FEATURES OF THE TRANSLATION OF ELLIPTICAL UTTERANCES IN THE SPOKEN JAPANESE LANGUAGE

This work is devoted to the study of the translation of elliptical constructions in oral speech. The characterization of ellipsis in Japanese and creation its typology. Ellipsis as a phenomenon is a basic characteristic of every language. It is commonly found in several languages, one of which is Japanese. Ellipsis causes difficulties in learning the language, since problems might arise not with unfamiliar vocabulary presented in the text, but on the contrary with words missing in it. In addition, ellipsis is considered an important element in the culture of interpersonal communication between Japanese people, when in a speech both individual words and significant parts of the utterance can be omitted, and the listener should be able to independently recover the missing information based on the context, specific speech situation or his background knowledge. The problems of perception and translation of elliptical structures can be solved by forming a conscious idea of the ellipsis and the rules of its functioning in Japanese. This skill is one of the most important in the perception of oral and written speech in natural conditions, and the ability to independently use elliptical constructions makes speech less complicated, which allows it to sound more natural.

Key words: ellipsis, elliptical constructions, linguistics, translation, oral speech.

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Эллипсистің сипаттамасы және оның әлсіз хабарымдарының оралық құрылымын қабылдаудың құжатының қая品位і.

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Особенности перевода эллиптических высказываний в устной речи японского языка

Данная работа посвящена изучению перевода эллиптических конструкций, в частности, характеристик эллипсиса в японском языке и создании его типологии. Эллипсис как явление часто встречается в речи на японском языке и является одной из его главных характеристик, вызывая ряд трудностей при изучении языка, так как зачастую проблемой при восприятии речи на слух или визуально может являться не знакомая лексика, присутствующая в тексте, а, наоборот, отсутствующая в нем слова. Кроме того, эллипсис считается значимым элементом
культуры межличностного общения японцев, когда в речи могут опускаться как отдельные слова, так и значительные части высказывания, и слушающий должен быть в состоянии самостоятельно восстанавливать недостающую информацию, основываясь на контексте, конкретной речевой ситуации или собственных фоновых знаниях. Проблемы восприятия и, соответственно, перевода эллипсиса могут быть решены путем формирования сознательного представления об эллипсисе и правилах его функционирования на японском языке. Данный навык является одним из важнейших при восприятии устной и письменной речи в естественных условиях, а умение самостоятельно употреблять эллиптические конструкции делает речь менее нагруженной, что позволяет ей звучать более естественно. В данной статье будет сделан упор на характеристике эллипсиса в устной речи.

Ключевые слова: эллипсис, эллиптические конструкции, лингвистика, перевод, устная речь.

Introduction

In a modern dynamically developing society, the issue of saving time is raised not only in management and ergonomics, but also in linguistics. In the era of technological progress, when people are increasingly using such means of communication as the Internet and mobile phones, this concept becomes more relevant than ever. A person striving to express his thoughts more concisely and clearly, often by omitting certain parts of speech, spends fewer resources on verbal communication. Such an acceleration of the rhythm of life gave rise to a phenomenon of “ellipsis”. In the O.S. Ahmanova’s «Dictionary of linguistic terms,» ellipsis is defined as «a pass (ejection) of an element (limb) of a statement that is easily restored in a given context or situation (in a given speech or everyday context)» (Ahmanova O.S., 2004, p.516). This phenomenon is present in all groups of languages and manifests itself at different levels of the language and in its various styles, having a special distribution in colloquial speech. Nevertheless, even though in each case ellipsis has its peculiarities, it always obeys one of the basic rules of the natural language - namely, the desire to reduce repetitive material.

One of the main goals of our study is the characterization of ellipsis in oral speech, the identification of its features. As well as compiling a typology based on the work of the authors who dealt with this problem, namely Charles Bally, Sylvia Adler, Georges and Robert Lebidova and I.V. Pronin. In the research we used a method of content analysis of literature sources in Japanese, English and Russian. This article is significant for students studying Japanese, future interpreters/ translators and teachers. In order for the speech to sound natural, it is necessary to develop basic skills that will be highlighted in this paper.

In this article, we will reveal the characteristics of an ellipsis for an oral language through comparison with a written one. In linguistic communication, a message can be classified as «speech» and as «text.» There are also concepts, such as the receiving side and the exposing side; which, depending on the type of statement, are divided into «listener/ reader» and «speaker/writer» (Komissarov V., 1990: 51). There are differences in the way the ellipsis occurs, depending on the type of text/speech. For example, it can be said that it takes into account the differences in the purpose and function of each text type, and how it is presented to the recipient. Accordingly, the question arises: what differences do «spoken language» and «written language» bring when omitting a unit of text?

Justification of the choice of article and goals and objectives

A work by Siegeko Nariyama, “Ellipsis and Reference Tracking in Japanese” is used as the main reference of this article (Nariyama, S., 2003, p. 417). This work is based on a comparison between Japanese and English. The author taught Japanese to students whose native language is English and was faced with the problem that the ellipsis issue is not sufficiently disclosed. The paper presents many examples, types of ellipses in parts of speech, as well as recommendations for teaching ellipsis. Learners of Japanese are generally quick to learn from the frequency of ellipsis which they encounter, that nominal arguments are often absent in Japanese, but they often learn this without adequate formal instruction (Nariyama, S., 2009, p.27). This is only natural, given that the mechanisms of ellipsis have not been fully explicated by linguists, with the result that teachers cannot explain the relevant mechanisms to their students explicitly. Another central issue in the scientific literature on ellipsis is the problem of the restoration of an eliminated part of a sentence. D. Hinds, T. Naruse and Horiguchi Sumiko consider various strategies for restoring an eld member in monologue and dialogical texts. For example, analysis of case frames, case design of members of the mandatory environment of verbs and
attribution of names in the environment to relevant subclasses; search for the topic of this text fragment with the purpose of establishing its connection with the eld element, etc. As well as the conditions for this restoration, the high predictability of the eld members from the situation; dialogue of some common experience, etc. (Horiguchi, S., 1997).

Another problem in the study of ellipsis is the question of identifying elliptic constructions and incomplete sentences, either referring them to the group of complete sentences or else generally separating elliptic sentences from other groups of sentences. V.V. Vinogradov argues that elliptic sentences effective access, being independent, is no less than full sentences (Vinogradov V., 1954). Moreover, he said that elliptic sentences do not violate the norms of complete sentences. A.M. Peshkovsky said that elliptic sentences are incomplete. But he also singled them out into an independent type of incomplete sentences. His consideration came from the formal grammatical composition, which lacks one or several members. Another researcher N.I. Grech considered elliptic constructions as a type of incomplete sentences.

The classification of elliptical constructions is another problem in the study of ellipsis (Schweitzer A., 1988: 215). Each linguist, who made the classification of elliptical constructions, relied on various aspects of when studying this phenomenon. Authors such as Charles Bally, Greviss, Sylvia Adler, Georges and Robert Lebidova, I.V. Pronin and others dealt with this problem.

Characterization of ellipsis in oral speech is the main goal of this work. Among other things, we will draw up a typology based on the work of authors who deal with the above problem. The need for a contrastive study of ellipsis in different structural languages, in particular Russian, English and Japanese, is dictated not only by the general scientific interest in the typology of language universals, but also by the needs of studying ellipsis in specific languages. Moreover, one of the central places is occupied by aspects reflecting the essence, role and functions of the ellipsis in the language, in which areas this language phenomenon is observed.

**Scientific research methodology**

We considered elliptic constructions as sentences in which one or another member of the sentence is omitted. We compared the elliptic sentences with the so-called (classical) complete sentences and consider them as a structural version of the complete one. That is, elliptical sentences are considered as "incomplete" in terms of formal grammatical composition. At the same time, we did not study the semantic features of elliptical sentences, but only compared the grammatical composition with the formal-grammatical composition of the so-called full sentences. Elliptical sentences, as a rule, represent a ready-made model that exists in our minds. We ourselves do not create this model, but only reproduce it. We perceive such a model as something whole, indivisible. If some element is omitted in the model, this does not affect the general sense of the whole model. In this case, the semantic load is the part of the model that remains. During the analysis, the following methods were used: comparative analysis of the text of the original and the text of the translation and interpretation of materials from various sources.

**Results and discussion**

*Ellipsis and “spoken / written language”*

Message senders can make reductions for various reasons, for example, to reduce their efforts and time, to satisfy contextual restrictions, or for language convenience. Thus, ellipsis inevitably occurs at every level of the language, such as words, phrases, and sentences. It is often used in abbreviations instead of commonly used words. For example, “Japan Business Federation”→ “Keidanren” (「日本経済団体連合会 Nihonkeizaidantuirengo:kai」→「経団連 Keidanren」) or newspaper’s article 「大雨が降って山間部に土砂崩れが発生した」 (Heavy rain led to the formation of landslides in mountain areas) becomes「大雨で山間部に土砂崩れが発生」 (Landslides occur in the mountains due to heavy rain) (Morioka Kenji, 1980). The above-mentioned phenomenon can be seen in all texts to some extent. It is believed that the phenomenon is limited to newspaper articles and scientific articles, as well as speeches with limited time. However, even in daily conversations, we inevitably resort to reductions.

It has been pointed out that discussions about the distinction between spoken language and written language have been related to various properties. For example, Ishiguro (2015) is involved in the category of "formal", which is characterized by written and spoken language, with at least two perspectives: "hardness/softness" and "roughness/depth". Takiuara (2014) added to these characteristics as "volatile/preservability" and "interpersonal directness/interpersonal interactivity" which are associated with the concept of "treatment". Sometimes it is difficult to draw a clear line between oral and
written style, as an intermediate position is allowed. Television news is a prime example. In the news, the text prepared in advance is read out, so it is not clear whether to attribute it to the written or oral style. Since it was written in advance, it should be considered as a "written language" unless emphasis is placed on the direct nature of the spoken language. On the other hand, since the final form transmitted to the viewer, who is the recipient of the message, in speech, we can say that this is a speech text with a written symbol.

In addition, translated subtitles that help people understand cultural content, such as foreign movies and drama, are displayed on the screen as characters, but they cannot be said to be as written words (Ishiguro & Hashimoto, 2014). For example, in the case of a movie, the translated subtitles are intended to recreate the characters' conversations by voice. Texts with intermediate properties are not enumerated, and it is difficult to draw a line because the spoken words are also written in online short sentences such as Twitter and SNS exchanges. In today's situation where society and linguistic behavior are becoming more complex, the purpose and function of message transmission will likely become increasingly diverse, rather than text that clearly defines spoken or written language.

It should be noted that even though subtitles are basically a conversation of characters; that is, a form that reproduces "spoken language", there are very few examples of how to do such a conversation in actual daily conversation. What is considered important in these differences are the characteristics of spoken language and the process of sending and receiving. Omitting can reduce the burden on the speaker or increase the burden on the listener (Morioka Kenji, 1980). This means that the caller can save effort by omitting it, or that the recipient can interpret the missing "incomplete", which increases the cognitive burden. Considering this point, there is an influence on the omission method, whether the information is transmitted and received in text or transmitted and received in voice. In other words, although the phenomenon of omission itself is considered to exist regardless of the difference in the transmission medium of speech/text, the appearance is not uniform, and it is something that is caused by the difference of speech/text (Bass I.I., 2013: 95).

The reason why our study of ellipsis is mainly focused on spoken language is the fact that spoken language most often involves unifying the interlocutors in a specific situation that both of them understand. In this state of things, many details remain unsaid. After all, if you say aloud what is already obvious, the speech will turn out to be boring, tedious, unreasonably long, and even pedantic. In other words, spoken language is situational in nature, and therefore it is less detailed than written. Often with such communication, only a hint is enough to understand each other. In other words, the spoken information cannot be viewed retroactively, and this affects the omission phenomenon. According to the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (Table 1), omissions in Japanese are most often found in spoken language (Nariyama, S., 2009).

### Table 1 – Omission frequency (National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conversation</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written words</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novel</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Utterance and interpretation**

When omitting parts of a sentence, one of the basic strategies that can be considered is to "eliminate function words to keep the structure simple". There are two types of words: “real words” with substantial meaning and “function words” with abstract meaning and grammatical role. When considering communication efficiency, it can be speculated that it is a universal trend that functional words with abstract meaning are easier to omit than real words that are specific instructions. When function words are omitted, sentences or utterances have a simple structure in which only real words are arranged in parallel.

(2) a. «何をしているの?宿題。»
   «Nani-o shiteiruno? Shukudai». «What are you doing? Homework».
   b. 22 年W杯開催時期作業部会で検討へ
   22 nen W-hai kaisai jiki sagyo: bukai de kento:
   e. «A meeting of the working group for the 22nd World Cup will be held».

In (2a), the question “What are you doing?” was answered as “homework”, and (2b) is an example of a newspaper headline. In such
cases, many function words are omitted. For example

(2b) The underlined part is a particle of “の
no” and “が ga”, a formal verb of “する suru” and
accompanying it, such as “22年のW杯が開催さ
れる時期” 22 nen no W-hai ga kaisaisareru jiki”.

It is possible to supplement the passive use form
of “〜れる reru” and three function words. These
function words have a role to convey the abstract
information about each component of “22 years”,
"World Cup", "held ", "time", and whether they are
related to each other in the overall event. Omitting
the function word is, in other words, providing
only the minimum necessary information, and it
certainly saves time and labor. Elliptical sentences
are difficult to translate. In the case of omission of
one or another member of the proposal, the structure
of the entire proposal is first restored, and only then
it is translated. The complexity, and sometimes the
inability to understand the meaning of an elliptical
construction without context, is the main problem of
translation. The cognitive burden of interpretation
is no exception in the case of retroactive text,
which will often be perceived as "difficult to read"
(Kawahara, S. & Igarashi, M., 2014). The number
of characters is often limited in explanations and
articles, function words are often omitted, or these
texts are often "hard to read". That is, instead of
reducing the amount of information input by omitting
function words, it is left to the reader side to guess
the abstract relationship between the components in
the head and capture the whole event.

Types of ellipsis in spoken Japanese language

Among the main types of ellipsis found in
Japanese, the ellipsis of the following sentence
members and parts of speech is distinguished:

subject ellipsis;
ellipsis complement;
ellipsis expressed by the name of the definition;
defined ellipsis;
predicate ellipsis;
group ellipsis.

In Japanese, it is often possible to observe a
phenomenon when an ellipsis of a subject occurs,
not depending on the context, but because the person
of the subject is indicated in the form of a verb or a
pledge in a sentence. The basic syntactic conditions
that allow you to omit the subject and, if necessary,
restore the person that it designates include the
expression of subjective judgments, the direction of
action, passivity, politeness, and imperative. Some
of these conditions can also cause an ellipsis of
the complement, especially if it is expressed by a
personal pronoun (beneficial activity, or politeness).

(1) 絶対犯人捕まえるからな。
Zettai hannin tsukamaeru kara na. "[I] will
definitely catch the criminal."

(2) 教えてやろうか。
Osiete Yaro:ka"Let [me] explain to you."

(3) ねえ, 屋上行かない?
Ne:, okujo: ikanai? “Hey, won’t [you] go to the
roof?”

Based on the predicate form, it can be assumed
that in examples (1) and (2) the subject expressed in
the first person pronoun is omitted, and an example
(3) the subject expressed in the second person
pronoun is omitted.

Predicted, according to V.A. Alpatov (2008),
is the only part of the full sentence that cannot
be eliminated. This statement can be checked
by gradually removing one component of the
widespread sentence until it consists of one verb -
and even in this case it will have a certain meaning,
and it will be possible to restore the missing parts
from the context.

(4) これが好きで郵便配達の仕事を始めた
のだ。
Kore-ga suki de yu:bin haitatsu no sigoto-o
hajimeta no da. “[I / you / he / she / they] started (s) to
work as a postman because [I / you / he / he / she /
you / they] liked it.”

(5) 好きで郵便配達の仕事を始めたのだ。
Suki de yu:bin haitatsu-no sigoto-o hajimeta no
yes. “[I / you / he / she / they] started (s) to work
as a postman because [I / you / he / he / she /
you / they] started (s) to work.”

(6) 郵便配達の仕事を始めたのだ。
Yu:bin haitatsu-no sigoto-o hajimeta no da. ”[I
you / he / she / she / they] started (s) to work
as a postman.”

(7) 仕事を始めたのだ。
Shigoto-o hajimeta no da. ”[I / you / he / she /
you / they] started (s) to work.”

(8) 始めたのだ。
Hajimeta no da. ”[I / you / he / she / she /
you / they]
started (s).”

Otherwise, if in the same sentence we initially
omit only the verb, we will no longer be able to get a
complete picture of the described situation.

(9) * これが好きで郵便配達の仕事を。
Kore-ga suki de yu:bin haitatsu no sigoto-o.
“Because [I] like this [I] [verb] postal delivery
work.”

Nevertheless, the ellipsis of the verb and the
connective can be actively manifested in colloquial
speech, if their semantic content is clear from the
previous statement, which is especially characteristic
of dialogical speech (Osho,1976: 59). Among the
verbs that can most easily undergo ellipsis, the following groups are distinguished: existential verbs (いる iro, ある aru "to be, to exist"); verbs of movement (行く iku "go", 来る kuru "come", 出る deru "go out"); verbs of speech and mental activity (言う iu "speak", 思う omou "think", 考える kangaeru "think"); the verbs following after onomatopoeia (光る hikaru "shine", 笑う warau "laugh, smile") and some other verbs that are not semantically combined.

At first glance, the first type is easily confused with the second, and the third with the fourth, but there is a fundamental difference between them. The ellipsis of a recurring topic implies the elimination in hierarchical relationships between participants in communication, and speech style.

It is possible to distinguish the ellipsis of the topic of the sentence into a special category since it cannot be attributed either to individual members of the sentence or to parts of speech. Due to the frequency of the ellipse subject to the ellipse, the topic of utterance is also a frequent occurrence in modern Japanese. Mikami notes that if a topic goes beyond the first sentence and extends to the second, it can be easily eliminated. Kuno in his study identifies four main types of ellipsis topics:

a) Ellipsis of a recurring theme (反復主題省略 hampuku shudai sho:ryaku)

b) The ellipsis of the topic, which is the antecedent (主題を先行詞とする主題省略 shudai wo senko:shisurushudai sho:ryaku)

c) Ellipse of a new topic (新主題省略 shinshudai sho:ryaku)

d) Ellipsis of a theme different from the previous one (異主題省略 i-shudai sho:ryaku)

(10) A: 私、ラーメン大好きなのよ！
B: 私も！
A: Watashi, ra:man daisuki na no yo!
Q: Watashimo!
A: I really like ramen!
Q: Me too!

In statement A of the example above, in addition to the ellipsis of the connective です (desu) / だ (da), we observe the omission of the indicators for the thematic case が (wa) and nominative case が (ga), which, according to the rules of the normative Japanese language, should follow after 私 (watashi) and ラーメン (ra:men) respectively. This type of ellipse is called 助詞省略 (joshi sho:ryaku) "postpositive ellipsis" and is more characteristic of colloquial speech and is unacceptable in other styles. According to the results of a study conducted by Maeda based on dialogues in Japanese TV series and films, the aforementioned postposition and the accusative index を (o) are most often subjected to ellipsis. Cases of omission of the postposition が (ga) are relatively infrequent, and cases of the ellipse of the indicator of the dative case に (ni) are rather rare. The high frequency of the ellipsis が (ga) is associated with the possibility in Japanese to identify a topic in the absence of a corresponding case indicator. However, when Speaking about the frequency of the ellipsis を (o), it is worth noting that this can be facilitated by the close location of the postposition concerning the semantic verb, as well as the fact that even with the elimination it is difficult to confuse it with other case indicators. As for the postposition が (ga), its less pronounced ability to an ellipsis is due to a more distant position concerning the semantic verb, compared to を (o), and also because が (ga) puts a stronger emphasis on the next word before it than が (wa) or を (o). In the case of に (ni), there are fundamentally important differences in the meaning of this postposition from the three previous ones, as a result of which it is extremely undesirable to create situations that lead to an incorrect interpretation of the statement. Boone (2005) considers the ellipses of case indicators in terms of factors such as gender,
the second sentence of a pair of members, which in both sentences will be distinguished by the thematic case は (wa). Thus, in the first type of ellipsis, the statement should be constructed according to the model 「Xは...。Xは...」. If we talk about the second type, then, in this case, 太郎 (Taro) is a topic only in the second sentence of a pair, being a subject, highlighted by the postposition が (ga) in the first sentence. In other words, 太郎ガ (Taro ga) acts as an antecedent to which the anaphoric expression 太郎ハ (Taro wa) refers. The statement model, in this case, will be 「X が...。X は...」. The statements corresponding to the third type are constructed according to the model 「Y が... X は...。X は...」 and the ellipsis of the topic X is in the second sentence is possible only if the whole statement is built on behalf of X and conveys his point of view. Conversely, an ellipsis of the topic X is in the second sentence is possible if the statement corresponding to the model 「Y は... X は...。X は...」, characteristic of the latter type of ellipsis, is constructed on behalf of Y and transfers its point view.

Conclusion

Ellipsis is an omission in speech or text of an implied language unit, the structural “incompleteness” of the syntactic structure was studied by foreign and domestic linguists as a separate grammatical phenomenon, and accompanying other facts of the language. Taking into account the dominant position that the development of the language is determined by two trends, to save and expand, it should be noted that the main function of the ellipsis is to save language resources and reduce sentences by omitting individual words. A manifestation of the principle of economy in a language is linguistic compression, which represents the process of reducing the structure of a language unit without changing the information embedded in it, which is systemic and stylistically unmarked. The implementation of this process occurs both as a result of the omission of excess elements, and due to their replacement with less extended units. As described above, we confirmed the difference in function word omission in the text of oral and text communication, and the characteristics that seem to be the cause. In the case of oral communication that is compelled to capture information linearly, and in the case of a character medium that can be controlled by the order and reviewing of the information itself, the process of interpreting incomplete information is more restrictive. For this reason, the omission of function words that must be interpreted without supplementing abstract information is considered to be an effective strategy for speech text. In other words, it means that it is possible to use a more cognitive burden and abbreviated way than letter text. Although this paper is thought to be related to many factors in the manner in which omissions are realized, we will return to the most primitive category of whether it is speech or text, depending on the way the omission phenomenon appears. As a comparative analysis shows, the difference between oral and written speech is obvious. Therefore, a different approach must be applied to two different types in the study and translation. However, before proceeding with the translation from Japanese into Russian and vice versa, we need to get a complete picture of what an ellipsis is, its functions and types. In this case, we described the ellipse in the spoken language of the Japanese language, which is quite common (74%) compared with the ellipse in the text (37%). And also, we proposed a typology of ellipsis, which researchers in the field of linguistics have been arguing for a long time. Thus, the ellipsis in oral speech can be divided into the following types: 1. subject ellipsis; 2. ellipsis complement; 3. ellipsis expressed by the name of the definition; 4. defined ellipsis; 4. predicate ellipsis and 5. group ellipsis.

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