

## SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS IN THE 2025 INDO-PAK CONFLICT

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### Abstract

*In this research paper, the student syntactically examines the use of ellipsis in social media discourse as revealed by the strategic use of public statement in the India Pakistan conflict of 2025. An omission of certain words or phrases (ellipsis) can be a potent tool of language that defines the story, supports the ideological boundaries, and creates an illusion of perception in polarized society. The research analyzes the knowledge about six ways of ellipse: nominal, verbal, clausal as well as gapping, stripping, and comparative ellipse of the 469 social media comments by Indian and Pakistani users gathered on May 1st and May 10, 2025. It is with the qualitative content analysis of data that the research determines the way by which elliptical constructions attain conciseness, rhetorical highlight, and ideological conviction. The results indicate that ellipsis is a language construct that is used to conceal agency (e.g. the attacks went on...), exaggerate ideological polarization (e.g. Pakistan Zindabad!), and increase economical clarity in viral messages. The situation the research closes is a significant gap in conflict discourse scholarship as research on this topic has been mainly limited to either lexical or sentiment-based studies, whereas the study establishes how syntactic omissions contribute to perception in the case of digital geopolitics. As a methodological contribution, it leads to content analysis through categorization of elliptic constructions in a systematic way, providing a model of future research on weaponized language in a state of crisis.*

**Keywords:** Digital communication, ellipsis, India-Pakistan conflict, nationalist rhetoric, social media discourse, syntactic analysis.

### Introduction

The Indo-Pakistan conflict of 2025 symbolizes a turning point in the realm of digital communication, as social networks systems turned into main platforms of the ideological confrontation, nationalistic propaganda systems and creation of the virtual reality. Millions of citizens used such a platform as X to express their views and support their positions, and to behave hotly debating the issues exacerbating the tensions between the two nuclear armed neighbors. The transcribed text of this digital discourse thus presents a rich data set to linguistic analysis, especially by investigating how syntactic selected options, and more importantly, manipulative use of ellipsis can be extensive tools of narrative through which its understanding and presentation is framed and filtered and weaved in reinforcement of ideological boundaries.

The use of the language in conflict situations is never neutral: language is a weaponized tool and can be used to create more tensions or bring peace. The syntactic formulation that the writers of the comments use, be it statement of fact, question of refutation or omissions of parts, predict more profound forms of bias, persuasion and identity formulation. Ellipsis in particular is a very interesting tool to analyze the discourse of conflict. Contextually elided words or phrases can be used by speakers in order to obscure agency, promote solidarity to in-group members, make threats, or avoid direct blame. An illustration of this is where one commented as such "The attacks persisted..." leaves major questions unanswered; who triggered the attacks? Who is to blame? Elliptical constructions have the ability to be manipulated by the speaker whereas retaining plausible deniability, and thus, they are especially blistering methods of communication in polarized settings.

### **Research objective**

- To reflect on the syntactic forms and communicative uses of ellipsis in the nationalist discourse of India-Pakistan social media, determining how the elliptical constructions (namely, nominal, verbal, and clausal ellipsis, gapping, stripping, sluicing, and comparative ellipsis) are used to pursue conciseness, rhetorical accent, and ideological persuasion within the discourse of nationalist rhetoric on social media

### **Literature Review**

#### **Nominal Ellipsis**

It happens when some noun or noun phrase has not been used intentionally since they are readily comprehensible by context. It enables one to use the syntax without creating too much repetition and still being clear. Nominal ellipsis is common in comparative expressions, responses and in coordinated clauses. It can often be supplied by the presence of what is normally referred to as the immediate linguistic or situational context. Such a type of ellipsis makes the discourse more fluid and natural-sounding. Example: "Some students chose history, others [chose] literature."

#### **Verbal Ellipsis**

Interestingly, it means excluding a verb or a verb phrase in case the sense is obvious based on earlier allusions. The type is most common in the dialogue and parallel structures where the same thing is being talked about. Verbal ellipsis is one of the functions that avoid redundancy and preserve a conversation. It commonly appears when using the comparative form and answering questions. The language is based majorly on mutual knowledge among speakers. Example: "She can play piano, and her brother can [play piano] too."

#### **Clausal Ellipsis**

Mentions the removal of a whole clause but still holding to the same meaning. Common in sequence of questions and answer, and following conjunctions. It is a type of ellipsis which reduces the cumbersomeness of the responses to be grammatically complete to a greater extent. Specifically, it is common in oral language where brevity is regarded as important. The cuts can always be supplemented by the previous discourse. Example: "Are you coming?" "I might be [coming]."

### **Gapping**

A type of ellipse in which it involves the exclusion of the verb in the second or consecutive phrases in a coordinated syntax. The word is attributed to the obvious gap created in sentence construction. Gapping can only appear in cases of coordinated constructions that are parallel. It is used when it needs to bring out the difference between two or more subjects doing the same thing. This is more spoken version of language as compared to written language. Example: "Mary bought apples, John [bought] oranges, and Sam [bought] bananas."

### **Stripping (Bare Argument Ellipsis)**

Includes shortening of a clause to one contrasting feature, usually to emphasize or to rectify. The name originated in the kind of stripping of all other elements in the sentence. This gives it a very high concentrated overlook of the other constituent. There are often negation, or contrastive particles such as not or only accompanying stripping. It is especially widespread in conversation rebuffs or assertions.

### **Jinghua Zhang (2019), "A Semantic Approach to the English Modality"**

The given study discussed English modality as a semantic phenomenon focusing on necessity and possibility that was divided into so-called epistemic modality (certainty, belief) and so-called deontic modality (obligation, permission). The author emphasizes the use of modal verbs (must, can, may) and semimodals (have to, need to) when uttering these senses but also points out to their variability and ambiguity when it comes to versatile communications. Modal verbs are the main subject of the paper but there is a further possibility to explore additional grammatical forms (adverbs and nouns) expressing the modality and both pragmatic and discourse-driven analyses in such specialist language as English law or conversation. There is also a possibility that upcoming research can investigate on such terms as the cross-linguistic comparisons to further elaborate the modality.

**Badshah, Khan & Ahmad (2025), "Discursive Practices and Blame Game: A Corpus Assisted Study of the Representation of the Pakistani Tehrik-e-Labbaik Movement in the Indian and Pakistani Print Media"** This paper analysed the discursive construction of Tehrik-e-Labbaik protest through the perspective of ideology square theory and critical discourse analysis based on the corpus in the India (Times of India) and the Pakistan (The News International) newspapers. The Indian media made a negative framing of the protest by relating it with terrorism and extremism to point an accusing finger at Pakistan and the Pakistani media made neutral/ positive lexical use to pass the blame and underline counterterrorism work. The results are marked with an extremely different ideological coding, deepening nationalistic rhetoric of us vs. them. In that study, the specific influence on the choice of lexicon in editorials was the center of attention, limiting the scope and excluding multimodal discussion (e.g., visuals, social media) and reception of audiences. Further researches may include increased media vehicle, longitudinal views of media, and digital venues on determining ideological uprisings.

The current research is not only covering fundamental gaps in the current body of research, but it is also the first syntactic analysis of public comments in the event of the so-called conflict between India and Pakistan in May of 2025, and hence, the most current study regarding digital discourse in this geopolitical situation. Although past literature (e.g., Zhang 2019 on modality; Badshah 2025 on print media framing) have obsessed over lexical options, the emotions analysis, or conventional

media, no literature has systematically conducted studies on syntactic approaches especially ellipsis in conflict texts on social media.

### Methodology

The analysis is based on 469 social media comments which are organized into two parts, India-Related Comments (lines 1-211) and Pakistan-Related Comments (lines 212-469), all of which have been collected during the period between May 1st and May 10th. The comments are marked with themes (e.g. nationalism, military speak, economic critique), and with words and phrases (e.g. ellipsis, sarcasm, slogans). The investigation gathers the information with the aid of the site X. Since the research project deals with the sentence structure of the Indo-Pak comments, the researcher does not use a quantitative research approach, i.e. the researcher does not become quantified with the data, rather he/she textually analyses it. Such a methodology puts the study into the framework of content analysis. It is through communication that content analysis enables the researcher to study the human behavior indirectly (Fraenkel, Wallen, & Hyun, 2011, p. 478). As such, qualitative researchers pay more attention to descriptive than the quantity of data.

The section of analysis is systematically organized whereby the identification and classification of elliptical sentences which appear in India Pakistan-remarks are done. According to the corpus data, 12 examples of elliptical patterns are identified. Elliptical constructions can be defined as constructions identified by the presence of omissions of words or phrases implied by context; as a result grammatically incomplete but comprehensible sentences are produced. The methodology provides an explanation of the use of the ellipsis in a concise and elaborate form with the aim of demonstrating its purpose in conciseness, emphasis, and its effects on rhetoric in the comments.

### Discussion analysis

The text that is founded on a set of social commentaries on social media representing the discussion that exists between Indian and Pakistani netizens and that involves nationalistic rhetoric, political satire, and criticism of each other. It can easily be said that one striking aspect of the language during these comments is how often it uses ellipsis; the omission of words that are understood by the context that results in a succinct, impressive and in many cases comical or controversial expression. All these detected instances are discussed to identify which ones have been missed and follow which syntactic patterns. The results are then presented into a formatted structure consisting of a summary table in order to bring out the frequency and roles of ellipsis within the text. Based on sentences, the researcher found elliptical patterns in indo-pak are as follows.

Type	Syntactic Pattern	Example	Omitted Element
Nominal	[DP [D°] ~[NP]~ ]	"India [is] sipping chai."	Auxiliary (is)
Verbal	[TP [NP] [T°] ~[VP]~ ]	"It knows how to finish them [wars]."	Copula (wars)

Type	Syntactic Pattern	Example	Omitted Element
Clausal	[CP ~[TP]~ ]	"Why [mention China]?"	Entire TP
Gapping	[CoordP [TP ... V ...] & [TP ... ~V~ ...]]	"but [Pakistan] surrenders quickly."	Subject (pakistan)
Stripping	[XP ~[TP]~ [Remnant]]	"Pakistan Zindabad!"	Subject + verb (We say)
Comparative	[DegP ~[Deg°]~ [AP/VP]]	"We bleed saffron [more]."	Adverb (more)

This table indicates the outcomes of the ellipses used. As it can be observed, the pattern exists mainly in comments made by both sides. It is a concise but a transparent model of syntactic patterns of ellipses according to their typology. The following is the analysis of elliptical forms of the text with their communicative functions.

### Types and Functions of Ellipsis

Elliptical constructions in these comments fall into several categories, each serving distinct rhetorical purposes:

#### Nominal Ellipsis

Omission of nouns or noun phrases, often to avoid repetition or emphasize brevity.

Pattern: [DP [D°] ~[NP]~ ]

- **Example:** "India sipping chai while the world burns."
- **Full:** "India is sipping chai while the world burns."
- **Omission:** Auxiliary verb "is".
- **Effect:** Creates a casual, meme-like tone, mimicking internet slang.

Nominal ellipse, is also common in such social media comments, and is used to save space and even style. Such elliptical forms do not only simplify communication but also give the rhetorical effect, so the statements become easier to relate and share in online discourse. These omissions create the effect of the synthesis style of a conversation, but also support the humorous or critical sub-current that exists in the online communication that occurs between India and Pakistan.



### Verbal Ellipsis

Omission of verbs or verb phrases, often in comparisons or coordinated clauses.

Pattern: [TP [NP] [T°] ~-[VP]~-]

- **Example:** *"India doesn't start wars, but it knows how to finish them."*
- **Full:** *"India doesn't start wars, but it knows how to finish them [wars]."*
- **Omission:** Repeated noun *"wars"*.
- **Effect:** Sharpens the contrast between actions (starting vs. finishing).

Two tools, verbal ellipsis, can be used to make these social media exchanges not only effective but also snappy. Elliptic constructions simplify the message, intensify rhetorical contrasts, and deepen emotional appeal, thus being an especially efficient tool in the context of both the nationalist rhetoric and online rhetoric, where the aspects of conciseness and emotion evocation take the first priority. The cuts enable more snappy, catchy text to be used that supports ideological positions by insinuation and innuendo rather than by direct comparison.

### Clausal Ellipsis

Omission of entire clauses, common in dialogues or fragmented responses.

Pattern: [CP ~-[TP]~-] (or [TP ~-[VP]~-] in fragments)

- **Example:** *Why mention China? B: Because he is lying."*
- **Full:** *"[He mentions China] because he is lying."*
- **Ellipsis:** Subject + verb *"He mentions"* omitted.

Clausal ellipse, these structures fulfil a variety of functions: they imitate the economical nature of the spoken language, speed up the flow of conversation, and promote a feeling of closeness/knowing between the participants in the discussion. Such omissions, by depending on contextual rather than direct meaning, give the discourse greater authenticity and immediacy, and can achieve a sharper, more immediate back and forth, arguably a feature of a remarkably high value in online political discussion, which rewards verbal naturalness and conciseness far more highly than grammatical or structural completeness. The technology is successful in eliminating the gap between written digital communication and verbal immediacy.

### Gapping

Omission of repeated verbs in coordinated structures.

Pattern: [CoordP [TP ... V ...] & [TP ... ~V~ ...]]

- **Example:** *"Pakistan talks big but surrenders quickly."*
- **Full:** *"Pakistan talks big but [Pakistan] surrenders quickly."*
- **Omission:** Subject *"Pakistan"*.
- **Effect:** Creates parallelism for ironic contrast.

These contrasts are concise but strong with gapping or dropping of the duplicating phrases in phrases, balancing out syllables in coordination structures as in these chatting in the social media. To give an example, the expression "But India does not begin wars, but knows how to end them," omits the repetitive noun war which, nonetheless, fits well in the rhythm of the sentence, but also reinforces the idea of strategic mastery by India. Such elliptical constructions are used to simplify the message, to make it as rhetorically appealing, or to produce a catchy, quotable phrasing especially for national rhetoric and political chatter on the Internet when a certain concision and a punchy phrasing are preferable. The style enables the speakers to use sharp comparison, but with the natural, talky tone, which will feel good in the digital space.

### Stripping (Bare Argument Ellipsis)

Retention of only the most salient word or phrase.

Pattern: [XP ~[TP]~ [Remnant]] (Remnant: NP/PP/AdvP)

- **Example:** "Pakistan Zindabad!"
- **Full:** "[We say] Pakistan Zindabad!"
- **Omission:** Subject + verb "We say".
- **Effect:** Amplifies emotional intensity (patriotism/defiance).

These exchanges are made up of stripping and only retaining the most basic words to create very charged patriotic slogans. Such things can be given as examples as say, Pakistan Zindabad! and Jai Hind! eliminate the subject and verb with the statement (We say) just leaving the phrases as a form of their emotional essence. Such an extreme ellipsis makes statements strike like battle cries, even more so as their nationalistic spirit is magnified, but their memorability is boosted, as well. This style employs the familiarity of the cultures to the extent that one phrase can evoke rather elaborate feelings of pride, defiance, or togetherness. Behaviorally, by removing the grammatical sense, these elliptical phrases seem at first to acquire a nearly symbolic strength - more like militant flags up to a full-fledged sentence than a complete one, as an ideal propagation tool and reference in the viral formations of polarized online discussion. The omissions ironically enhance the importance of the message by making it more varied to its core, with emotionally evocative elements in it.

### Comparative Ellipsis

It is the Omission in comparative structures

**Pattern:** [DegP ~[Deg°]~ [AP/VP]]

**Example:** "We bleed blue, but we bleed saffron in war."

- **Full:** "We bleed blue, but we bleed saffron [more intensely] in war."
- **Ellipsis:** Degree adverb "more intensely" omitted.
- **Effect:** conciseness, implicit intensity, emotional resonance

Comparative ellipse is the use of strategy to omit the repetition of elements in comparisons in order to make statements that are punctuating and strong. Such omissions accomplish two things, simplifying language that can be virally shared, and also increasing the rhetorical force of what is not said so that the stark lack may be filled in by the listener with their own prejudices. It is especially successful in nationalist discourse where the requirements are brevity and the emotional appeal rather than grammatical fullness, and there is more probability of the implied comparison being more influential than the expressed argument. The same strategy of stripping away

comparative phrases leaves speakers with palatable slogans that easily encoding themselves in memory and set terms of discussion biasedly towards themselves.

### Conclusion

This paper has explained how ellipsis works as a strategic language push in the digital discourse on the 2025 India Pakistan war. By doing an analysis of 469 social media comments, these syntactic omissions were demonstrated to be used as a tool to increase conciseness, ideological messaging as well as controlling perception either by masking action or developing in-group cohesion.

Another major contribution of the research to the study of conflict discourses is the change of emphasis on the lexical analysis to the syntactic strategies. The results show that the unsaid during ellipsis has the potential to be as effective as direct statements especially quefraus in the polarized online conditions. The typology designed to classify the elliptical trends has the methodological benefits to be used in future research of geopolitical conflicts through digital communication research.

Although the study was based on a 10-day sample taken on X platform, there are a number of opportunities to research further. The next step might be studying longitudinal patterns, introducing multimodal components, or analyzing elliptical usage in various contexts with regard to a conflict. The current results also offer applicable implications to social media sites and policy designers on ways to establish and respond to maliciously persuasive language patterns.

In final analysis, this study explains the strength of syntactic decisions in the formation of digital stories in conflicts. An examination of ellipsis in the paper further understand how language is used as a weapon in cyberspaces whereby the meanings delivered each time through brevity and implication are usually more convincing than finishing state-ments. The paper implies that lingual assessment of social media discourse cannot be neglected in current very tense geopolitical tensions.

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