CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Syntax traditionally refers to the branch of grammar dealing with the ways in which words, with or without appropriate inflections, are arranged to show connections of meaning within the sentence (Matthews, 1981). According to Tallerman (2011), syntax means the construction of sentence on how words group together to make phrases and sentences. The field of syntax covers both what is shown and the means by what it is done including agreement, order of words, and other devices. Based on the definitions from several scholars, syntax can be concluded as a sub-discipline of micro linguistics study that is related to the classification of words, the order of words in phrases and sentences, the structure of phrases and sentences, and the different sentence constructions that languages use.

In the conversation, people usually follow grammar to make the structure is understandable. However, they also sometimes omit some parts of sentences when they are talking with each other regarding to avoid the redundant words and it also makes the sentence more effective. This phenomenon of omitted sentences is known as ellipsis. According to Maharani (2019: 20), an ellipsis refers to the omission of elements from the sentence structure, but the meaning can still be understood nevertheless. Ellipsis in the grammatical structure aims to avoid repetitions, highlight the key points, abandon redundant information, and connect

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the message tightly. On the other hand, Quirk et.al (1972: 569) mentioned that ellipsis refers to the phenomenon of avoiding some grammatical elements of clauses. Moreover, Kiss and Alexiadou (2015: 565) classified ellipsis into nine categories namely, NP-ellipsis, VP-ellipsis, modal complement ellipsis, fragment answers, sluicing, gapping, stripping, null complement anaphora, and pseudogapping.

The phenomenon of ellipsis also can be found in the written text. A lot of phenomena of ellipsis happened in the written text such as a novel. According to Taylor (1981), a novel can be described as a long-written prose that expresses the relationship between human behavior and experience. This study chooses a novel as the main data source because it consists of a lot of interesting language phenomena written by the author through the story development. Moreover, a novel is also chosen in this study because it really needs ellipsis to make cohesive paragraphs in delivering the narration and dialogue between characters, therefore, the readers can be interested and floated around the story.

After explaining some reasons as above, this study focuses on the types of ellipsis as well as its structure found in the novel entitled The Witches that is written by Roald Dahl, a British author who is born in Wales of Norwegian parents and starting work for the Shell Oil Company in Africa before beginning writing various well-known children's books included James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, and so on. This study will be a great platform to enrich the new knowledge regarding the phenomenon of elliptical sentence and its constituent structure. Furthermore, this study will be supported by Kiss and

Alexiadou's theory (2015) as the main theory and followed by Brown and Miller's theory (1991) to complete the analysis.

1.2   Problem of the Study

In formulating background of the study, there are two research problems discussed in this study:

1. What types of elliptical sentence are found in the novel *The Witches*?

2. How does the constituent structure of ellipsis occur in the sentences?

1.3   Objective of the Study

Based on the problem of the study above, here the objectives of the study are explained as follows.

1. To find out the types of elliptical sentence in the novel *The Witches*.

2. To analyze the constituent structure of elliptical sentences in the novel.

1.4   Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to analyze the types of elliptical sentence and also the constituent structure found in the novel *The Witches* written by Roald Dahl. The research is also limited to syntactical analysis as the topic discussion in this study. Moreover, this research used the theory proposed by Kiss and Alexiadou (2015) in analyzing the types of elliptical sentence covered VP-ellipsis, sluicing, NP-ellipsis, fragment answers, stripping, gapping, pseudogapping, modal complement ellipsis, and null complement anaphora. On the other hand, the constituent structure is the

second research problem in this study which is analyzed through Brown and Miller's theory (1991).

1.5   Significance of the Study

This study aimed to be a helpful reference in terms of academic purpose and can be beneficial for the society especially how to write the structured text and also to avoid the grammatical error as well as the repetition in the sentence by using syntactical ellipsis. Hence, the significance of the study can be divided into theoretical and practical as follows:

1.5.1   Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this study provided knowledge about syntactic study especially elliptical sentence. The future researchers can be helped by following the discussion in this study which analyzed through some theories proposed by various scholars as the reference. The main concern of this study is related to the types of ellipsis and also its constituent structure. Hopefully, this study can contribute to anyone who are interested in analyzing syntactic study, especially elliptical sentence.

1.5.2   Practical Significance

Practically, this study provided some inputs for the learning material which can be accessed by the students and lecturers how to understand further the elliptical

sentence and its constituent. This study clearly discussed the types and constituent structure of ellipsis especially in the novel entitled *The Witches* as the main concern of the discussion of the research.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

This chapter covers some reviews of related literature studies which includes explanations of theories and concepts from different scholars related to elliptical phenomenon in the syntactic study. There are five previous studies related to this study which have related topics.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

There are some previous studies are provided in this study especially two theses and also three articles that are taken from various scholars who conducted the similar research with this recent study. Those studies are reviewed in comparing the research purposes and also developing and exploring this study comprehensively. The first study is a thesis written by Prasetya (2022) which entitled "An Analysis of Ellipsis Used In "Soul" Movie Script" which is written by Kemp Powers and Pete Doctor. This previous study focused on the types of ellipsis and also the most dominant type of ellipsis found in *Soul* movie script. On the other hand, this study focused on the analysis of types of ellipsis as well as the constituent structure of the elliptical sentence. There are 290 data that contained the ellipsis which covered 58 data (20%) of nominal ellipsis, 105 data (36.20%) of verbal ellipsis, and 127 data (43.80%) of clausal ellipsis. Furthermore, the previous study also showed that clausal became the most dominant type of ellipsis with 127 utterances (43.80%). The most dominant sub-type of nominal

ellipsis is deictic (71%), the verbal ellipsis is the operator (84%), and clausal ellipsis is modal (41%).

After reviewing the previous study, there are some similarities and also differences found between the previous study and this recent study. In conducting the research analysis, the previous study used descriptive qualitative method which is similar to this study. On the other hand, the difference can be found based on the main theory of the study, the previous study used Halliday and Matthiessen's theory (2004) regarding to types of ellipsis and this study used Kiss and Alexiadou (2015) to analyze the main research problem. Moreover, the second research problem that is proposed in the previous research study is the most dominant type of ellipsis while this study also analyzed the constituent structure of elliptical sentence through the theory that proposed by Brown and Miller (1991). Furthermore, both studies also have different source of data which taken from *Soul* movie script and also *The Witches* novel.

The second study is a thesis written by Shafaditiya (2022) which entitled "An Analysis of Ellipsis on Skylar Grey's Song Lyrics". The purpose of the previous study is to find the use of ellipsis in song lyrics and determine the type of ellipsis used. The data are taken from the song lyrics from the album of Natural Causes (2016) which is written by Skylar Grey. There are 12 songs out of 13 songs in total contained the elliptical sentences. Moreover, the findings showed 37 data from all the total data which covered the use of nominal ellipsis 5 (13.51%), verbal ellipsis 20 (54.06%), and clausal ellipsis 12 (32.43%).

By reviewing the thesis above, there are some similarities and also differences found between the previous study and this recent study. In conducting the research, both studies used descriptive qualitative method. On the other hand, the research problems of both studies are also different in which the previous study aimed to analyze the functions and types of the ellipsis in Skylar Grey's song lyrics by using the theory from Halliday and Hasan (1976), Brian Paltridge (2012), Jan Renkema (2018). Meanwhile, this current study only focused the research on the analysis of types of the ellipsis and the constituent structure of the elliptical sentence found in the novel entitled *The Witches*.

The third study is an article written by Maharani and Mudayasa (2019) which entitled "Ellipsis Phenomenon in Sentences Found in Novel Sherlock Holmes" which is written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This previous study focused on the types of ellipsis, the constituent structure, and the function of elliptical phenomenon found in the novel entitled *Sherlock Holmes*. On the other hand, this study only focused on the analysis of types of ellipsis as well as the constituent structure of the elliptical sentence. There are 527 data that contained the ellipsis which covered 33 data VP-ellipsis, 25 data of sluicing, 118 data of NP-ellipsis, 255 data of fragment answer, 21 data of stripping, 26 data of gapping, 3 data of pseudogapping, 14 data of modal complement ellipsis and 32 data of null complement anaphora.

Based on the review above, there are some similarities and also differences found between the previous study and this recent study. The previous study is conducted through descriptive qualitative research which is similar with this study's

research method. Furthermore, both studies also collected the data by using direct observation method. In analyzing the second research problem, both studies proposed the theory from Kiss and Alexiadou which is about types of ellipsis to analyze the main research problem and Brown & Miller (1991) which is about the constituent structure of the elliptical sentences to analyze the supporting research problem. On the other hand, the difference can be found in the previous study is about the analysis of the function of elliptical sentence in the novel *Sherlock Holmes* while this study only focused on the types and constituent structure of ellipsis.

The fourth study is an article written by Syahputri and Hanifah (2020) which entitled "The Ellipsis on the Main Character's Utterances in the Trolls Movie". This previous study focused on the types of ellipsis and also the most dominant type of ellipsis found in *Soul* movie script. On the other hand, this study focused on the analysis of types of ellipsis as well as the constituent structure of the elliptical sentence in the novel *A Long Way Home*. There are 64 data that contained the ellipsis which covered 25 data (39.1%) of nominal ellipsis, 5 data (7.8%) of verbal ellipsis, and 34 data (53.1%) of clausal ellipsis. Furthermore, the previous study also showed that clausal became the most dominant type of ellipsis with 34 data (53.1%).

By reviewing the article above, there are some similarities and also differences found between the previous study and this recent study. The previous research conducted the study by using descriptive qualitative method as similar to this recent study. On the other hand, the difference can be found based on the main theory of the study and the second research problem of both studies. The previous

study used Halliday and Matthiessen's theory (2004) regarding to types of ellipsis and this study used Kiss and Alexiadou (2015) to analyze the main research problem. Moreover, the second objective of this study which analyzed the constituent structure of the elliptical sentence through Brown and Miller (1991) while the previous study did not analyze the sentence structure. Furthermore, the difference also can be found in the source of data which taken from Pixar movie script entitled *Soul* and also *The Witches* novel by Roald Dahl.

The fifth study is an article written by Banjarnahor (2019) which entitled "The Analysis of Ellipsis Sentence in The Greatest Showman Movie Script" which is directed by Michael Gracey. This previous study focused on the types of ellipsis and the syntactic structure in sentences found in movie script entitled *The Greatest Showman*. On the other hand, this study also focused on the analysis of types of ellipsis as well as the constituent structure of the elliptical sentence in the novel entitled *A Long Way Home*. There are 16 data that contained the ellipsis which covered 1 data (6.25%) of nominal ellipsis, 1 data (6.25%) of verbal ellipsis, and 14 data (87.5%) of clausal ellipsis. Furthermore, the previous study also showed that clausal became the most dominant type of ellipsis with 14 data (87.5%).

Based on the review above, there are some similarities and also differences found between the previous study and this recent study. The previous study is conducted through descriptive qualitative research which is similar with the research method of this study. Furthermore, both studies also collected the data by using observation method. In analyzing the second research problem, both studies proposed the theory from Brown & Miller (1991) which is about the syntactic

structure of the elliptical sentences. On the other hand, both studies are different in analyzing the main research problem which used Halliday and Hassan (1976) and Kiss and Alexiadou (2015) regarding to the types of ellipsis. Furthermore, the previous study also analyzed function of elliptical sentence in the movie script *The Greatest Snowman* while this study analyzed the novel entitled *The Witches*.

2.2   Concepts

In providing a comprehensive understanding, this study used some definitions and terminologies from various sources and scholars related to the study of syntactic analysis especially ellipsis phenomenon in the sentences. The concepts that are needed for this study are explained below.

2.2.1   Syntactical Analysis

According to Avant and Benahnia (2003: 57) syntax refers to study of linguistics that is related to the sentences and their structures and the constructions within sentences. This linguistic study observed the process of structuring and arranging the roles of a word in a sentence. Bergamann (2007) as cited in Putra (2022) described that syntactical analysis is the process of analyzing the constituent structure of the sentence where it is related to the classes of word, phrases, and clauses.

2.2.2 Elliptical Sentence

According to McShane (2005:3), ellipsis is the nonexpression of a word or phrase that is, nevertheless, expected to occupy a place in the syntactic structure of a sentence. Moreover, McCarthy (1991:43) explained that ellipsis is the process of omitting the sentence element that is required specifically in the context of the sentence to make the speaker can deliver the clear information without violating the grammatical rules. Quirk and Greenbaum (1972: 251) also stated that ellipsis may be simple and complex process of omitting the sentence in order to avoid repetition. Based on those definitions, elliptical sentence is the sentence that omits one or more words that are obviously understood and it does not change the meaning of the sentences. The purpose of elliptical sentence is also as a prevention regarding to the redundant words in the sentences.

2.2.3 Novel

Novel is one of the most popular literary works that is still consumed by the readers. Because, it completely delivers every chapter as a whole story by playing the readers' imagination. Generally, novel narrates an individual's story related to an extraordinary event or incident in their life. According to Sumarjo (1991), novel is a complex story in the form of prose. Moreover, Taylor (2016) also stated that novel is written as a long work prose that expresses the human experience and behavior. This study used a novel that is written by Roald Dahl entitled *The Witches* (1983). This novel exposes the controversial perspective of child-hate in the society when the existence of children abandonment as illustrated by the witches.

2.2.4   Constituent Structure

According to Miller (2016:20), the arrangements of words into phrases, phrases into clauses and clauses into sentences is known as constituent structure. The idea is that a sentence can be broken down into smaller units, or constituents, which are arranged in a hierarchical organization. These constituents can be words, phrases, or clauses. The hierarchical structure of constituents reflects the syntactic relationships and dependencies between elements in a sentence. In traditional linguistic analysis, this structure is often represented using tree diagrams called parse trees. This hierarchical representation helps linguists and language researchers analyze and describe the syntactic structure of sentences. In speech, especially spontaneous conversation, practically nothing is signaled. However, writers signal how they organize clauses into sentences in many types of written text, they may signal boundaries between clauses by means of commas or semi-colons, and individual words are typically kept apart by a space.

2.3   Theories

In analyzing the data that are collected in this study, there are some theories are used as the fundamental of research. The study proposed two theories related to types of ellipsis and constituent structure. First, the types of ellipsis are classified through the theory proposed by Kiss and Alexiadou (2015). Second, the constituent structure is analyzed by using Brown and Miller's theory (1991).

2.3.1 Types of Ellipsis

According to Kiss and Alexiadou (2015), the ellipsis is divided into nine types. They are VP ellipsis, sluicing, NP ellipsis, fragment answer, stripping, gapping, pseudogapping, modal complement ellipsis, null complement anaphora.

2.3.1.1 VP-ellipsis

VP-ellipsis is characterized as the elimination of the main (non-finite verbal) predicate and its arguments not mentioned. VP-ellipsis is not in fact ellipsis of just the VP. According to Johnson (2001,2004), Merchant (2001, 2008a, 2013) and Aelbrecht (2010) as cited in Kiss and Alexiadou (2015:566), VP-ellipsis targets the deletion of non-finite auxiliary verbs or even more than that such as the progressive layer of the sentence.

a) Roy likes strawberries, but Jen doesn't.

b) Roy has bought cream, and Jen has, too.

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 565)

These sentences are interpreted by the interlocutor of the statement as if the predicate and its arguments (here indicated between squared brackets) are present:

a) Roy likes strawberries, but Jen doesn't [~~like strawberries~~].

b) Roy has bought cream, and Jen has [~~bought cream~~], too.

2.3.1.2 Sluicing

According to Ross (1969) as cited in Kiss and Alexiadou (2015), sluicing is a phenomenon when the clause is followed by *wh*-element and then the whole clause following this element can be left out if it has an antecedent.

a) Roy invited someone, but I don't know who.

b) Roy invited someone, but I don't know who [~~Roy invited~~].

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 566)

Since it is the whole clause that is elided, sluicing is considered a kind of IP-ellipsis or clausal ellipsis.

2.3.1.3 NP-ellipsis

Ellipsis does not always target a smaller or larger portion of the clausal spine; it can also apply within nominal phrases. The example of NP-ellipsis are given in the sentences that are interpreted the missing elements between square brackets.

a) Roy's older brother is taller than Jeff 's [~~older brother~~].

b) Steve bought these pants and Jeff bought those [~~pants~~].

c) Jen wanted three balloons with pink ribbons and Jane wanted two [~~balloons with pink ribbons~~].

d) Jen wanted three balloons with pink ribbons and Jane wanted two [~~balloons~~] with blue ribbons.

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 567)

What is missing in this case is the head noun and sometimes also its adjectival modifiers and complement.

2.3.1.4 Fragment Answer

In fragment answers, the whole clause is elided except for the constituent that is the answer to a question, and it is this question that provides us with an antecedent. The most influential analysis of fragments according to Kiss and Alexiadou (2015) is Merchant's (2004) work in which he argues that the fragment constituent moves to the left periphery of the clause, and that what follows is deleted.

A   : What did Roy eat?

B   : Strawberries.

a) Roy ate strawberries.

b) [~~Roy ate the strawberries~~] Strawberries

<div align="right">(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 568)</div>

2.3.1.5 Stripping

A type of ellipsis that is very similar to fragment answers in the sense that there is only one constituent surviving the ellipsis in the clause, is stripping (or bare argument ellipsis). The difference is that stripping typically occurs in coordinated structures, and the remnant is usually accompanied by negation or an intensifier:

a) Roy wanted strawberries, and Jen, too.

b) Roy wanted strawberries and Jen [~~wanted strawberries~~] too.

c) Roy wanted to buy cream, but not Jen.

d) Roy wanted to buy cream, but Jen [~~didn't want to buy cream~~].

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 568)

Stripping differs from VPE, NPE and sluicing in several respects, as elaborated on in Lobeck (1995). First of all, stripping is only possible in coordination, not subordination:

a) *Roy wanted strawberries because Lola, too.

b) *Roy wanted to buy cream, although not Jen.

2.3.1.6 Gapping

Gapping is very similar to stripping, but instead of a negator or intensifier, a second contrasted remnant remains:

a) Lola gave her brother strawberries and [~~Lola gave~~] her sister cherries.

b) Lola wants to study in the garden, but Jen [~~wants to study~~] in the library.

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 569)

Just like stripping, gapping is only allowed in coordination, and as expected, it does not allow the ellipsis site to precede the antecedent.

2.3.1.7 Pseudogapping

A phenomenon that looks like a combination of gapping and VP-ellipsis is pseudogapping. Examples are given in the sentences below where what is elided is the verb phrase except for one contrasted remnant. The auxiliary verb remains as

well, in contrast to what we saw for gapping. Another remarkable difference with gapping and stripping is that pseudogapping is actually best in subordinated structures, such as comparatives. Moreover, it also works in substituting the constituents in the sentences.

a) Roy ate strawberries this morning, and Jen did cherries.

b) Roy ate strawberries this morning, and Jen did [ate] cherries [in the morning].

c) Roy ate more strawberries than Jen did cherries.

d) Roy ate more strawberries than Jen did [ate more] cherries.

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 569)

2.3.1.8 Modal Complement Ellipsis

It is remarkable, however, that there is a type of ellipsis in several of these languages that is reminiscent of VPE. Aelbrecht (2010) as cited in Kiss and Lexiadou (2015: 570) shows that this is not actually a case of VP-ellipsis: it is restricted to elide the complements of (root) modal verbs, and what is elided is more than just the verb phrase.

a) I want to help, but I can't [help].

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 570)

2.3.1.9 Null Complement Anaphora

Null Complement Anaphora elides a complete complement, whereby the elided complement is a finite clause, infinitive phrase, or prepositional phrase. Interestingly, the elided complement cannot be a noun phrase.
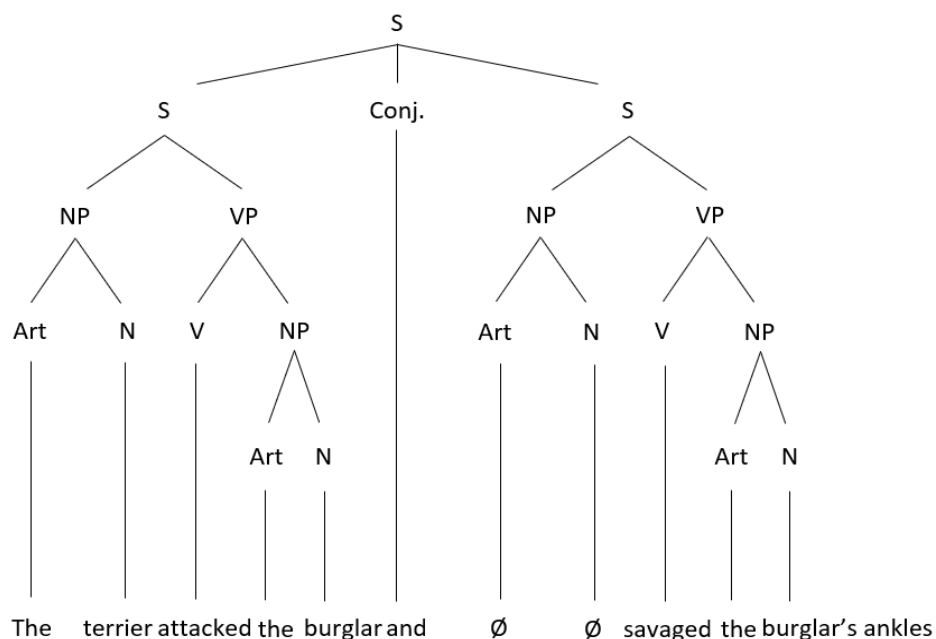
a) I asked Jeff to help me, but he refused [to help me].

(Kiss and Alexiadou, 2015: 570)

2.3.2 Hierarchical Tree Diagram

Constituent structure is the process of analyzing the sentence elements. The analysis of structure of sentences is traditionally known as parsing which is to resolve a sentence into its component parts of speech and describe them grammatically. There are a number of ways of representing the constituent structure such as bracketing, labelling, and tree diagram (Brown and Miller, 1991). This study will only use the tree diagram in representing the constituent structure of the elliptical sentences. A tree diagram can identify the hierarchical structure of the sentence and provides a precise means of defining syntactic relation. In analyzing sentences, the hierarchical tree diagram analyzes into its immediate constituents. As written under the rule S → NP VP which shows the constituency. The symbol of "S" stands for sentence, "NP" refers to noun phrase, and "VP" shows the verb phrase. The sentence interprets the constituent NP that followed by VP in the structure. The application of this rule will be illustrated in the lexical tree below.

a. *The terrier attacked the burglar. The terrier savaged the burglar's ankles.*

b. *The terrier attacked the burglar and the terrier savaged the burglar's ankles.*

c. *The terrier attacked the burglar and Ø savaged the burglar's ankles.*

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                                    S
                    ┌───────────────┼───────────────┐
                    S             Conj.             S
              ┌─────┴─────┐                   ┌─────┴─────┐
             NP          VP                  NP          VP
           ┌──┴──┐     ┌──┴──┐             ┌──┴──┐     ┌──┴──┐
          Art    N    V     NP            Art    N    V     NP
                             │                               │
                           ┌─┴─┐                           ┌─┴─┐
                          Art  N                          Art  N


          The  terrier attacked the burglar and    Ø     Ø   savaged the burglar's ankles
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<div align="right">(Miller 2016:17)</div>

Example (a) contains two separate clauses. In (b), the clauses are conjoined by and; this gives a single sentence consisting of two clauses, each beginning with the terrier. Example (c) is produced by deleting the second occurrence of the terrier. The square brackets in (c) mark the site of the missing words, which are said to have been ellipted. Example (c) is an example of ellipsis. The important point about this type of ellipsis is that it applies only to complete phrases. Sentences such as t*he fierce terrier attacked the burglar and terrier savaged the burglar's ankles* are incorrect, because *terrier* must be preceded by *the*. Example (b) is peculiar because speakers and writers of English do not repeat phrases in this manner but either ellipt the second occurrence of the phrase as in (c) or use a substitute such as he, she or it. The *burglar* occurs twice, once as the phrase at the beginning of (b) and again in the bigger phrase the burglar's ankles.