

**HEDGES USED IN TWILIGHT NOVEL “ NEW MOON ” WRITEN
BY STEPHENIE MEYER: A SOCIOLINGUISTICS PERSPECTIVE**



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HEDGES USED IN TWILIGHT NOVEL “NEW MOON’ WRITTEN BY STEPHENIE MEYER: A SOCIOLINGUISTICS PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

This research aims at describing the types of hedges which are used in Twilight novel “New Moon” written by Stephenie Meyer, and its motives of using hedges. The type of research is descriptive qualitative. The writer focuses on analyzing the types of hedges, that is used in Twilight novel “New Moon” written by Stephenie Meyer. The hedges as the object of the data. The data taken are words, phrases, clauses, and sentences which contain hedges. The source of data are taken from “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer. The method of collecting data is documentation and the step are reading, watching, signing, and coding the data. The analysis of the motives, the writer uses sociolinguistics analysis especially in hedges theory which is used by Lakoff (1973). The result of the research show that firstly: there are 10 kinds of hedges which are used in women’s speech namely: (1) Lexical hedges or fillers (37,5%), (2) Tag questions (12,5%), (3) Rising intonation (1,78%), (4) Intensifiers (33,9%) (5) Avoidance of strong swear words (7,1%), (6) Emphatic stress (7,1%). The hedges used are fillers (37,5%), intensifiers (33,9%), tag questions (12,5%), avoidance of strong swear words (7,1%), emphatic stress (7,1%), and rising intonation (1,7%). The mostly motives which are used by people are makes sentence fuzzier (21,4%), to assure the hearer (14,2%), to ask confirmation (14,2%), to appreciate something (7,1%), to interrupt (5,3%), to make sentence more fun (3,5%), and to fathic communion (1,7%).

Key words: hedges, new moon, sociolinguistics, and motive.

A. Introduction

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 our daily life, we always makes conversation with others. In this conversation, there is a word that is inserted in a space between the words before the speaker continues to speak, it is called “hedges”. Hedges is usually used in our 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. So that, the result of the research can be used not only by women but also by men.

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 the 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 are able to know how to use hedges when they are going to speak with others and write in English. The students have to be aware to use hedges in different communicative acts in our daily life because there are some different cultures between Indonesian and English.

According to the issues which are related to the term of hedges, the writer can motivate to do a research to compare about hedges which is used in the twilight novel “New Moon” written by Stephenie Meyer. The research is entitled **“HEDGES USED IN TWILIGHT NOVEL “NEW MOON” WRITTEN BY STEPHENIE MEYER: A SOCIOLINGUISTICS PERSPECTIVE”**.

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?. 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.

B. Research Method

The writer uses observation and documentation to collect the data. The type of this study is qualitative. Qualitative research is a research which is in the form of written or oral words that are descriptively analyzed. This research also uses descriptive method, which is conducted by collecting the data, classifying the data and analyzing them without making general conclusion. The object of study are hedges used in “New Moon’ novel written by Stephenie Meyer. The data of this research were words, phrases, clauses, and sentences which are contains hedges. The data source of this research is “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer. The writer uses documentation to collect the data. At first, the writer reading the twilight “New Moon” novel written by Stephenie Meyer and underlying all the types of hedges. Thus, the writer identifying the types of hedges as found in the novel and writing them into others paper. And the last steps is coding the data of hedges. In this research, the data analysis is conducted by referring to Lakoff’s theory and Dell Hymes’s theory.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

There are ten types of hedges which is used in women speech according to Lakoff (1973). On the based of table 4.1 about the types of hedges, the writer finds 6 types of hedges used in “New Moon’ novel, namely fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, intensifiers, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. On the based of table 4.1, the writer finds that fillers has the most dominant percentages (3,75%).

This means that the people prefer to use fillers in their conversation. It is due to the option words in fillers which are easier to use by people. It as follows: (1) Lexical hedges or fillers (37,5%), (2) Tag questions (12,5%), (3) Rising intonation (1,78%), (4) Intensifiers (33,9%) (5) Avoidance of strong swear words (7,1%), (6) Emphatic stress (7,1%). The hedges used are fillers (37,5%), intensifiers (33,9%), tag questions (12,5%), avoidance of strong swear words (7,1%), emphatic stress (7,1%), and rising intonation (1,7%). On the based of table 4.2 about the motives, the mostly motives which are used by people are makes sentence fuzzier (21,4%), to assure the hearer (14,2%), to ask confirmation (14,2%), to appreciate something (7,1%),to interrupt (5,3%), to make sentence more fun (3,5%), and to fathic communion (1,7%). If it is compared with the theory of type of hedges, it is obvious that there are 4(four) types of hedges do not appear in the data. That type is *empty adjectives*, *precise colour terms*, *hypercorrect grammar*, and *superpolite*. It is happen because the type of this hedge is rarely used by people to speak. Most of people prefer to use fillers in their communication because the option words in filler is general and easier to use by people.

D. Closing

Based on the analysis, the writer draws the following conclusions:

1. There are ten types of hedge according to Lakoff (1973). There are lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation, empty adjectives, precise colour terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, superpolite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and emphatic stress. Based on data analysis above, from the data, the writer finds 37,5% belongs to filler, 33,9% belongs to intensifier, 12,5% belongs to tag question, 7,1% belongs to avoidance of strong swear words, 7,1% belongs to emphatic stress, and the last is 1,8% belongs to rising intonation. there are 4(four) types of hedges do not appear in

the data. That types is empty adjectives, precise colour terms, hypercorrect grammar, and superpolite.

2. Based on data analysis above, from the data, the writer finds 4% motive to makes sentence fuzzier, 14,2% motive to assure the hearer, 14,2% motives for asking confirmation, 7,1% motives to appreciate something, 5,3% motives for interruption and esk for explanation, 3,5% motive to makes sentence more fun, 3,5% motive to makes hearer calm down, and 1,8% for offering help, to order doing something, to beg hearer, for fathic communion, to makes a courtesy, to express sense of wonder, to show expression of dissapointment, makes conversation become relaxed, to makes a joke, to thank, to ask apologizing, to let speaker go, to ask for answer questions, and to start a conversations. it is clear that to makes sentence fuzzier has the most dominant percentage (21,4%). That is means that commonly people always try to speak politely to the others. So that, most of them use hedges in their speaking. It is to make the sentence to be more polite to be listened by the listener.

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