

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

For the students of English Department, studying English means not only studies the form of the languages but also the culture of the origin where the language comes from. Thus, the students do not only know how to write and speak, but also how to behave properly. In daily life, the people always makes conversation with others. In conversation, there is a word that is inserted in a short pause between the words before the speaker continues to speak within presenting the intention, it is called “hedges”. Hedges is usually used in daily conversation. Not only women, but also men needs “hedges” in their sentence or conversation in order to make the sentence fuzzier. Hedges also can mitigate or soften the force of those utterances. Besides, hedging is a strategy which is used by the speaker to mitigate and soften the force of those utterances. It can conclude that hedging is the process or the way of using hedges.

In daily life, there are different way to speak between men and women. For example in chooses the diction. As proposed by Brown in 1980, women will speak more polite and more formally compare with the man. He also said that in general, women are culturally relegated to a secondary status relative to men. So that, is that the reason why women will speak more formally and more polite.

In this case the writer makes a clear about the types of hedges which is used in “new moon” novel and the motives of using hedges as found in “new moon’ novel written by Stephenie Meyer.

Based on the explanation above, the writer interest to do a research about hedges that is usually used especially by women. The writer chooses hedges especially by women because this topic is interesting to be studied. As a women, the writer know that women language more wide, and more soft to hear by the hearer.

In general, the students are able to know how the application of hedges in daily conversation. Women and men come from different sociolinguistic sub-cultures and they have interesting language compare with mens. According to Robin Lakoff (1973), the women used more tags than the men. But, they did not use them for the same purposes as men. On the other hand, mens use more tags for the expression of uncertainly. Besides, the other functions of hedges is to make things fuzzier. With using some hedges in communication, it can increase the fuzziness our utterance. In some situation, we need to use some hedges in order to it can be the self –protection and also it can make the communication situation more widely, including the addressee and the relationship between the discourse participant.

According to Swales (1990: 175), hedges are rhetorical devices used for” projecting honesty, modesty and proper caution in self-reports and for diplomatically creating space in areas heavily populated by other researchers”.

According to Nikula (1997) hedges is politeness strategy where it marks a claim, or any other statement, as being provisional, pending acceptance in the literature and by the community, in other words, its acceptance by the readers.

For example :

- (1) Penguins are birds.
- (2) Penguins are *sort of* birds.

Lakoff insert a fuzzy expression into the statement to modify the degree of penguins' membership in the category of birds, vaguely placing penguins as the unspecified outer limits of birdness. The word "sort of" as the hedges in that sentence can make the sentence fuzzier.

- (1) He is leaving on the next train
- (2) *I suppose that* he is leaving on the next train.

In this particular case, however, it also seems that the hedges simultaneously comments on the validity of the following proposition in that it emphasises that what it said may not be absolutely true. In this sense, the hedges "*sort of*" and "*I suppose that*" are functionally similar, because they can both be interpreted to insert an air of imprecision and fuzziness into the utterances. Based on he definition above, hedges is the word whose meaning implicitly involves fuzziness- words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy.

The notion of hedging was originally introduced into linguistics by Lakoff (1973). Lakoff described hedging as linguistic expressions that express fuzziness which are used to modify the truth value of the proposition. For example, ‘sort of’ as in ‘Penguins are sort of birds’ is described as making the proposition fuzzier as it conveys the speaker’s tentativeness in assigning the category membership of penguins based upon his or her world knowledge.

Hedging is a strategy which is used by the speaker to mitigate and soften the force of those utterances. (Nikula: 1997)

Lakoff (1975) claimed the hedging devices can be used to weaken the strength of an assertion while the boosting devices can be used to strengthen it. For example, it’s a good film can be strengthened by adding the intensifier *really* (its really good film) or weakened by adding the lexical hedge *sort of* (it’s sort of a good film). Based on the statement above, hopefully the students able to know that not all the words in conversation have a messages. There is word which is used by the speaker to fill the short pause within the speaker presenting the intention. It called “hedges”. According to that, the result of this research hopefully can help the students to know what the hedges is.

According to the issues which are related to term of hedges, the writer can motivate to do a research to compare about hedges which is used in twilight novel “New Moon” written by Stephenie Meyer. The research entitle **“HEDGES USED IN TWILIGHT NOVEL “NEW**

*MOON” WRITTEN BY STEPHENIE MEYER: A
SOCIOLINGUISTICS PERSPECTIVE”.*

B. Previous Study

In this point the writer takes some previous research that is related about hedges. The first primarily linguistically oriented treatment of hedges is found in the work of George Lakoff (1973), who drew attention to the problem of relating natural phenomena to natural language concepts, which he claimed to have “vague boundaries and fuzzy hedges” (1973). Lakoff was especially interested in the linguistic phenomena used to talk about the more peripheral members of broad conceptual categories. To illustrate the practical possibility of studying such linguistic items in terms of formal logic and to address the questions involved in such analyses, Lakoff scrutinized a group of words that he regarded as hedges, “words whose meaning implicitly involves fuzziness—words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy”.

Lakoff’s early work and his definition of hedges have been used as a starting point in a number of later analyses of hedging phenomena. Although the meaning of the term hedge has since broadened to cover linguistic items other than the kinds listed in Lakoff’s paper, his discussion remains most useful for purposes of elucidating the semantic basis on which the notion of hedging rests. Lakoff’s treatment of hedges was by no means an attempt at a thorough analysis of such phenomena rather, it was intended to throw light on the theoretical significance and practical

possibility of studying fuzzy expressions like hedges in natural languages with the help of formal logic.

Lakoff's analysis involved linguistically indeterminate items that can be used to talk about those natural phenomena that fall outside the central core of the conceptual categories of natural language such as 'animal', 'fish', or 'bird'. Hence, instead of saying that:

- a. Penguins are birds.
- b. Penguins are *sort of* birds.

Lakoff insert a fuzzy expression into the statement to modify the degree of penguins' membership in the category of birds, vaguely placing penguins as the unspecified outer limits of birdness. The word "sort of" as the hedges in that sentence can make the sentence fuzzier.

- a. It's a good film
- b. It's *really* good film

Lakoff (1975) adding the intensifier which can be used to weaken the strength of an assertion while the boosting devices can be used to strengthen it. The word "really" as the intensifiers in that sentence can intensify the particular meaning of the word and show that it is strong.

In many studies following Lakoff's (1973) paper, the status of hedges in conceptualization has not been discussed at greater length, the emphasis being instead on the functions of hedging in social interaction between discourse participants.

The previous study above has similar on the issue of hedges in analyzing the object. The difference of the previous study and this study lies on the object. Therefore, the researcher is going to analyze the used of hedges in Twilight “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer.

C. Problems Statement

The research problems proposed in this study include:

1. What are the types of hedges used in “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer?
2. What are the motives of using hedges as found in “New Moon” novel?

D. Objectives of the Study

Generally, the objectives of the research are:

1. To describe the types of hedges used in “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer.
2. To explain the motive of using hedges as found in “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer.

E. Scope of the Study

The writer limits the problem on comparing hedges used in New Moon novel written by Stephenie Meyer. The theories which are underlied this research paper are derived from the theory of hedges by Lakoff (1973). He pointed out that there are ten types of hedges which is usually used especially by women such as: Lexical hedges or fillers, tag question, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, precise colour terms,

intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite, avoidance of strong swear words, and the last is emphatic stress.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefit of the research is divided into theoretical and practical, as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will give contribution in pragmatics study especially about hedges.

2. Practical Benefit

a. For the learners

The learners are able to know that not all the words in conversation have a messages. There is word which is used by the speaker to fill the short pause within the speaker presenting the intention. It called “hedges”. According to that, the result of this research hopefully can help the students to know what the hedges is.

b. For teachers or lecturers

The application of hedges by the learners could be an additional knowledge for teachers or lecturers in teaching pragmatics, especially about hedges.

c. For other researchers

The result could be a reference if the other researcher wants to do a research similar related to the study.

G. Research Paper Organization

The organization of the research is needed in getting easier understanding of reading the research paper. Thus, the writer organizes the research paper as follows:

In chapter I consists of the background of the research, previous study, problems statement, objectives of the study, scope of the study, benefits of the study, and research paper organization.

In chapter II presents the underlying theory. It presents the previous study, notion of hedges, notion of politeness, politeness strategies, notion of impolite, impolite strategies, gender and politeness, and speaking theory.

In chapter III is the research method. It is dispersed into five sub-point which are: type of the research, object of the research, data and data source, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis.

In chapter IV is composed of the analyzing data and the discussion of finding. The data analysis is taken from “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer. The data is detailed makes a clear about the types of hedges and the motives of using hedges which is used in Twilight “New Moon” novel.

The last chapter is chapter V which consists of conclusion, implication and suggestion.