

Insights from Turkish Noun Phrases for Ellipsis Process

Eksiltme İşlemine Yönelik Türkçe Ad Öbeklerinden İçgörüler

M. Taha Yangın

Doktora Öğrencisi, Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi

Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü

İzmir / Türkiye

e-posta taha.yg@gmail.com

orcid 0000-0002-3620-2355

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Öz

This article reviews the theoretical approaches to ellipsis, specifically focusing on elided noun phrases in Turkish. We first distinguish ellipsis from similar linguistic phenomena, such as gapping and stripping, to clarify its unique characteristics. Following these particular features, we investigate both non-structural and structural approaches to ellipsis, examining their implications and limitations in the context of Turkish NPs. While the non-structural approach and the null-form approach with the structural perspective focus primarily on how ellipsis operates within grammatical forms, we find that they are inadequate to explain certain mismatches or to determine the syntactic restrictions of noun phrase ellipsis in Turkish. In contrast, the phonological-form deletion approach offers a more comprehensive explanation by emphasizing the phrasal heads, providing a syntactic and derivational account of ellipsis, but there are still some patterns in Turkish NPs that require further explanation within the phonological-form deletion framework.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Noun phrase ellipsis, NP ellipsis, Turkish noun phrase, Turkish NP ellipsis, Structural approach to ellipsis, Non-structural approach to ellipsis.

ABSTRACT

Bu araştırma Türkçedeki eksiltilmiş ad öbeklerine odaklanarak eksiltmeye yönelik alanyazındaki kuramsal yaklaşımları değerlendirmektedir. Bu yönde ilk olarak eksiltmeyi dilsel birim eksikliğine neden olan boşaltma ve soyma/sıyırma kavramlarından ayırarak kendine özgü özellikleri ortaya koyulmaktadır. Bu özellikler doğrultusunda, eksiltme için hem yapısal hem de yapısal olmayan kuramsal yaklaşımlar sırasıyla ele alınarak Türkçe ad

öbekleri bağlamında değerlendirilmektedir. Yapısal olmayan yaklaşım ve yapısal bakış açısı altındaki sıfır-biçim görüşü temelde eksiltelerin dilbilgisel olan yapılar içinde nasıl işlediğine odaklanmaktadır. Bu yaklaşımların belirli biçim-anlam uyumsuzluklarını açıklama ve Türkçe ad öbeklerinin eksiltmelerinin sözdizimsel kısıtlarını belirleme noktasında yetersiz kaldığı görülmektedir. Bunun aksine, sesel-biçim silme yaklaşımı öbekselsel başlar kapsamında eksiltme işleminin sözdizimsel ve türetimsel sürecine yönelik daha kapsamlı bir açıklama sunmaktadır. Buna karşın, bu yaklaşım çerçevesinde açıklama gerektiren belirli Türkçe ad öbeği eksiltme örüntüleri söz konusudur.

Keywords: Ad öbeği eksiltme, AÖ eksiltme, Türkçe ad öbeği, Türkçe AÖ eksiltme, Eksiltmeye yönelik yaklaşımlar, Eksiltmeye yapısal olmayan yaklaşım.

0. Introduction

Ellipsis is a phenomenon that is derived from the intuition that a linguistic unit has been elided. This linguistic structure lacks a linguistic unit, and this missing unit is still semantically recoverable (Merchant 2001; Winkler 2005). There have been theoretical discussions on ellipsis over the years from the recoverability of the elided unit to the licensing of ellipsis. This article, however, will not address one specific subject, or deal with the syntactic derivation. In this study, we aim to discuss the limitations and (in)adequacy of existing theories, highlighting the syntactic and interpretational dynamics through elided noun phrases in Turkish.

To provide a comprehensive analysis, this article is organized into three sections. The first section will draw attention to the distinction between ellipsis and the other phenomena that cause the lack of linguistic units in the constructions, namely gapping and stripping. In the second section, we will focus on the non-structural approaches to ellipsis, examining their implications and limitations in the context of Turkish noun phrases. In the third section, we will explore the structural approaches to ellipsis, particularly the null-form and phonological-form deletion.

1. Approaches to Ellipsis

There are differing views on what the phenomenon of ellipsis is in the literature. The phenomenon of ellipsis refers to a mismatch between sound and meaning. In terms of meaning, an utterance or a sentence with an elliptical structure is richer than what is pronounced:

- (1) Ali can ride a horse, but Taha can't [e].

The sentence has the interpretation that *Taha can't ride a horse*, even though the verb phrase *ride a horse* is actually unpronounced. This mismatch is the key point for the definition of ellipsis but also makes it a cover term used for all linguistic constructions lacking any linguistic unit. At this point, Lobeck (1995) draws

attention to similar phenomena, called gapping and stripping, and distinguishes them from ellipsis¹:

(2) *Stripping*

- a. John studied rocks but not Jane [Ø].

Gapping

- b. Mary met Bill at Berkeley and Sue [Ø] at Harvard.

(Lobeck 1995: 21, 27)

Stripping is the process that deletes everything from a construction except one constituent. In (2a), it is assumed that the whole construction except *Jane* has been deleted. Gapping is the deletion of linguistic units between two other units in the construction as given in (2b) where all the units were deleted between *Sue*, and *at Harvard*. However, the comparison between the lack of linguistic units in (2) and (1) is only superficially distinctive. The derivational restrictions of these processes distinguish them from ellipsis more prominently:

(3) *Stripping*

- a. *Jane loves to study rocks, and John says that [Ø] geography too.

Ellipsis

- b. Charlie thinks that Mary met Bill at Berkeley, but Sarah knows that Sue didn't [e].

(Lobeck 1995: 22, 27)

All the units of the clause except the constituent *geography* are deleted in (3a), and the sentence is marked as ungrammatical, given that the gapping is in the subordinate clause. In contrast, the construction with elided linguistic units in (3b) remains grammatical, even though this process takes place in a subordinate clause. This suggests a derivational difference between ellipsis and stripping. A similar distinction can be observed when comparing gapping with ellipsis:

(4) *Gapping*

- a. *Sue [Ø] meat and John ate fish.

Ellipsis

- b. Because Sue didn't [e], John ate meat.

(Lobeck 1995: 22)

The ungrammaticality of gapping in (4a), whereby the entire construction between two linguistic units is removed, arises from its occurrence before the antecedent. On the other hand, the construction with elided units in (4b) is marked grammatical despite being located before its antecedent. This allows us to infer that the derivational status of ellipsis differs from that of gapping and stripping. Following the literature about this discussion (Lobeck 1995, Merchant 2001;

¹ Assuming that gapping and stripping are different phenomena, we formally represent an elided unit in the article by means of [e], whereas cases of unpronounced material that are not ellipsis is represented with [Ø].

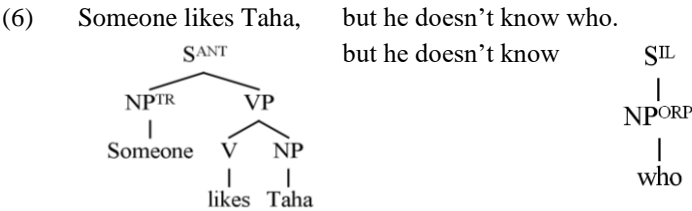
Aelbrecht 2009), we can summarize all the key restrictions that distinguish ellipsis from gapping and stripping as follows²:

- (5) a. Ellipsis can occur in subordination clauses, but gapping and stripping cannot.
- b. Ellipsis can precede the antecedent, but gapping and stripping cannot.
- c. Ellipsis can take a place in complex noun phrases, but stripping cannot.
- d. Ellipsis is necessarily to be on phrases, but gapping is not.

Following the restrictions above, we can say that ellipsis is similar in definition to stripping and gapping; differs in terms of derivational process, which lets us know whether a construction with a missing linguistic unit is an ellipsis³. The key question still to answer is how is meaning recovered in ellipsis. This has led to two main theoretical approaches that are centred on the derivational status of ellipsis, namely the non-structural and the structural approaches (Merchant 2001; Aelbrecht 2009). Let us discuss these approaches in the context of noun phrases with elided units in Turkish.

2. Non-Structural Approach

The non-structural approach claims that there is no unpronounced linguistic unit on the surface structure since there is no syntactic structure in the deep structure. In other words, what you see in the construction is what you get, which consequently means that there is no deleted linguistic unit since there is already nothing in the background. This is the reason why this approach is named as non-structural. Under this account, the interpretation of mismatched forms and meanings is explained by a mechanism called indirect licensing with a phrase called “orphan” (Culicover and Jackendoff, 2005: 258)⁴:



² Each of stripping and gapping is restricted to coordinate structures. Those listed here are to clarify the distinction with ellipsis. For further details about the restrictions of stripping and gapping, you can see Busquets (2006), Hernández (2007), Johnson (2009), Wurmbrand (2017), and Wu (2022).

³ There is discussion on whether gapping and stripping are an ellipsis mechanism, specifically for the ellipsis of VP and FocP respectively. The discussions are based on the structural approach which assumes that there is a structural construction unpronounced. In this paper, we mainly aim to discuss the structural and non-structural approaches with a focus on noun phrase data from Turkish without getting involved in discussions of what ellipsis is. Thus, whether gapping and stripping are ellipsis play no significant role in the main points of our discussion. For further details, see Johnson (2009) and Wurmbrand (2017).

⁴ ANT stands for ‘antecedent’, TR means ‘target’, IL is for ‘indirect licensing’, and ORP means ‘orphan’. Also, the tree structure in the example is constructed in a binary branching manner to avoid the discussions about the n-ary branching structures.

As illustrated in (6), it is assumed that ‘*who*’ is an orphan NP that acquires all the semantic and syntactic relations by inheriting the properties of the targeted unit in the antecedent with the indirect licensing mechanism. In the case of (6), the antecedent is the whole structure including a target NP *someone* which provides all the semantic and syntactic features to the orphan. Following this approach, we can explain the structures in Turkish below:

(7) **Numeral^{ORP}**

- a. Ali üç top_{TR} aldı, Taha iki_{ORP} aldı.
 Ali three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha two buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three balls, Taha bought two.’

Adjectival^{ORP}

- b. Ali yeşil top-u_{TR} aldı, Taha sarı-yı_{ORP} aldı.
 Ali green ball-ACC get.PST.3SG Taha yellow-ACC get.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought the green ball, Taha bought the yellow one.’

We can suppose that *iki* ‘two’ is an orphan numeral, whose target is *top* ‘ball’ for full interpretation, as it is clear that *iki* refers to ‘two balls’ in (7a). Similarly, the case of an orphan adjective such as *sarı* ‘yellow’, marked with an accusative case marker in (7b), demonstrates that an orphan can inherit not only the semantic features of its antecedent, but also its syntactic features, highlighting syntax and meaning interactions between orphan and antecedent. With further examples, it is possible to prove that the indirect licensing mechanism is adequate in explaining grammatical NP structures without noun heads in Turkish. However, a mechanism is expected to explain not only to grammatical structures but also to ungrammatical structures:

(8) **Numeral > Adjectival^{ORP}**

- a. Ali üç yeşil top_{TR} aldı, Taha iki sarı_{ORP} aldı.
 Ali three green ball buy.PST.3SG Taha two yellow buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three green balls, Taha bought two yellow ones.’

Adjectival > Numeral^{ORP}

- b. *Ali yeşil üç top_{TR} aldı, Taha sarı iki_{ORP} al-dı.
 Ali green three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha yellow two buy.PST.3SG

In the antecedents of the sentences in (8), the numerals and adjectives precede each other, which makes the construction ungrammatical. Comparing these sentences to those in (7), it was expected that the numeral and the adjectival unit could be an orphan and target a noun head. However, (8a) where the adjectival is the orphan, and targets the noun head in the antecedent is grammatical, while (8b) where the numeral is the orphan, and targets the noun head is ungrammatical. Here, the indirect licensing is a practical mechanism that can explain the grammatical structure in (8a), but it cannot provide any descriptive explanation of the ungrammaticality in (8b). This mechanism is also inadequate to explain the ambiguity in the structure below:

- (9) Ali yeşil üç top aldı, Taha sarı_{1ORP} al-dı.
 Ali green three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha yellow buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three green balls, Taha bought a yellow one/yellow ones.’

In the sentence above, two interpretations are available with respect to about how many yellow balls Taha bought. The way to resolve the ambiguity is to form the orphans within an accusative case as given below:

- (10) a. Ali yeşil üç top aldı, Taha sarı-y_{1ORP} al-dı.
 Ali green three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha yellow-ACC buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three green balls, Taha bought the yellow one.’
 b. Ali yeşil üç top aldı, Taha sarı-lar-_{1ORP} al-dı.
 Ali green three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha yellow-PLU-ACC buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three green balls, Taha bought the yellow ones.’

In the examples above, the orphan with the accusative case marker in Turkish requires the plural suffix -lar case, as seen in (10b), to indicate that the features of the phrase *üç top* ('three balls') are inherited from the antecedent. In contrast, the orphan with the singular suffix (-Ø) in (10a) remains grammatical without the accusative case marker, as shown in (9). One might argue that the interpretation in (10a) differs from that in (9), which is partially accurate. However, the focus here is on the mismatch between the orphan and the target in the antecedent by indirect licensing.

The non-structural approach, which emphasizes no more structure than what is at the surface, falls short in explaining the restrictions on the constructions without noun heads (see 8), and certain mismatching situations in NPs without noun heads (see 9-10). Consequently, a structural analysis that accounts for these dependencies is necessary to fully explain the elliptical patterns in NPs.

3. Structural Approach

In the structural approach, the core assumption is that unpronounced structures exist within the sentential and phrasal structures. This unpronounced structure is analysed mainly in two distinct ways. The first involves an inherently null/empty unit, such as a little *pro* ‘*pro*’, which refers to an abstract element in syntax that carries meaning and function without being phonetically realized. The second approach involves a process whereby a phonologically present element undergoes deletion, effectively removing it from overt pronunciation while maintaining its syntactic role (Merchant 2004; Aelbrecht 2009). In this section, we aim to draw attention to these two approaches with some Turkish data.

The null or empty form approach posits that the antecedent is copied at the ellipsis site in Logical Form (LF), and thus the interpretation of the null form is processed, associating the ellipsis process with overt pronouns (Hardt, 1993; Lobeck, 1995).

We can explain the assumption on the matching of syntax and semantics of elided structures by the null forms with the following example⁵:

- (11) a. Someone likes Taha, but he doesn't know who.
 b. ... but he doesn't know



The elided structure (TP) in (11) acts like an overt pronoun in a certain way, where it is indexed with the antecedent to provide the full interpretation. There are cases where we can clearly see the correlation discussed in the literature between pronouns and elliptical structures, consider the following Turkish examples⁶:

- (12) a. *Ali_i köfte seviyor ama o_i balık sevmiyor.*
 Ali meatball like.PRS but he fish like.NEG.PRS
 'Ali likes meatballs, but he doesn't like fish.'
- b. *Ali köfte_i seviyor ama ben [e]_i sevmiyorum.*
 Ali meatball like.PRS but I like.NEG.PRS
 'Ali likes meatballs, but I don't like.'
- (13) a. *Ali_i köfte seviyormuş ama sen o_i balık seviyor sandın.*
 Ali meatball like.PRS.EVID.3SG but you he fish like.PRS think.PST.2SG
 '(I heard that) Ali likes meatballs, but you thought he likes fish.'
- b. *Ali üç kitap_i aldı ama sen iki [e]_i aldı sandın.*
 Ali three book bought but you two buy.PST think.PST.2SG
 'Ali bought three books, but you thought he had bought two.'

In the sentence (12b), the elided structure can be indexed to the verb form in the antecedent and be correctly interpreted at LF in the same way as the overt pronouns do in (12a). Moreover, the elided noun head in the subordination clause can be indexed to its antecedent as in (12c) as same as overt pronouns do as in (12b). Even though the null-form approach is supported by the correlations illustrated here between ellipsis and pronouns in Turkish, this approach only provides an explanation about how the interpretation is matched in the same way as the non-structural approach does. Therefore, the discussion we have raised about the non-structural approach, focusing on restrictions in specific constructions without noun heads (see example 8) and mismatches in noun phrases (see examples 9 and 10), can be considered for this approach.

The second view within a structural approach is the deletion of linguistic items in Phonological Form (PF). This account posits that ellipsis is derived through the specific heads. This syntactic-dependency view highlights the interaction between syntax and the PF interface, where items are deleted only after they have fulfilled

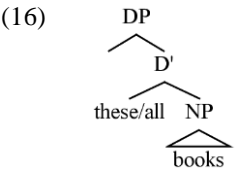
⁵ In the tree structure, CP stands for 'complementizer phrase', and TP means 'tense phrase'.

⁶ In the examples, ACC is for 'accusative case', NOM means 'nominalizer', PRS stands for 'present tense', PST is for 'past tense', EVI means 'evidentiality', NEG is used for 'negation' and 2SG refers to 'second person - singular'.

their syntactic functions, preserving grammaticality and interpretability. The heads, responsible for licensing the ellipsis, are categorized in various ways by different theoretical perspectives. Some propose that heads in functional categories play a pivotal role in the licensing of ellipsis as follows (Lobeck 1995; Merchant 2004; Gengel 2007; Aelbrecht 2009; Gallego 2009):

- (15) a. Mary likes those books, but I like [_{DP} these [_{NP} *e*]].
b. The books were new, and [_{DP} all [_{NP} *e*]] were on syntax.

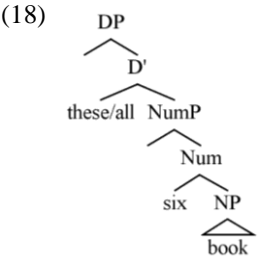
(Lobeck 1995: 85)



(Lobeck 1995: 85)

It is assumed that the elided units in (15) are the NP *books* and that the ellipsis is derived through the heads of the determiner phrase (DP). This case points out the correlation between the functional heads deriving ellipsis and the phase heads⁷, whose domain can be unpronounced (Gengel 2007; Gallego 2009). In this context, phase heads, such as the determiner (D) play a crucial role in what can be elided and what remains pronounced. Ellipsis is then understood as a process tightly connected to the phase structure. Following this assumption, the elision of *books* suggests that the phase head of DP is responsible for marking the NP as unpronounced in PF. This interaction between ellipsis and phase theory provides a more nuanced understanding of how structural elements are omitted. We now turn to the data below to test these theoretical concepts:

- (17) a. The books were new, and [_{DP} all six [_{NP} *e*]] were on syntax.
b. Mary bought some new books, and I like [_{DP} these six [_{NP} *e*]] the best.



(Lobeck 1995: 87)

In (17), it is claimed that the ellipsis is licensed by a numeral head as illustrated in (18). If we adopt this analysis, where a phase head such as D' in (15-16) corresponds to the head of the ellipsis domain, we would expect to see that the ellipsis domain includes not only the NP, but also the number phrase (NumP).

⁷ The phrases accepted as a phase are Complementizer Phrase (CP), Determiner Phrase (DP), and little Verb Phrase (vP). For more details on phases, see Chomsky (2001) and Citko (2014).

While this is possible, it does not necessarily bear the same interpretations as given below:

- (19) a. The six books were new, and all were on syntax.
 b. Mary bought six books, and I like these the best.

While (17a) and (19a) have the same interpretation, i.e., a situation where there are six books and all of them are on syntax, there seems to be an additional possible interpretation for (19b) such as '*those out of the book that Mary bought*' as opposed to (17b). However, it is problematic in terms of the feature of ellipsis that matches elided forms and meanings and provides the full interpretation. A similar case is also seen within elided NPs in Turkish:

- (20) a. Taha benim kırmızı elbisemi giydi, Can senin yeşil elbiseni giydi.
 Taha my red cloth wear.PST Can your green cloth.ACC wear.PST
 'Taha wore my red cloth, Can wore your green cloth.'
 b. Taha benim kırmızı elbisemi giydi, Can senin yeşilini [e] giydi.
 Taha my red cloth wear.PST Can your green.ACC wear.PST
 'Taha wore my red cloth, Can wore your green one.'
 c. Taha benim kırmızı elbisemi giydi, Can seninkini [e] giydi.
 Taha my red cloth wear.PST Can your.NOM.ACC wear.PST
 'Taha wore my red cloth, Can wore yours.'

The full interpretation without any ellipsis is given in (20a). While the antecedent in (20b) is undoubtedly *elbise* 'cloth', the elided NP in (20c) does not specifically refer to either *yeşil elbise* 'green cloth' or *kırmızı elbise* 'red cloth', but rather a cloth of any colour. This means that the interpretation in (20c) can naturally involve the interpretation in (20a) at some point. In addition to this interpretational observation, there are more aspects we need to discuss from the examination of the data in (20). The data in (20c) supports the view that ellipsis can be triggered by a phasal head (of DP). However, it brings some empirical issues in terms of providing interpretation in the case if we assume the elided NP including an adjective. Otherwise, the elided unit appears to be limited to only the antecedent noun head which is *elbise* 'cloth' in (20c), claiming that the scope of the ellipsis does not extend beyond the noun phrase. On the other hand, the data in (20b) supports the claim that functional heads can trigger ellipsis. However, in this instance, we would need to assume that adjectives fall under the functional category, allowing the ellipsis to be triggered by the presence of such heads. This points to the need for further analysis of the exact mechanisms involved in triggering ellipsis in different syntactic environments. To explore this further, we can analyse some of the data from the previous section, focusing on whether the ellipsis is determined by the heads or by the specific elided area:

- (21) a. Ali yeşil top-u aldı, Taha sarı-yı [e] aldı.
 Ali green ball-ACC get.PST.3SG Taha yellow-ACC get.PST.3SG
 'Ali bought the green ball, Taha bought the yellow one.'

- b. Ali üç top aldı, Taha iki [e] aldı.
 Ali three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha two buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three balls, Taha bought two.’

The examples in (21) shows that the numeral and adjective heads can function as the licensors of ellipsis within Turkish noun phrases. By licensing ellipsis, numeral and adjective heads ensure that the remaining overt material provides enough semantic to recover the interpretation of the elided content. Following this claim, let us examine the NP data with an antecedent including multiple units:

- (22) a. Ali üç yeşil top aldı, Taha iki sarı [e] aldı.
 Ali three green ball buy.PST.3SG Taha two yellow buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three green balls, Taha bought two yellow ones.’
 b. Ali üç yeşil top aldı, Taha iki [e] aldı.
 Ali three green ball buy.PST.3SG Taha two buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three green balls, Taha bought two (green balls).’

The adjective *sarı* ‘yellow’ in (22a) licenses the ellipsis of NP with the full interpretation of *iki sarı top* ‘two yellow balls’ with the antecedent NP. On the other hand, the numeral *iki* ‘two’ in (22b) grammatically licenses the ellipsis of NP, but here the interpretation cannot refer to the elided NP with *sarı* ‘yellow’ as it is not possible to state that there is an adjective in the elided NP. The case here differs from the interpretation with a default NP as previously seen in (20c), since the ellipsis can get *yeşil top* ‘green ball’ as an antecedent. This interpretation is more obvious in the construction where the elided structure precedes the antecedent as given below:

- (23) Taha iki [e] almışken Ali üç yeşil top aldı.
 Taha two buy.while Ali three green ball buy.PST.3SG
 ‘While Taha took two (green balls), Ali took three green balls’

The interpretation of the elided construction is undoubtedly *yeşil top* ‘green ball’. For this example, one might argue that the ordering relation between antecedent and ellipsis plays a role in interpretation, which we suppose could support any discussion of ellipsis in terms of information structure. Specifically, the positioning of the antecedent before the ellipsis seems to provide a clear cue. That said, there are still important aspects to discuss regarding the derivation process of ellipsis, particularly in the context of the examples in (22). The same mechanism that operates the ellipsis in these examples cannot be applied into some circumstances:

- (24) a. *Ali yeşil üç top aldı, Taha sarı iki [e] al-dı.
 Ali green three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha yellow two buy.PST.3SG
 b. Ali yeşil üç top aldı, Taha sarı-lar-ı al-dı.
 Ali green three ball buy.PST.3SG Taha yellow-PLU-ACC buy.PST.3SG
 ‘Ali bought three green balls, Taha bought the yellow ones.’

If we follow the claim that certain functional categories license ellipsis, as discussed on the basis of (22), we would expect that the numeral *iki* ‘two’ could trigger ellipsis in (24a). The main question to answer here is why the numeral *iki* ‘two’ cannot be remnant with the adjective following it in the order of ADJ > NUM, while it is grammatical when they are remnant by themselves and in the order of NUM > ADJ as in (22a). This points out the restrictions of ellipsis⁸. In the grammatical construction in (24b), it is seen that the adjective with plural and accusative case marker can be only remnant. However, the interpretation of this construction does not refer to specifically *iki top* ‘two balls’ nor the antecedent *üç top* ‘three balls’, but a default *top* ‘ball’ with [+PLURAL] feature which is inherited from the antecedent.

4. Conclusion

Following the constructional distinction by Aelbrecht (2010), we have discussed the theoretical approaches to ellipsis through elided NP constructions in Turkish. During this discussion, we examined both non-structural and structural approaches, highlighting their limitations in explaining ellipsis within Turkish noun phrases.

The non-structural approach to ellipsis is applied to elided NPs in Turkish captures how noun phrases can function with missing components, relying on context and inference rather than structural constraints. While this approach simplifies the process of ellipsis by focusing on the observable surface form, it overlooks the underlying syntactic and interpretational restrictions present in Turkish. We thus concluded that the limitations of this theory necessitate a structural analysis to explain the elided constructions observed in Turkish.

On the structural side, the null-form approach posits that elided structures exist in the deep structure in an unpronounced form. This assumption, relatable to the pronouns, works within all grammatical noun phrase ellipsis in Turkish. However, similarly to the non-structural approach, the null-form approach is inadequate to explain certain mismatches, or to determine the syntactic restrictions of ellipsis.

Finally, we have seen that the role of phrasal heads in structural approaches provides further support for a syntactic account of ellipsis. However, what we have observed in the noun phrase ellipsis in Turkish leads us to conclude that it is not always phase heads that license the ellipsis. There are also other functional heads as well that can be the licensors, but they can license the ellipsis in certain interpretational and syntactic circumstances. This highlights the complex interplay between ellipsis and their licensing mechanisms, which requires further investigation following these restrictions.

⁸ I set the discussion of these restrictions aside for future research, as it falls outside the primary scope of this study.

Kaynakça

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