

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
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**ELLIPSIS IN ABSTRACTS OF BUSINESS  
JOURNAL ARTICLES IN ENGLISH AND  
VIETNAMESE**

**Field : THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
Code : 60.22.15.**

**M.A. THESIS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(SUMMARY)**

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*Da Nang, 2011*

**The thesis has been completed at the College of Foreign Languages, University of Da Nang.**

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**The thesis was defended at the Examining Committee.**

**Time: September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Venue: Quang Trung University**

**The original of thesis is accessible for the purpose of reference at the College of Foreign Languages Library, and the Information Resources Center, Da Nang University.**

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. RATIONALE

First, it is undeniable that in the process of developing its economy, with the open policy to get integrated into the regional and worldwide economy, Vietnam has targeted at economic development and one part of economy – business – catches the attentions of experts and students. The increasing demand of mastering English in economics and particularly in business has involved more and more learners of the English language. However, during the process of exploring new aspects in the language, they have to face a lot of obstacles which are not only at such levels as phonology, syntax, lexis but also at the level of discourse.

Second, we assume that recently discourse analysis has been a research trend which is particularly paid attention to in modern linguistics. In discourse research, we find out that the concept of communication via utterances considered as an interactive action between addresser and addressee – one aspect of human actions in daily life – is a basic step in awareness of language functions. Furthermore, in discourse analysis the relationship between cohesion and coherence should be clarified precisely and from this interrelation, *ellipsis* plays an important role as a cohesive device. It is considered as one of the devices of utterance building. In this study, we pay attention to ellipsis occurring in abstracts of business journal articles (BJAs) written in English and Vietnamese.

After a reader has already read an abstract, he will decide whether he continues to read the whole article. It is assumed that the number of words in abstract of BJAs, for instance BJAs in the Journal of Science and Technology of the University of Da Nang is limited (not exceeding 500 words). Obviously, an abstract has the function of briefly introducing the content of an article. Therefore, ellipsis considerably contributes to condensing the abstract. One example illustrates the effect of ellipsis in making concise abstract as follows:

*“Behavioral research has found that consumers respond to variability in prices in addition to price levels. We show that this finding can explain why some firms vary their prices more frequently than **others**...”*[132]. The elliptical element “*others*” having the sense “*other firms*” helps avoid clumsy repetition.

From these reasons, I have decided to choose *Ellipsis in Abstracts of Business Journal Articles in English and Vietnamese* as the topic of my M.A.

### 1.2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In this thesis, we aim at:

- + identifying and analysing ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs in terms of classification, syntactic and pragmatic features.
- + discovering the similarities and the differences of the elliptical features between AEBAs and AVBAs. Based on the results of this comparison, some suggestions for English language teaching and translation are given.

### 1.3. SUBJECTS

The subjects of our investigation are:

(1) The AEBAs in the websites *Ivey Business Journal* of the Western Ontario University (Canada) and the University of Chicago (USA).

(2) The AVBAs in Vietnamese journal.

#### 1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Regarding the study on discourse analysis of AEBAs and AVBAs, the thesis concentrates on ellipsis used in the terms of classification, syntactic and pragmatic features. Therefore, the scope of the study is just limited to analyzing some elliptical types and their features in the above-mentioned terms and illustrate the frequencies of elliptical occurrence in AEBAs and AVBAs.

#### 1.5. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1) What are the major elliptical types in abstracts of BJAs in English and Vietnamese?

2) What are characteristics of ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs in terms of classification, syntactic and pragmatic features?

3) What are similarities and differences of the elliptical features between abstracts of BJAs in English and Vietnamese?

4) What are the implications drawn from the study for language users and learners?

#### 1.6. ORGANISATION OF THE THESIS

This study consists of 5 chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Theoretical Background

Chapter 3: Methods and Procedures.

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Implications

## CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1. OVERVIEW

### 2.2. PREVIOUS STUDIES RELATED TO THE THESIS

A lot of studies in Vietnam and in foreign countries have been implemented on ellipsis as a typical cohesive device in discourse. Diep Quang Ban [24] distinguishes ellipsis into 3 types: nominal, verbal and clausal ellipsis. Nunan [30] states that ellipsis occurs when a main structure constituent is omitted from a sentence or a clause and it is recovered by referring a constituent in the former text. Halliday and Hasan [8] consider ellipsis as “*something left unsaid but understood nevertheless*”. Pham Van Tinh [37] analyses and discusses the points of view of three groups regarding this cohesive device, Tran Ngoc Them [36] divides ellipsis into 2 levels: weak ellipsis (complement, adverb ellipsis) and strong ellipsis (one or two main elements of the sentence are ellipited), Huynh Huu Hien [11] did a contrastive analysis on ellipsis in English and Vietnamese and then put it in the pragmatic environment of discourse to study.

However, besides these studies on ellipsis phenomenon in various aspects, we still eagerly wish for further research on a specific business field. In our study, ellipsis occurs in BJAs of both English and Vietnamese. Regarding abstract of business papers, Bui Thi Thu Ha [7] did a study of discourse analysis of abstract in English and Vietnamese business papers which is a quite sufficient analysis of abstract and its characteristics in a discourse analysis view. Tran Nguyen Hoang Trang [19] concentrates on discourse analysis of English economic brief news.

This present study attempts to help learners and researchers of English grasp ellipsis used in business, especially in BJAs. Therefore, it has its own place in the whole map of ellipsis studies reviewed.

### 2.3. PRELIMINARIES OF DISCOURSE

#### 2.3.1. The Notion of Discourse

The concept of “discourse” in this thesis according to the above mentioned definitions:

- Discourse is the language that is functional in a typical context, for communication.
- Discourse has to be meaningful, unified and purposive.
- Discourse is a constituent unit made by a combination of many sentences.
- Discourse is expressed in not only spoken language but also written language.

#### 2.3.2. Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis closely links with “*the study of the relationship between language and the context in which it is used*” (McCarthy [19, p. 5])

Discourse analysis in AEBAs and AVBAs is limited to some linguistic characteristics: ellipsis as a cohesive device is identified and analyzed so its role in discourse can be understood more.

#### 2.3.3. Written and Spoken Discourse

### 2.4. DISCOURSE CONTEXT

#### 2.4.1. Pragmatics and Discourse Context

*Pragmatics is the study of the relationship between linguistic forms and the users of those forms* (Yule [21, p. 4]).

a) Reference is “*an act in which a speaker or writer, uses linguistic forms to enable a listener, or a reader, to identify something*” [21, p. 17]

b) Presupposition is “*something the speaker or writer assumes that the receiver of the message already knows. Speakers, not sentences, have presuppositions*” [21, p. 25].

c) Implicature is a term used by Grice (cited in Yule [21, p. 37]) to account for what a speaker can imply, suggest, or mean, as distinct from what the speaker literally says. There are four conversational maxims:

+ The maxim of quantity: give as much information as required

+ The maxim of quality: speak truthfully

+ The maxim of relevance

+ The maxim of manner: say things clearly and briefly

d) Inference is regarded as “*a process of inference to arrive at an interpretation for utterances or for the connection between utterances*” (Brown and Yule, [1: p. 33])

#### 2.4.2. The Context of Situation

Many linguists consider the context as “*the circumstances in which a sentence is uttered*” (Delahunty and Garvey [6, p. 62]) or Yule [21, p. 128] considers the context as the physical environment. In fact, Hymes (cited in Brown and Yule [1, p. 38]) elaborates and identifies the following features of context of situation which he thinks are relevant to the reading of discourse: *addressor, addressee, audience, topic, setting, channel, code, message-form, event, key and purpose*.

## 2.5. COHESION AND COHERENCE

### 2.5.1. The Concept of Cohesion and Coherence

### 2.5.2. Type of Cohesion

Discourse is more than a random set of utterances: it shows connectedness. A central objective of linguists working on the discourse level is to characterize this connectedness. Linguists have traditionally approached this problem by looking at linguistic elements and structures. Halliday and Hasan [8] describe text connectedness in terms *reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjunction, and lexical cohesion*.

## 2.6. ELLIPSIS

### 2.6.1. The Concept of Ellipsis

During the human communicative process, there is usually a trend of choosing an optimal way of speaking: the idea is sufficiently expressed and the communicative effect is ensured. Ellipsis can be thought about in the following ways:

- The starting point of the discussion of ellipsis can be the familiar notion that it is “*something left unsaid*”. There is no implication here that what is unsaid is not understood; on the contrary, “*unsaid*” implies “*but understood nevertheless*” (Halliday and Hasan [8, p. 142])

- Ellipsis is one element of a sentence which may have existed in the sentence but for some reasons it is omitted without affecting understanding of the meaning of the discussing sentence (Diep Quang Ban [24, p. 278])

In this thesis, ellipsis is studied based on the viewpoints of Diep Quang Ban [24], Halliday and Hasan [8]. This cohesive tool entails **syntactic reduction**. This means something is left unsaid but

still understood thanks to the context. It is assumed that ellipsis is considered a major **cohesive** device, contributing to the **efficiency** and **compactness** of a text. Therefore, syntactic elements and pragmatic element rule over ellipsis.

### 2.6.2. Ellipsis in Discourse

### 2.6.3. Classification of Ellipsis

The term of **ellipsis** refers to the absence of a word, a phrase or a clause which is understood. There are three ellipsis types, depending on the syntactic category of the presupposed elements.

#### a. Nominal Ellipsis

Nominal ellipsis occurs when a noun or a noun phrase is presupposed

#### b. Verbal Ellipsis

Verbal ellipsis occurs when a verb or a verb phrase is presupposed.

#### c. Clausal Ellipsis

Clausal ellipsis occurs when both a noun or noun phrase and a verb, or at least part of a verb phrase, is omitted.

## 2.7. BUSINESS JOURNAL ARTICLES

### 2.7.1. Business and Economics

**Business** is an activity of a person or an organization to get profit via business activities: Management, Marketing, Finance, Accounting, Manufacture. Business is one of the most diversified activities of human beings. Business activities occur via business institution such as company, group, private business... but it may be an activity done by an individual. In order to evaluate business activities, people consider different norms such as turnover, growth,

extra interest and so on. Many people in Vietnam are still confused two terms “**business**” and “**economics**”.

**Economics** is the social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. This means that economics studies the theories used to explain the behaviour of consumers and firms, and also the operation of markets (for example: the market for gold or Microsoft shares).

### 2.7.2. Definition of Business Journal Articles

*An article* is a piece of writing on a specific topic, by one or more authors, that forms an independent part of a periodical publication such as a journal or serial, magazine, or newspaper.

*A journal* is different from newspaper and magazine because it is published for specialists or academic researchers and it provides critical analysis and carries references to other works (footnotes, bibliography, etc.). [42]

Therefore, *a business journal article* covers topics related to business.

### 2.7.3. Definition of Abstracts in Business Journal Articles

*An abstract* is a concise summary of a periodical article or book. It can also refer to an electronic database or a set of print publications which provide citations and summaries of articles or texts published in periodicals, books or other materials. They can usually be searched by subject, author and/or title. (cited in Bui Thi Thu Ha [7, p. 17])

### 2.7.4. Characteristics of Abstracts in Business Journal Articles

## 2.8. SUMMARY

## CHAPTER 3

### [40] METHODS AND PROCEDURES

#### 3.1. OVERVIEW

#### 3.2. METHODS OF STUDY

This study is based on the theories of discourse analysis. In this study, we use a combination of the qualitative, the quantitative, [the] descriptive, the statistic, the comparative and the contrastive methods.

#### 3.3. SAMPLES AND POPULATION

#### 3.4. INSTRUMENTATION

#### 3.5. DATA COLLECTION

The data for this study were collected from the following sources:

- Ninety AEBAs were randomly selected from *Ivey Business Journal* of the University of Western Ontario (Canada) and the University of Chicago (USA)

- Ninety AVBAs were randomly collected from *Economics and Development Review* issued by Hanoi National Economics University, Vietnam

#### 3.6. DATA ANALYSIS

- Identify and analyze ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs in terms of classification, syntactic and pragmatic features.

- Set up some tables for illustration of ellipsis occurrence in AEBAs and AVBAs.

- Discuss the results of the data gathered in the tables for AEBAs and AVBAs.

- Compare the analysis results of ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs.

- Identify the similarities and determine the remarkable differences of ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs and seek possible explanations.

### 3.7. RESEARCH PROCEDURES

- Collecting and studying books and materials that are relevant to the research from many sources such as libraries, internet, colleagues and media to understand the theoretical background of the study.

- Consulting teachers, especially my supervisor for advice and necessary information and applying some experience in business to the thesis.

- Studying and analyzing the materials by classifying, listing, selecting and systematizing the information.

- Checking the analysis and comparison before giving out the conclusion.

### 3.8. VALIDITY AND REALIABILITY

- Extract samples for the study from the reliable source including the author's name, time and place of publication as well as the page numbers.

- Label the abstracts according to their ordinal number in the sources of data in the references.

- The results and findings in the thesis are surely withdrawn from the work with accurate statistics from the data analysis without prejudices and preconceptions.

### 3.9. SUMMARY

## CHAPTER 4 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. OVERVIEW

### 4.2. AN ANALYSIS OF ELLIPSIS IN AEBAs

#### 4.2.1. Ellipsis Within Nominal Group

#### 4.2.2. Types of Nominal Ellipsis of AEBAs

##### 4.2.2.1. *Deictics as Head in Nominal Ellipsis*

(a) Demonstratives

(b) Non-specific Deictics

(c) Post-Deictics

##### 4.2.2.2. *Numerative as Head in Nominal Ellipsis*

##### 4.2.2.3. *Epithet as Head in Nominal Ellipsis*

It is assumed that if the common noun is ellipated, the nominal group loses its head and another of the elements mentioned above has to take its function. From the four instruments it can be seen a deictic or numerative can frequently take the function of a head. An epithet is much less frequent and a classifier is very rare. The elliptical structure in general is, according to Halliday and Hasan [8, p. 148], any nominal group functioning as head which would normally function within the modifier. In other words, nominal ellipsis “*involves the upgrading of a word functioning as Deictic, Numerative, Epithet or Classifier from the status of Modifier to the status of Head*” (Halliday and Hasan [8, p. 148]) Furthermore, one of the features of an elliptical nominal group is that it requires the availability of information necessary for filling it out. Therefore, it is always possible to replace an elliptical nominal group by its full, non-elliptical equivalent. In this way, the presupposed items are restored. Another feature of an elliptical nominal group is its cohesiveness.

This is done thanks to anaphora through which the elliptical nominal group points to another nominal group.

### **4.2.3. Verbal Ellipsis of AEBAs**

#### **4.2.3.1. Lexical Verb Ellipsis**

We can easily assume that whatever word may be ellipped, the first modal must be present. If a verbal group consists solely of a modal operator, it must be considered lexically ellipped. Modal operators, as are known, occupy the first place within the structure of a verbal group and are always finite. Halliday and Hasan [8, p. 170] state that “*any verbal group consisting of a modal operator only can immediately be recognized as elliptical*”. One may encounter another term for lexical ellipsis, *ellipsis from the right* [8, p. 173] as lexical verbs that are affected by this kind of ellipsis are the last words within a verbal group. It should be highlighted here that it does not necessarily have to be only the lexical verb that is ellipped, preceding elements may be omitted as well in lexical ellipsis, and the only element that has to be retained is the initial operator.

#### **4.2.3.2. Operator Ellipsis**

The second type of verbal ellipsis is referred to by Halliday and Hasan as operator ellipsis. Operator ellipsis is, as the expression implies, that type of verbal ellipsis in which one or more than one operator (auxiliary verb) is omitted from the verbal group. As mentioned earlier, operators precede the lexical verb, i.e. they occupy the places to the left of the lexical verb. Therefore, operator ellipsis is at times referred to as ellipsis from the left, and at times ellipsis from the front. While in lexical ellipsis the first element must always stay intact, in operator ellipsis it is the lexical verb that cannot be ellipped from the verbal group. Operator ellipsis “*is characteristic of*

*responses which are closely tied to a preceding question or statement, and which have the specific function of supplying, confirming, or repudiating a lexical verb*” [8, p. 178]

### **4.2.4. Clausal Ellipsis of AEBAs**

Clausal ellipsis involves omission of those elements that simply are not covered either by nominal or by verbal ellipsis, the most common elements affected by clausal ellipsis mentioned by Halliday and Hasan [8, p. 197] are adjuncts and complements. Clausal ellipsis can be divided into modal and propositional ellipsis. The former consists of a subject and operator, however, it is worth mentioning that the operator does not necessarily have to be present. The latter, propositional part, includes a lexical verb and its complements and adjuncts. Clausal ellipsis occurs in so-called *clause complexes* that can be recognized when at least two clauses are directly related in structure. Then an elliptical clause of whatever type may presuppose any clause in a complex [8, p. 222]. With respect to this fact, clausal ellipsis may be spotted in answers, especially to direct (yes/no questions, wh-questions) questions. Here, however, it is often combined with verbal ellipsis, in fact, Halliday and Hasan [8, p. 199-201] name only several situations where clausal ellipsis can be identified on its own and these are quite rare as opposed to the common occurrence with verbal ellipsis. The co-occurrence of verbal and clausal ellipsis can be encountered in two aspects. Firstly, verbal and clausal ellipsis can be seen in omission of the modal element that may include operator ellipsis. Secondly, clausal and verbal ellipsis may occur mutually when the ellipped propositional element includes lexical ellipsis [8, p. 197].

#### 4.2.5. Summary

After describing ellipsis with 3 types: nominal, verbal and clausal ellipsis in English, two remarks ought to be made. Firstly, the basic function of ellipsis is to create cohesion by leaving out, under definite rules, what can be taken over from the preceding discourse, making explicit only what contrasts with it. We assume that ellipsis is used to avoid repetition and focus attention on what is new. Secondly, regarding the importance of ellipsis, this tool not only is a method of economizing words but also has the value of increasing the cohesion of utterances. Moreover, ellipsis is a method of expressing what the addressor wants to convey according to the intention of various announcements. When ellipsis is not applied, utterances are considered boring and repetitions are perceived as unnecessary, as Parrott [14, p. 318] states “*In their own speaking and writing learners may avoid ellipsis, using more repetition than necessary. This usually doesn’t lead to misunderstanding, but it can make the increased effort involved in listening or reading tedious, and can give an impression of excessive formality, particularly in speaking*”. The analysis mentioned above has affirmed the important role of this cohesive device in elaborating coherence in discourse production.

### 4.3. AN ANALYSIS OF ELLIPSIS IN AVBAs

#### 4.3.1. Ellipsis Within Nominal Group

#### 4.3.2. Types of Nominal Ellipsis of AVBAs

##### 4.3.2.1. Nominal Ellipsis of Subject

(a) Noun as Subject in Listing

(b) Noun as Subject in the Sentences Containing Verbs có thể, cần, nên, phải

(c) Noun as Subject in “Sentences Stating the Event”

(d) Noun as Subject in the Sentence for Beginning and Transferring Ideas

##### 4.3.2.2. Nominal Ellipsis of Object

##### 4.3.3. Verbal Ellipsis of AVBAs

According to Diep Quang Ban [24, p. 284], “*the predicate of the Vietnamese language is made up of verb or adjective and expletive clustering around it.*” Also, Diep Quang Ban regards that “*in the aspect of content, the predicate is more important than the subject because it expresses what the addresser wants to say and reveals necessary information of thing stated in the subject. Whereas in the aspect of sentence building, it is impossible to decide that between the subject and the predicate, which one is more important. Due to the reason that two component sentences reflect the structure of simple, normal and irreducible judgment in which the thing is mentioned and what mentions this thing. We can see movement of mentality via two component sentences. Therefore, two components: the subject and the predicate are necessary for each other, the subject fixes the existence of the predicate and vice versa*” [22, p. 82]. Other Vietnamese linguist, Dinh Van Duc [39, p. 309] states his viewpoint of the verb that “*the verb has become the basic means to express a state of affairs*” and he also emphasizes that “*in the functional aspect of sentence component, the predicate is the most specific function of the verb*”. In this aspect, the verb is the core of the predicate in the sentence. Nguyen Viet Hung (1970, cited in Dinh Van Duc [39, p. 309]) proves that over 98% Vietnamese sentences contain verbs as predicates. Moreover, Hoang Trong Phien [31, p. 115] affirms that “*The predicate is the main element of a sentence.*”

Therefore, the predicate directly or indirectly relates to many components. Moreover, it is the centre of sentence that brings the predicate more complicated problems than the subject. Being the core of the sentence, the predicate is rarely ellipted.” In the Vietnamese language, the verb is not finite, so its ability of combination is very complex. The verb can be forwardly combined with modal verbs indicating time such as **đã, đang, sẽ, vừa**, polarity like **không**, interpersonality like **hãy, đừng, chớ** are backwardly combined with time adverbs **rồi**, with adverbs of different modality such as **được, mất, phải** (Diep Quang Ban [24, p. 491]). In general, the verb in Vietnamese has many possibilities to combine with minor components.

#### 4.3.4. Clausal Ellipsis of AVBAs

#### 4.3.5. Summary

The analysis of ellipsis in AVBAs helps us assume that the elliptical types of ellipsis in AVBAs seem to be quite similar with those in AEBAs at first sight. However, the more we exploit this cohesive device in Vietnamese, the more different aspects compared with ellipsis in English business document we discover. These are nominal ellipsis which occurs when noun as subject or object in sentence is ellipted; verb and its minor components are elliptical in verbal ellipsis and clausal ellipsis happens when subject and its predicate are omitted. Ellipsis is not used for economizing words, perhaps the main effect of this device is to ensure coherence between sentences. The second effect is to avoid hard repetition of the syntagms which possess the same referent and this repetition can harm the coherence of the discourse: “*one sentence which has no anaphoric element has higher independence..*” (Cao Xuân Hạo [28,

p. 198]). Furthermore, pragmatic factors have positively participated in forming conditions of ellipsis in available situations: simplifying tedious discourse, using as much as elements of context of situation and so on. These cause very diversified pragmatic aspects.

### 4.4. SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ELLIPSIS IN AEBAs AND AVBAs

#### 4.4.1. Similarities

Firstly, in terms of classification, ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs are relatively similar in some ways. Both have three types of ellipsis: nominal, verbal and clausal ellipsis.

Secondly, there is a similarity of constructions in English nominal group and Vietnamese one: three-component nominal group such as the Premodifier, the Head and the Postmodifier. One typical similarity of nominal group in English and Vietnamese is that noun plays a role of head in nominal group and there are minor components (premodifier and postmodifier) before or after the head.

Thirdly, verbal ellipsis is identical in abstracts of BJAs in the two languages with the frequency of occurrence 3.33%.

**Table 4.5 Construction of Nominal Group in AEBAs and AVBAs**

Abstracts	Premodifier (Phần đầu)	Head (Trung tâm)	Postmodifier (Phần cuối)
AEBAs	The shortest	distance	in the supply chain
AVBAs	Những	chính sách	này

**Table 4.6 Comparison of Ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs**

Types of Ellipsis	AEBAs		AVBAs	
	Occurrence	%	Occurrence	%
Nominal Ellipsis	80	88.8	78	86.6
Verbal Ellipsis	3	3.33	3	3.33
Clausal Ellipsis	11	12.2	18	20

**4.4.2. Differences**

The AEBAs and the AVBAs contain their own distinctive elliptical features. The below tables clarify these differences.

**Table 4.7 Summary of Features of Nominal Ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs**

Elliptical features	AEBAs	AVBAs
Elliptical Elements	Deictic, numerative, epithet function as head so the common noun in nominal group is ellipted.	Nouns or nominal groups function as the subject or the object in the sentences is omitted.
%	88.8	86.6

**Table 4.8 Summary of Features of Verbal Ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs**

Elliptical features	AEBAs	AVBAs
Elliptical Elements	Operator verbs or lexical verbs are ellipted	Verbs and their minor components are ellipted
%	3.33	3.33

**Table 4.9 Summary of Features of Clausal Ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs**

Elliptical features	AEBAs	AVBAs
Elliptical Elements	Modal element or Propositional element is ellipted	Subject and Predicate are elliptical
%	12.2	20

**4.4.3. Summary**

From the analysis result, one point should be considered, that is ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs has different expressing ways. Ellipsis in AEBAs differs from one in AVBAs in the elliptical elements. This is a big obstacle for readers and writers of the two languages to realize and analyze ellipsis in discourse. Obviously, pragmatic factor plays a positive role in forming conditions for ellipsis in appropriate situations. Pragmatic aspects turn out to be diversified thanks to the best use of context when elliptical elements are restored. Ellipsis in discourse is a quite popular phenomenon. This cohesive device reflects one of the simple methods of man in any language in the process of creating utterances. Additionally, it is easy for us to realize that the ability of applying ellipsis in the discourses is not the same in different types of discourse. Clearly, ellipsis containing pragmatic features has not many expressing conditions because of the request of the accuracy in the discourses, especially scientific texts, political commentaries and so on. In fact, when ellipsis is used, it contains a certain intention of the addresser. This is the considerable concern for us when we carry out the research on ellipsis in discourse.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

#### 5.1. OVERVIEW

#### 5.2. SUMMARY

With 180 samples collected from BJAs in journals, websites, the study of different types of ellipsis was carried out and then the similarities and differences of ellipsis in abstracts of English BJAs and Vietnamese BJAs were detected and from these findings learners can use ellipsis in writing and speaking to obtain an effective communicative result.

The results of analysis help us realize ellipsis implemented at different levels in the internal structure of utterances (sentences). One issue to be paid attention to is this study was conducted according to the viewpoints of Diep Quang Ban [24], Halliday and Hasan [8]. Regarding the similarities, AEBAs and AVBAs have 3 common points. Firstly, noun, verb and clause are considered as the objects to be ellipped. Secondly, verbal ellipsis is rarely seen in AEBAs and AVBAs (3.33%). Thirdly, the construction in English three-component nominal group and Vietnamese one is similar (nominal group in the two languages consists of the premodifier, the head and the postmodifier).

Besides, there are remarkable differences. In AEBAs, nominal ellipsis occurs when deictic, epithet, numerative function as head in the sentence and the other elements in the structure are omitted; verbal ellipsis is divided into lexical ellipsis and operator ellipsis as suggested by Halliday and Hasan [8]; clause ellipsis is classified into modal ellipsis and propositional ellipsis. In AVBAs, noun or noun phrase playing a role as the subject or the object in the sentence is

omitted in nominal ellipsis because ellipsis occurs (in principle) with elements in basic structure of the sentence, they are subject, predicate and complement; verb and its minor component are ellipped in verbal ellipsis; the internal structure which is similar to a clause (subject + predicate) is omitted in clausal ellipsis.

Ellipsis in language seems to have two main functions: first, it allows efficient reading if the reader has enough background knowledge to allow ready inference of what has been omitted; and second, by requiring readers to make inferences, it makes the writing more engaging, more intellectually stimulating. Elliptical uses of language can be suggestive, denying full disclosure, inviting the reader to participate in the making of meaning. Both these functions of ellipsis can have the effect of creating a bond of respect and shared assumptions between the author and the reader. They become collaborators in the discourse.

#### 5.3. IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

The thesis has attempted to explore the characteristics of ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs. Furthermore, we also tried to analyze and discuss elliptical features and its types in language in use. In addition, realization of ellipsis in AEBAs and AVBAs will be of great benefits not only for studying Business English at the advanced level but also for those who are concerned with the field. Below are the benefits for those involved:

- *To teachers and students:* they should consider the use of the cohesive device of discourse in classroom instruction and how and why the incorrect use of ellipsis can harm the relation in discourse. For example, when elliptical examples are often taught, it should be borne in mind that the appropriate usage needs to be instructed to

ensure logical relations between sentences. Students need to know the types of ellipsis to develop their utterances convincingly and interestingly. Such awareness makes ideas not ambiguous. Teachers may give a full sample of ellipsis to students and ask them to find out ellipsed parts and recover them. Students might be asked to do such exercises in pairs or small groups to develop competence in the use of appropriate ellipsis. The teacher should facilitate the use of cohesive device by drawing students' attention to the way it is used in reading BJAs instead of teaching it in isolation. Cohesive device can then be identified, and their importance and contribution to the logical development of a topic can consequently be stressed. In this way, ellipsis which is rarely used by students, or which is considered to be difficult, can be reduced.

- *To the translators of English in business*: grammatical omission is one thing in common to all human languages. However, ellipsis differs from language to language. What can be omitted in one language may not be omitted in another. For example, in English a noun or verb or clause may be omitted in the later text if it is repeated. But in Vietnamese repetition of the same word in the early and later texts is sometimes natural, legitimate and habitual. Look at the following example: original English version “*In many ways, China is a new market unlike any other Ø*” [69]. Word-for-word Vietnamese rendering: “*Ở nhiều phương diện, Trung Quốc là một thị trường mới không giống bất kỳ cái nào khác*”. Acceptable Vietnamese rendering: “*Ở nhiều phương diện, Trung Quốc là một thị trường mới không giống bất kỳ thị trường nào khác*”. The literal translation is unacceptable according to Vietnamese usage. What is omitted in “*any other*”—“*market*”—must be translated. Vietnamese

translators should sufficiently convey the meaning of the ellipsed utterance from English into Vietnamese.

#### 5.4. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Firstly, one thing should be noted that this study is based on the viewpoints of Diep Quang Ban [24], Halliday and Hasan [8] so that more researches should be widely implemented with the opinions of the other linguists. Therefore, all diversified aspects of this cohesive device are carefully and sufficiently exploited.

Secondly, an important limitation of the present study is that it only addresses how ellipsis is used in business journal articles. It does not examine larger fields. This could be investigated by other researchers.

#### 5.5. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

We have just finished the investigation called “*Ellipsis in Abstracts of Business Journal Articles in English and Vietnamese*”. Obviously, we have achieved the ultimate goal of analyzing ellipsis and its types and similarities and differences of this cohesive device in BJAs in English and Vietnamese in terms of classification, syntactic and pragmatic features. However, we are still eager to do research on ellipsis in other aspects as follows:

- Ellipsis in newspaper headlines in English and Vietnamese.
- Ellipsis in proverbs in English and Vietnamese.
- Ellipsis in manual instructions in English and Vietnamese.
- Ellipsis in signs and labels in English and Vietnamese.
- Ellipsis in political speeches in English and Vietnamese.
- Ellipsis in scientific texts in English and Vietnamese.
- Ellipsis in conversational texts in English and Vietnamese.