

# A Contrastive Study of Pseudogapping and Gapping in Arabic and English

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## Abstract

This paper sheds light on two types of ellipsis i.e., Pseudogapping and Gapping and puts each of them in a comparison between Arabic and English languages. It tries to account for the similarities between the two languages in the application of these two types focusing on deleting the verb within these constructions. The methodology followed here is descriptive and analytical. The study reveals that there is a high degree of similarity between the two languages in this respect.

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

## Abbreviations and Formats Used in the Paper

Acc	Accusative
Nom	Nominative
Gen	Genitive
Dat	Dative
C	Complementizer
T	Tense
V	Verb
N	Noun
D	Determiner
Spec	Specifier
t	Trace
&	coordinator
CP	Complementizer Phrase
TP	Tense Phrase
VP	Verb Phrase
NP	Noun Phrase
DP	Determiner Phrase
PP	Prepositional Phrase
AdvP	Adverbial Phrase
FocP	Focus Phrase
TopP	Topic Phrase
Neg	Negative
AgrP	Agreement Phrase
AspP	Aspect Phrase
&P	Coordination Phrase
Sub	Subjunctive
Q.Particle	Question Particle
E-feature	Ellipsis Feature
<del>Strikethrough</del>	Elided Material
<i>'italics'</i>	Arabic Word
*	Ungrammatical
∅	Null Element

## 1. Introduction

Ellipsis is used here to mean deleting an element(s) from the surface structure of the sentence to avoid redundancies. It is one of the controversial topics in linguistics because it overlaps with different fields such as syntax semantics and pragmatics. However, the topic is studied intensively from different perspectives and it is found that it is systematically applied and follows similar rules in different languages.

Ellipsis is defined by (Crystal, 1980:129) as “a term used in grammatical analysis to refer to a sentence where, for a reason of economy, emphasis or style, a part of the structure has been omitted, which is recoverable from the scrutiny of the context”. This definition explains the main purposes of ellipsis and the most important condition needed for its application, that is, recoverability.

The analysis of elliptical construction in this paper follows the PF (Phonetic Form) deletion account. It claims that the ellipted elements can be analyzed syntactically because they are found in the deep structure and

their deletion is only in the PF, they are deleted because their meaning can be recovered from an antecedent (Ross, 1969). This approach is followed because it links the syntactic and semantic features of the ellipsis site which accounts for several syntactic features and operations out of the ellipsis site such as movement of the remnants and their morphological case marking.

Ellipsis is divided into different types depending on the element that can be deleted from the clause; each type has certain conditions that allow its occurrence. Only two of these types are discussed here:

(i) Gapping: The deletion of a finite verb from the VP construction, with a remnant material to the left and to the right of the ellipsed elements. For example,

(1) some students like syntax and others ~~like~~ semantics.

The term Gapping is firstly introduced by Ross (1970) to refer to the absence of the main verb while two constituents remain. He proposes that Gapping occurs in the second conjunct where the shared verb with the first conjunct is missing.

(ii) Pseudogapping: The deletion of the verb with remnant of one, or more, main constituent as the subject or the object. Nonmain constituent may also remain.

For instance,

(2) Mary likes syntax but others do ~~like~~ semantics.

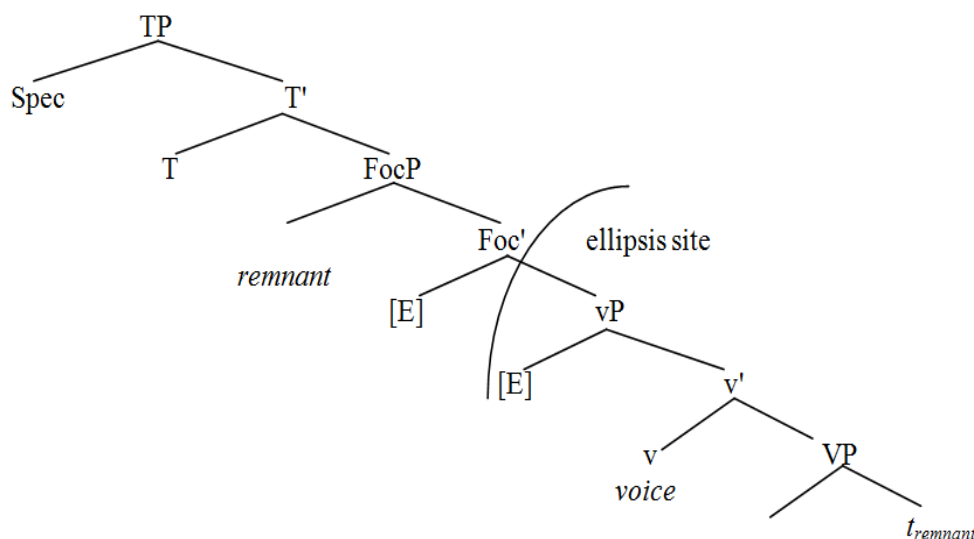
## 2 Literature Review

The main condition of ellipsis in both languages is recoverability; nothing can be omitted unless it can be recovered from linguistic or nonlinguistic context. Halliday and Hasan (1976:144) claim that “where there is ellipsis, there is recoverability in the structure, that something is to be supplied, or understood”. In Arabic, the issue of recoverability has been explained by Ibn Hisham (1959) through identifying two types of the indicators of ellipsis. One is ‘*Ḥayr šinaḩī*’ (non-syntactic), consists of ‘*ḥāli*’ (contextual) and ‘*maqāli*’ (lexical). The second is ‘*šinaḩī*’ (syntactic). Another condition found in both languages is that ellipsis must not lead to the ambiguity of the sentence and the ellipsed elements should be understood.

An important requirement for verb ellipsis suggested by Merchant (2001) is isomorphism condition which involves two conditions. The first is syntactic correspondence between the ellipsed elements and their antecedents ( they must be syntactically identical and occur in identical structures). The second is semantics match between them i.e. the omitted verb must be identical in the antecedent or implied in it.

Pseudogapping, according to Aelbrecht (2010), is allowed when there is a finite inflectional head (have, be and ‘dummy’ do). It is Aelbrecht, Gengel (2007) and Merchant (2013) as a verb ellipsis preceded by a movement operation of the remnants to internal Focus phrase (FocP) dominating the VP, as shown in (20).

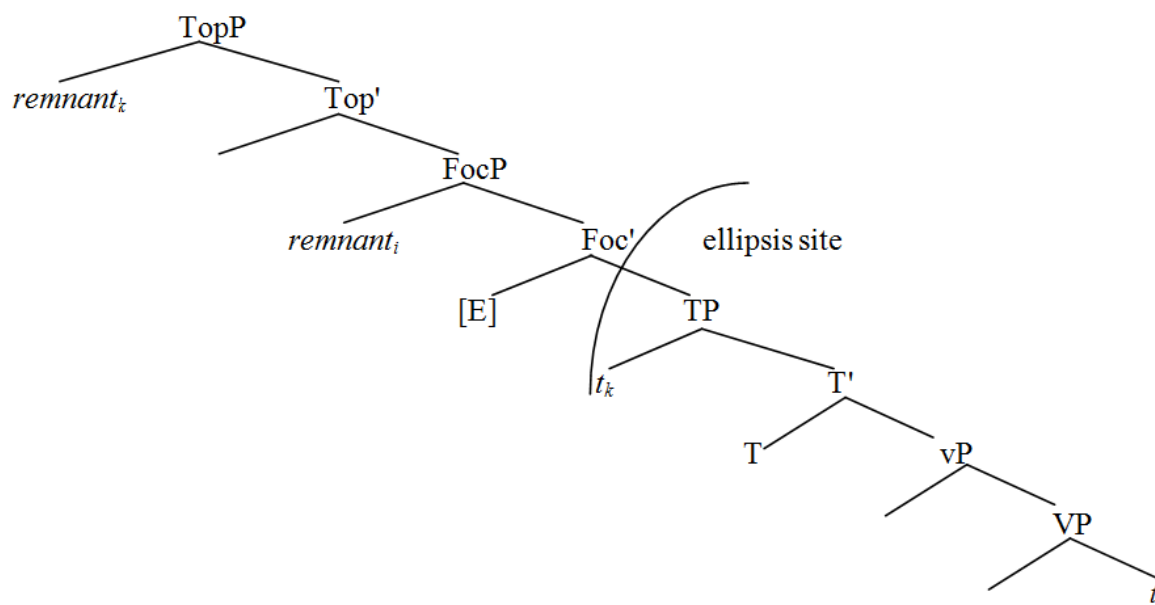
(20)



vP is used here to represent VoiceP.

Gengel (2013) suggests that verbal ellipsis in Gapping and Pseudogapping is licensed by FocP. For Pseudogapping, she argues that the remnant moves up to the specifier of FocP and the whole TP then is deleted as shown in the tree (20). The head of FocP bears [E] feature that allows TP ellipsis to take place. In Gapping, according to her, there are Topic-contrast focus structures operate, the edges of these structures are able to host the subject of the verb (i.e., the spec of the TP) and its complement. The subject bears a Topic features and the

complement a Focus feature which trigger their movement. When these elements move they leave a trace at their sites which are in turn deleted with their TP, as shown in (24):



Murguia (2005) proposes an explanation for parsing elliptical constructions by making use of the minimalist operations: Merge, Move and Spell-Out; which take into consideration economy issues, and which make use of local information.

She accounts for necessity of locality restrictions in ellipsis depending on the presence of tense and antecedent. This also a consequence of the availability of the syntactic structure (Spell-Out) and the representation of the sentence in the tree diagram. She concludes that low initial attachment does not always help in predicting the gapped material since in coordination the joined materials must be of the same type but the high attachment is satisfying because in this way the two materials must be TPs, the structure in which the verb occurs. Spell-Out of the antecedent prevents accessing its internal syntactic structure so, in some cases, it must be available for the purpose of recoverability before being spelled out. The presence of Tense in the clause which includes the elliptical construction allows nonlocal relation between the antecedent and the gap while the absence of Tense demands local relation.

### 3 Data Collection

Some of the Arabic sentences in this study are taken from the Holy Qur'an which is the main source for Arabic language rules of syntax. The other part depends on the common structures used in the standard speech and writings in Modern Standard Arabic. The sentences that are not found in these two forms of Arabic language are judged to be ungrammatical. English sentences are collected depending on the common sentences used in standard written texts.

### Discussion and Data analysis

#### 4 Pseudogapping

Pseudogapping is referred to here as the omission of the verb with two remnants; one to the left and another to the right of the ellipsis site, one of them is a major constituent. The auxiliary of Tense (the head of the TP) is not part of the ellipsis site. According to Aelbrecht (2010), Merchant (2001, 2007), and Lobeck (2005), this type includes a movement operation out of the VP.

The analysis of Merchant (2007) will be followed here. It assumes that the remnant that appears to the right of the gap (i.e., the complement of the verb) moves to a FocP dominating the ellipsed VP. For example,

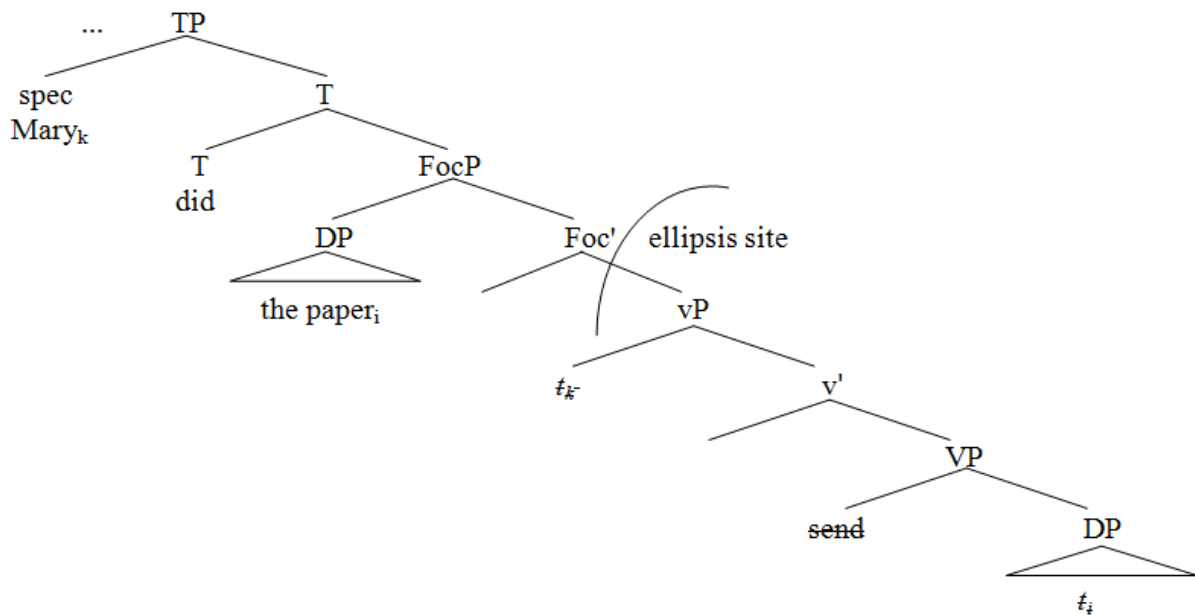
(3) *kāna zayd-un yadrus bi-jid-in wa ṣbahat hind-un tadrus*  
 Be-past Zayd-nom study-sub hard-gen and become-past Hind-nom ~~study present~~  
~~bi-jid-in yadran.~~  
~~hard-gen~~ too.

Zayd was studying hard and Hind became ~~studying hard~~ too.

(4) Bill sent the book and Mary did ~~send~~ the paper.

The tree diagram (5) represents the second clause of the sentence in (4):

(5)



Pseudogapping is rare and restricted in Arabic. The structures of the auxiliary verbs are the main reason for that. Some of the auxiliaries can be followed by other types of phrases, not only by VPs:

(6) *kāna al-jaww-u jamīl-an.*

Be-past the-weather-nom nice-acc.

The weather was nice.

In (6) the auxiliary ‘*kāna*’ (was) is followed by a nominal sentence the first one ‘*al-jawwu*’ (the weather) is its subject and the second ‘*jamīlan*’ (nice) is the predicate.

There are types of auxiliary verbs that must only be followed by a VP but when the verb is omitted the object must be included in the ellipsis site and so the remnant is possible to be any optional element as a PP or an AP but not the object of the verb. As the modal auxiliaries that are known in Arabic as ‘*kāda wa axawātuha*’ (kada and its sisters), this group includes about fourteen modal auxiliaries. Examples of these are ‘*badaʔa*’ (started) ‘*ʔwfaka*’ (was about to) ‘*jaçala*’ (started), they can appear in different forms of tense and must be followed by present form of the verb, and the subject may precede or follow them, as in the following example that is taken from the holly Qur'an:

(7) “*takādu al-samāwāt-u yatafaḩḩarna min-hu..*” (19:90)

be about to-present the-heavens-nom torn-sub from-it.

Thereby the heavens are nearly torn..

Pseudogapping is also limited in Arabic because the deletion of the verb alone is allowed only if the verb is intransitive (Al-Khawalda, 2002). So, in a Pseudogapping construction if the verb is deleted then the object must be deleted with it. For example,

(8) *nāma zayd-un qabla sāçat-in wa takādu hind-un*

sleep-past Zayd-nom before hour-gen and be about to-present Hind-nom

~~*tanāmu alʔān.*~~

~~sleep-sub now.~~

Zayd slept an hour ago and Hind is about to ~~sleep~~ now.

The intransitive verb in the second conjunct is deleted alone and the remnant that follows the ellipsis site is the adverb ‘*alʔān*’ (now).

(9) \**qatala zayd-un ʔaxā-hu wa kādat hind-un taçtul*

kill-past Zayd-nom his-brother and be about to-past Hind-nom ~~kill-sub~~

~~*ʔuxt-a-hā.*~~

~~her-sister-acc.~~

Zayd killed his brother and Hind was about to ~~kill~~ her sister.

The sentence in (9) is ungrammatical because the verb ‘*taçtul*’ (kill) is deleted alone leaving its object ‘*ʔuxtahā*’ (her sister) overt.

On the other hand, the absence of the object with the verb is not a restriction for Pseudogapping in English. The verb can be deleted when the ellipsis site is preceded by an auxiliary verb without any constraint related to the type of the remnants after the ellipsis site. For example,

(10) He studied English and she did ~~study~~ Arabic.

The remnant in (10) is the object (Arabic) of the deleted verb (study). Since the ellipsed verb is preceded by the auxiliary (did), the sentence is grammatical irrespective of the type of the remnant.

#### 4.1 Identity

Structural and semantic parallelism between the clause that includes ellipsis and the antecedent clause are required for verb ellipsis in Pseudogapping in both languages. This type shows connectivity effects with respect to selectional restrictions for both of the remnants, the specifier and the complement. The complement must be of an appropriate type that satisfies the selectional requirements of the verb in the antecedent clause. The specifier also has to check its features with the antecedent verb and the auxiliary in some aspects such as case marking and theta role. Let's take the sentence in (10) above as an example, the remnant (she) can be an agent subject for a verb like (study) and the other remnant Arabic can be an object for that verb, in this case only we can assume that the ellipsed verb is semantically identical to the antecedent one and so the sentence can be grammatical. If we changed this sentence to (11) it would be ungrammatical because the remnant (the car) doesn't satisfy the selectional features of a verb like study and it cannot be an object for such verb. Accordingly, we cannot assume that the ellipsed verb (at the site of (#)) is semantically identical to the antecedent. And so the sentence turns to be ungrammatical:

(11) \*He studied English and she did # the car.

Arabic Pseudogapping also shows semantic restriction, for instance, if we changed the subject of the ellipsed verb in (8) to '*al-sayyaratu*' (the car) it would be ungrammatical because this NP does not satisfy the semantic features of a verb like '*tanamu*' (sleep). So semantic identity is not possible between the two verbs.

Syntactic identity is, also, required for the application of Pseudogapping. The verbs must occur in identical syntactic structures to be able to delete one of them. Voice matches between the antecedent and the ellipsis site, as a result, is necessary for this type. Even though Aelbrecht (2010) assumes the ellipsis site to be smaller than VoiceP, Pseudogapping is not allowed if the auxiliary of voice remains overt when it is different from its antecedent. Merchant (2006) argues that since voice mismatch is ungrammatical, VoiceP must be included in the ellipsis site and so he rules out any voice switches in this type. For example,

(9) \*Bill fixed the car when it needed to be ~~fixed~~ yesterday.

(10) \*The car was fixed by Bill and Mary did ~~fix~~ the computer.

The ellipsed verb (fixed) in (9) occurs in a passive structure while its antecedents in an active one. This difference in voice is not allowed in English Pseudogapping and so the sentence is ungrammatical. The sentence in (10) has an antecedent in a passive structure and an ellipsed verb in an active structure this mismatch is also not allowed. The vP must be part of the ellipsis site, as shown in the tree (12) below, the reason for which voice mismatch is not acceptable:

Voice in Arabic is inflected with the verb and it cannot be separated from it. So, if the verb is elided, VoiceP must be included in the ellipsis site. For example,

(11) *qutila zayd-un albarihata wa kadat hind-un*

kill-past-passive Zayd-nom yesterday and be about to-past Hind-nom

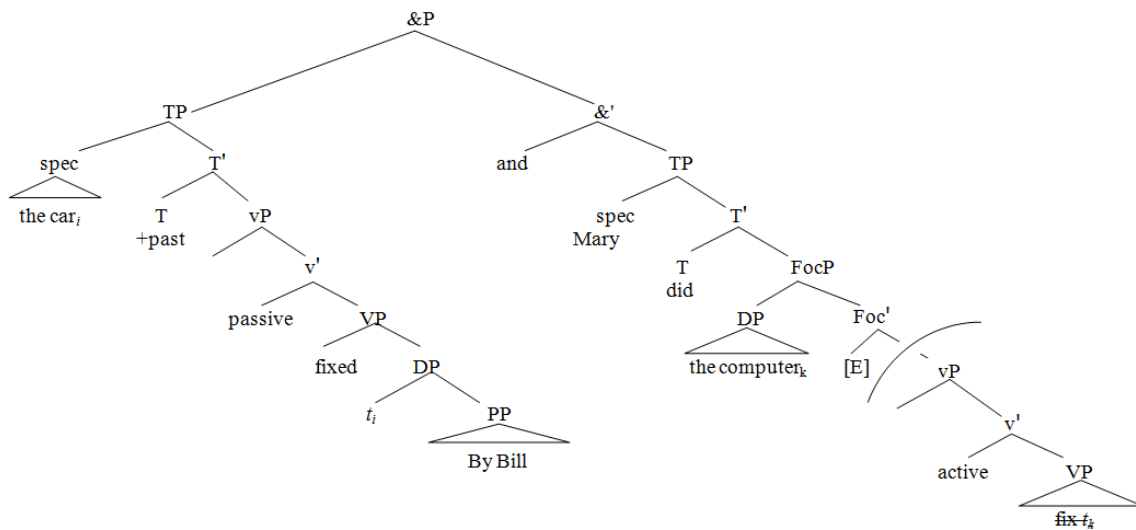
~~tuqtal~~ *ʔydan-*

kill-sub-passive too.

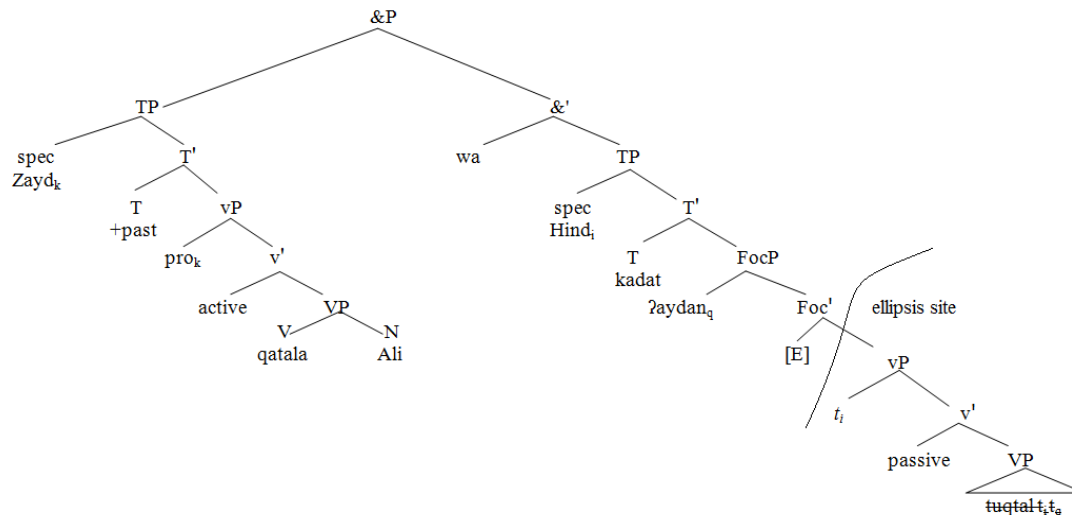
Zayd was killed yesterday and Hind was about to be killed too.

This sentence is represented in (13)

(12)



(108)



(14) \* zayd-un qatala çali-an wa kâdat hind-un tuqtal rydan.  
 Zayd-nom kill-past Ali-acc and be about to-past Hind-nom kill-sub-passive too.  
 Zayd killed Ali yesterday and Hind was about to be killed too.

The ellipted verb in (11) is recoverable from the verb ‘*qutila*’ (was killed) in the first conjunct so assumed to be ‘*tuqtal*’ (be killed). The verb as can be seen is inflected to voice. In the present form of the verb it is inflected by adding [-u-] after the first letter and [-a-] before the last. The sentence in (14) does not show syntactic identity; the verb ‘*qatala*’ (killed) in the first conjunct occurs in active structure while the ellipted one is assumed to be inflected for passive ‘*qutila*’ (was killed) which results in an ungrammatical sentence. The tree diagram represents the sentence in (11) and indicates that vP is included in the ellipsis site and so voice match is necessary for the grammaticality of the sentence.

Morphological match between the ellipted verb and the antecedent is not required to allow verb ellipsis of this type. Morphological mismatch is highly found in this type because the auxiliary verb is not included in the ellipsis site and so the ellipted verb may take a different form from its antecedent if the auxiliaries are different or if there is no overt auxiliary in the antecedent clause. For example,

(15) Bill has studied English but Mary did study Arabic.

As noted in (15) the verb in the second clause must be (study) which is morphologically different from the antecedent (studied). In the Arabic sentence in (16) the ellipted verb ‘*tanâmu*’ (sleep) takes a different form (present form) from the antecedent ‘*nâma*’ (sleep) which takes a past form.

#### 4.2 Anaphoric or cataphoric

Cataphoric: the ellipsis site precedes its antecedent.

Anaphoric: the ellipsis site follows its antecedent.

The antecedent must precede the ellipsis site not follow it. In both languages when the verb is deleted in such construction, it must be a forward deletion which means that there must be a verb in the preceding clause from which it can be recoverable. Otherwise the sentence will be ungrammatical. For example,

(17) \*Mary did ~~study~~ Arabic but Bill has studied English.

(18) \**takādu hind-un ~~tanāmu~~ al?āna wa nāma zayd-un qabla sācat-in.*

Be about to-present Hind-nom ~~sleep-sub~~ now and sleep-past Zayd-nom before hour-gen.

Hind is about to ~~sleep~~ now and Zayd slept an hour ago.

The sentence in (17) is ungrammatical because the antecedent (study) follows the ellipsis site in the first clause. In (18) also the ellipsed verb precedes the overt one so it is ungrammatical.

#### 4.3 Locality

Local relation between the antecedent verb and the ellipsed one is not required in Pseudogapping in both English and Arabic. This might result from the presence of tense argument that renders the predictability of the verb possible since the auxiliary decides the syntactic structure of the sentence and suggests the presence of a VP following it. In the case of English the verb is elided alone while its obligatory complement may remain which means that the antecedent is only needed to check the semantic content of the verb. For example,

(19) I sent money to Bill, and you heard that Peter did ~~send money~~ to Mary.

In (19) there is a long distance between the ellipsed elements; the verb and the object (send money) and their antecedents in the first clause. There is also a strong barrier (that) separates them. This non-locality, however, does not affect the grammaticality of the sentence at all.

Arabic allows non-local relation in Pseudogapping too. For instance,

(20) “*..lā yasxar qawm-un min qawm-in çasā ?an yakūnū xayr-an*  
neg-present mock-present people-nom from people-gen may that be-present  
*min-hum wa lā #nisā?-un min nisa?-in..*” (19:11)

better-acc than-them and not-present # women-nom from women-gen.

Do not let people mock other people who may be better than themselves. Do not let women (mock) women.

The sentence in (20) has an ellipsed verb in the site of #. This verb is recoverable from the antecedent verb ‘yasxaru’ (mock-present) in the first clause, as noted, there exists another clause ‘*çasā ?an yakūnū xayran minhum*’ (who may be better than themselves) between them which means that the relationship between them is nonlocal.

The verb in the preceding example in (20) is preceded by a negative marker ‘*la*’ that realizes present tense. So, even if there is an auxiliary verb following this marker immediately, this auxiliary appears in the subjunctive mood and does not denote tense.

#### 4.4 The possible structures

Pseudogapping can occur in subordinate structure in both languages. For example:

(21) Mary cleaned the room but I don’t know who did ~~clean~~ the garden.

(22) *?anhā zayd-un dirāsāt-a-hu wa ?uxbir-tu ?anna hind-an*

Finish-past Zayd-nom his-study-acc and tell-past-passive-I that hind-acc

*takādu ~~tuħħ~~ hāḍā al-çām.*

be about to-present finish-sub this the-year.

Zayd has finished his study and I was told that Hind is about to ~~finish~~ this year.

As noted, the elliptical clauses in (21) and (22) are subordinated to their antecedents without affecting the grammaticality of the sentence.

#### 4.5 Obligatoriness

In some elliptical constructions the deletion of the verb is obligatory in some cases such as in Verb Phrase ellipsis construction and in the case of question tag in English, and in Bare Argument Ellipsis to avoid redundancies in Arabic. However, there are no obligatory cases that require the verb to be deleted in a Pseudogapping construction in Arabic. Similarly, the structures in which the verb is obligatorily deleted in English such as question tags does not allow it in PseudoGapping. It is acceptable to be omitted with its complement as in (23) but ungrammatical to occur in a Pseudogapping construction as in (24):

(23) You speak English, don’t you?

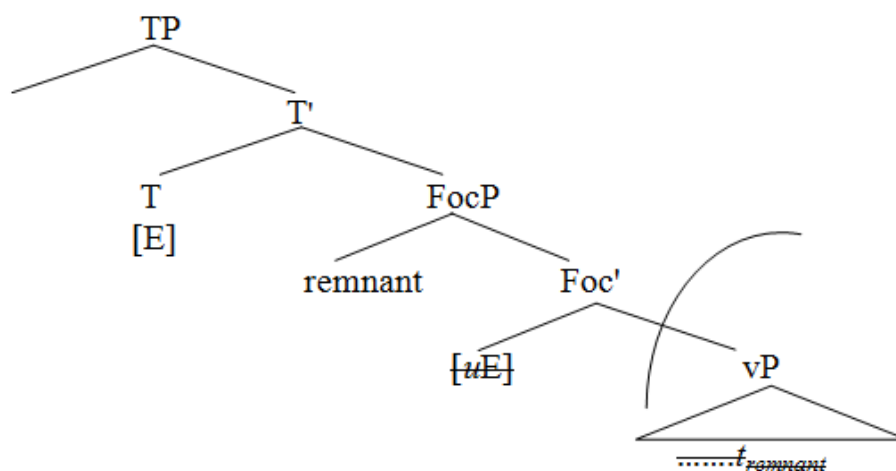
(24) You speak English, \*don’t you ~~speak~~ English?



#### 4.6 The licensing head

The licensing head for this type can be FocP that carries Uninterpretable [E] feature that is checked against the head T that also carries this feature, this assumption is proposed by Merchant (2007). This can be applicable to Arabic and English where FocP immediately precedes the ellipsis site as discussed above:

(25)



The presence of an overt verbal antecedent is necessary for the recoverability of the ellipped verb. The verb in this type, although its structure is already assigned, cannot be omitted depending on extralinguistic context, nominal antecedent or even a syntactic sign; there must be an overt verb in the preceding clause. This feature is applicable to both Arabic and English languages.

#### 5. Gapping

Gapping is used here to mean the deletion of the verb and the auxiliary of tense with two remnants surrounding the gap, other elements can be included in the ellipsis site as the object (or objects). For example,

(26) He fixed the car and she ~~fixed~~ the computer.

(27) “*wa yusabbiḥu al-raḡd-u bi-ḥamd-i-hi wa al-malāʔikat-u # min xīfati-hi*” (13:13)

exalt-present the-thunder-nom for-his-praise-gen and the-angels-nom # in awe-him.

The thunder exalts His praise, and so are the angels are in awe of Him.

The verbs in (26) and (27) are deleted in the site between the subject and the complement of the verb. The verb in (27) is assumed to be ‘*tusabbiḥu*’. The remnants, that are, the subject and the object in (26) are major constituents. In (26) also the remnants are major constituents; the subject and the PP complement of the verb.

Gapping is analyzed in Gengel (2013) as having two movement operations. The first is the movement of the subject to TopP and the other is the movement of the complement of the verb to FocP. The two projections dominate the TP and result in the ellipsis of the whole TP including the traces of the moved arguments. Thus, the sentences in (26) and (27) are represented in (28) and (29) respectively.

#### 5.1 Identity

Morphological identity between the ellipped verb and its antecedent is not required in both languages. The Arabic sentence in (28), for instance, has the ellipped verb inflected for singular feminine i.e. the [-t] in ‘*darasa-t*’ (studied) while the verb in the antecedent site does not have this inflection as the subject is masculine. The morphological mismatch in English is clear in (29) where the ellipped verb should be inflected for singularity to agree with the subject Mary, but the antecedent verb is not because the subject is plural:

(30) *zayd-un darasa al-ʔinglīziyyat-a wa hind-un ~~darasa~~ al-ḡarabiyya*

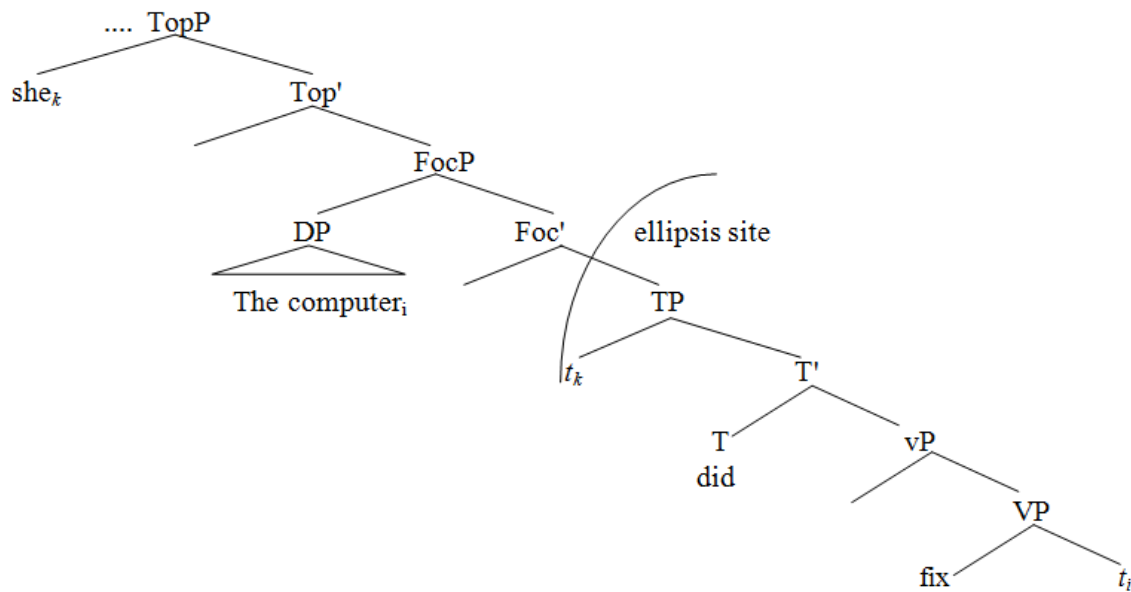
Zayd-nom study-past the-English-acc and Hind-nom ~~study-past~~ the-Arabic-acc.

Zayd studied English and Hind ~~studied~~ Arabic.

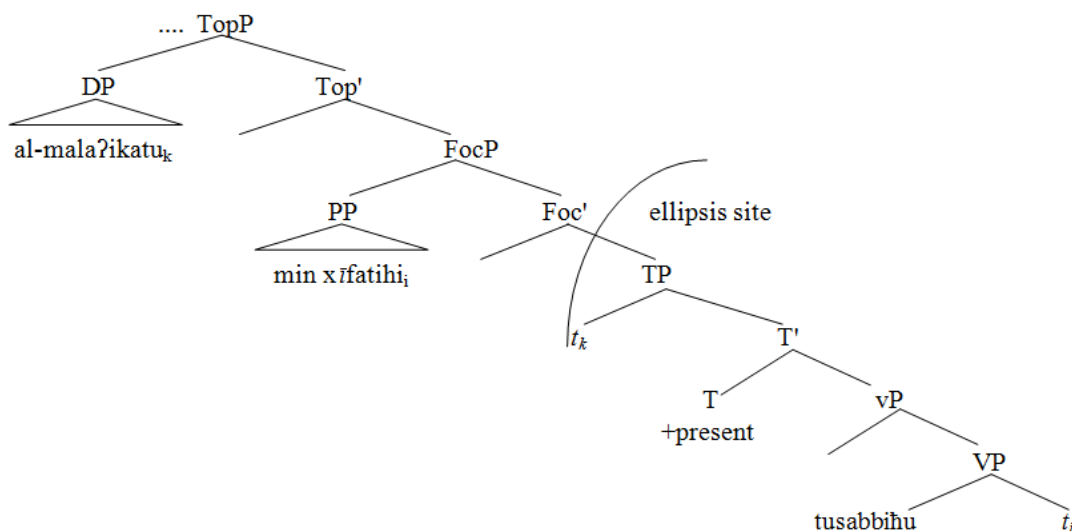
(31) They like semantics but Mary ~~likes~~ syntax.

(32)





(33)

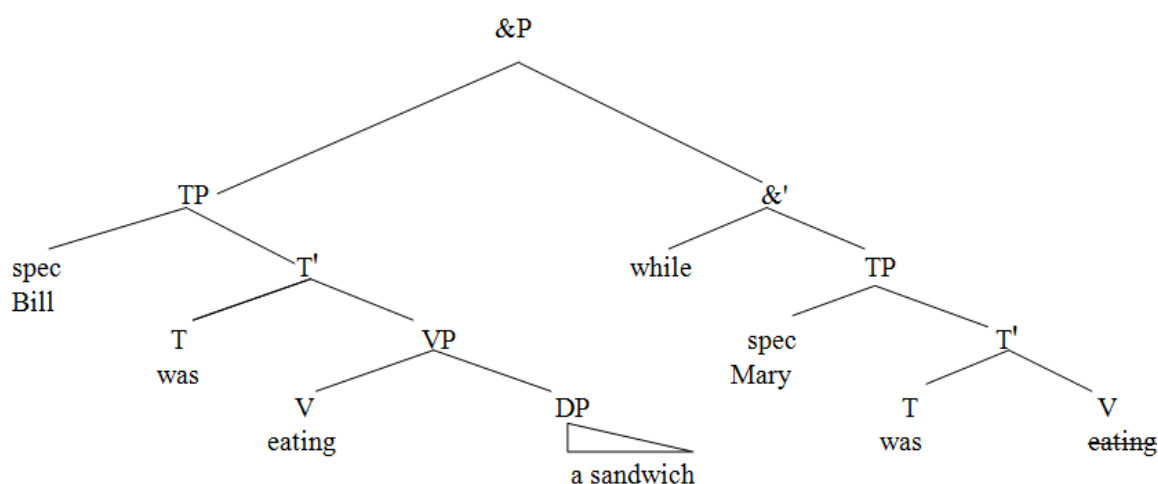


This type of verb ellipsis requires parallelism between the ellipped verb (and any other ellipped elements) and the antecedent in the other clause. This means that ellipsis is considered grammatical if the ellipped elements and their antecedents are syntactically and semantically identical. This can be checked through checking the features of remnants with the antecedent. The examples above show syntactic and semantic identity where the antecedents and the ellipped elements have exactly the same features. Violating this identity rules the sentences out for example,

(34)\*Bill was eating a sandwich while Mary was eating.

The sentence in (34) is ungrammatical because the antecedent verb is transitive while the omitted one is intransitive. So it does not respect syntactic identity. This sentence is represented in the following tree diagram:

(35)



Voice mismatch in this type is not allowed as noted in Stump (1977) and Johnson (1996, 2006) (who analyzes the instances of Gapping, and some other elliptical constructions, as across-the-board movement, not ellipsis). Both languages show a similarity in accepting Gapping when the voice of the ellipsed verb and the antecedent is identical and ruling it out if voice is not so.

(36) \*Bill cleaned the room and the garden ~~was cleaned~~ by Mary.

(37) \**ʔaʕtā zayd-un hind-an al-kitāb-a wa al-qalam-u ʔuʕtīya ʔanas-u.*

Give-past Zayd-nom Hind-acc the-book-acc and the-pen-nom ~~was given~~ Anas-nom.

Zayd gave the book to Hind and the pen ~~was given~~ to Anas.

The antecedent verb (cleaned) in (36) is in the active voice but the ellipsed verb is in the passive, this voice mismatch results in the ungrammaticality of the sentence.

In (37) the antecedent ‘*ʔaʕtā*’ (gave) in the first clause is a ditransitive verb which takes two objects *Hind* and ‘*al-kitāb-a*’ (the book) that are assigned accusative case mark while the second clause has the first NP assigned a nominative case (it cannot be an agent for ‘*ʔaʕtā*’ (gave)) and assumed to be a subject for a passive ellipsed verb ‘*ʔuʕtīya*’ (was given) (which occurs in the site between the two objects). The application of ellipsis here is ungrammatical and this is because voice is inflected with the verb and included in the ellipsis site.

## 5.2 The Possible structures

Gapping only occurs in coordinate structure as claimed by Johnson (2006). However, he admits the existence of well known exceptions “The two main candidates that don’t meet this requirement, but which nonetheless superficially appear to be instances of Gapping, are list-like answers . . . and comparative constructions . . .,” those cases are usually simply set aside “Many treatments of Gapping -most modern ones- leave these cases out, and so shall I in what follows” (Johnson, 2006: 408). Depending on this, the comparison here will be restricted to the general common cases in which Gapping occurs in coordination and it will be assumed that it is blocked in subordination. For example,

(38) a. Bill cleans the room and Mary ~~cleans~~ the garden.

b. \*Bill cleans the room because Mary ~~cleans~~ the garden.

(39) a. *zayd-un yuḥibbu al-qirāʔat-a wa hind-un tuḥibbu al-kitābat-a.*

Zayd-nom like present the-reading-acc and Hind-nom like present the-writing-acc.

Zayd likes reading and Hind writing.

b. \**zayd-un yuḥibbu al-qirāʔat-a lākinna hind-an tuḥibbu al-kitābat-a.*

Zayd-nom like present the reading-acc but Hind-acc like present the-writing-acc.

Zayd likes reading but Hind likes writing.

The sentences in (a) are grammatical since ellipsis occurs in coordinate structures. Whereas the examples in (b) are ungrammatical, the clauses are linked via subordinators which block ellipsis of this type.

## 5.3 Anaphoric or Cataphoric

The antecedent in Gapping must precede not follow the ellipsis site. This condition on Gapping applies for Arabic and English. In the previous grammatical examples of Gapping, the antecedent precedes the ellipsis site; otherwise the sentences will be ungrammatical:

(40) \*She ~~fixed~~ the computer and he fixed the car.

(41) \**hind-un darasat al-ʕarabiyya-ta wa zayd-un darasa al-ʔinglīziyyat.*

Hind-nom study past the Arabic-acc and Zayd-nom study past the English-acc.

Hind ~~studied~~ Arabic and Zayd studied English.

As noted in (40) and (41) the antecedents (fixed) and ‘*darasa*’ (studied), respectively, follow the ellipsis sites which results in the ungrammaticality of the sentences.

### 5.4 Locality

Local relation between the clause of ellipsis site and the antecedent clause is necessary. In both languages locality is required for the occurrence of Gapping. As mentioned before, Gapping includes the Tense argument in the gap which means that its structure is not assigned, and so the gap depends on the antecedent to be reconstructed. As a result there must be a local relation that allows the antecedent to be accessed. For example,

(42) a. Bill visited his father and Mary ~~visited~~ her mother.

b. \*Bill visited his father and I think that Mary ~~visited~~ her mother.

(43) a. *ḍahaba zayd-un ʔila al-sūq-i wa hind-un ~~ḥahaba-t~~ ʔila*

Go-past Zayd-nom to the-market-gen and Hind-nom ~~go-past~~ to al-madrasat-i.

the-school-gen.

Zayd went to the market and Hind ~~went~~ to school.

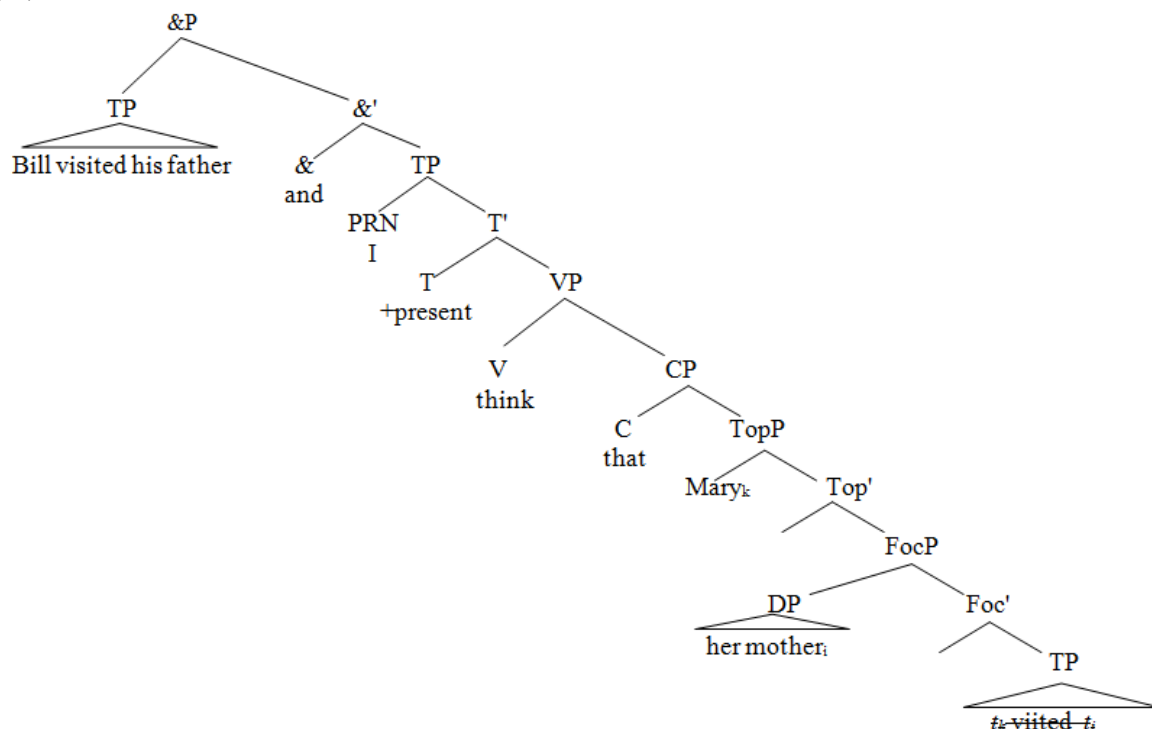
b. \**ḍahaba zayd-un ʔila al-sūq-i wa ʔaʕtaqidu ʔinna hind-un*

Go-past Zayd-nom to the-market-gen and think-present-I that Hind-nom ~~ḥahabat~~ ʔila al-madrasat-i.

~~go-past~~ to the-school-gen.

The ellipped verb in the sentence in (42.a) occurs in the second clause and its antecedent (visited) in the immediately preceding clause. There is a local relation between them. Whereas in (43.b), which is presented in the tree in (44), there is another clause intervening between the ellipped verb and its antecedent (I think that) and that blocks Gapping ellipsis. The sentence in (42.a) is also grammatical while in (42.b) is ungrammatical for the intervening clause between the antecedent ‘*ḍahaba*’ (went) and the ellipped verb which renders the relation between them nonlocal. The antecedent is spelled out in these examples before the required syntactic material is assigned for the ellipped elements. As known, Spell-Out renders the syntactic information unavailable and so its structure inaccessible, consequently, the gap cannot be reconstructed depending on the antecedent. For this reason nonlocal relation is not acceptable and ellipsis is blocked. The following tree shows the long distance between the two clauses in (42.b) and that the antecedent clause is spelled out before the elliptical clause is constructed as in the following tree in (44):

(44)

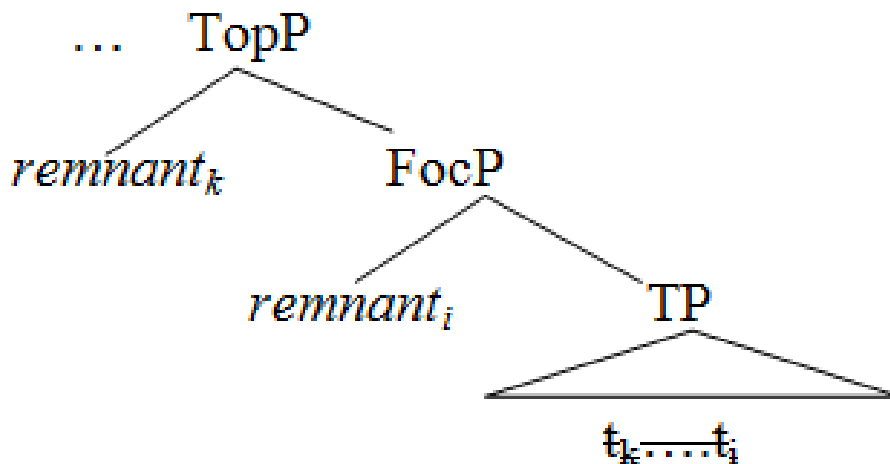


### 5.5 The targeted Projection

Gapping in both languages targets a constituent. Based on the analysis of Gengel (2013) we can decide that

ellipsis in Gapping targets a full TP since the moved elements leave traces at their original sites inside the TP. Then this full TP deleted which is a maximal projection. This assumption is applicable to both languages and shows an agreement with Radford (2008) condition on ellipsis that requires any ellipsed material to be a maximal projection to be able to undergo ellipsis. This idea is clarified in (45):

(45)



## 5.6 Dissimilarities

### 5.6.1 case marking effect on the interpretation

Even though English and Arabic Gapping have many features in common, they show some points of differences. One of the differences is a result of the morphological variation between the two languages. Namely, the morphological case marking that is assigned for proper nouns in Arabic but not in English. As a result of this, Gapping is restricted in English but not in Arabic. For instance,

(46) a. *ʔahmad-u ɖarab-a ɕali-an alʔmsa wa zayd-un ɖarab-a ɕali-an*

Hit-past Ahmad-nom Ali-acc yesterday and Zayd-nom hit-past Ali-acc  
*alyawma*

today.

Ahmad hit Ali yesterday and Zayd hit Ali today.

b. *ʔahmad-un ɖaraba ɕali-an alʔmsa wa ɖaraba-ahmad-un*

Ahmad-nom hit-past Ali-acc yesterday and Ahmad-nom hit-past  
*zayd-an alyawma.*

Zayd-acc today.

Ahmad hit Ali yesterday and Ahmad hit Zayd today.

Both of the preceding sentences in (46) have ellipsed verbs. In (a) the verb ‘*ɖaraba*’ (hit) is deleted with its object *Ali*, this can easily be noted since the nominative case is overt on *Zayd*, showing that it is a subject and so this ellipsis represents Gapping appropriately. In the sentence in (b), on the other hand, *Zayd* receives accusative case which indicates that it is an object; accordingly we can decide that the verb is deleted with the subject *Ahmad* and such interpretation does not include Gapping but Bare Argument Ellipsis (deleting all the elements from the sentence except for one, and an adverb or a negative may also remain).

English, by contrast, can only delete the subject with the verb in some cases that need case mark to be overtly shown on the nouns, and so the application of Gapping in this case is blocked.

(47) a. She asked Bill to read the poem and she asked Mary to write the text.

b. She asked Bill to read the poem and Mary \*asked Bill to write the text.

In (a) (Mary) can be considered a subject of the infinitival clause and the deleted element (she) a subject of the ellipsed verb. Sentence (b) cannot be found in English with the interpretation of (Mary) as a subject because this cannot be shown by case marking. So, when the case mark is required for the interpretation of Gapping, it is blocked in English (McShane and Marjorie, 2005).

### 5.6.2 Obligatoriness

Obligatory ellipsis of the verb in Gapping construction is not allowed in English and not common in Arabic. Gapping occurs optionally in both languages to avoid redundancies; the presence of the verb in the surface structure of the sentence does not affect its grammaticality, and Gapping does not occur in the positions where the verb is obligatorily deleted. For example,

(48) Bill studies English, doesn't he studies English?

(49) *zayd-un ḥaddaṯa ʔiyyāya ḥaddaṯa-hu.*

Zayd-nom tell-past me-acc tell-past-him.

Zayd told me.

The pronoun ‘*ʔiyyāya*’ (me) in (49) is assigned accusative case mark even though the verb ‘*ḥaddaṯa-hu*’ (told him) takes an object (the suffix [-*hu*]), ‘*ʔiyyāya*’ (me) hence, is left without a case assigner. So, there is assumed to be an ellipted verb identical to ‘*ḥaddaṯa*’ (told), and this verb is obligatorily deleted to avoid repetition. As noted, the ellipted verb occurs in a Gapping construction i.e. between the subject and the object; ellipsis of the verb in this case with the presence of the subject is not common in Arabic but, still acceptable.

## 6 Conclusion

To conclude, Arabic and English show a high degree of similarity in the application of verb ellipsis in Pseudogapping and Gapping constructions in respect to their analysis, semantic, syntactic and morphological identity, locality restrictions among others. Some differences, however, are shown as a result of the morphological differences between the two languages especially the morphological case marking.

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## The Holly Qur’an.

The symbols of Arabic sounds as used in this paper ? ء, ب, ت, ث, ج, ح, خ, د, ذ, ر, ز, س, ش, ص, ض, ط, ظ, ع, غ, ف, ق, ك, ل, م, ن, ه, و, ي, ا, آ, ا, ا, ا, doubling the sound ا.

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