
Filling in the Gaps: Comparing the Use of Verbal Ellipsis in English and Arabic

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Abstract: This study sheds light on the contrastive aspects found between ellipsis in the English and Arabic language. Ellipsis can be described as substituting an element by zero in certain expressions, often to avoid repetition or for stylistic and emphasis purposes. The study deals with the problem of identifying the similarities and differences between the use of ellipsis in Arabic and English especially in terms of types of ellipsis, recoverability and evidence, and the reasons and functions of ellipsis in both languages. It aims to identify the types and categories of ellipsis in both languages, as well the ways through which ellipsis is evident, and eventually draw a comparison between the reasons and purposes of using them in English and Arabic. The work is divided into five parts. The first section is about introducing the aims, hypotheses, procedures, limits, and value of work. Sections Two and Three present an analysis of Ellipsis in English and Arabic, respectively. Section Four compares between ellipsis in English and Arabic, followed by the conclusions and future works in the last section..

Keywords: *Ellipsis, Verbal Phrases, Arabic, English.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of ellipsis can be defined in light of a number of linguistic perspectives. Halliday and Hassan [1] state that ellipsis represents substituting an item by zero. This implies that the substituted element is “understood” and does not need to be mentioned or stated. An element is considered to be elided whenever its structure does not express all its characteristics. Ellipsis is regarded as a means of achieving cohesion [1]. Crystal states that elided elements can be recovered from the context out of which it has been omitted [2].

This work addresses one main problem, which is the identification of the similarities and differences between ellipsis in Arabic and English. This is achieved by addressing the queries below:

1. What are the different types of ellipsis in English and Arabic?



2. How can ellipsis be recovered in English and Arabic?
3. What are the reasons for using ellipsis in the two languages?

The aims of this work are:

1. Identify the types and categories of ellipsis in English and Arabic,
2. Identify the ways through which ellipsis is evident in both languages
3. Compare between the reasons and purposes of using ellipsis in English and Arabic.

It is hypothesized that:

1. Ellipses in English and Arabic are of different types.
2. There are different forms of recoverability or evidence of ellipsis for both languages.
3. There are different reasons for using ellipsis in English and Arabic.

The present study adopts the following procedures:

1. Presenting a theoretical background about the concept of ellipsis in the two languages and its types.
2. Identifying the different ways of tracing back ellipsed elements in English and Arabic.
3. Drawing a comparison between the reasons for using ellipsis in English and Arabic.

This paper is limited to the explanation of ellipsis in standard English and standard Arabic. It will briefly mention the different types and reasons for ellipsis in each language, but the main focus will be on verbal ellipses. In general, it is aimed to present a work that is useful to those who are interested in conducting contrastive studies between Arabic and English, whether they are students or teachers. This involves the following aspects:

1. The comparison between ellipsis in both languages can be used in teaching methods in order to facilitate the EFL learning processes.
2. Understanding the similarities and differences of ellipsis and its uses in both languages is crucial in the process of translation, as any lack in such skills will result in a misinterpretation of the text.

Ellipsis in English

The concept of ellipsis has been defined by various researchers, including Kroeger [3] and Crystal [4]. They state that the removal of one item from a sentence or clause is known as ellipsis whenever there is verbal or mental proof to that missed aspect, leaving the reader to deduce it. As a result, most definitions include terminology like omission of element that could be retrieved or deduced from the context (either linguistically or physically) [5].

Ellipsis can be explained from many linguistic points of view. Halliday and Hassan [1] describe the phenomenon of ellipsis as substituting elements by (zero). They state that the ellipsed element can be understood from the context, in the sense that they are obvious. Toboado shows that ellipsis is more often used in language than substitution, as the speakers' tendency is more towards leaving elements out (omitting them) rather than substituting them [6]. Therefore, ellipses are considered to be a means of achieving aggregation [1].

Crystal implies that ellipsis is the process of omitting a part of the structure that can be recovered from its context. The reasons behind using ellipsis in language is essentially for the purpose of economy, as well as emphasis or a matter of style [2]. Marogy states that a condition



of using ellipsis is that the speaker should ensure the listener will be able to recover the meaning of the omitted element [7].

In terms of grammar, ellipsis is considered to be a concept of syntax rather than morphology [8]. It is the omission of a part of the surface expression. Since neighboring sentences are interdependent in connected discourse, ellipsis can be described as the elements that are left out but can be understood from the context without being repeated. Quirk et al. implies that words can only be omitted whenever they can be recovered uniquely without causing uncertainty [9].

Hartman and Strok state that it is essential for the grammatical completeness of the structure that the omitted words can be recovered from the context [10]. Leech and Savartvik consider ellipsis to be a form of abbreviation, where recoverability is essential for avoiding misunderstanding and miscommunication [11]. However, this does not imply that the omitted forms are a repetition of the preceding elements. The sentence below exemplifies how the omitted verb (prefer) is obvious for the listener or reader:

- (1) Patrick preferred to email Tom, to call.

In example (2), the ellipsed information appears in the previous part of the sentence, or could be inferred from the context. In example (2) below, the verb (love) is needless to be repeated. Therefore, when leaving it out, it is still understood that Jory also loves spaghetti.

- (2) Mareena loves spaghetti, and Tammy does too.

There are some informal types of ellipsis whereby the recoverability of the omitted elements is not determined by the linguistic context, but rather on the social or physical one, as in (you) Have a good time? The pronoun “you” cannot be recovered linguistically, but rather from the pragmatic context of the sentence [12].

Parallelism is essential in the ellipsis of elements within constructions. The omitted verb needs to have a parallel counterpart in the remainder of the structure. Sentence (3) exemplifies a case whereby the clauses are not parallel due to the fact that the clause patterns are not identical. This implies that the verb in the second clause cannot be omitted:

- (3) They like Asian cuisine; Sarah prefers fast-food.

Reasons for Ellipsis

Ellipsis is commonly utilized in English, and for a variety of reasons, types, and locations. As for the use of ellipsis in the English language, it mainly involves avoiding repetitions, economizing components, ensuring the continuity of thoughts, and realizing the aspects of cohesion [1, 13]. Quirk adds that ellipsis contributes to the achievement of cohesion by concentrating the focus on the new aspects in speech [12], as in the example below:

- (4) Have they been dancing? No, singing.

Types of Ellipsis

In the English language, the types of ellipsis could be generally divided into Nominal, Verbal, and Clausal. Nominal ellipsis includes the omission of the subject, object, or subject complement in a sentence. Verbal ellipsis refers to omitting the lexical verb, auxiliary or modal verb, verb plus subject complement, verb plus object, and predicate. As for clausal ellipsis, it includes the omission of the modal or propositional element of a sentence [5]. Figure (1) below summarizes the types of ellipsis in English. In the present part of this work, the focus will be on discussing the verbal ellipsis in English.

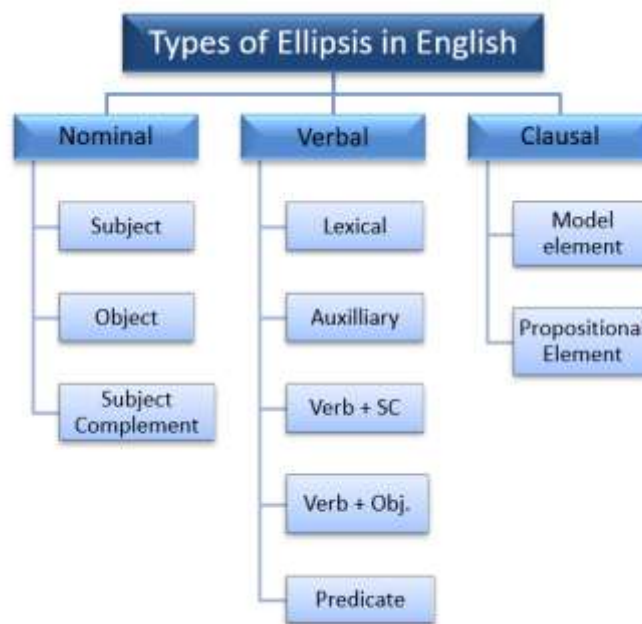


Fig 1. Types of Ellipsis in English

Ellipsis Recoverability

Quirk et al identify three ways of recovering the omitted or ellpted elements within a structure [9]. These three methods of recovery can be summarized as shown below:

- i. Textual recoverability: The ellpted element can be fully recovered from the linguistic context.
- ii. Situational recoverability: The ellpted element can be inferred from the extra-lingual context.
- iii. Structural recoverability: There are certain syntactic clues that help recover the ellpted elements.

Ellipsis of Verbs in English

Verbal ellipsis is a type of ellipsis whereby an element is ellpted from the verbal group of a sentence or clause. This may include removing the lexical verb, auxiliary verb, the predicate, the verb + direct object, and the verb + subject complement. In other words, it can be described as a verbal clause whereby the structure does not totally express the systematic features [1]:

- (5) Has he been working? Yes, he has (lexical ellipsis)
- (6) What has he been doing? Working (operator ellipsis)



The sentences (5) and (6) above exemplify the cases of verbal ellipsis. In sentence (5), the phrase (yes, he has) stands for (yes, he has been working), and in (6) the phrase (working) stands for (He has been working). In the cases above, there is no ambiguity or a possibility that another item can be filling in the gap.

a) Lexical Verb

As shown in example (5), the ellipsis of the lexical verb is the type of verbal ellipsis whereby the obligatory verb is left out. Another example is:

(7) Are they playing? Yes, they are.

b) Auxiliary or Modal Verb

The operator ellipsis includes cases whereby the first part of the predicate is omitted, which can be the auxiliary verb or the modal verb, along with the main verb. Considering the examples below:

(8) Sarah watched the news and May (watched) a movie.

(9) Tom should wash the car and Jack (should) fill the tanks..

The auxiliary verb can in general be omitted optionally [12]. In some cases, the subject of the second clause can also be omitted in case they share the same subject:

(10) They could or (they) could not have solved the issue.

(11) Mom gathered us together and (she) shared the news.

c) Verb Plus Subject Complement

In the English language, it is possible to ellip the verb with the subject complement, or even the subject as a whole Quirk and Green Baum (1973:262). The sentence below exemplifies how the main verb and the subject complement are omitted from the second part of the sentences (as provided in brackets):

(12) Hanna was the winner in 2020 and Tracy (was the winner) in 2021.

d) Verb Plus Object

Another case of verbal ellipsis is the omission of the main verb or verbal clause of the sentence along with the direct object. In the example below, the verbal phrase (will + water) and the direct object (the plants) can be omitted from the sentence:

(13) Sam will water the plants this week and Joy (will water the plants) next week.

e) Predicate

Predicate ellipsis involves omitting the total clause except for the subject, as shown in the second part of the example below. In English, predicate ellipsis is a rather uncommon phenomena [9].

(14) Fenny ended the call at the same time as Joyce.

Ellipsis in arabic

When discussing the concept of Ellipsis in Arabic, there are several works that present a definition for this linguistic phenomenon. Al-Zarkashi defines ellipsis as leaving out an element of speech for a certain purpose [14]. Al-Samrri identifies a variety of ellipsed forms in Arabic, indicating that ellipsis can be achieved with any part of speech [15]. Hassan defines ellipsis as deleting elements from the surface structure of an utterance [16].

Arab rhetoricians describe ellipsis as a form of brevity or omission, which can be either obligatory or optional. Hammuda adds that ellipsis may be used for stylistic reasons [17]. As speakers of the Arabic language have a great tendency towards brevity and omitting superfluous linguistic elements, it is a must that there needs to be a way for recovering ellipsed elements through references. These references function as evidence for the ellipsed parts in order to make that purpose clear. This means that the omission of certain words leads the pattern of the whole sentence to help the listener or reader to infer the missing words and fill in the gaps.

Types of Ellipsis

In the Arabic language, the cases of ellipsis are of five types: Nominal, Verbal, Clausal, Letter, and Case Vowel. Nominal ellipsis includes the omission of Subject, Object, Topic, Comment, Adjective, and Genitive. The Verbal ellipsis includes two forms: ellipsis of verb with substitution and without substitution. The Clausal ellipsis involves the omission of the Antecedent/ Conditional Clause of a sentence, or the Consequential Clause. The whole Verbal Clause may also be left out. As for the additional types of ellipsis, they are the ellipsis of letters and the ellipsis of case vowels. Figure (2) below summarizes the main types of ellipsis in Arabic.

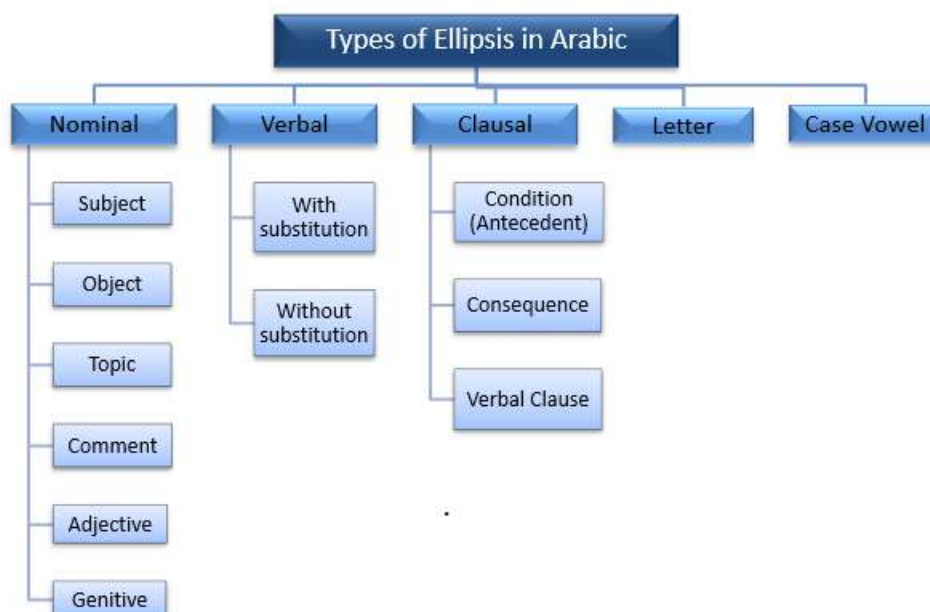


Fig 2. Types of Ellipsis in Arabic

Ellipsis Evidence

In the Arabic language, there are often certain clues or pieces of evidence found in the text that indicate that something has been omitted from the original expression. As for verbal ellipsis, there are three ways to trace back ellipsed elements, namely through verbal evidence, prepositional evidence, and through the context.

a) Verbal evidence

Whenever a verb is omitted from an expression, there can be a verbal clue of evidence be found, as is the case in verse 30 of chapter Al-Nahl in the Holy Quran:

(15) "وقيل للذين أتقوا ماذا أنزل ربكم قالوا خيرا "

"To the righteous when it is said what is it that your lord has revealed? They say "All that is good".

The ellipsed word is assumed to be أنزل "he has revealed" after the verb "say".

b) Preposition evidence

Some prepositions found in the Arabic text function as an evidence that indicate that the verb is ellipsed. In the example below (verse 61 of chapter Hud), the preposition "to" refers to the verb "send":

(16) "والى ثمود اخاهم صالحا"

"To the Thamod people Salih, one of their own brethren".

c) Contextual evidence

In some cases, there is no linguistic clue that indicates that certain elements have been omitted from the text. Such situations require the listener or reader to fill in the gaps using the physical context. In the example below, the original message is "Ahmed suffers from heart disease":

(17) "أحمد عنده قلب"

Verbal Ellipsis

In ellipsis, the omitted element is not selected randomly. In Arabic, there are a set of rules that determine what elements could or could not be omitted in certain contexts. Any cases that do not adhere to these rules will lead to unintelligible or ambiguous expressions. The conditions state that ellipsis is not acceptable unless it is necessary or obviously understood [14]. Verbal ellipsis in Arabic is of two types:

a) Verbal Ellipsis without Substitution

In this type of ellipsis, the verb is omitted but nothing is used to substitute the gap that remains. However, the case of the noun following the ellipsed verb (nominative, accusative, ablative) can still be identified via its structure, and functions as evidence of ellipsis. In verse 24 of chapter Al-Nabaa in the Holy Quran:

(18) (لا يذوقون فيها برداً ولا شرباً)

" Nothing cool shall they taste Therein, nor any drink "

The accusative form of شربا "drink" indicates being the object of the ellipted verb "يذوقون" "taste", including both the main verb and subject.

b) Verbal Ellipsis with substitution

This form of omission is most commonly applicable with verbs that are in the (in-)direct sequential construction. The ellipted element is recovered by means of two obvious meanings, as is the case in the example below (verse 60 of chapter Al-Baqarah in the Holy Quran):

(19) فَقلنا اضرب بعصاك الحجر فانفجرت منه اثنتا عشرة عينا

We said " Strike the rock with thy staff " Then gushed forth therefrom twelve springs

Functions of Verbal Ellipsis

In Arabic grammar, omitting the lexical verb is rather uncommon as compared to alternative forms of ellipsis. Anyhow, the verb could be omitted on its own or along with the subject. The ellipsis could be either obligatory or optional. Obligatory ellipsis has a syntactic motivation, whereas the optional ellipsis has a pragmatic or rhetorical motivation. There are a number of functions that can be realized through verbal ellipsis in Arabic [15, 16]:

A) Refusal

The verb and the (implied) subject could be omitted from the structure of a sentence to express denial, as is shown in the example below:

فعلی من اكدب ا على الله ؟ فانا اول من آمن به ؟ أم على نبیة (20)

Against whom I lie? Whether against Allah? But I am who believed in him. Whether against his Prophet?

The intransitive verb اكدب "lie-I" and the 1st person singular masc. pronoun "I" is omitted in the second and third clause, as it could be recovered via the first clause. The reason or purpose behind omitting the verb phrase in this case is dragging the addressee's attention towards the prepositional phrase على الله (to Allah) rather than other elements of the clause. This act implies a sense of denial/refusal, meaning that the speaker does not accept or agree upon committing the sin of lying to Allah [16].

B) Instruction

It is commonly agreed upon by Arab rhetoricians that acts of command or instructions are better expressed by means of verbal nouns rather than verbs. This is traced back to the fact that expressing such a function is strongly enforced by means of verbal nouns, namely the force of pragmatic and rhetoric verbatim. The function of instruction is obviously illustrated in the following:

فصمدا صمدا حتى ینجلي لكم عمود الحق (21)

Keep one enduring till the right of Truth drowns upon you.

The verb phrase اصمدا "endure-you pl" is a case of obligatory ellipsis, which could be inferred via the repeated accusative verbal noun صمدا "enduring".

C) Proclamation

Another function of verbal ellipsis in Arabic is proclamation. The verbal phrase of “saying” is a case of optional ellipsis in sentence (22) below:

ما يريد عثمان إلا أن يجعلني حملاً ناضجاً بالغرب : أقبّل وأدير (22)

Othoman just “wants – he” to make me like the water - drawing camel so that I may go forward and backward with the bucket.

Omitting the intransitive verb يقول "says-he" can be inferred via the linguistic context, involving the presupposition of the verb “to say” The interpretation of the omitted verbal phrase is determined by the verbs يريد "wants-he" and جعل "makes-he", which each suggest a negative implication through proclamation. They entail the belittling of the addressee by commanding him to obey to the orders.

D) Specification

In certain contexts, the ellipsis of verbs realizes the function of specification, as illustrated in the example below:

(23) وعندنا أهل البيت أبواب الحكمة وضياء الأمر

We, the family of the Prophet Mohammed, possess the keys of wisdom and the lights of prudence

In example (23) above, the verb أعني "mean-I" is omitted as the word “اهل” which means “people/family” is found in the accusative case representing the direct object of the omitted verb أعني "mean-I". The purpose of this kind of ellipsis is drawing the attention towards the specified noun phrase أهل البيت (people of the house, referring to the Family of the Prophet (PBUH): Ali, Fatima, Hassan, and Hussein). Mentioning the verb in this case would have shifted the focus of the sentence elsewhere [16].

E) Reproach

The verbal phrase can be ellipted in Arabic to express reproach. Using rhetorical questions in combination with verbal ellipsis is a strong way to express reprimand and rebuke. Given the expression in the example below:

(24) قولاً بغير علم وغفلةً من غير ورع وطمعاً في غير حق

Will there be saying without action, overlooking without piety and coveting things that are not right?!

There are three verb phrases ellipted, namely: (يقول) “says-he”, (يغفل) “overlooks-he”, and the phrase (يطمع) “covets-he”. These verbs can be recovered from the three verbal nouns in the accusative case: (قولاً) Saying, (غفلةً) overlooking, and (طمعاً) coveting.

(25) وشوهوا بإعفاء الشعور محاسن خلقهم، ابتلاء عظيمًا، امتحانا شديدا واختبارا مبينا وتمحيصا بليغا

They deformed their morality by forsaking good sense and thus got severe trial, harsh testimony, affliction and painful judgment.

With regards to example (25), there are four cases of obligatory verbal ellipsis, namely ابتلاهم "tries-he-them"; امتحنهم "tests-he-them"; اختبرهم "examines-he-them"; and محصمهم "judges-he-them", respectively. They can be recovered from the existing cognate accusatives ابتلاء trail; امتحاناً testing; اختباراً examining, and تمحيصاً judging, respectively. The morphological aspects of the verbs above include the tense, agent, action, and receiver. Each of these elements can be understood via the linguistic context.

F) Invocation

It is commonly accepted by linguists that verbal nouns express the act of request or invocation. Therefore, the verbal phrase expresses this act in a perfect and precise way that cannot be equaled by the verb phrase.

اللهم سقيا منك مجيبه مروية ... اللهم سقيا منك تعشب بها نجادنا (26)

O my Allah! Give rain from Thee with which our high lands get covered with green herbage. The obligatorily elided verb phrase in the imperative sentence اسقنا "give-rain-us" implies the act of invocation. The verb phrase can be recovered from the existing verbal noun "سقيا" "giving/pouring rain".

G) Persuasion

Finally, the function of persuasion can be realized through the ellipsis of verbal phrases, as shown in the examples below:

(27) فيا أيها الناس فيما استحفظكم من كتابه

So remember Allah, O People, about what he has asked you in his book to take care of.

عباد الله ، الله الله في أعز الانفس عليكم (28)

O creatures of Allah! Fear Allah, Allah, in the matter of your own selves which are the most beloved and dear to you.

(29) العمل العمل ، ثم النهاية النهاية استقامة استقامة ثم الصبر الصبر والورع

Action! Action! Then look at the end the end, and remain stead fast stead fast. Therefore, exercise endurance, endurance, and piety, piety.

In the examples above, the verb phrase is a case of obligatory ellipsis. The omitted elements are اتقوا "fear-you-pl", راقبوا "remember-you-pl", راعوا "comply-with-you-pl", احسنوا "do-good-you-pl", and اصلحوا "reform-you-pl", respectively . The 2nd person plural masc. subject pronominals are attached to the verb by means of a suffix, and the verbs can be recovered via the accusative abstract nouns. The function of persuasion is realized via the repeated forms of abstract nouns.

Another example is found in the letter of Imam Ali bin Abi Taleb (AS) on his deathbed, to his son Imam Hassan (AS):

(30) الله الله في الأيتام، والله الله في الجيران، والله الله في الصلاة، والله الله في بيت ربكم، والله الله في الجهاد

"Allah (and) keep Allah in view in the matter of orphans... (Fear) Allah (and) keep Allah in view in the matter of your neighbors... (Fear) Allah (and) keep Allah in view in the matter of Quran... (Fear) Allah (and) keep Allah in view in the matter of prayer... (Fear) Allah (and) keep Allah in view in the matter of Jihad."

The verbal ellipsis implies concept of fearing Allah and piety. The verb "أوصيكم" is inferred from the repeated nouns referring to Allah [16].

Even though it has been mentioned earlier that ellipsis is used to avoid repetition, but in this example repetitions and ellipses are used alongside one another with the purpose of emphasizing the importance of this work and motivating to adhere to these instructions. If one of the words (Allah) were removed, the sentence would lose its meaning (أوصيكم), so repetition here is necessary because the omission causes a loss of meaning in the expression.

Comparison between ellipsis in arabic and english

The present work constitutes a detailed examination of the ellipited forms of verb in standard English and standard Arabic. The syntactic construction wherein verbal ellipsis occurs, as well



as the reasons of ellipsis are discussed. The comparison between verbal ellipses in English and Arabic brings forward several similarities and differences, as shown in the following sections.

Similarities

When comparing the different aspects of ellipsis in English and Arabic, several points of similarity can be pointed out. In both languages, ellipsis includes omitting one or more elements, which leave the listener to infer the omitted element. In Arabic and English ellipsis, recoverability is a must, as clues and pieces of evidence are found in the ellipted form that indicate that certain elements have been omitted from the original text.

Regarding the types of ellipsis used in both languages, each of the nominal, verbal, and clausal ellipsis occur in both Arabic and English. Both languages share the same reasons of ellipsis, which is for the purpose of economy or brevity, in addition to creating focus and specialization in text. Overall, both languages consider ellipsis a matter of style.

Differences

Despite the similarities mentioned in the previous section, there are some differences in the form and use of ellipsis in English and Arabic. In English, ellipsis is regarded as a syntactic omission and there is a reference to auxiliary ellipsis, meanwhile in Arabic ellipsis is considered to be an morphological omission, and there are no auxiliaries in the way they correspond to in English [18, 19].

There are three forms of ellipsis in English: nominal, verbal and clausal, while Arabic has five types: nominal, verbal, clausal, ellipsis of the letter, and ellipsis of the case vowel. Even through ellipsis evidence is a must in both languages, it is realized differently in each language. In English, ellipted elements can be recovered textually, situationally, or structurally. In Arabic, on the other hand, there is verbal, prepositional, and contextual evidence of ellipsis.

As for the nominal ellipsis, they include references to topical and comment ellipsis in Arabic, whereas in English nominal ellipsis addresses predicate and subject complements. However, verbal ellipsis in English is more detailed than in Arabic, as it involves the omission of lexical verb, auxiliary/modal verb plus subject complement, verb plus object, and omission of predicate. In Arabic, there is only the omission of the lexical verb, with the reference to whether or not a substitution is used [20].

There are more detailed reasons for using ellipsis in Arabic than are found for English. In English, the reasons address avoiding repetitions, economizing speech, ensuring the continuity of thoughts, and achieving cohesion [1,13]. In contrast, in Arabic, the reasons of ellipsis cover specification, refusal, instruction, proclamation, reproach, invocation, and persuasion [17]. Table (1) below summarizes the main differences and similarities between ellipsis in English and Arabic that have been identified throughout this study.

Table 1. A comparison between ellipsis in English and Arabic

Factors	English	Arabic
Type of omission	Syntactic omission	Morphological omission
Types of ellipsis	Nominal	Nominal
	Verbal	Verbal
	Clausal	Clausal
	-	Ellipsis of Letter
	-	Ellipsis of Case Vowel



Reasons for ellipsis	Style	Style
	Economy	Fluency and Brevity
	Cohesion	-
	Emphasis and Focus	Specification
	-	Refusal
	-	Instruction
	-	Proclamation
	-	Reproach
	-	Invocation
Evidence and Recoverability	Textual recoverability	Verbal evidence
	Situational recoverability	Context evidence
	Structural recoverability	Prepositional evidence
Nominal Ellipsis	Subject	Subject
	Object	Object
	Subject Complement	-
	-	Topic
	-	Comment
	-	Adjective
Verbal Ellipsis	Lexical	Ellipsis with substitution
	Auxiliary / Modal	Ellipsis without substitution
	Verb plus Subject Complement	
	Verb plus Object	
	Predicate	
Clausal Ellipsis	Model elements	Conditional clause
	Propositional elements	Consequent clause
		Verbal sentence

2. CONCLUSIONS

After having defined the concept of ellipsis in Arabic and English, and discussed the different types and purposes of this phenomenon on both languages, there are a number of conclusions drawn for this contractive study:

1. Despite the similarities, there are different categories of ellipsis in Arabic and English. English has three types of ellipsis: nominal, verbal and clausal ellipsis, while Arabic has five types: nominal, verbal, clausal, ellipsis of the letter, and ellipsis of the case vowel.
2. Even through ellipsis evidence is necessary in both languages, it is realized differently in each language. In English, ellipted elements can be recovered textually, situationally, or structurally. In Arabic, on the other hand, there is verbal, prepositional, and contextual evidence of ellipsis.
3. The reasons behind using ellipsis in Arabic are more detailed than those in English. In English, the reasons include avoiding repetition, economy of expression, and creating



cohesion. In contrast, the reasons of ellipsis in Arabic include fluency and brevity, specification, refusal, instruction, proclamation, reproach, invocation, and persuasion. After having stated the significance of this work, there are a number of fields where the present study may be used as a starting point for future work:

1. The comparison between the cases and use of ellipsis in English and Arabic can be used as part of teaching methods in order to facilitate the EFL learning process in this regard.
2. The similarities and differences of ellipsis identified in this work can be used in the process of translation training, to help translators develop such language skills in translation and bridge the language gaps between Arabic and English expressions.

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