

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS' COMPETENCES IN USING
ELLIPTICAL CONSTRUCTION AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF NORTH MALUKU**

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ABSTRACT

Elliptical construction usually applies namely in spoken and written form. Elliptical construction is combination from two sentences, with different subject but have the same verb complement. And the elliptical construction or arrangement of sentence used to avoid unnecessary repetition of words in a sentence.

This research aimed to know the extent of students' competence in using elliptical construction to the fourth semester students at English Department of Muhammadiyah University. This research used descriptive qualitative. The subjects of this study were the fourth semester students of the English Department, they consisted of 20 respondents. The data were collected through test items, the data were analyzed by using tabulated into rating scale and qualification.

This research found out that only 2 respondents had very good category with the score 90-93, there were 3 respondents had good category with the score 80, there were 4 respondents had sufficient category with the score 60-70, there were 5 respondents had poor category with the score 40-50 and 6 respondents got very poor category with the score 0-30. The students' mastery use elliptical construction to complete the sentences categorized poor. This proven by the evidence total presentation students' ability in doing the test of elliptical construction is 49,9 %.

Keywords--- *Key words: Students, Competence, Elliptical Construction*

INTRODUCTION

In learning English, students often get in trouble in mastering it. As the researcher' experiences, many students find difficulty to master English caused by the lack of books or references and also the teaching way from teachers. Those factors caused the students find it hard in learning English and understanding it well. The problems that the students sometimes find are: mastering words, find out meaning, using modals, using elliptical in speaking

and written form, using to do to have, and how to memorize each word.

Those problems above make the researcher is interested to do the research especially for the use of elliptical construction in written form. Elliptical construction usually applies namely in spoken and written form. Elliptical construction is combination from two sentences, with different subject but have the same verb complement. And the elliptical construction or arrangement of sentence used to avoid unnecessary repetition of

words in a sentence. Generally, elliptical or ellipsis is often used in spoken and written activities both in the form of conversations and writing. The purpose is to avoid or reduce or even eliminate utterance words that are considered unnecessary in the sentence by using this elliptical sentence will feel shorter and more beautiful, both in terms of arrangement and in terms of meaning. The competences in using elliptical construction are important, if we wish to form correct sentences that accurately convey the idea given. To determine the ability at the second students, to understand the function, meaning and usefulness of elliptical construction.

For this research, we examine students whether they are able to grasp the elliptical construction sentences properly and correctly or not. Because beyond thus many students cannot write sentences in English well. Most of them arrange sentences that are always repeated. Then the elliptical construction usually uses: **Too, So, Either, Neither, and But**. We will analyze some students to write sentence using elliptical construction, after that we see whether the sentence structure of the students is appropriate or not. On other hand, the purpose of this research is to provide a little material to improve English grammar according to its function.

In English, we must learn the basic of this material, and elliptical construction is also a part of foundation of English language. Students should be more active in learning English from the

basics. So they have no difficulty in doing assignments or writing English articles. In writing English sentence we must always look at the elliptical construction sentence, so that the sentence written is not repeated the example sentences: (father likes classical music. Mother likes classical music, become: father likes classical music, and mother does too. Father likes classical music and so does mother).

The example of sentences above, it can be understand the use of elliptical construction in English. So we have to give students understanding of elliptical construction in composing a sentence. When students get problems in writing sentences using elliptical construction, we can provide detailed understanding along with example. In that way so that students can understand well. The explanation of the elliptical construction above us can find out the ability of students to understanding the meaning and basic objective of English language science.

From this reason, the researcher is interested to analyze the Elliptical Construction entitled "**Analysis of students' competences in using elliptical construction to the fourth semester of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of North Maluku**".

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Definition of grammar

Andrue (2008:18) "Grammar is as set of rules that absolute and fixed a

target or goal that speaker need attain in order to be "good" writers the language". Beside that Sidney says in the book of *An Introduction of English Grammar*.

Grammar is the study of words combine to form sentence, the following is a well-formed grammatical sentence Gerard (2001:12). Grammar is a system of language and it is a science that teaches a learner to speak, to read, and to write correctly. It can help the students to learn language more quickly and more efficiently. When the learners understand the grammar (or system) of language, they can understand many things by themselves.

Based on the explanations mentioned above, they said that grammar is the ways how to combine or arrange the word to be sentences in written or spoken language and also grammar can help the learners to be more quickly and more efficiently in learning English because they should master many forms in English grammar. .

2. Definition of elliptical construction

Elliptical construction is combination from two sentences, with different subject but have the same verb complement. And elliptical construction the arrangement of sentence used to avoid unnecessary repetition of words in a sentence. Difference in sentences from two clauses that have been redacted or simplified; use. Too, so, either, neither or but, (Amrozi, 1997:461).

In theory assessment analysis, According to Phillip and Parker (2012), elliptical Construction is linguistic phenomena where a sentence lacks material that would normally be

obligatory, and the missing material is nevertheless semantically recoverable from the local syntactic or semantic context,

Based on what has been said by the experts, the researcher concludes that elliptical construction is important in the teaching and learning process, because students must be more active in learning English from the basics. So they have no difficulty in doing assignments or writing articles in English. In writing English sentences, we must always look at elliptical construction sentences, so that the sentences written do not have any repetition of words that are considered unimportant or unnecessary at all.

a. Type Of Elliptical Construction

1) Positive Elliptic (Too - So)

Positive ellipse is the process of combining 2 positive times that has the same predicate (verb) (including object and complement). In Positive elliptical sentences using Too and So. in this form there are 2 things that must be considered: the auxiliary verb used must be in accordance with the first sentence time form auxiliary verb.

2) Negative elliptical (either-neither)

Negative Elliptical is the process of combining 2 times the negative that has the same predicate (Verb) (including object and its complement). what if in a negative sentence we find the same predicate, then we should use the word "either" or "neither" which means "also not":

There are several important things to consider in forming negative

elliptical sentences, including the following:

The auxiliary verb used must match the time form of the first sentence. The Either location is always behind the Auxiliary verb while the neither location is always at the beginning of the Auxiliary verb. For neither, there is no need to add NOT behind the Auxiliary verb, because the Neither form comes from No + Either.

3) Contrary Elliptical (But)

This elliptical arrangement is used to combine two sentences that have the opposite predicate (one is positive and one is negative). In the formation of elliptical sentences of this form, things to note are as follows:

The auxiliary verb used must match the time form of the first sentence. If the first sentence is Positive, the auxiliary is added with Not, If the first clause is negative, then the auxiliary is not added to Not.

3. Definition of Competence

Glaeser in her journal (2018 vol. 45) summarized some theories from the theorists as like: Messick (1984:217-227) defines competence as 'what an individual knows and can do in a subject area however that knowledge and skill is acquired, whether through instruction or experience or whatever, and, later in the same paper, as what a person knows and can do under ideal circumstances. These definitions contain the capacity to act and thus are related to the one frequently referred to in the German context which considers competences to be 'context-specific dispositions for

achievement that can be acquired through learning.

Klieme & Leutner (2006) competence as a 'disposition' implies that it is a latent construct, i.e. something that may not be directly observable. In other words, performance is not the same thing as competence, though it is taken to be an indicator of competence. In order to study competence, empirical researchers have to create situations which elicit a performance reflecting the underlying competence. This is not a trivial task: designing situations or test items which really do reflect the competence to be studied requires careful conceptualization of the competence. In addition, a number of factors may influence performance apart from competence, so it is important to be aware of these and, as far as possible, to reduce their impact. Again, all of motivation, knowledge, and competence as well as more transient factors such as fatigue or distraction jointly affect performance.

According to Mulder (2012); the concept of competence has a rich history and is most known from current practices of competence-based education and competence-management in organizations. During the period that the concept is studied at ECS, a lot of critique was given. 'We don't need the concept in educational science, it does not add anything', 'It is a container-concept, everyone attributes a different meaning to it, There is no theoretical background for the notion of competence', and 'There is hardly any

research on competence'. There is no excuse for ignorance, especially not when one studies in a group called Education and Competence Studies. That is why the group decided to teach a course on competence theory and research.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study applied qualitative approach is which has natural characteristics as a source of direct, descriptive data, the process is more prioritized than the results, analysis in qualitative research tends to be done inductively and meaning is essential. The place of the research was in English Department at UMMU. This research conducted on July 2020. The respondents of this study were the fourth semester students of the English Department; they consisted of 20 respondents who received good attendance in class. And the source of data in this study is students' answers to the test items.

The instrument that was used in this research is: Test items, as the main instrument, given to students to fill as what asked in it. And Camera for taking picture while collecting data in progress. In this research, data collection techniques used is:

- 1) The researcher determines the number of respondents to be examined.
- 2) Prepare the instrument, the researcher used test instrument in the form of filled questions totaling

10 numbers. These questions contain sentences that must be arranged by the respondents in elliptical construction using too and so.

- 3) Researchers explained the purpose and rules of research in advance to students, followed by explaining what Elliptical construction to students is.
- 4) Documentation is the collection of data using a cell phone camera as a tool for taking pictures while the research is in progress.

The researcher used descriptive analysis techniques (percentages). Data analyzing took from the documentation to be analyzed based on the answers. The researcher analyzed the students' answers and calculates them using the percentage formula.

The formula of percentage is:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

P = Percentage

F = Answer Frequency

N = Number of respondents

The researcher classified also the students' competence in using elliptical construction through rating scale qualification as follows:

Table 1: Rating Scale

No	Degree of Mastery	Qualification
1	90-100	Very Good
2	80-89	Good
3	60-79	Sufficient
4	40-59	Poor
5	00-39	Very Poor

Source; Brown, 2000

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the researcher collected data by using test items. Test items consist of 30 numbers and then total respondents are 20. The research

also explain into 3 parts namely Too and So, Either and Neither, and But. The following table is the recapitulation of student test results for the three materials tested, namely Too and So, Either and Neither, and But.

Table 7: The Recapitulation of Students' Test Result of Too and So, Either and Neither, and But

No	So and Too	Either and Neither	But	Average score	Qualification
1	100	80	100	93	Very Good
2	90	90	90	90	Very Good
3	70	60	70	66	Sufficient
4	70	70	70	70	Sufficient
5	70	60	70	66	Sufficient
6	50	50	50	50	Poor
7	40	40	40	40	Poor
8	80	80	80	80	Good
9	80	80	80	80	Good
10	80	80	80	80	Good
11	20	0	20	13	Very Poor
12	0	0	0	0	Very Poor
13	60	60	60	60	Sufficient
14	20	20	20	20	Very Poor
15	20	20	20	20	Very Poor
16	50	50	50	50	Poor
17	40	40	40	40	Poor
18	0	0	0	0	Very Poor
19	50	50	50	50	Poor
20	30	30	30	30	Very Poor
Total	1.020	960	1.020	998	-
Percentage				49,9 %	Poor

Table 8: The Data recapitulation of students' classification

No	Rating Scale	Qualification	Frequency
1	90-100	Very Good	2
2	80-89	Good	3
3	60-79	Sufficient	4
4	40-59	Poor	5
5	00-39	Very Poor	6
			20

From the classification data above it can be known that there were 2 respondents were categorized as very good, 3 respondents were categorized as good, 4 respondents were categorized as Sufficient, 6 respondents were categorized as poor and 6 respondents were categorized as very poor.

To know the fourth semester students' competence in using elliptical construction, the researcher used test and used the formula to calculate the percentage score of the students. Here are the explanations about the result of the test.

The items number 1-10 of using too and so were 2 respondents answered correctly or got very good score or 50.0%, 3 respondents got good score or 40.0%, 4 respondents got sufficient score or 35.0%, 5 respondents got poor score or 25.0%, and 6 respondents got very poor score or 15.0%. In this part were the students got mean score 51 it is still categorized as poor score. The items number 1-10 of using either and neither to complete the sentences were 1 respondents answered correctly or got very good score or 50.0%, 4 respondents obtained good score or

40.0%, 4 respondents obtained sufficient or 35.0%, 5 respondents obtained poor score or 25.0%, and 6 respondents obtained very poor score or 15.0%. In this part were the students got mean score 48 it is still categorized as poor score. The items number 1-10 of using but were 2 respondents answered correctly or got very good score or 50.0%, 3 respondents obtained good score or 40.0%, 4 respondents obtained sufficient score or 35.0%, 5 respondents obtained poor score or 25.0%, and 6 respondents got very poor score or 15.0%. In this part were the students obtained mean score 51 it is still categorized as poor score.

After calculating the three scores from the three topics of elliptical construction, namely so and too, either and neither, and But. It can be known that there were 2 respondents had very good category with the score 90-93, there were 3 respondents had good category with the score 80, there were 4 respondents had sufficient category with the score 60-70, there were 5 respondents had poor category with the score 40-50 and in very poor category there were 6 respondents with the score 0-30.

From the result of the test it is found that the fourth semester students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of North Maluku categorized into poor. It is shown by the evidence of the mean score of students' ability in doing the test of elliptical construction, that is 49, 9 % which is the score classified into poor.

Based on the explanation above, it

showed that the fourth semester students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of North Maluku still have poor competence of elliptical construction.

CONCLUSION

Based on the chapter IV previously, the researcher would like to conclude the research as follows:

1. The recapitulation results of the three materials tested, namely too and so, either and neither, and but showed that only 2 respondents had very good category with the score 90-93, 3 respondents had good category with the score 80, 4 respondents had sufficient category with the score 60-70, 5 respondents had poor category with the score 40-50 and 6 respondents got very poor category the score 0-30.
2. Based on the data recapitulation of the three materials namely so and too, either and neither, and but, the researcher concluded the students' mastery in using elliptical construction to complete the sentences categorized poor. This proven by the evidence of students' ability in doing the test of elliptical construction is 49,9 %.

After the researcher carried out of the research, the researcher proposed some suggestions, they are:

- a. The teacher should encourage students interested in learning English

especially vocabulary. So that, they do not get bored and they can be active in teacher and learning process.

- b. In this modern era, the students are suggested to learn from internet where they can access to gain knowledge about vocabulary from many sources, one of them is through online game namely PUBG that have a lot of vocabulary they can learn by playing the game in of course they will enjoy it.
- c. Although PUBG can be a medium for vocabulary learning, teachers and parents must still pay attention to students while playing the game.

Based on the conclusions above, the researcher would like to give some suggestions for the English lecturers and the fourth semester students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of North Maluku as follow:

1. English lecturers who teach grammar subject in the fourth semester students should give more explanation about grammar especially elliptical construction.
2. The fourth semester students should have many grammar books about elliptical construction.
3. The fourth semester students should read a lot of books on grammar.
4. The fourth semester students should study hard in order to mastery English grammar especially elliptical construction.

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