CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

This chapter describes the methodology of the research. It covers research object and research method.

3.1 Research Object

The object of this research is hedges taken from the script of *Friends* TV SITCOM. "*It's about sex, love, relationships, careers, a time in your life when everything's possible. And it's about friendship because when you're single and in the city, your friends are your family.*" as stated by Crane, Kauffman and Bright as the producers of the series.

Friends chosen as the data source is because there are many hedges used in the script. In *Friends*, hedges functioning as evasiveness are frequently used in conveying the utterance. Moreover, many previous researches about hedges are focused, for example, on research articles. Thus, this research about the use of hedges in TV SITCOM script, hopefully, will enrich more various results.

3.2 Research Method

Kothari (1994:3) states that, *"qualitative researches concerned with qualitative phenomenon, i.e., phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind."* Thus, this research is a type of a qualitative research for discussing the phenomena of hedges functioning as evasiveness and the orientations of their

uncertainty that suggest three kinds of orientation; speaker-oriented, hearer-oriented, and content-oriented.

Furthermore, this research applies the method of analytic descriptive. Firstly to apply is the method of analytical research. "*In analytical research, the researcher has to use facts or information already available, and analyze these to make a critical evaluation of the material.*" Kothari (1990:3). It means that this method is conducted through the process of analyzing the facts of the research data. Secondly, this research applies the method of descriptive research. "*Descriptive research includes surveys and fact-finding enquiries of different kinds*." Kothari (1990:4). It may mean to describe the fact of the data such as to classify data of the research. Thus, it is appropriate to apply analytic descriptive method in this research.

Therefore, the proposition hedged in the utterance is analyzed, and it is continued by classifying the orientations of the hedges relating to their uncertainty.

3.2.1 Data Collection

The writer conducts a library research in collecting the data. There are steps in conducting this type of research; they, according to Kothari (1994), are analyzing documents (the script) and analyzing the content (the hedges). Based on the steps suggested by Kothari (1994), this research conducts data collection through detail procedures as the following:

1. Searching the data source for the research by reading some scripts including the scripts of *How I Met Your Mother*, *the Proposal, Bounty Hunter*, etc. The scripts are taken from various websites; www.simplyscripsts.com, www.dailyscripts.com, www.imdbs.com etc.
2. Choosing the script of *Friends* as the data source. It is taken from www.friendstranscripts.tk
3. Reading the whole script.
4. Finding the hedges used in the script based on the definition of hedges by Lakoff (1972). It means to find words/expressions that make things fuzzy/uncertain in terms of avoidance.
5. Choosing the hedges that have the function as evasiveness which are the ones conveyed indirectly indicated as a non-straightforward answer.

3.2.2 Data Analysis

Based on the assumption of this research, there are hedges functioning as evasiveness in *Friends* script. Thus, there are the procedures in analyzing the data, as the following:

1. Analyzing the proposition hedged in the utterance in *Friends* script. It means to analyze what the speaker actually wants to convey by finding the hedges and identifying the proposition made uncertain by the hedges.
2. Analyzing the orientations of the hedges relating to their uncertainty in *Friends* script. It means to classify the hedges into speaker-oriented, hearer-oriented, or content-oriented.

To have more comprehension, here is the example of data analysis.

Data example

Context: Rachel and Ross have a daughter named Emma. On Emma's first birthday party, Rachel orders a birthday cake shaped like a bunny with a picture of Emma on the top of it. However, the bakery makes a mistake. Instead of putting Emma's picture on the top of a cake shaped like a bunny, they put the picture on a cake shaped like a penis. Rachel is angry because of it and thinks that they have ruined Emma's first birthday party. She thinks that the first birthday party of her daughter is very important. However, Ross does not feel the same way. He thinks it's not important because Emma is just a baby and does not even aware that it's her birthday.

Rachel: Oh, why do you even bother? I already ruined her first birthday... And do you know how important these early experiences are Ross? Very! According to the back cover of that book that you gave me.
Ross: Rach, **she's not going to remember this.**

Analysis:

There is the use of a hedge in the data above. It is showed by Ross's utterance, ***"she's not going to remember this."*** The utterance is not a relevant answer to Rachel's because it is not what Rachel asks for. What Rachel asks for is about the importance of early experiences. Indicated by the data, one of early experiences that is important is a first birthday party as Rachel thinks. On the contrary, Ross's utterance actually represents the opposite thing because the proposition/message that Ross actually conveys is, "*early experiences are not important.*" However, the proposition is not conveyed directly because Ross's utterance does not describe what Ross means. His' utterance only describes that Emma is not going to be able to remember her first birthday party. With Emma being unable to remember her first birthday party, it may mean that the party (one

of early experiences) is not important. Thus, Ross's utterance represents what Ross means indirectly.

Therefore, Ross's utterance itself may be identified as the hedge because it mitigates the proposition (content) that Ross actually conveys which is, "*early experiences are not important.*" By mitigating it, the hedge makes the proposition become uncertain because what Ross's utterance means is slightly different from what Ross means. Thus, the uncertainty of the proposition makes the hedge classifies as content-oriented hedges.

As mentioned above, the proposition opposes Rachel's utterance. Therefore, Ross's utterance (the hedge) which represents the proposition may be used to show a disagreement.