

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some subchapters related to the area of the research. Those subchapters are background of the study, statement of the problems, and objectives of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Created as individual creatures, humans are also social beings. They cannot live alone in this society, they need each other in their life. Consequently, they should be able to interact with others in order to fulfill their nature as a social being. When there are two or more people communicate each other in speech, it is called a social interaction. One of the ways to interact with others is communication. Gumperz in Wardhaugh (1992:15) states that communication is a social activity which requires coordinated efforts of two more individuals. Communication deals with social activity which involves more than one person. It usually occurs between the speaker and the hearer (receiver).

In communicating with others, people usually use a language as a means of communication. Language is a medium which is used to communicate by people in daily activities. There are many kinds of language that can be used to convey our intentions and thoughts. In Merriam and Webster Dictionary (2001:653), it is stated that language is a systemic means of communication ideas of feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures, and marks having understood meanings. By language, communication can be made much easier and understandable. According to Oxford Advanced Learning Dictionary

(2003:204), language is a sound and word systems used by human to express their thoughts and feelings.

Without language we cannot communicate to each other, because language is important in our life. Language connects people through communication because communication is the way how people socialize with each other. One of the characteristics of human language is fuzziness which makes the language more flexible and reliable (Jingwei, 2013: 155). It means that fuzziness is able to be found in almost every form of human language and considered as an innate feature of languages. Hedges are the core of fuzzy language to understand the essence of language conveyed, meaning that hedges are very important part in languages. Salager-Meyer (1994) specifies two main purposes for using hedge words. The first one is to make the issue fuzzy. She proposes that explicit expression of a claim makes it easy for others to criticize the authors in that research area. The other purpose is to increase the correctness in the authors claim.

The use of proper hedges is able to make communication runs smoothly as the obvious function of hedges is to lessen and to soften the impact of an assertion, so that it can be perceived as not too strong, too rude, and too direct to the listener. Moreover, the use of proper hedges is very crucial and important as well in communication to make the speaker's assertion more appropriate and acceptable.

Hedges are a kind of verbal communications and it is a subdivision of pragmatics. The use of hedges is not only found in written language, but also in

spoken language through conversation. One of the examples of the existence of hedges in spoken language can be seen in the “American Gangster” movie through the conversations of the main characters.

American Gangster is a 2007 American biographical crime film directed and produced by Ridley Scott and written by Steven Zaillian. The film is fictionally based on the criminal career of Frank Lucas, a gangster from La Grange, North Carolina who smuggled heroin into the United States on American service planes returning from the Vietnam War, before being detained by a task force led by detective Richie Roberts. This movie are basic on true story and was nominated for twenty-one awards, including two Academy Award nominations for Best Art Direction and Best Supporting Actress (Ruby Dee), and won three including a Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role for Dee.

The writer is interested analyzing the movie due to it portrays the true story by one of the greatest drug bosses on his country that turned the corner helped a local detective to capture other kingpin and dishonest law enforcement. It could eventually help reduce the spread of drugs up to 20%, this is the largest number until today, and al so this movie which got many prestigious achievements and awards. Considering to all the fact about this movie, the writer is interested in doing a research as well.

Based on the background above, this study aims to analyzing the types of hedges which can be found in “American Gangster” movie and also analyzing the function of using hedges by all characters in that movie. The writer examines all

characters that concluding use type of hedges and function of hedges. The writer want to analyze types of hedges and the functions of using hedges in “American Gangster” movie from the utterances being uttered by all characters which contain hedges.

For example is a conversation that was said by some characters in this movie “*According to the eulogies, a giving man, a man of the people*”. This conversation can be categorized as one sub-term of hedges that is Attribution shield. Thus, the writer is interested analyzing the type of hedges and function of hedges that found and used by all characters in “American Gangsters” movie.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Through this research, the writer emerges the following questions:

1. What types hedges are found in “American Gangster” movie?
2. What are the functions of using hedges in “American Gangster” movie?

1.3 Objectives of the study

Based on the statements of research problem, the purposes of the study are:

1. To identity the types of hedges used by all characters found in “American Gangster” movie.
2. To explain the functions of using hedges by all characters in “American Gangster” movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to give contributions both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to give understanding about Pragmatic terms, especially hedges. The writer also hopes the readers can understand further explanation about the types and functions of hedges and to help other students who plan or look for references about hedges. Furthermore, practically the result of this study is hoped to provide better understanding towards society about the importance of using hedges and to lessen the impact of the assertion and maintaining someone's face as well.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the analysis whom the types of hedges which uses the theory Prince *et al* (1982) and the function of hedges which are under the umbrella of pragmatics.

The limitation of the study wants to classified types and functions of hedges, and the data are all the characters utterances which contain hedges.