

## ONE MEMBER AND ELLIPTICAL SENTENCES

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**Annotation:** Elliptical sentences are such sentences in which one or several parts are missing as compared with analogous sentences where there is no ellipsis. Elliptical sentences may freely be changed into complete sentences, the missing part of the sentence being supplied from the preceding or following context, by means of intonation: e.g. I sat near the window, he – near the door (= he sat near the door). Playing, children? (= are you playing, children?) Cf. A small but cosy room (a one-member sentence); in the background stands/ is a little writing table (an elliptical two-member sentence). The main sphere of elliptical sentences is of course dialogue.

**Key words:** Language, one member sentences, elliptical sentences, lessons, plane, speech, number opposeme.

The most general notions reflecting the most general properties of phenomena are referred to in logic as ‘categorical notions’, or ‘categories’. As for the grammatical category itself, it presents a unity of form (i.e. material factor), and meaning (i.e. ideal factor). In other terms it presents a unity of content and expression. The plane of content (plurality) comprises the purely semantic elements contained in language while the plane of expression (boys) comprises the material (formal) units of language. The two planes are inseparably connected, so that no meaning can be realized without some material means of expression. The ordered set of grammatical forms expressing a category constitutes a paradigm. Paradigmatic relations cannot be directly observed in utterances. Paradigms may be small and large, depending on the number of grammatical categories they express; e.g. the paradigm of the word ‘man’ consists of 4 forms: a man – men (number) man’s – men’s (case) Parts of speech represent larger paradigms of case, number (noun), degrees of comparison (adjective, adverb), tense, voice, mood, person (verb), etc. Bigger paradigms after parts of speech are morphology and syntax. The biggest paradigm of a language is its grammatical structure. The paradigmatic correlations of grammatical forms in a category are exposed by the so-called ‘grammatical oppositions’, boy – boys. The elements of the opposition must possess two types of features: common features and differential features. Number [common]: singularity [differential] (boy), plurality (boys). Common features serve as the basis of contrast, while differential features immediately express the function in question. The opposition along the line of one grammatical category is called an opposeme; e.g. number opposeme: a table – tables. The oppositional theory was

originally formulated as a phonological theory. The main qualitative types of opposition were established in phonology: privative (b-d-g, p-t-k); gradual (i:-i-e-a) and equipollent (bilabial). By the number of members contrasted, oppositions were divided into binary (two members) and more than binary (ternary, quaternary, etc). The most important type of opposition is the binary privative opposition; the other types of opposition are reducible to the binary privative opposition. The binary privative opposition is formed by a contrastive pair of members in which one member is characterized by the absence of this feature. The member in which the feature is present is called the 'marked' or 'strong', or 'positive' member, and is commonly designated by the symbol '+' (plus); the member in which the feature is absent is called the 'unmarked' or 'weak', or 'negative' member, and is commonly designated by the symbol '-' (minus). The gradual opposition is formed by a contrastive group of members, which are designated not by the presence or absence of a feature, but by the degree of it. The equipollent opposition is formed by a contrastive pair or group in which the members are distinguished by different positive features. The most important type of opposition in morphology, the same as in phonology, is the binary privative opposition. The privative morphological opposition is based on a morphological differential feature, which is present in its strong (marked) member and absent in its weak (unmarked) member. E.g. the expression of the verbal present and past tenses is based on a privative opposition the differential feature of which is the suffix (e)d. This suffix, rendering the meaning of the past tense, marks the past form of the verb positively (we worked), and the present form negatively (we work). The meanings differentiated by the oppositions are sometimes called 'seme' [si:m] cema. For instance, the nounal form 'cats' expresses the seme of plurality, as opposed to the form 'cat' which express, by contrast, the seme of singularity. The two forms constitute a privative opposition in which the plural is the marked member. In order to stress the negative marking of the singular, it can be referred to as 'non-plural'. The meaning of the weak member of privative opposition is more general and abstract as compared with the meaning of the strong member, which is more particular and concrete. Due to this difference in meaning the weak member is used in a wider range of contexts than the strong member. Equipollent oppositions in the system of English morphology constitute a minor type. An example of such an opposition can be seen in the correlation of the person forms of the verb 'be' - am - are - is. Gradual oppositions in morphology are not generally recognized. An example of the gradual morphological opposition can be seen in the category of comparison: strong - stronger - strongest. A grammatical category must be expressed by at least one opposition of forms. Both equipollent and gradual oppositions in morphology, the same as in phonology, can be reduced to privative oppositions. In various contextual conditions, one member of an opposition can be used in the position of the other, counter - member. This phenomenon should

be treated as 'oppositional reduction' or 'oppositional substitution'. E.g. Tonight we start for London. The verb in this sentence takes the form of the present, while its meaning in the context is the future. It means that the opposition present - future has been reduced to, the weak member (present) replacing the strong one (future). This kind of oppositional reduction is referred to as 'neutralization' of oppositions. There exists another kind of reduction, by which one of the members of the opposition is placed in contextual conditions uncommon for it. This use is stylistically marked. E.g. This man is constantly complaining of something. The form of the present continuous in this sentence stands in sharp contradiction with its regular grammatical meaning 'action in progress of the present time'. This contradiction intensifies the implied disapproval of the man's behavior. The grammatical forms are classed into synthetical and analytical. Synthetical grammatical forms are realized by the inner morphemic composition of the word, while analytical grammatical forms are built up by a combination of at least two words, one of which is a grammatical auxiliary (word - morpheme) and the other of 'substantial' meaning. Synthetical grammatical forms are based on inner inflexion, outer inflexion, and suppletivity. Hence, the forms are referred to as inner-inflexional, outer-inflexional and suppletive. Inner inflexion (infixation) is used in English in irregular verbs for the formation of the Past Indefinite and Past Participle; besides it is used in a few nouns for the formation of the plural; e.g. begin - began - begun; man - men. Suppletivity, like inner inflexion is not productive. It is based on the correlation of different roots, (or it consists in the grammatical interchange of word roots). Suppletivity is used in the forms of the verbs 'be' and 'go', in the irregular forms of the degrees of comparison, in some forms of personal pronouns.

E.g. be - am - are - is - was - were go - went, much - more good - better, little - less bad - worse, I - me, we - us, she - her.

### Conclusion:

The grammatical categories can either be innate (врожденный, природный) for a given class of words (part of speech), or only serve as a sign of correlation (взаимосвязь, соотношение) with some other class. For instance, the category of number directly exposes the number of the substance - one ship - several ships. The category of number in the verb, however, does not give a natural characteristic to the denoted process. Thus, grammatical categories should be divided into 'immanent' categories (присущий, постоянный), i.e. categories innate for a given class and 'reflective' categories, i.e. categories of a secondary, derivative semantic value. E.g. the verbal person, the verbal number are reflective, while the substantive - pronominal person, the substantive number, the tense of the verb, the comparison of adjectives and adverbs are immanent. All the immanent grammatical forms are classed as 'declensional', while all the reflective forms are called 'conjugational'. The English verb

is conjugated by the reflective forms of person and number, but declined by the immanent forms of tense, aspect, voice and mood.

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