

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five sub-chapters. They are: background of the study, statement of problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of term. Those subchapters will be explained this study generally.

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a media to transfer ideas, feelings or beliefs. Through language people can share everything they want to. Everyone has their own style in using language which depends on the aim, perspective and background. Hence, in expressing ideas, feelings or beliefs booster is one of rhetoric styles that can be used. For instance, in delivering some factual information or news people tend to use boosters. According to Hyland “boosters are words such as *clearly*, *obviously* and *demonstrate*, which allow writers to close down alternatives, head off conflicting views and express their certainty in what they say.” (Hyland, 2005). It means boosters are words that function to emphasize or strengthen a statement. It shows the speaker’s degree of confidence on delivering talk.

The importance of booster in academic discourse lies in their contribution to an appropriate rhetorical and interactive tenor, conveying both epistemic and affective meanings (Hyland, 2005). They not only carry the writer’s degree of confidence in the truth of a proposition, but also her/his attitude to the audience.

Boosters allow speakers to express conviction, assert a proposition with confidence, and represent a strong claim about a state of affairs. They effectively mark involvement and solidarity with an audience, stress to shared information and point direct engagement with readers.

In the following typical case, the writer employs a series of boosters to underline the conviction he wishes to attach to his argument:

This brings us into conflict with Currie's account, for static images surely cannot trigger our capacity to recognize movement. If that were so, we would see the image as itself moving. With a few interesting exceptions we obviously do not see a static image as moving. Suppose, then, that we say that static images only depict instants. This too creates problems, for it suggests that we have a recognitional capacity for instants, and this seems highly dubious.
(Hyland, 2000)

The adverbs **surely**, **obviously** and **highly** above are called boosters due to its function which are to emphasize the writer's statements. Booster is one of communication strategies for increasing or reducing the force of statement. The example above is a typical case that uses boosters to increase the force of statement. It shows a high degree of confidence of the writer which is represented by the use of boosters.

(Kondowe, 2014) explains booster as “typically refer to the necessity of actions and events and real-world obligations that can be social, moral, physical, psychological, or emotional that compels one to act.” In the following excerpt identified in several corpuses that he observed:

- a. ... Political and economic reforms specially targeting corruption and governance must be undertaken as well (Bellin, 2009 PhD abstract)

- b. These new techniques and changes must be fully integrated into the conduct of current research in Africa history (Walsh, 2009 PhD abstract)

(Kondowe, 2014)

The use of modal booster **must** is committedly to strengthen the writers' claim and impart an element of objectivity and the necessity to undertake such an action without ado. In (a) Bellin stresses on the need to perform political and economic reform those targeting corruption and good governance. While in (b) Walsh emphasizes that the new techniques and changes have to be integrated fully into the current research trends of Africa history. Corruption is universally viewed as malpractice that deters development hence the writer knows that his overt use of booster **must**, to stress his claim, will go highly unopposed and easily accepted. In the same vein, the new techniques and changes, that Walsh puts forwards, are new innovations to the fields of African history which indicate his research originality; hence their use of strong boosters indicate their high commitment and conviction about their research output (Kondowe, 2014).

In this study, the writer analyzes boosters in *An Inconvenient Truth* documentary movie. The writer would like to know and to breakdown it to be introduced to other readers, especially, they who do not know how to use booster well. By this study, the writer intents to show that booster is necessary to learn because it contains communication strategies which is to convince the readers about what the speaker say. The words that can build a convincing impact to the readers is called booster.

Another reason why the writer chooses this study is because this study has never been conducted by English Study Program students in University of

Trunojoyo Madura. It makes this study becomes the first study that is conducted about booster, especially the types and the function of booster.

In this study, the writer analysis booster which found in *An Inconvenient Truth* movie since movie is an entertainment that most people love to watch. There are so many movie genres bellow two major genres, fiction and non-fiction. Nowadays, many non-fiction films have been reached its popularity, particularly documentary films. The significance of documentary film markets is evidenced by the numbers of percentage in 2013, documentaries account for 16% of the films being marketed at Cannes, while only 5 years ago that percentage was half, at 8% (Janson, n.d.). A documentary film is a nonfictional motion picture intended to document some aspect of reality, primarily for the purposes of instruction or maintaining a historical record (“Documentary film - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia,” 2015). Based on its aspect of reality, documentary film is highly responsible to cover boosters as a commitment expression.

The writer is interested to analyze this movie since it has won so many awards, such as Academy Awards USA 2007, Central Ohio Film Critics Association 2007, Chicago Film Critics Association Awards 2006, Florida Film Critics Circle Awards 2006, Kansas City Film Critics Circle Awards 2006, Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards 2006, Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards 2006 and nineteen others for best documentary or non-fiction film (“An Inconvenient Truth - Awards - IMDb,” n.d.). The movie contains long talk by former vice president of America Albert Arnold Gore. He reveals many inconvenient truth of global warming by using boosters in the movie. Besides,

booster is an important key word on explaining fact since booster can strengthen a statement effectively.

In addition, the motivation lies in the observation that, despite the growing significance of documentary movies, there has as yet been little attempt by linguistics researchers to describe in any depth of the language used, especially boosters which is very important in a non-fiction story.

There are some related studies that have been conducted beforehand. Hedging and boosting are significant communicative resources to construe and attain persuasion in a different field and particular genres of academic writing. They are two sides of a coin in the sense that they both contribute to the persuasive import of academic communication. Although boosting is a much less researched phenomenon than hedging (Vázquez & Giner, 2009). Most researchers have conducted a research on shedges and boosters. They observed in academic writing and TV show (Serholt, Herriman, & Trotta, 2012; Hyland, 2000; Pettersson Granqvist, 2013; Jalilifar & Alavi-Nia, 2012; Holmes, 1990). Only one research used booster which focuses in modeling persuasion in academic discourse (Vázquez & Giner, 2009). None of them analyses boosters in a non-fiction film.

1.2 Research Problem

1. What types of boosters are found in *An Inconvenient Truth* documentary movie?

2. What are the functions of booster found in *An Inconvenient Truth* documentary movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of problems above, the objective of the study are:

1. To describe the types of booster found in *An Inconvenient Truth* movie.
2. To explain the functions of booster found in *An Inconvenient Truth* movie.

1.4 Significance of research

By conducting this study, it is expected that this study can give both theoretical and practical contribution on the field of discourse analysis particularly on the analysis of booster used in spoken language.

Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich reader's knowledge about the use of booster and functions of booster. It is also expected that this study will give contribution to the existing knowledge in linguistics field of study. Besides, it is also expected to give a foundation for those who want to conduct such study.

Practically, from this study, hopefully the readers can get information about booster words so they can implement them in their daily conversation especially in revealing the truth and also be careful in receiving a convincing talk.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study explains about what booster is, how many types of boosters are and what the functions of boosters are. This study deals with the theory of types of

boosters proposed by Kondowe (2014) and functions of boosters proposed by Serholt (2012). In this research, boosters which are observed are in discourse analysis. Booster in this thesis is one of categories of metadiscourse which found in cooperative principle. Therefore, the scope of this study is discourse analysis which concerns on the discussion of booster in *An Inconvenient Truth* movie. The limitation of this research is only the utterances that contain booster in *An Inconvenient Truth* movie.