CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter shows the findings classified by the hedges' orientations relating to their uncertainty. There are three classifications found in this research; they are speaker-oriented hedges, hearer-oriented hedges, and content-oriented hedges. This chapter also presents the discussions of the research. They are the analyses of the propositions (messages) hedged in the utterance.

4.1 Speaker-oriented Hedges

The category of hedges is used to express speaker's uncertainty of a particular proposition(s). It means that the speaker may have doubts about the utterance he/she conveys.

Data 1

Context: It is a conversation between Phoebe, Monica, and Rachel. Phoebe is giving away her work of art that she calls Gladys to Monica. It is because she is going to live together with her fiancée and he wants Phoebe to get rid of Gladys. Rachel asks who Gladys is. Rachel actually knows who/what Gladys is because she used to live with Phoebe and she does not like it. However, Phoebe does not know that Rachel does not like it.

Rachel: Who's Gladys?
Phoebe: Oh, she's that work of art I made, you know, with the woman coming out of the frame.
Rachel: (sarcastic) Oh, and Monica gets to keep her? In her house? I am so jealous!
Phoebe: Oh, I didn't know you wanted her too!
Monica: Huh!
Rachel: **Well, I mean, sure, of course. But... you already gave that to Monica, so...**

Analysis:

The hedge in this data is represented by Rachel's utterance, *"Well, I mean, sure, of course. But... you already gave that to Monica, so..."* In the utterance there are propositions:

I mean [you already gave that to Monica, so...]

So [you cannot give it to me (Rachel)]

These propositions indicate that Phoebe should not give Gladys to Rachel regarding that it belongs to Monica. Thus, it would be impolite for Phoebe to give Gladys that has already been in Monica's possession. In addition, the utterance consists of two-suggested propositions as the following:

Sure [I want her (Gladys) too],

Of course [I want her (Gladys) too].

Both propositions above, by using the words *sure* and *of course*, emphasize Rachel's willingness to own Gladys.

Thus, the utterance above suggests two contradictory points. First is Rachel's avoidance to own Gladys by stating that it belongs to Monica. Second is Rachel's willingness to own Gladys by emphasizing the proposition, *"I want her (Gladys) too"* twice with the use of *sure* and *of course*. This contradiction marked by conjunction, ***"but,"*** may suggest Rachel's uncertainty of the proposition of her utterance.

Furthermore, the uncertainty of the proposition may be suggested to be used by Rachel to avoid a conflict with Phoebe. The proposition stating that

Gladys is already owned by Monica suggests that Rachel tries to cover up her dislike for Gladys. Moreover, the propositions stating Rachel's willingness to own Gladys may suggest that Rachel tries to avoid offending Phoebe for Gladys.

Therefore, by suggesting Rachel's uncertainty of the proposition of her utterance and the use of it to avoid conflict, the hedge in this data saves Rachel's situation in the conversation. Thus, it classifies the hedge as an evasive speaker-oriented hedge.

Data 2

Context: It is a thanksgiving day. Monica cooks for the dinner. As for the pies she does not bake them herself but orders them from a bakery. In the morning, she asks Rachel and Phoebe to pick up the pies and bring them to dinner. However, it is not only that they come late to dinner but also forget to pick up the pies.

Monica: Yeah, I asked you and Phoebe to pick up the pies. You did remember, right?
Phoebe: **Pies, oh, we thought you said priiiize** (goes to the hall and comes back with Emma's trophy in her hand). Here! (gives it to Monica).

Analysis:

Phoebe's utterance in the data above represents the use of a hedge. In the utterance, there is a proposition *"you said prize."* The proposition becomes uncertain when there is an expression ***"we thought"*** before it. The expression shows Phoebe's uncertainty towards the proposition because it represents only what Phoebe thinks and it may not be the truth. In addition, the subject "*we"* adds Rachel to share the uncertainty towards the proposition.

Moreover, Phoebe is aware of the proposition for being untrue because she knows that Monica says *"pies."* However, she forgets about picking up the pies.

Thus, she may use her utterance to cover up the truth that she forgets picking up the pies by saying the word *"prize"* which rhymes with the word *"pies."* Therefore, it may avoid Monica from being angry with her (and Rachel).

By covering up the truth that she forgets and giving the impression that she hears the wrong word, it makes Phoebe (and Rachel) in a safe situation. Therefore, it may classify the hedge as evasiveness with speaker-oriented.

Data 3

Context: Phoebe and Rachel see Chandler getting in a car with a woman named Nancy (a real estate agent). Chandler is married to Monica and they are about to buy a house. Chandler and Nancy go to see the house that he and Monica will buy. However, Phoebe thinks that Chandler is having an affair. Then she calls him. On the phone, he lies about what he is doing.

Phoebe (on the phone): Oh, hi Chandler. It's Phoebe. Uhm... I know that Monica is working today so...(back to Central Perk) ...I was wondering if you want to come to the movies with me and Rachel.
Chandler (on the phone): **Oh, uhm... I have to work too**. **Yeah, I'm stuck at the office all day.**

Analysis:

In the data above, the hedge functioning as evasiveness is suggested by Chandler's utterance. The utterance begins with the expression, ***"Oh, uhm..."*** which shows Chandler's hesitation about what he is going to say which is, *"I have to work too. Yeah, I'm stuck at the office all day."* Chandler's utterance shows an uncertainty because work usually has a fix schedule. Thus if he actually has to work, the expression *"Oh, uhm..."* would not be used and he may answer Phoebe's question straight away by saying that he has to work at the office all

day. Therefore, the expression may represent Chandler's uncertainty relating to the proposition of what he is doing and where he is.

Furthermore, Chandler is aware of the proposition for being untrue because he knows that he is not working at the office at the moment of speaking. It suggests that he conveys his utterance to cover up the truth about what he is doing. The reason is because he would like to refuse Phoebe's invitation because he is going to see the house with Nancy. Therefore, he says that he has to work because work is a matter which cannot be easily compromised. Thus, he can still be in a safe situation even though he refuses the invitation.

The use of the hedge to refuse may be identified as evasiveness. Moreover, it is used to cover up the truth to make the speaker in a safe situation. Thus, it may be classified as speaker-oriented hedges.

Data 4

Context: It is in the coffee house. There are Phoebe, Monica, Chandler, and Rachel there. Ross enters. He wants to celebrate him getting tenure and he brings a bottle of champagne. Then he asks the waiter named Gunther for six glasses. Gunther who is aware that there are only five people thinks that perhaps Ross wants him to join his celebration. However, Ross does not mean that. He only asks for six glasses because he thinks that Joey is there too. After he realizes that Joey is not there, he asks for five glasses.

Ross: This is the single greatest day of my professional career. Gunther, six glasses!
Gunther: Six? You want me to join you?
Ross: **Oh, I thought Joey was here. Five is good.** (Gunther leaves, hurt) Well, I'm gonna have a loogie in my coffee tomorrow.

Analysis:

The hedge in the data above is represented by Ross's utterance, *"Oh, I thought Joey was here. Five is good."* In the utterance there is a proposition, "Joey was here," and an expression ***"I thought."*** The expression gives an uncertainty to the proposition because *"thought"* only represents what the *"I"* (Ross) thinks. Thus, the proposition may not be true.

Furthermore, Ross is later aware that Joey was not there. He then asks for five glasses. Ross's utterance, however, is not only meant to ask for five glasses. It also represents that Ross tries to avoid the waiter, Gunther, who asks to join his celebration. By asking for five glasses only, Ross may mean to refuse Gunther's request to join indirectly. Thus, he makes himself feel safe because he does not have to reject Gunther's request directly.

Therefore, by refusing Gunther's request indirectly and avoiding making a rejection, the hedge in this data may be identified as an evasive speaker-oriented hedge.

Data 5

Context: Monica and Chandler are buying a house. They have already picked a house that they want to buy. However, Monica wants to see the house next door just in case that house is better but Chandler does not want to. They then ask Phoebe about it. Instead of answering that, Phoebe makes a comment about Chandler's shirt.

Monica: But what if it is better than ours? Should we at least look?
Chandler: What do you think Pheebs?
Phoebe: **Well, I think that shirt makes you look like you should work at a Baskin Robbins...** Anyway... Hey, isn't Joey's agent Estelle Leonard?
Chandler: Yeah.

Analysis:

The hedge in the data above is suggested by Phoebe's utterance, *"Well, I think that shirt makes you look like you should work at a Baskin Robbins..."* In the utterance, there is an expression, ***"I think"*** which expresses Phoebe's (*I*) opinion towards the proposition, *"that shirt makes you look like you should work at a Baskin Robbins."* It means that the validity of the proposition is uncertain because the expression makes the utterance indicated only as Phoebe's opinion and may not be true.

Moreover, Phoebe's utterance is a response to Chandler's utterance which asking for an opinion about the house that Chandler and Monica will buy. However, Phoebe answers it by commenting Chandler's shirt and not by giving her opinion about the house. Phoebe thinks that it is their problem not hers. She avoids talking about the house by commenting the shirt. Thus, she can refuse talking about the house indirectly and save herself from getting involved in their problem.

Therefore, the hedge in Phoebe's utterance in this data may be identified as evasiveness for avoiding giving her opinion about the house. Moreover, The use of the hedge in terms of refusing indirectly to save herself from getting involved may be identify the hedge as a speaker-oriented hedge.

Data 6

Context: Rachel is Ross' ex-girlfriend. Ross' friend, Joey, likes Rachel and she likes Joey too. However, they feel like that they should talk to Ross first before anything happens between them. When Ross comes over, Rachel confidently

thinks that it is a good time to talk to him. However, Joey is not so sure even though he shows an agreement.

Rachel: Ross is coming over. I think now would be a really good time to talk to him.
Joey: **I guess so**. I'm just... really nervous.

Analysis:

In the data above, the use of hedge is represented by Joey's utterance, ***"I guess so."*** The word *"so"* in the utterance refers to the proposition-suggested in Rachel's utterance; *"now would be a really good time to talk to him."* The proposition is hedged by the expression ***"I guess,"*** because it gives an uncertainty to the proposition in terms of its validity for it only expresses an assessment of the *"I"* (Joey), therefore, the proposition may not be true.

Furthermore, Joey's utterance suggests an agreement to Rachel's utterance even though he is not really sure about it. Thus, it may mean that Joey's utterance may be used to cover up his doubt in order to avoid having an argument with Rachel. Therefore, he saves himself from a conflict with Rachel.

By avoiding having an argument and saving Ross (the speaker) from a conflict with Rachel, the hedge in this data may be identified as evasiveness with speaker-oriented.

4.2 Hearer-oriented Hedges

This classification of hedges may to express the hedges' uncertainty orientating to the hearer. It means that the hedges show hearer's uncertainty or hesitation.

Data 7

Context: It is in the coffee house. Phoebe enters with her fancy dress. She tells she is going to celebrate anniversary with her boyfriend by seeing a hockey game. Then Joey questions her if she is overdressed. Phoebe and Joey are close friends.

Joey: Uhm... Aren't you a little overdressed?
Phoebe: **Hey, you know what, I've never had a one-year anniversary before, so no matter where we go, I'm wearing something fancy pants, and... I'm gonna put on my finest jewelry** and we're gonna have sex in a public rest room.

Analysis:

The hedge used in the data above is represented by Phoebe's utterance, *"Hey, you know what, I've never had a one-year anniversary before, so no matter where we go, I'm wearing something fancy pants, and... I'm gonna put on my finest jewellery."* In the utterance, Phoebe uses the expression, ***"you know what."*** It expresses Phoebe's expectation of Joey to understand that it is an anniversary meaning it is a special occasion where generally people use their finest dresses. In addition, the expression is followed by Phoebe's explanation why she wears fancy dress. This suggests that Phoebe senses that Joey may not understand it. Thus, it represents an uncertainty relating to the hearer (Joey) whether he understands what matters is that it is a special occasion and not the place to celebrate it.

Furthermore, Phoebe's utterance represents a disagreement to Joey's utterance. Joey's utterance suggests that Phoebe may be overdressed. However, Phoebe's utterance, which gives an explanation why she wears fancy dress, suggests that she is not overdressed.

Phoebe's utterance suggests an uncertainty relating to the hearer whether Joey understands or not why Phoebe wears fancy dress. Thus, it makes the hedge in this data classify as hearer-oriented. Moreover, the use of the hedge that is to show disagreement suggests that this hedge functions as evasiveness.

Data 8

Context: Ross and Joey are good friends. Joey had a girlfriend named Charlie and they had just broken up. On the night, that they broke up Ross and Charlie kissed. Ross felt bad about that kiss so before anything more happens between him and Charlie he wants to talk to Joey about it. In addition, Joey actually knew about that kiss because he saw it but Ross was not aware of this.

Ross: Okay, last night after you guys broke up... *so* sorry to hear about that, by the way... Well, Charlie and I were talking, and..., well...
Joey: You kissed.
Ross: **Wha... (gasps) What? What would give you that idea?**
Joey: I saw you.

Analysis:

The hedge in this data is represented by Ross's utterance, ***"Wha... (gasps) What? What would give you that idea?"*** which suggests an uncertainty for it could have been a simpler response to Joey's utterance; yes or no that he kiss Charlie. Ross conveys his utterance by gasping which may mean that he has hesitation about what to say to Joey because he feels guilty for kissing Charlie. Ross's hesitation is whether Joey actually knows that the kiss happens or he only assumes that it happens. Thus, it suggests an uncertainty relating to the hearer (Joey) whether he knows or does not.

Moreover, Ross is surprised by Joey who talks about the kiss because he is not aware that Joey knows about the kiss. Thus, he does not expect Joey to say

anything about it. He conveys his utterance gasping because he may not ready for that. Therefore, his utterance, which does not agree or disagree to Joey's utterance, may mean to cover up the truth in order to avoid the possibility of Joey being angry.

By suggesting the uncertainty relating to the hearer and covering up to avoid, the hedge in this data may classify as hearer-oriented and has the function as evasiveness.

Data 9

Context: Amy is Rachel's sister. She tells Rachel that she is going to marry a man named Myron. He is old. Amy only wants to marry him because he has a great apartment. Rachel then gives her an advice that she should marry someone that she love and not marry someone only because of his or her apartment. Amy takes the advice. However, because she leaves Myron, she does not have place to stay. She then asks Rachel to let her stay in Rachel's apartment. Rachel seems to have hesitation about it because she shares the apartment with Joey who hates Amy.
In addition, Erin Brokovich is an independent strong woman. She can take care of herself alone and she has her own house.

Rachel: Amy, hi!
Amy: I took your advice, I left Myron.
Rachel: Oh, good for you!
Amy: I know! I'm Erin Brockovich!
Rachel: Yes you are! Oh, I am so proud of you!
Amy: Thank you! So, can I stay with you?
Rachel: **But Erin Brockovich had her own house.**

Analysis:

Rachel's utterance above, ***"But Erin Brockovich had her own house."*** suggests the use of a hedge. The hedge in this data is the whole utterance because it represents uncertainty. The uncertainty relates to Amy (the hearer) because if

she is Erin Brokovich, she should have her own place to stay. Thus, she would not ask for staying in Joey and Rachel's apartment.

Rachel realizes that she shares the apartment with Joey. Thus, she needs Joey's permission if she is going to let Amy stay in their apartment. Moreover, she is aware that Joey hates Amy. Therefore, she may convey the utterance to avoid the conversation so Amy would understand that she cannot let her stay. Thus, she can refuse Amy's request to stay indirectly.

According to the description above that suggesting the uncertainty in relation to the hearer and the use of the utterance to avoid as a refusal, the hedge in this data may function as evasiveness and classify as hearer-oriented.

Data 10

Context: Rachel gets a job offer to work in Paris. She tells Ross that she is scared. By that, Ross thinks that she is not excited about the job. However, she then explains to Ross that it was a good scared meaning that she is actually excited about it.

Ross: Uhm, I hadn't no you... I had no idea you were so excited about Paris. Uhm, I mean, you said you were scared.
Rachel: Well yeah, but **I mean, it was good scared though, you know? Like when I-moved-to-New-York scared. Or uhm, when I-found-out-I-was-gonna-have-Emma scared...** But this is... fine. This is gonna be good. (they both stare around)
Ross: (after a long pause) You should go.

Analysis:

The hedge in this data is represented by Rachel's utterance "*I mean, it was good scared though, you know? Like when I-moved-to-New-York scared. Or uhm, when I-found-out-I-was-gonna-have-Emma scared.*" She uses an expression, ***"you***

know?" indicating the utterance may have an uncertainty relating to the hearer. The expression represents that Ross should have known that what she is feeling is a good scared because he has seen her having a good scared before like when she move to New York and when she finds out that she is going to have Emma (their daughter). However, the expression is followed by the explanation by Rachel about what she means by a good scared. It means Rachel thinks that Ross may not know that what she feels is a good scared. Thus, the hedge in this data may suggest the uncertainty relating to Ross (the hearer).

Furthermore, Ross thinks that Rachel is scared (having fear). Rachel's utterance, however, suggests a different meaning of scared by the explanation of a good scared. Thus, Rachel's utterance may represent a disagreement by suggesting a difference.

Therefore, by having the uncertainty relating to the hearer and suggesting a disagreement, the hedge in this data may be categorized in the type of hearer-oriented hedges and functioning as evasiveness.

4.3 Content-oriented Hedges

This category of hedges is to express the uncertainty relating to the content of the message. It means that the hedge is attenuating the content of the message.

Data 11

Context: The conversation in the data is between Ross and Rachel. They are talking about their daughter, Emma, going to the playground. Ross wants to take Emma to the playground but Rachel does not want Ross to do that. Rachel explains to Ross that she had traumatic swing incident when she was little. Her

hair got tangled in the chain and to get her out her mom had to cut her hair. Her hair was uneven for weeks. Ross thinks that it was irrational.

Ross: Look, I'm sorry to hear about your tragedy, ok? But the swings are perfectly safe, and besides Emma loves them. You know what, you should come with us and you'll see!
Rachel: **Ross, those things go like 40 miles an hour!** Ok? When you're... and there is that moment when you are at the top, when you just don't know if you're gonna return back to earth!

Analysis:

The hedge in the data above is suggested by Rachel's utterance, *"Ross, those things (swings) go like 40 miles an hour!"* The utterance has uncertainty regarding to the meaning of particular proposition; *"Ross, those things (swings) go 40 miles an hour."* The proposition becomes uncertain because of the expression ***"like."*** The expression only represents Rachel's assessment which is not supported by actual fact that swings go 40 miles an hour. It means that the uncertainty in this utterance relates to the content of the proposition for having an uncertainty because of the expression.

Furthermore, Rachel's utterance is a response to Ross's utterance. In Ross' utterance, it is said that swings are perfectly safe. However, Rachel's utterance suggests the opposite opinion by exaggerating the speed of the swings; thus, it indicates that swings are not safe. The utterance may be conveyed by Rachel to show a disagreement because of her traumatic swing incident.

Therefore, by making the proposition uncertain in relation to the content, the hedge in this data may be classified as content-oriented. Moreover, the use of it to disagree may categorize the hedge functioning as evasiveness.

Data 12

Context: Ross and Rachel are talking about their irrational fears. Rachel thinks that swings are not safe because of her traumatic incident where her mom had to cut her hair. Ross thinks that it is irrational. Rachel argues that Ross being scared of a spider is irrational too. However, Ross thinks that it is not the same thing.

Ross: Good, you don't want to be one of those mothers, who pass on their irrational fears on their children, do you?
Rachel: Irrational, huh? All right, well, I'll remember that the next time you freak out about a spider in your apartment!
Ross: Oh, yeah, that's the same, **I am sure there are thirty different species of poisonous swings!**

Analysis:

The hedge in the data above is represented by Ross's utterance, *"I am sure there are thirty different species of poisonous swings!"* In the utterance, there is an expression ***"sure."*** It gives an uncertainty to the proposition, *"there are thirty different species of poisonous swings!"* because the expression may suggest that the proposition is only what the "*I"* (Ross) believes. It does not mean that there are actually thirty different species of poisonous swings. Therefore, by making the proposition of the utterance uncertain in terms of the meaning, the hedge in this data relates to the content.

Furthermore, looking at the context, Ross does not actually think that there are thirty different species of poisonous swings; therefore, being scared of them is irrational. He only says it to point out that it is not the same thing and cannot be compared with spiders. Thus, Ross' utterance suggests a disagreement about being scared of spider is irrational.

Therefore, Ross's utterance in this data that suggests a disagreement may function as evasiveness. Moreover, the uncertainty of his utterance relating to the content of the proposition classifies the hedge as content-oriented.

Data 13

Context: When Monica and Chandler are hugging, she smells perfume and cigarettes. Chandler tells Monica that he was with Nancy but Monica knows that Nancy does not smoke.

Chandler: Hi!
Monica: Hey! You smell like perfume and cigarettes.
Chandler: I was in the car with Nancy all day.
Monica: Nancy doesn't smoke!
Chandler: Well, at least the perfume is not mine, be thankful for that!

Analysis:

The hedge used in the data above is suggested by Chandler's utterance, *"Well, at least the perfume is not mine, be thankful for that!"* The utterance represents an irrelevant answer as a response to Monica's utterance which states about smoking not perfume. By stating that Nancy does not smoke, Monica's utterance indicates that Chandler must be the one who smoke. However, Chandler responds it by talking about the perfume. Thus, the content of the proposition conveyed in Chandler's utterance has uncertainty concerning on the utterance as a response to Monica's utterance. This irrelevancy of the proposition is marked by the expression, ***"well"*** which sometimes in a conversation is used to start a new topic.

Furthermore, by uttering an irrelevant answer, Chandler may convey the utterance to avoid talking about the cigarettes (smoking). Thus, he may use the

hedge to cover up the truth that he does smoke because he knows that she does not like it when he smokes; therefore, he may avoid having an argument with Monica.

By representing irrelevancy relating to the content conveyed, the hedge in this data may be classified as content-oriented. Moreover, the use of the utterance to avoid a conflict with Monica makes the hedge function as evasiveness.

Data 14

Context: Phoebe is teaching Joey how to speak French. Phoebe wants Joey to repeat how she says the words. However, Joey says the words differently.

Phoebe: Je m'appelle Claude.
Joey: Je depli mblue.
Phoebe: Uh. It's not... quite what I'm saying.
Joey: Really? **It sounds exactly the same to me.**

Analysis:

In the data above, the hedge is represented by in Joey's utterance, *"It sounds exactly the same to me."* In the utterance there is an expression, ***"exactly."*** It makes the proposition, *"It sounds the same to me,"* uncertain in terms of the meaning of the content because there is no measurement of how exact it is; it is really the same or it only sounds the same. Thus, the uncertainty of the utterance in this data relates to the content of the proposition.

Moreover, Joey's utterance is a response to Phoebe's utterance. Phoebe's utterance indicates that Joey does not repeat what Phoebe says correctly. However, Joey does not think so for his utterance suggesting that it sounds the same indicating that he thinks he says it correctly. Thus, Joey's utterance suggests a disagreement.

Therefore, by having the uncertainty relating to the content, the hedge in this data may be classified as content-oriented, and by suggesting a disagreement, it may have a function as evasiveness.

Data 15

Context: It is in Rachel's room at her father's house. Ross realizes that he's never been in that room before but Rachel seems to think that he has.

Rachel: What do you mean? You've been in my room before!
Ross: Yeah, sure, right! **Like I've ever been in Rachel Green's room.**

Analysis:

In the data above, the hedge is represented by Ross's utterance, *"Like I've ever been in Rachel Green's room."* The utterance begins with the expression, ***"like,"*** which gives an uncertainty to the proposition, *"I've ever been in Rachel Green's room,"* in terms of the meaning carried by the content. The certainty of the fact that the *"I"* (Ross) has been in Rachel's room before is questioned because the expression, *"like,"* may represent that it only is a supposition. Thus, the hedge in this data has its uncertainty orienting to the content of the proposition.

Furthermore, Ross' utterance is actually used to show a disagreement. It is because; as a response to Rachel's utterance, the content of the proposition conveyed in the utterance is against what Rachel says which is that Ross has been in her room before.

Therefore, by opposing to suggest a disagreement, the hedge in this data may function as evasiveness. Moreover, having the uncertainty of the proposition relating to the content makes it classify as content-oriented.

Data 16

Context: Monica is having dinner with Chandler, Phoebe and Mike. Then Ross comes in to tell news. Monica does not want Ross to interrupt the dinner and she is not interested in hearing the news.

Ross: (entering) Hey, you guys... I have great news.
Monica: **Ross, we're kind of in the middle of dinner here.**
Ross: Oh, well, er, I already ate, but sure...! (they all look at each other when Ross grabs a plate) Guess what happened at work today...

Analysis:

Monica's utterance in the data above, *"Ross, we're kind of in the middle of dinner here."* suggests the use of a hedge. It is represented by the expression ***"kind of,"*** which weakens content of the proposition. The reason is because the expression indicates that they are not in the middle of dinner while the truth is that they actually are in the middle of dinner. Thus, the hedge in this data makes the proposition considered as uncertain in terms of the meaning as a certain truth. It means that the uncertainty relates to the content for making the truth of the proposition weakened.

Moreover, Monica's utterance suggests that she does not want to hear Ross' news because she and her husband, Chandler, are in the middle of dinner with Phoebe and Mike (married couple). Having a dinner with another married couple is a rare occasion for Monica, thus, the dinner may be considered

something special to her. She expects Ross to be aware of the situation that they are in the middle of a rare occasion of dinner; it means that an interruption is unwelcome. Thus, Monica's utterance in this data may be used to avoid hearing Ross' news.

Therefore, by the use of the utterance to avoid hearing Ross's news, the hedge in this data may function as evasiveness. Moreover, having the uncertainty of proposition in terms of its meaning relating to the content classifies the hedge as content-oriented.

Data 17

Context: Joey and Phoebe are at the coffee house. Joey's agent named Estelle has passed away. Phoebe finds out about it in the newspaper but Joey himself does not know about it yet. Phoebe feels that probably it is best for Joey not to be told about it yet because she knows that he have had a hard time lately. However, Joey tells Phoebe that he is upset because Estelle does not get him any audition lately. Joey then means to call Estelle to ask her about it. Phoebe asks Joey to wait a little bit before he makes the call. Phoebe then who is pretending as Estelle calls Joey first.

Joey: Hello?
Phoebe (doing Estelle): Joey, it's Estelle.
Joey: I was just gonna call you! That's weird.
Phoebe (doing Estelle): **It's a little coincidental, but believable.** (Joey nods in agreement). Listen, I'm sure you're wondering why I didn't get you an audition for that TV movie.

Analysis:

The hedge used in the data above is suggested by Phoebe's utterance, *"It's a little coincidental, but believable."* The pronoun *"it"* refers to the proposition-suggested in the conversation, *"Estelle (Phoebe doing Estelle) calling Joey when he is just about to call her is weird."* In the utterance, the expression, ***"a little,"***

gives an uncertainty to the propositions *"it's coincidental, but believable,"* because the expression has the meaning of something less. Moreover, the word "*coincidental*" itself suggests an uncertainty for there is no measurement for coincidences. Thus, it may mean that the orientation of the hedge in this data relates to the content by weakening the proposition making it uncertain in terms of its meaning.

Furthermore, Phoebe's utterance is a response to Joey's utterance suggesting that, *"Estelle (Phoebe doing Estelle) calling Joey when he is just about to call her is weird."* However, Phoebe's utterance suggesting it may not be weird by conveying that it is believable; because the word believable/belief may be considered to have a certain truth. Thus, by opposing Joey's utterance, Phoebe's utterance may be used to show that she disagrees with Joey.

By opposing to make a disagreement, the hedge in this data may function as evasiveness. In addition, the hedge's uncertainty relating to the content by weakening the proposition may classify the hedge as content-oriented.

Data 18

Context: The conversation is between Ross and Rachel. Ross is palaeontology so he really likes dinosaurs-related and he wants Emma (his daughter from Rachel) to like it too. Therefore, he argues that Emma cannot sleep without her stuffed t-rex (a doll). However, Rachel does not think so.

Ross: Emma left her stuffed t-rex at my house. You know she can't sleep without it.
Rachel: **Oh, well, she's asleep now**. Stop forcing that thing on her.
Ross: Ok.

Analysis:

The use of a hedge in the data above is represented by Rachel's utterance, *"Oh, well, she's asleep now."* In the utterance, there is an expression ***"well"*** which is used to represent the opposite thing of what Ross says. However, the expression does not represent it directly. It is because as the response to Ross's utterance, Rachel's utterance actually means that she (Emma) can sleep without her stuffed t-rex, instead, Rachel's utterance only states the situation of Emma at the moment. Thus, it indicates the utterance may represent an uncertainty in terms of its relevancy to Ross's utterance; therefore, the uncertainty relates to the content of the proposition for making it as an irrelevant answer.

Furthermore, Ross's utterance suggests that Emma cannot sleep without her stuffed t-rex. However, Rachel's utterance, in an indirect way, suggests the opposite proposition. Thus, the hedge in this data may be used to show a disagreement.

Therefore, by weakening the content of the proposition that Emma can sleep without her stuffed t-rex, the hedge in this data may be classified into content-oriented hedges. Moreover, the use of the hedge to disagree by opposition makes it classified as having the function of evasiveness.

Data 19

Context: Monica and Chandler are a married couple. Phoebe and Ross is their friend but Ross is also Monica's brother. Phoebe, Monica, and Chandler are in Monica and Chandler's hotel room in Barbados. Their room is next to Ross's room and the walls of the room are very thin that they can hear sounds through the walls. Ross is with someone in his room named Charlie and they are kissing

(making noises) which heard by Phoebe in the next room (Monica and Chandler's room).

Phoebe: Is that Ross?
Monica: Yeah, you can hear everything through these stupid walls.
Phoebe: Sounds like he's with someone.
Chandler: **He could be alone**. This morning I heard him do push-ups, and then talk to his triceps.

Analysis:

There is a hedge used in the data above. It is represented by Chandler's utterance, *"He (Ross) could be alone."* In the utterance, the expression ***"could be,"*** may be suggested to weaken the content of the proposition *"he (Ross) is alone."* By weakening the content, the proposition becomes uncertain because the expression *"could be"* represents an assumption, which means that it may not represent an accurate fact that Ross is alone. Thus, the proposition in this data has the uncertainty that relates to the content in terms of its validity.

Furthermore, Chandler's utterance is a response to Phoebe's utterance, *"Sounds like he's (Ross) with someone,"* indicating that Ross is not alone. Chandler's utterance, however, suggests the opposite proposition of Phoebe's utterance. Thus, the proposition of Chandler's utterance in this data may be conveyed to show a disagreement by suggesting opposition.

Therefore, by conveying a disagreement, the hedge in this data may be categorized in the function of hedges as evasiveness. Moreover, the uncertainty of the hedge relating to the content of the proposition may classify the hedge as content-oriented.

Data 20

Context: Ross walks in to Chandler and Monica's room in Barbados. In the room, there are three people; Chandler, Monica, and Phoebe. The three of them before Ross walks in, are listening through the wall to Ross' room which is next to Chandler's room. They are listening to Charlie and Ross who are kissing. Charlie is a woman who has just broken up with Joey (Ross' friend). However, Monica, Chandler, and Phoebe do not know that Joey has broken up with Charlie. In addition, Chandler knows where Joey is.

Ross: Okay, uhm... Hey, you guys seen Joey anywhere?
Chandler: **He's probably in his room with his current girlfriend Charlie.** That's the situation as we know it... (walks to Phoebe and Monica)

Analysis:

There is a hedge suggested in the data above. It is represented by Chandler's utterance, *"He's probably in his room with his current girlfriend Charlie."* In the utterance, there is an expression ***"probably,"*** which gives uncertainty to the proposition, *"He's in his room with his current girlfriend Charlie."* It makes the content of the proposition uncertain in terms of its validity as a certain truth because it represents a possibility; this is may suggest that the proposition may only be the assumption of *"He"* (Chandler) and not a certain fact. Thus, the uncertainty in this data has the relation to context for weakening the certainty of the proposition.

Moreover, Chandler's utterance is a response to Ross' utterance, *"You guys seen Joey anywhere?"* Chandler actually knows where Joey is, but he does not tell Ross about it. Thus, Chandler may use the utterance to cover up what he knows in order to avoid getting involved in Ross' situation with Joey and Charlie because it is a personal matter.

Therefore, by covering up the truth as well as avoiding getting involved in Ross' problem, the hedge in this data may have the function as evasiveness. Moreover, the relation of the uncertainty of the proposition with the content makes the hedge classified as content-oriented.