The goal of this thesis is to explore focusing effects in the phenomenon of ellipsis within a minimalist framework (Chomsky 1993, 1995).

In chapter 2, I explore Pseudogapping constructions in English vs. Korean/Japanese. Lasnik (1995, 1997) argues that English Pseudogapping is VP deletion, with the remnants having moved to Spec of Agr in overt syntax, in a split VP structure (Koizumi 1995). In the first part, I examine Lasnik’s theory. In the second part, I claim that there is a construction similar to English Pseudogapping in Korean/Japanese. I show that movement to Spec of Agr is not a good explanation for Pseudogapping in Korean/Japanese. Instead, I argue that pseudogapped remnants in Korean/Japanese move out of the ellipsis site via syntactic focus movement. Given the standard minimalist assumption that all movements are driven by feature checking, focus movement will also have to be driven by a feature, [+focus]. I define [+focus] as a formal feature which represents accented new information. I assume that Foc(us)P is placed above TP in Korean/Japanese, and argue that focused constituents move to Spec of FocP. In short, I argue that Korean/Japanese Pseudogapping is focus movement followed by VP deletion. In addition, I claim that there are Stripping constructions in Korean, and argue that Korean Stripping is focus movement followed by TP deletion. I propose that VP ellipsis is licensed by a [+tense] head and that TP ellipsis is licensed by a [+focus] head.

In chapter 3, I investigate Sluicing in Korean/Japanese vs. English. I argue that Korean/Japanese Sluicing is syntactic focus movement followed by TP deletion or VP deletion. I claim that these two types of Sluicing are licensed differently: TP Sluicing is licensed by a [+focus] head and VP Sluicing is licensed by a [+tense]
head. I argue that VP Sluicing is a by-product of the fact that both subject and object remain inside VP overtly and that the stranded tense is supported by expletive *ya* or *da* ‘be.’ Sluicing in English is allowed only in interrogative WH-clauses. In this light, I argue that English Sluicing is focus movement plus WH-movement followed by TP deletion, and that it is licensed by both [+focus] and [+WH].

In chapter 4, I examine Gapping constructions in Korean/Japanese vs. English. I argue that Gapping in Korean/Japanese is focus movement followed by TP deletion. In addition, I argue that Gapping in English is also focus movement (plus subject raising to Spec of Agrs) followed by TP deletion. In sum, I argue that Gapping in these languages is an instance of incomplete TP deletion, with the remnants having moved out of the ellipsis site, TP.

In chapter 5, I discuss multiple WH-fronting driven by [+focus] in various languages and how this relates to Superiority effects.

In sum, regarding multiple remnants in Pseudogapping, Sluicing, and Gapping, which are observed in Korean/Japanese, but not in English, I propose that the difference between these languages results from the locus of a strong feature. I argue that English ellipsis normally does not tolerate multiple remnants, since a strong feature resides only in the target. However, Korean/Japanese ellipsis allows multiple remnants since a strong feature resides in the moved items as well as in the target.