

Ellipsis

VP Ellipsis

Balti allows for ellipsis of verbs and verb phrases in fairly standard ways. A verb may elide with all of its TAM markings in cases where the verb may be implied from context. This occurs primarily in conjunctions or in response to a question.

- (1) ηa niu $j\ddot{o}rk$ dug - $\acute{e}d$ $sofia$ sa
I New York live.HAB Sophia too
'I live in New York and Sophia does too'

- (2) ηa $d\ddot{z}ulu$ $\eta\ddot{i}t$ $z\ddot{u}$ - s $z\ddot{u}waw$ - is $\widehat{t\ddot{f}ik}$ sa
I apricot two eat-PSTJoão-ERG one only
'I ate two apricots and João only one.'

NP Ellipsis

Adjectives in Balti can sometimes stand for nouns and as such receive nominal morphology. In the sentence below, the adjective *fargo* 'poor' is marked as plural, denoting the meaning 'the poor (people).'

- (3) $fargo$ - η $g^{w\acute{e}j}$ men
poor-pl go.PTCP COP.NEG
'the poor (people) don't go there.'

This can also occur in situations where nouns have already been specified by the context. Nouns already specified by context can elide and adjectives will be marked with the plural marker to stand for the already specified plural noun.

- (4) $menjo$ $rg\ddot{a}tpo$ - η $k^{w\acute{a}\eta}$ m $so\eta$ - se $\widehat{t\ddot{f}ax}$ - fi m
no old-pl themselves COP go-ADV break.inbe
'No, it was definitely the old (cows), that broke into our house!'