CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the issues that relate to hedging construction, the characteristics of the data, the problems found when learning the data, the purposes and the significances of this research, and the framework of the theory used to describe the data.

1.1 Background to the Study

Hedging is a construction that may frequently be found in our daily conversations and writings. Its function is to soften the speaker's claim, so the hearer who listens to speaker's claim will not be offended. Hence, by using hedging, the speaker can express his/her idea and intention but he/she is still in the safe position. Here, there are some examples of hedging in English and in Bahasa:

In English:

Example 1

This example is taken from one of scenes in Spiderman Movie

> *There was an octopus man, Ock, who hospitalized because of the damage of his two waldos. Those waldos looked like useless things because they were broken. Ock felt desperate, sad, and mess. Then, his assistant Weiner came and show the condition of Ock.*
>
> *Weiner: Whoa, doc! You looked a **little** messed up yourself.*

The construction "little" in that utterance can make the utterance fuzzy because actually the speaker intends to explain that Ock looks mess, but the using of

"*little"* in that utterance can soften the claim. On the other hand, there is another example of hedging which is used to begin the topic or stop the previous topic.

Example 2

The speaker says: ***By the way****, how about coming over to Florida next week?*

The construction of 'by the way" above helps the speaker to begin the topic or stop the previous topic.

In Bahasa:

These examples above were taken from the dialogue of Ada Apa Dengan Cinta Movie

Example 1

On that day, Cinta was invited by Rangga to come to his house. Then, Rangga asked her to help him to cook. Cinta was glad to help him then she tried to slice some vegetables. But, Rangga felt that Cinta sliced them in the wrong way because Cinta sliced them vertically.

Rangga: Ehm, ini potongnya agak miring sedikiti bisa nggak?

The using construction "agak" can make the utterance fuzzy. In fact, the speaker intends to explain that Cinta sliced vegetables in the wrong way and ask Cinta to slice them obliquely. By using "agak" the speaker can express his idea and command politely. On the other hand, there is another example which is used to cancel the appointment respectfully, as stated in example 2.

In Cinta's room, Cinta was looking for a reason to tell her friends that she wanted to cancel the appointment with them because she wanted to go with Rangga

Cinta: Kayaknya.. gue nggak bisa ikutan deh.

The construction “kayaknya” shows vagueness that helps the speaker to cancel the appointment respectfully.

In addition, hedging can be assumed as communication strategy which shows politeness, vagueness, and mitigation. In communication strategy, hedging can help the speaker to express his/her intention naturally, so that the hearer will not be aggrieved, commanded, judged, and intimidated. Thus, there is no misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer. Accordingly, this is an important topic to be raised in this research especially hedging that consist of adverbial construction. It is chosen because it has simple construction in an utterance.

In the previous research, Ariastiti (2005) analyzed the relationship of hedging with various of maxims. Diferent from it, I analyzed adverbial in hedging construction to describe the intention of speaker’s utterance and to describe the interpretation and response of the hearer after listening the speaker’s utterance. Whereas, data analyzed were taken from movie scripts; it is believed as an effective media to introduce language. So, this research entitled “Adverbial Hedging Construction in Movie Scripts (A Study of pragmatics)”.

1.2 Research Question

When analyzing the data, I found some problems which appeared when I read the movie scripts. The problems consist of some questions which would be analyzed. Those questions were defined to be a research question in this research.

They are:

1. What is the intention of speaker's utterance with hedging construction?
2. What is the interpretation of the hearer after hearing the speaker's utterance in their conversation?
3. What is the response of the hearer to respond the speaker's utterance?

1.3 Objective

After finding some problems which can be defined as research question, I have some purposes in my research. They are:

1. Describing the intention of speaker using hedging construction in his/her utterance.
2. Describing the interpretation of the hearer who listened to the speaker's utterance in their conversation.
3. Describing the response of the hearer to respond the speaker's utterance.

1.4 Significance to knowledge

This research has some purposes theoretically and practically. In theoretically, the readers can learn another alternative in communication strategy as a study of pragmatics. They also can understand the specification of hedging and its function in communication. In practically, the reader can recognize hedging and exploit it in communication.

1.5 Framework of the Theories

This research uses theory of hedging as the grand theory. Hedging is a device to make utterance fuzzy or less fuzzy in order to mitigate the impact of utterance. Meanwhile, adverbial hedging construction is one of hedging construction that modifies a complete idea expressed in the utterance.

According to K. Hyland hedging is the expression of tentativeness and possibility, and it is central to academic writing where statements are rarely made without subjective assessments of their reliability and the need to present unproven propositions with caution and precision. In addition, G. Lakoff(1972) argued that hedging is a study in meaning criteria and the logic of fuzzy concepts. In accordance with Lakoff's main concern, Brown/Levinson (1987,145) said hedge: a particle, word, or phrase that modifies the degree of membership of a predicate or noun phrase. It means that hedging has some particles that can help the speaker to convey his/her intention smoothly.

The functions of hedging are first, hedges allow writers to express propositions with greater precision in areas often characterized by rapid reinterpretation and second, using hedges concerns the writer's desire to anticipate the possible negative consequences of being proved wrong and the eventual overthrow of a claim (Hyland, 1998a; Salager-Meyer,1994). So, it can be concluded that hedging has functions to soften claim, command, request, and complaint in order to make the speaker safe; the speaker can reduce the risk of being seen negatively and at the same time place his/her self in the natural position.

Based on the theory of hedging, for analyzing the data, I took the theory of Chan Swee Heng and Helen Tan (2002) who defined hedging as a concept to mitigate the impact of utterance.