

ELLIPSIS AND SUBSTITUTION AS COHESIVE DEVICES IN ENGLISH LITERARY DISCOURSE

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Annotation: *This thesis explores the role of ellipsis and substitution as cohesive devices in English literary discourse, focusing on O. Henry's short story "The Green Door." The study aims to reveal how these devices contribute to textual economy, coherence, and stylistic expressiveness. Based on Halliday and Hasan's (1976) framework of cohesion, the analysis identifies instances of ellipsis and substitution in the story and explains how they function to maintain continuity of meaning without unnecessary repetition. The findings show that O. Henry uses ellipsis and substitution not only for grammatical cohesion but also for narrative rhythm and stylistic effect, enriching the text's artistic quality.*

Key words: *cohesion, ellipsis, substitution, literary discourse, stylistic function.*

INTRODUCTION

Cohesion is one of the key features that make a text unified and meaningful. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), cohesion is realized through grammatical and lexical relations that link sentences together. Among these, ellipsis and substitution play a crucial role in reducing redundancy and emphasizing what is contextually recoverable.

Ellipsis occurs when part of a structure is omitted but understood from context, while substitution involves replacing a word or phrase with another item such as one, do, or so. In literary discourse, both serve stylistic as well as structural purposes. O. Henry's "The Green Door" provides a rich example of how ellipsis and substitution create a sense of continuity, rhythm, and intimacy between narrator and reader. The analysis in this paper demonstrates that these devices help achieve cohesion while contributing to the author's unique narrative style.

Main Part. Cohesion in literary discourse is achieved through various grammatical and lexical means that link sentences and ideas into a unified whole. Among these means, ellipsis and substitution play a particularly important role in maintaining textual economy and coherence. They allow the writer to avoid unnecessary repetition and to focus the reader's attention on essential elements of meaning.

In English, ellipsis refers to the omission of words that are understood from context, while substitution involves replacing a word or phrase with another form such as one, do, so, or the same. Both devices serve as cohesive links between sentences and within sentences, creating smooth transitions and a sense of continuity.

In literary texts, however, their function extends beyond grammar. Writers use ellipsis and substitution to make dialogues sound natural, to quicken narrative pace, and to enhance stylistic expressiveness. O. Henry's short story "The Green Door" offers many

examples of how these devices contribute not only to grammatical cohesion but also to artistic style. His use of omission and replacement enriches the texture of narration, helps maintain suspense, and supports the story's theme of adventure and mystery.

Ellipsis is used in "The Green Door" to avoid repetition and maintain narrative flow. For instance, "He looked at the card again 'The Green Door'. He laughed, and his laugh echoed along the hallway. Then he turned the knob and entered."³⁶ Here, the clause he entered [the room] is elliptical, the word room is omitted because it is easily inferred from door. This omission enhances the natural rhythm of narration and keeps the focus on action rather than redundancy. Another example occurs when O. Henry describes Rudolf's adventurous spirit: "He had followed strange quests before, and this was only another."³⁷ The phrase this was only another [quest] shows nominal ellipsis, the noun quest is omitted but understood. This ellipsis strengthens cohesion between sentences and contributes to the story's thematic motive of adventure.

Substitution replaces a linguistic item with another to avoid repetition while maintaining grammatical structure. In "The Green Door," O. Henry uses substitution for stylistic variety. For example, "He took one of the cards and looked at it closely. Others did the same."³⁸ Here, others substitutes for other men or other passers-by, forming a cohesive link between the two sentences. This substitution compresses meaning and keeps the sentence concise. Another instance appears when Rudolf meets the girl behind the green door: "I thought someone would come,' she said. 'So did I,' replied Rudolf."³⁹ The phrase "So did I" substitutes for "I thought someone would come". This verbal substitution avoids repetition, creates cohesion, and gives a natural conversational tone. It also reveals character personality, Rudolf's quick and gentle response enhances his polite and sympathetic nature.

Conclusion. The analysis of "The Green Door" demonstrates that ellipsis and substitution are essential cohesive devices that link sentences, avoid redundancy, and maintain narrative economy. O. Henry uses them skillfully to achieve smooth progression, natural dialogue, and stylistic elegance.

Ellipsis enables the reader to fill in meaning contextually, fostering engagement and interpretive participation. Substitution, meanwhile, preserves structural clarity and enriches stylistic rhythm. Both devices confirm that cohesion in literary discourse is not merely grammatical but also deeply aesthetic, contributing to the unity and beauty of the text.

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³⁷ O. Henry. (2005). "The Gift of the Magi and other stories" ("The Green Door")

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