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## ELLIPSIS IN ENGLISH AS FOUND IN SHERMAN ALEXEI'S NOVEL RESERVATION BLUES

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### ABSTRACT

*This research is about Ellipsis in English As Found in Sherman Alexei's Novel Reservation Blues. The objectives of the research are (1) To find out the types of ellipsis used in the sentences in Sherman Alexei's Novel Reservation Blues. (2) To find out the most dominant types of ellipsis used in the sentences in Sherman Alexei's Novel Reservation Blues. In analyzing the data, the researchers applied the theory of Halliday and Hasan (1976). The number of the data is 115 data. The result of the analysis shows that the ellipsis found in Sherman Alexei's Novel Reservation Blues is dominated by verbal ellipsis that is forty four utterances or 38.2 % then comes clausal ellipsis that is forty utterances or 35 %. The least is nominal ellipsis that is thirty one utterances or 27 %.*

**Keywords:** *Ellipsis, Sherman Alexei's Novel, Reservation Blues.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

English as international language has been placed at the high position and the major language to be used for communication all over the world. It has its own structure such as morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Sentence as one of the language units is a set of words expressing statement, question, and order. It usually contains subject and predicate. In producing sentences, we occasionally find the same words or phrases. Sometimes people do not like to repeat the same things in sentences because it may cause boredom. In order to avoid repetition (both across sentences and within sentences), there are pronouns to substitute such a thing. These sentences below are examples when some elements of the sentences are omitted to avoid repetition:

(1) a: My father likes tea

b: So do I

(2) a: Don't forget to keep the book back

b: I won't

Sentence (1) b means that the speaker also likes tea. Meanwhile in (2) b, the speaker wants to say that he/she will not forget to keep the books back. These sentences are not uttered completely

because it sounds awkward and tedious. So people try to avoid redundancy in their sentences by using ellipsis.

Ellipsis is the omission of required elements capable of being understood in the context of their use (Burton, 1986: 101). It means the element of the sentence such as subject, verb, or object can be omitted as long as it can be understood from the rest. It occurs when an element appears twice or more in a sentence. For examples:

(3) a: I had invited Robert to come to my birthday party but he didn't want to come to my birthday party.

b: I had invited Robert to come to my birthday party but he did not want to.

Sentence (3a) has the same verb phrase in the first and the second clause that is 'come to my birthday party'. One of them can be deleted as we see in (3b). Although a part of the sentence that is the phrase 'come to my birthday party' is deleted from the sentence, the meaning of the sentence is still understood from the rest of the sentence.

Since ellipsis is one of the five ways by which cohesion is created in English as proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976), the researchers are interested in conducting this research to find out the deleted elements



called ellipsis in Sherman Alexei's novel *Reservation Blues* published in 1995. This research can help the readers of the novel to understand it.

Based on the background of the research above, the researchers formulate the problems as the following:

- i. What types of ellipsis are used in the sentences in Sherman Alexei's Novel *Reservation Blues*?
- ii. What type of ellipsis is the most dominantly used in the sentences in Sherman Alexei's Novel *Reservation Blues*

This research is specifically restricted to the study of ellipsis in English as proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) as found in Sherman Alexei's Novel *Reservation Blues*. In this study the researchers take the following steps:

In this research, the data were taken from Sherman Alexei's Novel *Reservation Blues*, Published in 1995 by Atlantic Montly Press, New York.

The number of the data is 115 data which represent all types of ellipsis.

First of all, the researchers read the novel and identified the sentences or utterances containing ellipsis and classified them according to their types whether they are nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis, or clausal ellipsis.

The data were analyzed based on the theory as proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976). The first step is to explain the types of ellipsis used in the novel. The second is to classify the types of ellipsis used in the novel.

## 2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Cohesion

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 5) state that cohesion refers to the relations of meaning which exist within the text. Cohesion occurs where the interpretation of some elements in the discourse is dependent on that of another. Cohesion is a semantic relation between an element in the text and some elements that is crucial to the interpretation

of it. In this case, the elements can be the presupposing and the presupposed elements. Halliday and Hasan (1976: 6) state that there are five ways by which cohesion is created in English: by reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion. Since ellipsis is one of the five ways by which cohesion is created in English, it will be discussed below.

#### 2.1.1 Ellipsis

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 88) say that ellipsis is the omission of an item in which the item is replaced by nothing. In other words, ellipsis is known as 'substitution by zero'. Since substitution is the replacement of an item by another item to fill the substitution, it can be taken from the preceding clause. Ellipsis occurs when an element appears twice or more in a sentence.

For example:

(4) Jane bought some cakes and Bryan - some bread

In sentence (4), there is a slot between Bryan and some cakes and to fill this slot for the missing word here is by the verb *bought*. The second clause is interpreted as complete form *Bryan bought some bread*.

Jeffries (2006: 186) states that ellipsis is grammatical process that has function to avoid repetition and it is more economical. However the fact that a word, or phrase is so predictable that it can be left out and speakers will still know what it means. There is a cohesive link to the sentence in which the full form occurs :

(5) Haworth is best in winter. Hawes in the summer

The second sentence here is linked to the first by the fact that we know the verb and the complement is *best* missing.

Richards (1985: 228) says that ellipsis is the leaving out of words or phrases from the sentences where they are unnecessary because they have been already referred to or mentioned. For example when the two subjects of verb in two coordinated clauses are the same, one of them may be omitted to avoid repetition :



(6) The man went to the door and (he) opened it

Through the definition above we can see that Richards and Jeffries have the same opinion about ellipsis. They say that ellipsis has function to avoid repetition. Burton-Roberts (1986: 101) says that ellipsis is the omission of required elements of capable of being understood in the context of their use. For examples:

(7) He knew the answer but (he) did not want to say it.

(8) We have given Mary flowers and (we have given) John a bottle of whisky.

(9) Mary can't sing tonight, so she won't (sing).

In sentence (7) the subjects in the first and the second clause are the same that is 'he'. If the subject of the clauses are the same, the omission of the subject of the second clause is normal. The clauses of sentence (8) have the same verbs and subjects in the first and the second clause that is 'we have given'. If the phrases are the same so we can omit the verb phrase of the second clause. And in sentence (9) the verb 'sing' in the first clause is the same as the verb of the second clause. Although the element is omitted from the sentence the meaning is still understood from their remains.

According to Quirk *et al.* (1985: 884) ellipsis is actual words whose meaning is understood or implied.

For examples:

(10) I will go to campus and (I) don't tell it to my friend

(11) George works in a factory and his brother (works) on a farm

In sentence (10) the subject 'I' in the first clause is the same as the subject of the second clause. Sentence (11) has the same verb 'works' as that of the second clause. If the phrases are identical, we can delete the verb phrase of the second clause.

Through the definition above, we can see that Quirk and Burton have the sane opinion about ellipsis that is permissible deletion of a part of the sentence as long as it can be predicted from what remains.

Furthermore, Hatch (1992: 225) says that ellipsis can be thought as a zero 'tie' because 'tie' is not actual.

For example:

(12) Would like to hear another verse? I know twelve\_

In example (12) above, after the word 'twelve' there is a slot which is not filled but remains empty. This slot is called a zero 'tie'. It is called so because there is no word to put in the place but it is left empty. Empty is the same as zero. The slot is unfilled because we can predict what word has been omitted. From the preceding sentence it would be natural to add 'verses' after the word 'twelve' and the entity 'verse' has been named but it is then deleted in the second clause.

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 166) divide ellipsis into three types, they are nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis and clausal ellipsis. Nominal ellipsis has three elements, they are deictic, numerative and epithet. Verbal ellipsis has two elements they are lexical ellipsis and operator ellipsis. Clausal ellipsis has two elements they are wh-ellipsis and yes/no ellipsis.

By nominal ellipsis we mean ellipsis within nominal group (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 147). It can only occur within nominal group. Nominal group must consist of head and modifier. The modifying elements include some modifiers which precede the head and some which follow it. The modifiers which follow the head are called premodifiers and the modifiers which precede the head are called postmodifiers.

For example:

(13) Those two fast electric trains with photograph

In the example (13) above, the premodifier 'those fast electric' precedes the head 'trains' and the postmodifier 'with photograph' follows the head 'trains'.

Burton-Roberts (1996: 147) says that nominal group must consist of head and modifier.

This modifier may precede or follow the head. For example:

(14) a: Do you like the black sweater?



b: The white is my favorite

Here the word 'sweater' in (14a) is omitted in (14b). The phrase 'the white' presupposes the noun 'sweater' and functions as head. In nominal ellipsis, however, the modifier can be combined by other structure which consists of some elements such as deictic (d), numerative (n), and epithet (e) (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 147).

In other word, it can be said that a nominal group has deictic, numerative and epithet in nominal ellipsis. The deictic is normally determiner, numerative is numeral and other quantifiers. They generally function as head in nominal ellipsis. These elements will be discussed below:

#### 2.1.1.1.1 Deictic

A deictic word is one which takes elements of its meaning from the situation, E.g the speaker, the addressee, time, place of utterance in which it is used (Hurford, 1985: 63).

For example:

(15) Wyatt Earpp meets Doc Holliday in Dodge city and says "this town ain't enough big enough for both of us".

In example (15) above, there are two deictic words; they are 'us' and 'town'. 'Town' refers to 'Dodge city' and 'us' refers to 'Wyatt Earpp' and 'Dodge Holliday'.

Furthermore, Halliday and Hasan (1976: 155) say that deictic words which occur in nominal group are demonstrative, possessive and determiner. Possessive includes both possessive adjective (my, your, his, etc), possessive pronoun (mine, yours, ours, hers, etc). Determiner involves some, either, enough, another, none, some, both, any, all, each, a(an), the, other, etc.

For examples:

(16) Mark says that our house is different from his (*house*).

(17) My uncle built a little wooden house next to my father's (*little wooden house*).

In sentence (16) the word 'his' is deictic and refers to Mark, the possessive 'his' functions as head and presupposes the missing word 'house'. Likewise, in sentence

(17) the phrase 'little wooden house' is deleted and the possessive 'My father's' which functions as head presupposes the missing element.

#### 2.1.1.1.2 Numerative

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 161) say that numerative element is expressed by cardinals, ordinals, and indefinite quantifiers. Cardinal numbers include one, two, three, four, etc. Ordinal numbers include first, second, third, fifth, etc are also frequent in ellipsis and they are often used with article. Indefinite quantifiers include much, few, many, most, more, several, little, hundred, etc.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976: 161), these numerative elements generally function as head in ellipsis.

For example:

(18) Here are my two white bags. I can lend you *one* if you like.

In the example (18), the cardinal number 'one' presupposes 'white bag'. It is ellipted and the cardinal number 'one' functions as head.

According to Salkei (1985: 58 ) it is common to have ellipsis after numbers. The ordinal numbers are *first, second, next, last, third, fourth*, etc. They are often used elliptically, generally with article '*the*' or possessive as the deictic. Here are examples with ordinal number :

(19) Smith was the first person to leave. I was the *second*.

(20) Tomorrow's meeting will have to be *their first* and *their last*.

(21) Have another chocolate. No thanks; that was my *third*.

. Ordinal numbers may be preceded by any deictic that is appropriate in number such as *the three, these three, the same three, another three, all three, the usual three, etc*.

(22) The first expedition to Antarctic was quickly followed by another two (expedition to Antarctic).

In example above (22), the cardinal number '*two*' presupposes the word '*expedition to Antarctic*'. And the cardinal



number 'two' is preceded by deictic 'another'. Indefinite quantifiers are *much*, *many*, *most*, *few*, *several*, *a little*, *lots*, *a bit*, *hundreds*, etc are frequently used in ellipsis.

(23) Many houses were damaged; *few* were destroyed

(24) Can all cats climb tree?\_\_ they all can; and *most* do

In sentence (23), the indefinite quantifier *few* in the second clause functions as head and presupposes the missing word that is *houses*. Likewise, in (24) the indefinite quantifier '*most*' also functions as head and presupposes the word '*cats*'.

### 2.1.1.1.3 Epithet

Halliday and Hasan (1976: 163) say that epithet is typically fulfilled by an adjective, comparative adjective, superlative adjective. For example :

(25) There are so many fruits, but the apple is the cheapest\_.

In sentence (25), a part of the clause that is '*fruit*' is deleted. The phrase '*the cheapest*' is an adjective and here it is not followed by the noun but it is still understood what is meant by '*the cheapest*' that is '*fruit*', because it has already been mentioned in previous clause.

Through the definition above, we can say that epithet is usually placed by an adjective. Adjective is a word that modifies noun ( Frank, 1992 : 3). For examples:

(26) Mary is *beautiful* girl.

(27) The *blue* jacket is mine.

In sentence (26) and (27), the underlined words are called adjectives. In nominal ellipsis, epithet normally functions as head ( Halliday and Hasan, 1976 166) as in example (25) above. In nominal ellipsis, it is common to find adjectives occurring as head. Only several adjectives can presuppose some missing elements in nominal group. The most usual adjectives are color adjectives, comparative and e superlative form that can readily act as head of elliptical noun. In other words, the position of head in epithet is taken by color

adjectives, comparative and superlative forms.

(28) She wore *the red* dress, but *the blue* (dress) more suit for her

(29) Jane is *the younger* girl, but Alice is *the taller* (girl)

(30) They say that the concert is *the finest* (concert) in the world

In the examples above, the word '*dress*' in (28) is omitted from the sentence and the position of head is taken by the color adjective '*blue*'. In sentence (29), the word '*girl*' is ellipped in the second clause and the comparative '*taller*' presupposes the word '*girl*'. Whereas in sentence (30), the word '*concert*' is also ellipped and is presupposed by the superlative adjective '*the finest*'.

Comparative and superlative forms can have ellipsis after them whether they are formed by putting *-er* and *-est* at the end and by using '*more*' and '*most*' (Salkei, 1995: 58).

(31) After making zany comedies, Woody Allen turned his attention to *more* serious subject. Of all his film, interiors is the most intense, but not necessarily *the best*.

### 2.1.1.2 Verbal Ellipsis

By verbal ellipsis we mean ellipsis within verbal group. Every verbal group contains a lexical verb as its head. A verbal group is the expansion of a verb, in the same way a nominal is the expansion of a noun (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 167).

(32) Have you seen the concert?-Yes, I have

The verbal group in the answer above '*have*' (in Yes, I have) is the instance of verbal ellipsis.

(33) Has been drinking

If we consider the example (33) above, it is just a sequence of words and consists of some elements: a verb '*been drinking*' and auxiliary '*has*'. This sequence of words called verbal group, follows such a rule in order to have a correct sequence. In a verbal group, there is only one lexical verb, that is the lexical verb itself.

(34) Does she like reading novel? She *doesn't*.



The example (34) is an instance of verbal ellipsis. The response consists of verbal ellipsis that is the clause '*She doesn't*' which means '*She doesn't like reading novel*'.

According to Halliday and Hasan (1976: 170), verbal ellipsis can be divided into two types, they are lexical ellipsis and operator ellipsis.

### 2.1.1.2.1 Lexical Ellipsis

Lexical ellipsis is the type of lexical ellipsis in which the lexical verb is missing from the verbal group (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 170). Lexical verb is the verb itself.

For example:

(35) I tried to close my eyes but I couldn't (sleep)

The word '*sleep*' is an example of lexical verb. It is ellipsed from the sentence. This ellipsis is normal since the verb '*sleep*' in the second clause is the same as *to close my eyes* in the first clause.

A lexical verb is a verb which expresses an action, event, or a state; also called main verb or full verb (Crystal, 1992: 227). An auxiliary can be divided into three Be, Have, Do (Frank, 1992 227). In verbal ellipsis, the word that precedes ellipsis is an auxiliary verb like: can, could, may, might, should, will, would, have, be, must, and ought to. The point is that ellipsis is always possible after auxiliary verb (Salkei, 1985: 59).

(36) If you really want to give me something, you *might*.

(37) She might sing but I don't think she *will*.

Here in sentence (36), the modal '*might*' presupposes the phrase '*give me something*'. In sentence (37), the modal '*will*' presupposes the lexical verb '*sing*'. The elements that still remain are modal operators. Moreover, there are two modal operators, they are *need* and *dare* where they can also be used as lexical verbs. For examples:

(38) a: How do I thank you?

b: You needn't

(39) a: Why can't you say it to him?

b: No, I daren't

In sentence (38) and (39) above, *need* and *dare* function as modal operator. The verb which is ellipsed in (38b) is *to thank* and modal *need* presupposes it. So the complete utterance is *You needn't to thank me*. Likewise, in sentence (39b), *dare* is used as modal and there is a verb which is ellipsed after it. The complete form of the utterance is *No, I daren't to say it to him*. There are some auxiliary verbs that can be used as lexical verbs, they are **Be**, **Have**, and **Do**.

For examples:

(40) I *will* do the best

(41) I *have* some cakes for you

The auxiliary *do* and *have* are lexical verbs in the examples above. But it will be different in the examples below:

(42) a: Do they take the plane to New York today?

b: No, I don't think they *do*

(43) a: Have they seen all the sights?

b: Yes, they *have*

In the example above, it can give more explanation that *do* and *have* become modal operator and *be* as well.

Besides auxiliary, the word *to* may also precede ellipsis. We can see this as part of operator such as *going to*, *about to*, *want to*, *ought to*.

For examples:

(44) He had better see him. He doesn't really *want to* (see him)

(45) You quarreled with him, but you *ought not to* (quarreled with him.)

The other examples of lexical ellipsis are also provided by question tags (Swan, 1995: 177). All question tags have maximum lexical ellipsis and presuppose all the features of the relevant group.

For examples:

(46) They could have missed their bus, *couldn't they?*

(47) Mary did not understand about the problem, *did she?*

Question tags presuppose all the verbal group. The example above have complete sounds like: (46) *Couldn't they ?* means *Couldn't they have missed their bus ?*. And in (47), *Did she ?* means *Did Mary not understand the problem?*.



### 2.1.1.2.2 Operator Ellipsis

Operator ellipsis is the omission of operator and remains the lexical verb intact. In operator ellipsis the subject is also omitted from the clause, and it must therefore be presupposed. Operator ellipsis is ellipsis 'from the left' meaning in initial element in the verbal group (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 174). Operator in some approaches to English grammar is the first auxiliary to be used in the verb phrase (Crystal, 1992:278). It is so called because it performs 'operation' in the clause, such marking the change from statement to question. People directly answer to the point and not to repeat the same phrase being asked.

(48) Some were laughing and others (were) crying

In the second clause above, '*were*' is modal operator and '*crying*' is the lexical verb. The operator '*were*' presupposes the lexical verb '*crying*'. In operator ellipsis, subject is also always omitted from the clause. Therefore it must be interpreted.

Furthermore, Quirk *et al.* (1985: 897) say that operator ellipsis involves omission of operator or subject plus operator.

For examples:

(49) Jane was sad because Mary (was) sad

(50) (I am) sorry because I couldn't be there

If we look at sentence (49), there is the deletion of operator only. The missing operator can be presupposed by looking at operator in the first clause. Whereas in sentence (50), there is the omission of subject plus operator.

### 2.1.1.3 Clausal Ellipsis

A clause is a group of words that includes a subject and verb. Clausal ellipsis takes the clause as the point of the departure (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 197).

Ellipsis in clausal elements is related to question-answer process in the dialogue. There are two elements in clausal ellipsis, they are wh-ellipsis and yes/no ellipsis.

#### 2.1.1.3.1 Wh-ellipsis

In a wh-sequence, the entire clause is usually omitted except the WH-element itself or the item that is response to the WH-element itself (Halliday and Hasan, 1976: 205). It means in a WH-sequence the entire clause is usually deleted except for WH-element itself or the item that is response to the WH-element. WH-element can have various forms such as when, where, why, what, who, which and how.

(51) People have said to me 'why don't you go back to teaching?' and I answer 'I can't'

(52) Who could have broken those tiles? I can't think who.

In sentence (51) the clause 'I can't' is called as clausal ellipsis because there is a part of the answer deleted, that is 'go back to teaching'. This part can be deleted since it has already been mentioned in the preceding question that is 'why don't you go back to teaching?'. And in sentence (52) the word 'who' presupposes 'could have broken those tiles'. This complete answer is not uttered completely since it has already been mentioned in the preceding question that is 'Who could have broken those tiles?' This is done to make it simple and to avoid repetition.

#### 2.1.1.3.2 Yes/No Ellipsis

In yes/no question-answer sequence, the answer may involve ellipsis of the whole or part of the clause. The part of the clause is alternative to the ellipsis of the whole clause, and there may be ellipsis of just one part of it (Halliday and Hasan 1976: 219).

For examples:

(53) Jane: Can you sing a song ?

Tya: Yes

(54) a: Did your father not come ?

b: No, he had something else on

Here the answer 'Yes' in (53) presupposes the whole clause 'I can sing a song'. 'Yes' is called as clausal ellipsis because there are a subject and verb in the complete answer that has been deleted that is 'I can sing a song'. In (54) the answer 'No' can presuppose the whole clause. The complete answer of the sentence is 'No, my father did not come, he had something else on'. In case of the



condition of ellipsis, the answer of the question which consists of subject and verb can be deleted if they can be recoverable from the preceding question.

English broadly uses three types of ellipsis, they are nominal ellipsis, verbal ellipsis and clausal ellipsis. The types of ellipsis can be seen in the tree diagram below, which shows each of their type:

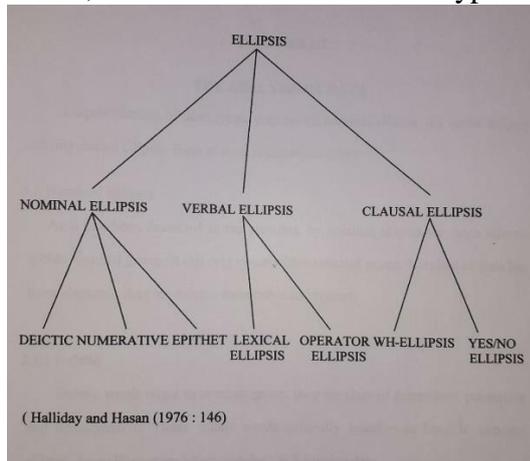


Figure 1. types of ellipsis

### 3. THE ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

Ellipsis consists of three types, they are (i) nominal ellipsis, (ii) verbal ellipsis and (iii) clausal ellipsis. Each of them is presented below

#### 3.1 Nominal Ellipsis

As it has been described in the previous part, by nominal ellipsis we mean ellipsis within nominal group. It can only occur within nominal group. Nominal ellipsis has three elements, they are deictic, numerative and epithet.

##### 3.1.1 Deictic

Deictic words occur in nominal group, they are class of determiner, possessive and demonstrative. These deictic words generally function as head in nominal ellipsis as can be seen in the following data

- (1) A few dozen members of Spokane tribe had gathered at the crossroad, some trembled with fear.
- (2) In Victor's dream, he could smell the dead body, his real father's.

(3) Father Arnold, the priest of Catholic Church didn't care much about the bands on one way or the others.

(4) Victor and Junior staggered into Trading Post just a few minutes after the Catholic Church bells rang for the second time that morning both had continually drunk since they returned from Seattle.

In data (1), the word 'some' is one of the deictic elements functioning as head and it is accompanied by determiner 'the'. The deictic 'some' presupposes one thing that is the word 'way'. The word 'way' is ellpted in word 'some'. It is ellpted since it has already been mentioned in the previous part and is intended to avoid repetition. In ellptical form the word 'some' functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is 'A few dozen members of Spokane tribe had gathered at the crossroad, some members of Spokane tribe trembled with fear'.

In data (2), the possessive 'my real father's' is one of the deictic elements. The deictic 'his real father's' functions as head and presupposes the noun phrase 'dead body'. The noun phrase 'dead body' is ellpted in deictic 'his real father's'. The possessive 'his real father's' in ellptical form functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellpted since it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is 'In Victor's dream, he could smell the dead body, his real father's dead body'. The same thing happens to data (3) and (4). In data (3), the word 'the others' is one of the deictic elements and accompanied by determiner 'the'. The deictic 'the others' functions as head and presupposes the word 'way'. The word 'way' is ellpted in 'the others'. In ellptical form the word may function as head. The complete form of the sentence is 'Father Arnold, the priest of catholic church didn't care much about the bands on one way or the other ways'. In data (4), the word 'both' is one of the deictic elements. The deictic



'both' functions as head and presupposes two things, they are 'Victor' and 'Junior'. The words 'Victor' and 'Junior' are ellipted in 'both'. It is ellipted since it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. In elliptical form the word 'both' functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is *'Victor and Junior staggered into Trading Post just a few minutes after the catholic church bells rang for the second time that morning both Victor and Junior had continually drunk since they returned from Seattle'*

(5) "A long time ago, two boys lived on reservation. One boy was an Indian named Beaver and *the other* was a white boy named Wally".

(6) Many Indians greeted him with smile, some Indians with pride and *'others'* with anger.

(7) "I have enough spoons for both of us, too"  
"I don't want *any*", Victor said and walked out the door.

(8) The Indians cried frustration, *some* splashed their ponies into the river and attempt to swim out the boat.

In data (5), the phrase *'the other'* is one of the deictic elements accompanied by determiner *'the'*. The deictic *'the other'* functions as head and presupposes the word *'boy'*. The word *'boy'* is ellipted in *'the other'*. It is ellipted because it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. In elliptical form the phrase *'the other'* functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is *"A long time ago, two boys lived on reservation. One boy was an Indian named Beaver and the other boy was a white boy named Wally"*. In data (6), the word *'others'* is one of the deictic elements and presupposes the word *'Indian'*. The word *'Indians'* is ellipted in *'some'*. It is ellipted since it has already been mentioned before to avoid repetition. The deictic *'others'* in elliptical form which functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of

the sentence is *'Many Indians greeted him with smile, some Indians with pride and other Indians with anger'*. And in data (7), the word *'any'* is one of the deictic elements. The deictic *'any'* functions as head and presupposes the word *'spoon'*. The word *'spoon'* is ellipted in *'any'*. It is ellipted since it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *"I have enough spoons for both of us, too"*. *"I don't want any spoon"*, Victor said and walked out the door'. In data (8), the word *'some'* is one of the deictic elements. The deictic *'some'* functions as head and presupposes the word *'Indians'*. The word *'Indians'* is ellipted in deictic *'some'*. It is ellipted since it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. In the elliptical form the word *'some'* functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is *'The Indians cried frustration, some Indians splashed their ponies into the river and attempt to swim out the boat'*.

(9) "Listen to me", father Arnold said, but the Indians ignored him. They talked among themselves laughed at secret joke. *Some* even prayed in their own languages, in their own ways.

(10) Thomas closed his eyes and told Chess this story "we were *both* at wounded knee when the ghost dancers were slaughtered".

In data (9), the word *'some'* is one of the deictic elements. The deictic *'some'* functions as head and presupposes the word *'Indians'*. The word *'Indians'* is ellipted in *'some'*. In elliptical form the word *'some'* functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted because it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *'Listen to me', father Arnold said, but the Indians ignored him. They talked among themselves laughed at secret joke. Some Indians even prayed in their own languages, in their own ways'*. The same thing happens to data (10).



In data (10), the word *'both'* is one of the deictic elements. The deictic *'both'* functions as head and presupposes *'Thomas'* and *'Chess'*. The word *'Thomas'* and *'Chess'* are ellipted in *'both'*. In elliptical form the word *'both'* functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted because it has already been mentioned in the preceding part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *'Thomas closed his eyes and told Chess this story "we were both you and me at wounded knee when the ghost dancers were slaughtered'*.

### 3.1.2 Numerative

The numerative elements in nominal group are expressed by cardinal numbers, ordinal numbers, and indefinite quantifiers. These numerative words occur in nominal group and generally function as head. As found in the following data.

- (11) The Reservation had filled with those monuments years ago, but the Tribal Council still looked to build *more*.
- (12) Indian Health only gave out dental floss and condoms, and Thomas spent his whole life trying to figure out the connection between *the two*.
- (13) He drove a water truck for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and attended college for a semester or *two*.
- (14) There were rumors that he had fathered a white baby or *two* at school.

In data (11), there is an indefinite quantifier which occurs in nominal ellipsis. We can see that the indefinite quantifier *'more'* functions as head and presupposes the word *'monuments'*. The word *'monuments'* is ellipted in numerative *'more'*. The indefinite quantifier *'more'* in elliptical form functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted because it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the

sentence is *'The Reservation had filled with those monuments years ago, but the Tribal Council still looked to build more monuments'*. In data (12), the cardinal number *'two'* is one of the numerative elements and it is accompanied by determiner *'the'*. It functions as head and presupposes two things, they are the word *'floss'* and *'condoms'*. The word *'floss'* and *'condoms'* are ellipted in *'the two'*. In elliptical form numerative *'the two'* functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. They are ellipted because they have already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *'Indian Health only gave out dental floss and condoms and Thomas spent his life trying to figure out the connection between the two floss and condoms'*. In data (13), the word *'two'* is one of the numerative words. The numerative *'two'* functions as head and presupposes the word *'semesters'*. The word *'semesters'* is ellipted in numerative *'two'*. The word *'two'* in elliptical form functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted because it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *'He drove a water truck for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and attended college for a semester or two semesters'*. The same things also happens to data (14) where the word *'two'* is one of the deictic elements. The numerative *'two'* functions as head and presupposes the phrase *'white babies'*. The phrase *'white babies'* is ellipted in word *'two'*. In elliptical form the cardinal number *'two'* functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is *'There were rumors that he had fathered a white baby or two white babies at school'*.

- (15) Victor wanted money so bad that he always spent it too quick as if the few dollars in his wallet somehow prevented him from getting *more*.
- (16) "You want to have kids?"  
"There is already *one* on the way"



- (17) "Jeez" Junior said "How many bands are there going to be?"  
"Twenty"

In data (15) above there is a numerative element that is the indefinite quantifier 'more'. The indefinite quantifier 'more' functions as head and presupposes the one thing that is the word 'money'. The word 'money' is ellipted in numerative element 'more'. In elliptical form, the indefinite quantifier 'more' functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is 'Victor wanted money so bad that he always spent in too quick as if the few dollars in his wallet somehow prevented him from getting more money'. In data (16), the word 'one' is one of the numerative elements. The cardinal number 'one' functions as head and presupposes the word 'kid'. The word 'kid' is ellipted in cardinal number 'one'. In elliptical form, the cardinal number 'one' functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is "You want to have kids?". "There is already one kid on the way". The same thing also happens to data (17). The word 'twenty' is one of the numerative elements. The cardinal number 'twenty' functions as head and presupposes the word 'bands'. The word 'bands' is ellipted in cardinal 'Twenty'. In elliptical form the cardinal number 'twenty' functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is "Jeez" Junior said "How many bands are there going to be?". "twenty bands" '.

### 3.1.3 Epithet

As it has already been described in part 2, epithet is typically fulfilled by an adjective, comparative adjective, and superlative forms. The position of head is taken by an adjective.

- (18) Thomas had been the weakest Indian boy on the whole Reservation, *small* and *skinny*.  
(19) He had been a little boy, may be a *five years old*.

- (20) The audience reached for Coyote Spring with *brown* and white hands that begged for more music.

- (21) "The warm water sisters struggled into their best dresses, dingy from too many washes but still *the best* they owned, hurried to flathead Reservation Catholic Church.

In data (18), in elliptical forms, there are two adjectives which fulfill the position of the heads. The first adjective is 'small' functioning as head and presupposes the phrase 'Indian boy'. The phrase 'Indian boy' is ellipted in the adjective 'small'. In elliptical form the adjective 'small' functions as head but in complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted because it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The second adjective which also fulfills the position of the head is the adjective 'skinny'. The adjective 'skinny' functions as head and presupposes the phrase 'Indian boy'. The phrase 'Indian boy' is ellipted in the adjective 'skinny'. The adjective 'skinny', in elliptical form, functions as head but in the complete form it functions as modifier. The complete form of the sentence is 'Thomas had been the weakest Indian boy on the whole Reservation, small Indian boy and skinny Indian boy'. In data (19), the position of the head is taken by the adjective 'a five years old'. It functions as head and presupposes the word 'boy'. The word 'boy' is ellipted in 'a five years old'. In elliptical form the phrase 'a five years old' functions as head but in the complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted since it has already been mentioned in the previous part to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is 'He had been a little boy, may be a five years old boy'. Since in data (20), the position of the head is taken by the adjective 'brown'. It functions as head and presupposes the word 'hands'. The word 'hands' is ellipted in adjective 'brown'. In elliptical form, the adjective 'brown' functions as head but in the complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted since it



has already been mentioned to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *'The audience reached for Coyote Spring with brown hands and white hands that begged for more music'*. In data (21), the position of the head is taken by superlative adjective *'best'*. The superlative adjective *'best'* functions as head and presupposes the word *'dresses'*. The word *'dresses'* is ellipted in superlative adjective *'best'*. In elliptical form it functions as head but in the complete form it functions as modifier. It is ellipted since it has already been mentioned in the previously to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *'The warm water sisters struggled into their best dresses. Dingy from too many washes but still the best dresses they owned'*

### 3.2 Verbal Ellipsis

By verbal ellipsis we mean ellipsis within verbal group. Every verbal group contains a lexical verb as its head. Verbal ellipsis is divided into two subtypes, they are lexical ellipsis and operator ellipsis.

#### 3.2.1 Lexical Ellipsis

Lexical ellipsis is the type of lexical ellipsis in which the lexical verb is missing from the verbal group. Lexical verb is the verb itself.

- (22) "Is she still awake?"  
"She *might*", Chess said.
- (23) He ran after his stepfather's car, followed him down the road as long as he *could*.
- (24) "He can play the guitar or not. I don't think he *should*, but I want take it away.
- (25) "I want to drive a water truck", Victor said "Just like Junior *used to*".

Here in data (22), the lexical verb *'be'* plus *'awake'* are omitted from the verbal group *'might be still awake'*. The modal operator *'might'* presupposes it. The complete form of the sentence is *"Is she still awake?"*. "She *might be still awake*", Chess said'. It is ellipted to avoid repetition

because it has already been mentioned in the previous part. In data (23), the lexical verb *'run'* is omitted from the verbal group *'could run'*. The modal operator *'could'* presupposes the lexical verb *'run'*. It can be ellipted because the lexical verb in first clause is the same as that of the second clause. The complete form of the sentence is *'He ran after his stepfather's car, followed him down the road as long as he could run'*. In data (24), the lexical verb *'play'* is omitted from the verbal group. The modal operator *'should'* presupposes it. It can be ellipted because the lexical verb in the first clause is the same as that of the second clause. It is ellipted to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *"He play the guitar or not. I don't think he should play, but I won't take it away"*. In data (25), the lexical verb *'drive'* is omitted from the verbal group *'used to drive'*. It can be ellipted because the lexical verb in the first clause is the same as that of the second clause. It is ellipted to avoid repetition. The complete form of the sentence is *'I want to drive a water truck', Victor said "Just like Junior used to drive"*.

#### 3.2.2 Operator Ellipsis

Operator ellipsis which has been described in the previous part is the omission of operator. In operator ellipsis, subject is always omitted from the clause; it must therefore be presupposed as can be seen in the following data

- (26) "Are you lost?"  
"*Been lost* for a while", I suppose
- (27) Thomas wanted to know about the Gentleman, but he was too polite to ask and *traditional* to refuse to offend the Blackman with personal questions that early in the relationship.
- (28) He hadn't gained any weight in thirteen years, but the clothes were tattered and *barely* held to his body.
- (29) A drunk Indian can cry and *sing* into beer all night long, the rest of the drunk Indians will backup.



In data (27), there is the omission of operator and the omission of the subject. The operator 'was' and the subject 'he' are omitted from the clause. The complete form of the sentence is *'Thomas wanted to know about the Gentleman, but he was too polite to ask and he was traditional to refuse to offend the Blackman with personal questions that early in the relationship'*. The same thing happens to data (28) and (29). Data (28) involves the omission of operator and the omission of the subject. The operator 'were' and the subject 'the clothes' are omitted from the clause. The complete form of the sentence is *'He hadn't gained any weight in thirteen years, but he clothes were tattered and the clothes were barely held to his body'*. In data (29), there are also the omission of operator and the subject. The operator 'can' and the subject 'A drunk Indian' are omitted from the clause. The complete form of the sentence is *'A drunk Indian can cry and a drunk Indian can sing into beer all night long, the rest of the drunk Indians will backup'*.

(30) The gentleman might hear and *come* running

(31) The song sounded so pained and tortured that Big mom could never imagined it before the white men came and *never understood* it later, even at twenty-first century.

(32) He had majored in psychology during his brief time in the college and *learned* a lot from Freud.

(33) Victor had been riding with him all the time, *falling* asleep as soon as head fell back against the vinyl seat.

In data (30), there is the omission of operator and the the subject. The operator 'might' and the subject 'The Gentleman' are omitted from the clause. The complete form of the sentence is *'The Gentleman might hear and the Gentleman might come running'*. Data (31) also involves the omission of operator and subject. The operator 'could' and subject 'Big mom' are omitted from the clause. The complete

form of the sentence is *'The song sounded so pained and tortured that Big mom could never imagined it before the white men came, and Big mom could never understood it'*. The same thing also happens to data (32) and (33). Data (32) involves the omission of operator and subject. The operator 'had' and the subject 'he' are omitted from the clause. The complete form of the sentence is *'He had majored in psychology during his brief time in the college and he had learned a lot from Freud'*. In data (33), the operator 'had' plus 'been' and the subject 'Victor' are omitted from the clause. The complete form of the sentence is *'Victor had been riding with him all the time, Victor had been falling asleep as soon as his head fell back against the vinyl seat'*.

### 3.3 Clausal Ellipsis

As it has already been described in the previous part, clausal ellipsis takes the clause as the point of departure. Clausal ellipsis occurs in Wh-question and Yes/No question. Clausal ellipsis is classified into two subtypes, they are Wh-ellipsis and Yes/No ellipsis. Each of them will be shown below.

#### 3.3.1 Wh-Ellipsis

Wh-ellipsis means any ellipsis that occurs in wh-environment. In wh-sequence the entire clause is usually omitted except for the wh-element itself or the item that is response to the wh-element itself as can be seen in the following data

(34) "Who might hear you?"

*"The Gentleman"*.

(35) "I know somebody that might to help you"

*"Who?"*

(36) "They be coming soon," the guitar said

*"Why?"* Thomas asked

(37) "What was that all about?"

*"I don't know"* Thomas said

In data (34), the direct response *"The Gentlemen"* presupposes the whole clause which means *'The Gentleman might hear me'*. But it is not uttered completely because



it has already been uttered in the preceding question that is *"Who might hear you?"*. And also people tend to answer the question directly without repeating the same words. In data (35), the wh-word *'Who'* presupposes the whole clause which means *'Who might be able to help me?'*. It is not uttered completely because people tend to answer the question directly without repeating the same words. In data (36), the wh-word *'Why'* presupposes the whole clause which means *'Why they be coming soon?'*. In data (37), the clause *'I don't know'* presupposes the whole sentence which means *'I don't know what that all was about'*. But this is not uttered completely because people tend to answer the question without repeating the same words.

(38) Listen," Thomas said "I want to play her a song"

"Who?", Junior and Victor asked.

(39) "Why the hell is hot?," Victor asked

"I don't know"

In data (38), the wh-word *'Who'* presupposes the whole clause which means *"Who want you play a song?"*. But it is not uttered completely since it has already been uttered in the preceding clause that is *'I want to play her a song'*. In data (39), the clause *'I don't know'* presupposes the whole clause which means *'I don't know why the hell is hot'*. But it is not uttered completely since it has already been mentioned in the preceding question that is *'Why the hell is hot?'*. The people tend to answer the question directly without repeating the same words.

(40) "Why you like free way driving so much? Chess asked. But don't close your eyes to tell me some story"

"I don't know"

(41) "I can save your life" Sheridan said

"How?" Junior asked

(42) "When do we get to go?"

"Next week"

(43) "Where we would go?"

"I don't know anywhere but here"

In data (40) above there is a clausal ellipsis that is *'I don't know'*. A part of the answer is ellipted, that is *'Why I like free way driving so much'*. The part of the answer *'Why I like free way driving so much'* is ellipted in *'I don't know'*. The complete answer is *'I don't know why I like free way driving so much'*. This complete answer is not uttered completely because people tend to use the simplest way to answer the question to avoid repetition. In data (41) the wh-word *'How'* presupposes the whole clause that is *'You can save my life'*. The clause *'You can save my life'* is ellipted in *'How'*. It is not uttered completely since it has already been mentioned in the preceding clause that is *'I can save your life'*. The complete form of the sentence is *'How can you save my life?'*. It is not uttered anymore to avoid repetition. In data (42), there is a clausal ellipsis that is *'Next week'*. It is called clausal ellipsis because there is a part of the answer which is ellipted, that is *'We get to go'*. The clause *'We get to go'* is ellipted in *'Next week'*. The clause *'we get to go'* is ellipted because it has already been asked in the preceding question that is *'When do we get to go?'*. The complete answer is *'We get to go next week'*. But it is not uttered completely since it has already been asked in the preceding question that is *'When do we get to go?'*. In data (43), the answer *'I don't know anywhere but here'* presupposes the whole clause *'I don't know where we would go'*. The clause *'where we would go'* is ellipted in the answer *'I don't know anywhere but here'*. The complete answer is *'I don't know where we would go anywhere but here'*. This complete answer is not uttered anymore to avoid repetition.

### 3.3.2 Yes/No Ellipsis

In yes/no question and answer sequence the answer may involve ellipsis of the complete answer or part of the answer.

(44) "Did you see the woman in front of the row,?" Thomas asked  
"Yes"



- (45) "Can you sing?," Thomas asked her  
"Yes," she said
- (46) "So", Thomas said "Is Chess your real name?"  
"No"
- (47) "You live with your parents?"; Thomas asked  
"No"

Data (44) involves the omission of the complete answer. The answer 'Yes' presupposes the whole clause which means 'Yes, I saw the women in front of the row'. But it is not uttered completely since it has already been uttered in the preceding question that is 'Did you see the women in front of the row?'. People tend to answer the question directly without repeating the same words. Data (45) also involves the omission of the complete answer. The answer 'Yes'

presupposes the whole clause which means 'Yes, I can sing'. But it is not uttered completely since it has already been uttered in the preceding question 'Can you sing?'. People tend to answer the question directly without repeating the same words. Data (46) also involves the omission of the whole clause. The answer 'No' presupposes the whole clause which means 'No, Chess is not my real name'. It is not uttered completely since it has already been uttered in the preceding question that is 'Is Chess your real name?'. The omission is intended to avoid repetition. In data (47), the answer 'No' presupposes the whole clause. The answer 'No' presupposes the whole clause which means 'No, I don't live with my parents'. It is not uttered completely to avoid repetition.

**Table 1. The Recapitulation of the Three Types of Ellipsis As Found in Sherman Alexei's Novel *Reservation Blues***

No	Types of Ellipsis	Total	Percentage
1	Nominal Ellipsis	31	$\frac{31}{115} \times 100\% = 27\%$
2	Verbal Ellipsis	44	$\frac{44}{115} \times 100\% = 38,2\%$
3	Clausal Ellipsis	40	$\frac{40}{115} \times 100\% = 35\%$

This table shows that in the novel, verbal ellipsis is the most dominantly used. The least is nominal ellipsis. Verbal ellipsis is usually marked by the use of modals such as might, should, used to, are, had and etc, which presupposes the verbal group previously mentioned. Whereas the nominal ellipsis is marked by omission of noun phrases. Clausal ellipsis is marked by the use of a question word or yes/no question to represent the whole clause.

Basedon the data recapitulation above, it can siad that the verbal ellipsis is more productive and effective in the novel.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the data, the researchers find that the three types of ellipsis as proposed by Halliday and Hasan (1976) are found. Besides, the most dominant ellipsis used in the novel is verbal ellipsis that is 44

utterances or 38.2 % then comes clausal ellipsis that is 40 utterances or 35%. The least is nominal ellipsis that is 31 utterances or 27 %.

The verbal ellipsis is dominantly marked by the use of modals. Nominal ellipsis is dominantly marked by the deletion of noun phrases. Meannnnnwhile clausal ellipsis is dominantly marked by the use of wh-question words or yes/no question words. Dealing with the condition of ellipsis as has already been described, ellipsis is used to help people to avoid awkwardness, tediousness and repetition or redundancy. Furthermore, ellipsis helps people to make the utterances more practical and effective.

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