Omissioilmiöt
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1.

I was typing with the computer. When I was reading the text on the screen I started to wonder whether the order of the two paragraphs should be changed. I typed in the command and the order changed. Now the text was fine.

(Suvi, article 4, example 2)

Main types of clause-level ellipsis

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<th>Minimal well-formed clause</th>
<th>Ellipsis of core argument(s)</th>
<th>Core-ellipsis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+ core arguments</td>
<td>+ core argument</td>
<td>+ core argument(s)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Elicited examples on core-ellipsis

2. Gapping
Boy and girl go to the shop together:
BOY BUY APPLE ' GIRL Ø BANANA
"The boy bought an apple and the girl (bought) a banana."

3. Stripping
MY FRIENDS VISIT-ME HOSPITAL ' RELATIVES Ø ALSO
"My friends came to visit me at the hospital, and (my) relatives (came to visit me at the hospital) too."

4. Sluicing
ME KNOW YOU BUY+ALREADY APPLE Ø BUT CONTQ:WHY (Ø)
"I know you bought an apple but (I don’t know) why (you bought it)?"

5. VP-ellipsis
Boy and girl go to the shop together:
BOY WANT BUY APPLE ' GIRL WANT ø ALSO
"The boy wants to buy an apple and the girl wants (to buy an apple) too."
Ellipsis of core arguments

- Ellipsis can be motivated, e.g., by grammatical and discourse factors.
- **Grammatical** contexts that clearly favor the ellipsis of core arguments in FinSL include:
  - Coordinate constructions (NB! important also in core-ellipsis)
  - Topic-comment structures
  - Structures involving Type 2 verbals, which are strongly linked to
    - Constructed action.
- FinSL elides especially the thematic elements in the discourse; this functions to add positively to the continuity and cohesion of the discourse.

Coordinate constructions

7. MAN GO-IN ‘Ø SEE WOMAN
'The man goes in and sees the woman.'
   (elicited example)

8. The signer is telling a story about a snowman:
   SNOWMAN GO-IN ‘Ø LOOK-AROUND ’ ...
   'The snowman goes in and looks around...'
   (CFINSL2013-005-05, signer 1, COO-4)

Topic-comment structures

9. When explaining her daily use of languages:
   terrified: AT-HOME | / terrified: UNIVERSITY AREA | / terrified: Ø SIGN |
   'As for my home, as for the university campus, (I) sign.'
   (MoCap data 1, signer 1, 00:26.680-00:29.770)

10. MY-OWN BAPTISE+AUNT | / terrified: Ø LIVE SWEDEN+DIRECTION |
    'As for my godmother, (she) lives in Sweden.'
    (Suvi, article 114, example 4)

11. KEY+INDEX-down | / terrified: WOMAN Ø TAKE-down+up |
    'As for the key, the woman picks it/the key up.'
    (elicited data)
Note on analysis

• In many frameworks, topics such as those in (10) and (11) have been analyzed as subjects or objects moved (i.e. topocalized) from their clause-internal position to the clause-external topic position.
• However, in the study of FinSL, the structures are considered to involve no movement: the comment clauses are simply treated as elliptical and, in fact, considered to represent instances of near obligatory zero anaphora.
• The empirical motivation for the FinSL analysis is the fact that it is possible (yet marked) to produce both types of examples so that their comment clauses include, for instance, an anaphoric pronoun referring to the referent identified by the clause-external topic.


On structures involving Type 2 verbals & CA

BOY LOOK-AT Ø CA ("let-it-be")
'The boy watched (the dog barking around) and (thought that) "umh, let it be".'

(12)


Elided elements are typically discourse themes

13.

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FinSL is a discourse-oriented language

• According to McShane (2005: 18-19), discourse-oriented languages fulfill the following criteria in terms of ellipsis:
  – discourse-oriented languages permit more ellipsis than non-discourse-oriented languages;
  – in discourse-oriented languages, thematic elements tend to be elided;
  – in discourse-oriented languages, ellipsis is not merely an optional grammatical process but an important means of supporting the discourse structure.

The clause sample

- *Snowman and Frog, where are you?*
- 10 native FinSL signers (4 male, 6 female; ages between 20–60 years)
- Combined duration 37 minutes 56 seconds
- 3378 sign tokens
- 1077 structurally annotated clauses
- 933 verbal-centered clauses
  - Clauses with a Type 1 and 2 predicate $n = 712$
    - Intransitive clauses $n = 331$
    - Transitive clauses $n = 381$
  - Clauses with a Type 3 predicate $n = 221$
- **Question:** How frequent is core argument ellipsis in FinSL?

Core argument omission in intransitive clauses with a Type 1 & 2 predicate

Core argument omission in transitive clauses with a Type 1 & 2 predicate

Intransitive and transitive clauses with a Type 1 & 2 pred.