Some Anaphoric/Elliptical Constructions of English

(Corrected after class)

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1 Most Discussed

(1) **Verb Phrase Ellipsis** (a.k.a. VP Deletion, VP Ellipsis, VPE, VP Anaphora; Sag 1976)
   a. Pat has climbed Mt. Everest, and Chris has __, too.
   b. A: My daughter absolutely adores spinach!
      B: My son doesn’t __.
   c. My aunt will continue to try to be helpful, and
      my uncle will (continue to (try to (be __))), as well.

(2) **Sluicing** (Ross 1969; Merchant 2001)
   a. Somebody just left. Guess who __.
   b. Lee is writing something, but you can’t imagine what/where/why/how __.
   c. They’re sending the present away, but we don’t know to/with/for whom __.

2 Nominal Ellipsis

(3) **Noun Phrase Ellipsis** (a.k.a. N-Deletion - Jackendoff 1971)
   I like Leslie’s turquoise shirt, but not Pat’s __.

(4) **Null Complement Anaphora** (Hankamer and Sag 1976; Fillmore 1986)
   A: Who just left?   B: Guess __!
(5) **N-Gapping** (a.k.a. \( \bar{N} \)-Gapping - Jackendoff 1971)
   a. Leslies story about Lee and Kim’s _ about Tracy both amazed me.
   b. I bought three quarts of wine and two _ of Clorox.

(6) **One(s) Anaphora**
   a. Leslies story about Lee really amazed me; Pat’s one about Tracy also amazed me.
   b. I like Pat’s chocolates better than the ones we brought.

3 **Definite Anaphora**

(7) **Definite Pronoun Anaphora**
   a. The years have been kind to Lee. He still looks very young.
   b. The fact that Lee looks young doesn’t mean he feels young.
   c. We lived in the 60s in the 70s. Did you live there then?
   d. Kerry lost the election and we regret it.

(8) **Demonstratives**
   a. Gore lost the election. That (much) is undeniable.
   b. I promise to help you, but this is the last promise I’ll ever make.

4 **Clausal Ellipsis**

(9) **Gapping** (Ross 1970)
   a. Pat has climbed Mt. Everest, and Chris _ Mt. Kilimanjaro.
   b. Sandy will try to walk to Seattle, and Leslie _ (to run (to St. Louis)).
   c. The Republicans believe Romney to be electable, and the Democrats _ Obama _.
(10) **Pseudogapping** (N. Levin 1986)
   a. Pat has climbed Mt. Everest, and Chris has __ Mt. Kilimanjaro.
   b. The teachers will require the boys to read, but they won’t __ the girls __.

(11) **Stripping** (a.k.a. General Ellipsis - Morgan 1973, Hankamer 1971)
   a. Pat just left, and Chris __, too.
   b. **Answer Fragments**
      A: Who left?
      B: Kim __
   c. **Not-Stripping**
      A: Did everyone solve the problem?
      B: not Kim __

5 **Identity of Sense Anaphora**

(12) **Do so Anaphora**
   Pat has climbed Mt. Everest, and Chris has done so, too.

(13) **Do it Anaphora**
   Pat has climbed Mt. Everest, and Chris has done it, too.

(14) **Sentential Anaphora**
   a. Gore lost the election, but that wouldn’t have happened to Kucinich.
   b. Neither Biden nor Romney have campaigned in Guam and neither has regretted it.

6 **Coordinate Ellipsis**

(15) **From left side of right conjunct**
   a. [Sandy bought a gun] and [__ was immediately arrested by the police].
b. We [gave a book to Lee] and [__ a magazine to Chris]

c. [A present was given to Bo on Sunday] and [__ (to) Lou on Monday]

d. We [bet Lee $5 that the Giants would win] and [__ (Pat) ($10) that the As would lose].

e. We [bet Lee $5 that the Giants would win] and [__ $10 __].

f. [Every Democrat] and [__ Republican] has the right to vote.

(16) From right side of left conjunct (a.k.a. Right-Node-Raising)

a. [I love __] and [my sister hates, victories by the NY Yankees]

a’. [I love __] and [my sister hates __], [victories by the NY Yankees]

7 Ellipsis in the Comparative Clause

(17) Comparative Deletion

a. Kim read more books than Lee read __. (Δ many books)

b. You run less often than Bo runs __. (Δ much often)

(18) Comparative Subdeletion

a. Kim ate more cupcakes than Robin ate __ cookies. (Δ many)

The table is as tall as it is __ wide. (Δ much)

(19) Comparative Ellipsis₁

a. Kim ate more cupcakes than Robin __. (ate Δ many cupcakes)

b. I like Lee more than Pat __. (likes Lee Δ much)

c. I like Lee more than __ Pat __. (Like __ Δ much)

(20) Comparative Ellipsis₂

a. Kim ate more cupcakes than Robin did __. (eat Δ many cupcakes)

(= VP Ellipsis?)
b. Montana threw better passes to Rice than he did $\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_$ to Clark. (eat \_ good passes)

(= Pseudogapping?)

(21) **Comparative Ellipsis**$^3$ (\(=\) CE with ‘Pied Wiping’ Effect)

a. We ate more cupcakes than $\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_$ was necessary. (for us to eat \_ many cupcakes)

(22) **Comparative Ellipsis**$^4$

a. [Discussing Mary Hartman’s attempt to disguise herself by wearing sunglasses]

You know, I think you draw much more attention to yourself with them on than $\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_$ off. (you draw \_ much attention to yourself with them)

(23) **Comparative Ellipsis**$^5$ (\(=\) Comparative Gapping)

a. Montana threw better passes on a bad day than Stabler $\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_$ on a good day. (threw \_ good passes)

**References**


