there are six types of transformational process occur in the data; conjunction shift, deletion, particle shift, not placement, do-support and affix hopping. Those processes are used to convert the deep structure into the surface structure. In addition, ellipsis frequently occurs in the elements such as subject, auxiliary and predicate.

Keywords: *ellipsis, base strcuture, transformational process*

1. Introduction

According to Chomsky (1957:12), "language considers being a set of sentences". Huddleston (1976:52) says that sentence has two structures; "the deep and the surface structure". The deep structure is the base structure of the sentence, while the surface structure is the final structure used in communication. In the production, there is usually certain part of

sentence that are complete in the deep structure but omitted in the surface structure. This is caused by the deletion during the transformational process, which is often called ellipsis. For example:

- a. John plays the guitar and Mary the piano.
- b. John plays the guitar and Mary doesn't.
- c. John plays the guitar, and Mary, too.

From the examples, the construction of (a) can be interpreted as "... Mary plays the piano.", the verb "plays" in the second conjunct is elided. In (b), the second conjunct is interpreted as "... Mary doesn't play the piano.". Then, example (c) is interpreted as "... and Mary plays the guitar, too.". These show ellipsed parts, the missing parts, in the sentences.

According to Winkler (2005:10), the term ellipsis came from Greek '*elleipsis*', which refers to "the omission of the linguistic material, structure and sound". Biber (1999:156) states that "ellipsis is the omission of the elements which are precisely recoverable from the linguistic or situational context". In this writing, the writer only focuses on the linguistic context of the elliptical parts that refer to the term textual ellipsis. The linguistic material then can be omitted, deleted or simply left unpronounced.

The aim of this research is to find out the ellipsis which appears in the sentences of the short story entitled *Hills Like White Elephants* by Ernest Hemingway. This short story is delivered in short sentences and many dialogues. Along the story, Hemingway shows the imitation of life by doing two interactions of human beings. There are examples of ellipsis often occur in the interactions.

2. Background of the Research

The analysis of the ellipsis will be based on the point of view of syntax. Here, the writer will analyze the data by using Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG). TGG is used to find the process of sentences that contain ellipsis which transforms the deep structure of the surface structure. By having TGG, it can help the reader in determining and differentiating the deep structure and surface structure used in communication.

2.1. Identification of the Problem

This research describes the deep structure, the transformational process and the type of the ellipsed sentences in this story. Here, the writer proposes three research questions;

1. What are the deep structures of the ellipted sentences found in the short story *Hills Like White Elephants* by Ernest Hemingway?
2. What are the transformational processes of the ellipted sentences?
3. What are the types of the ellipsis of the ellipted sentences?

2.2. Theoretical Framework

2.2.1. Transformational Generative Grammar

Transformational generative grammar (TGG) is originated and developed by Noam Chomsky. He calls his theory as the ‘Standard Theory’. Palmer (1983:127) states that Transformational Generative Grammar contains two elements; Transformation and Generative. The meaning of the term transformation is to convert one sentence into another, active into passive, declarative into interrogative, or, two sentences into one. Transformation also has a rule that permits the movement of the elements, but could not change the meaning of the sentence. Meanwhile, Generative means to generate all the grammatical sentences of a language in order to rule out the latter by means of a surface structure filter. In other words, it is needed to predict or specify what could be the sentences which probably take place in the surface structure.

2.2.2. Syntactic vs. Discourse Ellipsis

Ellipsis exist both in the syntactic and discourse structure. In the syntactic structure, ellipsis occurs within the sentence and between individual clauses. Quirk (2000:883) says that ellipsis is described as “the grammatical omission which contrasts to other kinds of omission in the language”. The elliptical part must be able to be traced back to the part presented in a previous phrase or clause within the same sentence (Quirk, 1984:451). In this writing, the writer focuses on the syntactic ellipsis, the ellipsis depending on the linguistic context called textual ellipsis. Quirk (1990:256) says that “textual ellipsis is the omission where the interpretation is dependent on the linguistic context”. In addition, ellipsis in discourse structure is investigated by Halliday. He divides ellipsis into three categories; nominal, verbal and clausal ellipsis. He tends to use the term “cohesion” in every elliptical part, ignores intra-sentence presupposition and focuses on the ellipsis in the relation between sentences. He claims that between sentences there are no structural relations and that is why the study of cohesion becomes important.

2.3.2. Types of Ellipsis

Quirk (1990:256) classifies ellipsis into three types; textual ellipsis, structural ellipsis and situational ellipsis. Textual ellipsis is the omission of the element which is recoverable from the linguistic context, which divides into different parts depending on which elements have been ellipited. Structural ellipsis is a kind of ellipsis, which depends on the knowledge of grammar. While, situational ellipsis is a type of ellipsis depending on the situational context and not in the textual context.

2.3. Methodology

In conducting the research, three steps are followed. The first is collecting the data from the short story entitled *Hills Like White Elephants* by Ernest Hemingway. From this source, the writer collected 26 data systematically, then selected 15 data that contain the textual ellipsis adequate for this research. The second is analyzing the data by using distributional method (Sudaryanto, 1993:31-40). Distributional method is a method of analyzing data in which the key factors are defined from the language itself. The last is presenting the results analysis descriptively.

3. Review of Related Literature

The writer provides some reviews about ellipsis and compares them to this study. The first research was conducted by Fukaya, et al. (1994). The aim of this research is to analyze the ellipited elements and the differences of ellipsis uses in Japanese and English. The data of this research were taken from two bilingual recordings of American baseball. The result shows that there are several differences between ellipsis in Japanese and English. First, in announcing the same event, Japanese announcer only mentions the subject while the verbal elements are completely ellipited. Meanwhile, American announcer used a complete sentence to describe an action. Similarly, the subject and the object, sometimes were ellipited while there were no ellipses in American announcer's comment. Then, in Japanese, there is a standard routine or formula in which only the position and name are given and other elements are omitted. Meanwhile, in English, there is no particular routine for introduction and the English full name given completely.

The second study was conducted by Fellerer (2000) from University of Oxford. He focuses on the ellipsis in Polish verb phrase ellipsis which is divided into three categories; gap, verb phrase (VP) ellipsis and omission of the object. The data of this research were taken

from Slavonic languages. Fellerer concludes that gapping and VP ellipsis are two different syntactic operations. Gapping occurs only on the coordinate clause, while verb phrase ellipsis occurs in the subordinate clause.

4. Analysis

There are 15 examples of ellipsis analyzed from the short story. The writer finds three kinds of the elements which are frequently omitted in the sentences; the subject, auxiliary and predicate, as discussed as follows;

4.1. The omission of Auxiliary

Auxiliary can be omitted alone or together with the subject. In this story, auxiliary always derives with the subject, like in the example “*She had taken off her hat and put it on the table.*” Here, there is a missing element in the above sentence. To find out that missing element, the writer generates the sentence into the terminal string by using the phrase structure rules, to recover the deep structure of the ellipted sentence (see Figure 1.)

The deep structure of the sentence is ‘*And she past have en take off her hat she past have en put it on the table.*’ The writer finds five transformational processes in this sentence. The first is Conjunction Shift. It is used to move the position of the conjunction ‘and’ from the beginning to the position between the two clauses. The second is Constituent Deletion that wishes to remove the constituent. The third transformation is Affix Hopping that moves the position of the element of the sentence from an unordered position to the ordered one. From all transformations, the writer derives the surface structure of the sentence; ‘*She had taken off her hat and put it on the table,*’ which is always used by people in the daily communication.

From several transformations, the writer finds ellipsis in the sentence. As seen in the transformational process, the constituents such ‘*she+have+en*’ are elided. They function as a subject and an auxiliary. The sentence can be classified as a type of ellipsis, that is the textual ellipsis especially ellipsis of subject plus auxiliary. Here is the comparison of the deep structure and the surface structure tree diagrams;

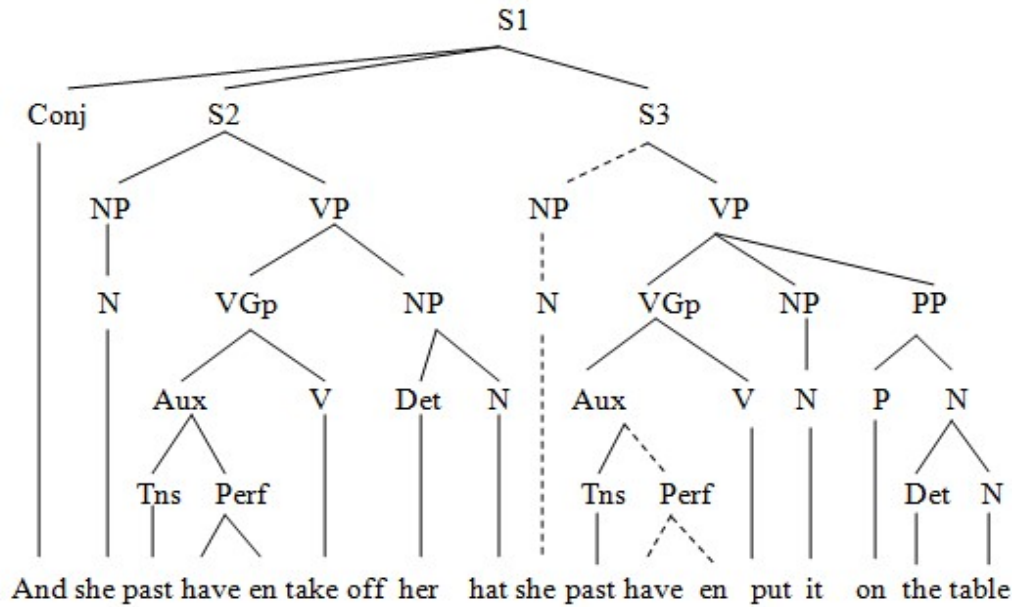


Figure 1. The deep structure

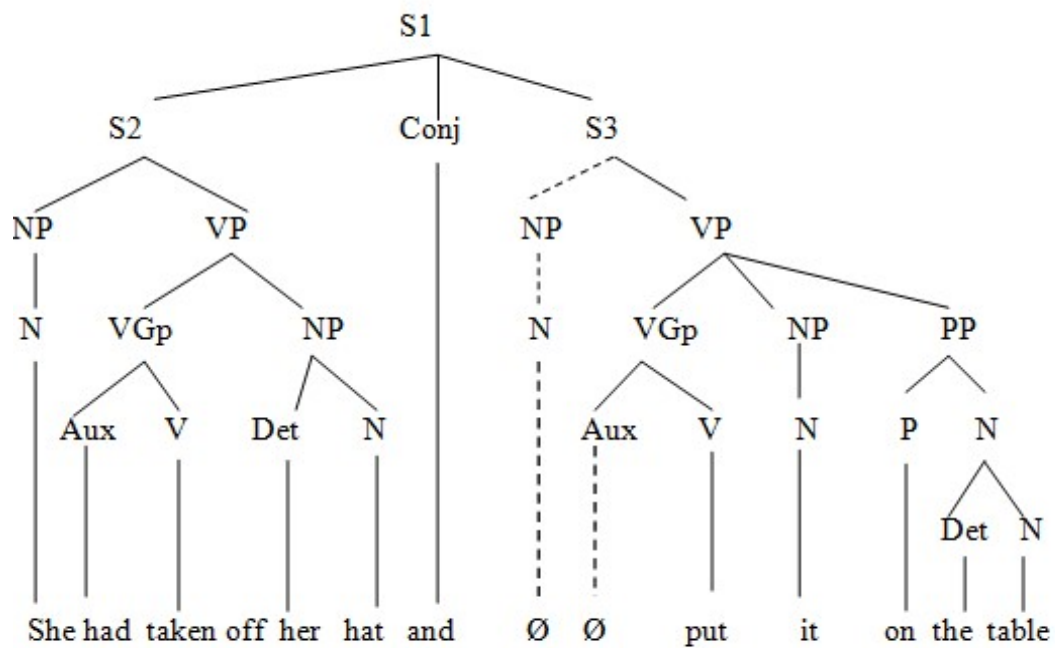


Figure 2. The surface structure

4.2. The Exclusion of Subject

The omission of the subject is the dominant element that occurs in the short story. The analysis can be found in the example *“He looked up the tracks but could not see the train”*

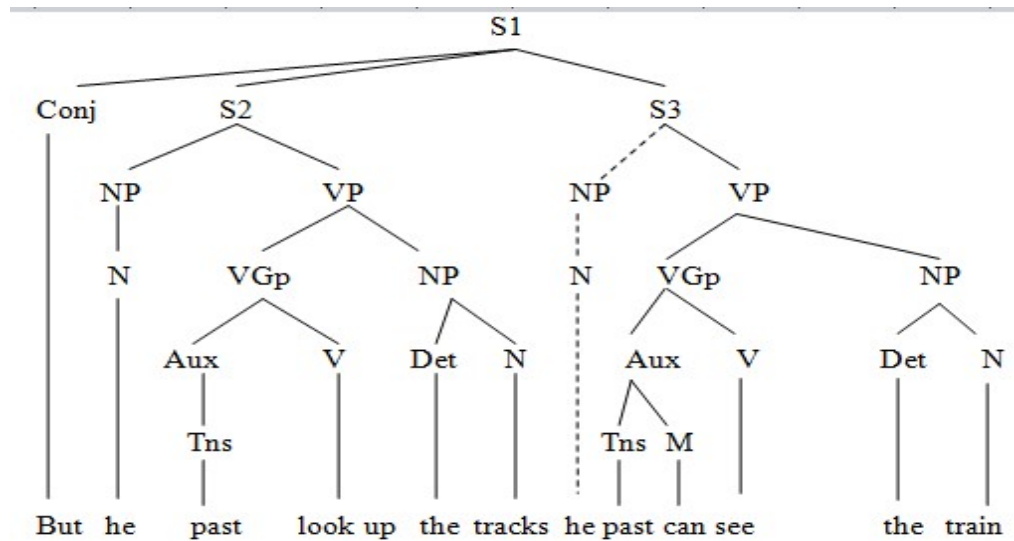


Figure 3. The deep structure

from the sentence;

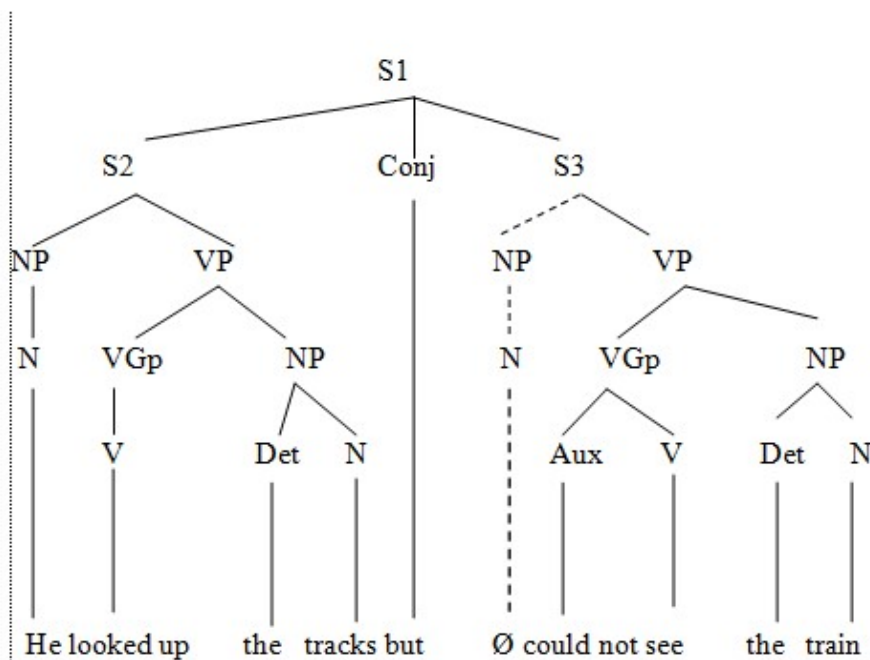


Figure 4. The surface structure

The deep structure of the sentence is 'But he past look up the tracks he past can see the train.' This sentence has passed through five steps of transformation. The first is Conjunction Shift which moves the position of the conjunction 'but' from the beginning of the sentence to the position between the two clauses. The second transformation is Not Placement. It is used to put 'not' in the right position in order to make a negation. Then, Deletion transformation occurs to remove the constituent 'he'. The last two transformations are Affix Hopping. The elliptical process takes place within the nominal group where the subject 'he' in the second clause is elided. It functions as subject in the second clause. From that case, the writer classifies the type of ellipsis of this sentence into the textual ellipsis, especially ellipsis of subject.

4.3. The Omission of Predicate

The omission of the predicate in this story is always omitted together with the subject. The analysis of "The woman brought two glasses of beer and two felt pads." is as follows;

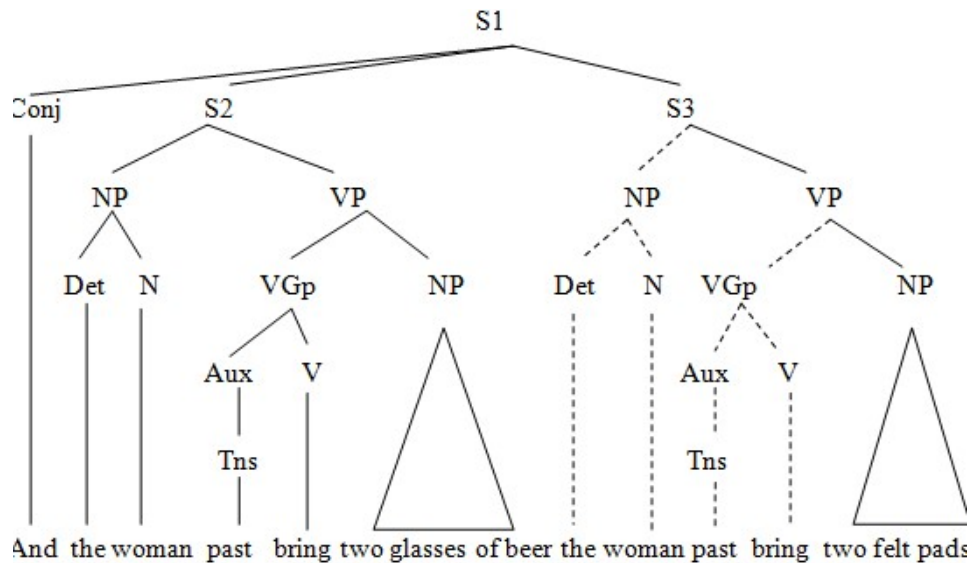


Figure 5. The deep structure

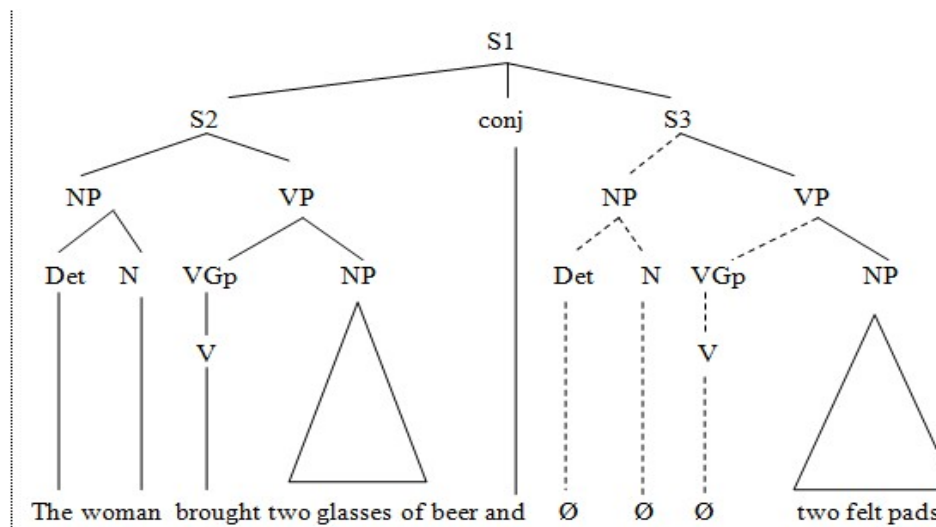


Figure 6. The surface structure

After breaking the sentence into the terminal strings, the writer finds the deep structure ‘*And the woman past bring two glasses of beer the woman past bring two felt pads.*’ The deep structure, then, transforms to the surface structure by using the transformational process. Transformation is the process in changing the deep structure into the surface structure. As Chomsky says (1957:29), transformation is used to convert the deep structure in the surface structure. Transformation in the sentence occurs three times. The first is Conjunction Shift. It is used to move the conjunction ‘*and*’ from its position to the position between the two clauses. The second is Constituent Deletion. It is used to remove the constituents ‘*the+woman+past+bring*’ which functions as the subject and predicate in the second clause. The last transformation is Affix Hopping. It is used to transfer the constituents from unordered position, ‘*past bring*’, into the ordered, ‘*bring past.*’ As a result, the constituents ‘*the+woman+past+bring*’ appear in the deep structure but miss in the surface structure. They function as the subject and predicate of the second clause. From those points, the writer classifies the elliptical parts of the sentence into one of the types of ellipsis. This omission is included to the textual ellipsis, particularly ellipsis of predicate plus subject.

5. Conclusion

The writer concludes that there are six stages of the transformational process occur in the elected sentences; Conjunction Shift, Constituent Deletion, Affix Hopping, Not Placement, Do Support and Particle Shift. The writer, then, determines three types of ellipsis

that occur in the data. They are ellipsis of subject, subject plus auxiliary and predicate plus subject. The most frequent ellipsis is the omission of the subject that occurs eight times. Meanwhile, the ellipsis of subject and auxiliary take place three times, as well as the omission of predicate plus subject. Based on the findings, the writer concludes that the deep structure and the transformational process are the tools used to find out the types of ellipsis. Ellipsis, then, occurs frequently in this short story. It is related to the author of this short story, Ernest Hemingway, who wrote simply with many ellipses.

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