

PHILOLOGY

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Elliptical utterances in modern English oral speech

The tendency towards language economy in oral speech predetermines the use of elliptical utterances in it. The article aims at finding out definite types of utterances in which the speaker tends to use ellipsis. The analysis of the examples taken from contemporary British and American feature films revealed that there are ten main types of utterances which are characterized by ellipsis: request for information, providing the requested information, speculation and explanation, speech cliché, expression of emotional reaction, comment, giving information about one's intentions, specification, command, reaction to a command. There is certain interdependence between the use of various kinds of elliptical patterns and the types of utterances.

Key words: oral speech, elliptical utterances, elliptical patterns.

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