A STUDY OF HEDGING EXPRESSIONS IN J. K. ROWLING'S NOVEL *HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE* AND ITS IMPLICATION TO TEACHING AND LEARNING CROSS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

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A Study of Hedging Expressions in J. K. Rowling's Novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* and Its Implication to Teaching and Learning Cross Cultural Understanding

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at describing the use of hedging found in all written expressions of J. K. Rowling's novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's* Stone. It is focused on describing its types, functions and meaning used in the different context by the characters of the novel. In the data collection, the data was gathered by using documentation analysis in which the data was taken into a note. The sample of this research was taken from the written conversation uttered by the characters. The result of the data analysis showed thatthe most frequently used type and function of hedging was Modal Auxiliary Verb and Hedging of Quality. It is caused that most of the character often makes a speculation, assumption, opinion or probability through their statement in which it is the signal that what they say is not completely true.

Keywords: *Hedging, pragmatic, novel, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language, as a means of communication, generally, has a function to communicate ones' intention to others. According to Leech (1974), language has several functions. The first is informational function. It is assumed to be the most important function. This function is used to give new information to people. The second is expressive function where its use is for expressing ones' feelings and attitudes such as swear words and exclamations. The third is directive function which functions to give a command and ask a request.

All of the functions above are mostly found in the daily conversation. However, it is not sometimes simply understood by the addressee since the words, phrases or sentences spoken by the addresser are not only looked upon from the literal meaning. It is often, in the conversation, that what the speaker or addresser says is different from what he or she actually intends to mean. Therefore, interlocutors need to have a good pragmatic competence. Pragmatic competence refers to the study of the speaker's meaning. It also refers to the ability to speak appropriately in particular context (Bachman, 1990).

In addition, there are some cases when the speakers utter some words, phrases or sentences in their statement with a lack of commitment or a lack of confidence deliberately. It is done because they are not really sure about their statement they utter. It can be seen also that people usually utter particular words, phrases or sentences in order to soften their statement. It is done for avoiding an irritating act to the hearers and shows a politeness to them. Furthermore, people

may use some words, phrases or sentences that indicate that they are not really interested in the topic of the conversation and they wish it to stop and change the topic. Hedging is a linguistic device (word, phrase, clause or sentence) that is often found in daily conversation. It is claimed that different people will use hedging differently in terms of frequency and purpose. It depends on the background knowledge of the people.

According to Schroder and Zimmer (1997), in pragmatic, it is claimed that the concept of hedging is related to politeness, mitigation and vagueness. For that reason, it can be stated that the function of hedging is to express or show politeness, vagueness, mitigation in people's utterances. And all the functions of hedging mentioned before are closely related to Grice's cooperative principle which is from the analysis of Yule in (1996) in which there are five function proposed. Those are, Hedging of Quality (to express doubt), Hedging of Quantity (to give less information), Hedging of Manner (to express obscurity) and Hedging of Relevance (to change the topic of the conversation) and politeness principle which is proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987) in which it is found one function that is Hedging of Politeness (to express politeness).

In each function mentioned above, hedging has several types where the types of it can belong to more than one function. According to Salager-Meyer (1997), there are seven types of hedging; they are, (1) modal auxiliary verb, (2) modal lexical verb, (3) adjectival, adverbial and nominal phrase, (4) approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time, (5) introductory phrase, (6) if clauses and (7) compound hedging.

It is interesting and important to know how hedging works in the daily conversation in term of its functions and types and context where or when it occurs. Moreover, hedging is frequently used in daily conversation around us. It is also worth to see how different people use hedging differently in the terms of its frequency and use and what factors cause it.

However, in this research, hedging was analyzed through the novel entitle *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. In other word, the data was taken from the conversation of the characters of the novel. This research examined, analyzed and described the types, the functions and meanings of hedging.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research. The data of this research are written conversation that contained hedging uttered by the characters of J. K. Rowling's Novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. In order to investigate the types, functions and meaning of hedging, they were collected and analyzed through documentation analysis in which they were taken into a note and put into a table. In this study, there are some step to analyzed the data such as collecting the data from the wriiten conversation, analyzing them to describe the types and functions and meanings of the data, explaining the data with the theories and reporting the data and adding some points of conclusions and suggestions.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the data were collected during the documentation analysis which provided in the form of table. The data were taken from the written conversation of J. K. Rowling's Novel *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Following the types of hedging identified by Salager-Meyer (1997), it is found that there are seven types of hedging. These are 1) Modal Auxiliary Verb, 2) Modal Lexical Verb, 3) Adverbial, Adjectival and Nominal Modal Phrase, 4) Approximator of Degree, Quantity, Frequency and Time, 5) Introductory Phrase, 6) If Clause and 7) Compound Hedge. In addition, there are found five functions of hedging in the conversation of the characters of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The functions of hedging found in the study are Hedging of Quality, Hedging of Quantity, Hedging of Manner, Hedging of Relevance and Hedging of Politeness. The functions of hedging were taken from the theory of Cooperative Principle from Yule's formulation (1996) and Politeness Principle from Brown and Levinson (1987).

A. The Types of Hedging

Table 1 shows the types of hedging and their occurrence used in the written conversation of the novel.

Type of Hedging	Occurrence
Modal Auxiliary Verb	117
Modal Lexical Verb	109
Adverbial, Adjectival and Nominal Modal Phrase	29

Approximator of Degree, Quantity, Frequency and Time	5
Introductory Phrase	40
If Clause	27
Compound Hedge	12
	339

The result shows that the number of the type of hedging used in the written conversation of the novel was 339. From the table shown, it is also found that there are two types of hedging which were frequently used by the characters in the novel: those are Modal Auxiliary Verb with 117 data and Modal Lexical Verb 109 data. It means that the characters in the novel frequently speculate, predict, give possibility and opinion, assume, doubt, and give conclusion to his statement or claim.

B. The Functions of Hedging

In table 2, it can be shown that the number of occurrence of the function of hedging is 358 in which one type of hedging can produce more than one function thus the occurrence of the function of hedging is greater than its type. It also can be seen that the hedging of quality is used the most by the characters of the novel. It means that chapter provided in the novel got the characters to speculate, assume, predict, speculate and give an opinion doubt and uncertainty, etc in their statement to indicate that what they are saying are not completely accurate or true. What the characters do the most in the conversation related to the function is

caused by the fact that the novel provides many mysteries hidden that got the characters to do so.

Table 2 shows the functions of hedging and their occurrence used in the written conversation of the novel.

Function of Hedging Cooperative Principle and Politeness Principle	Occurrence
Hedging of Quality	302
Hedging of Quantity	10
Hedging of Relevant	5
Hedging of Manner	4
Hedging of Politeness	37
	358

C. Hedging and Cross Cultural Understanding

It is also found that hedging is closely related to the culture of the characters who used the language. It is revealed that the characters of the novel (England) tend to use polite request or statement to the person they respect. It is also seen that this usage does not consider the social status of the person who they are talking to. It is revealed that every characters use it as they respect their partner in talk. In some case, they mock someone in polite way to mitigate their face-threatening act or utterance. It is showed that they mocked their partner in talk as they wanted to be respected. As the data shown, the character who has the higher status tend to do it as he or she wanted to get respected. The third is that they tend to give opinion as indirect to give their partner of talk a space to make their own perspective about their statement. This usage does not consider the social status of the person. The last is that it is seen that J. K. Rowling, as the

writer, can represent the usage of hedging from different social status of the characters even though she was from the lower status when she started writing this novel.

4. CONCLUSION

From the discussions that have been presented, it can be concluded that:

a. The two most common used (Modal Lexical Verb and Modal Auxiliary Verb) is in fact that the characters in the novel often speculate, predict, give possibility and opinion, assume, doubt, and give conclusion to his statement or claim.
b. The high use of Hedging of Quality is because the chapters provided in the novel got the characters to speculate, assume, predict, speculate and give an opinion doubt and uncertainty, etc in their statement to indicate that what they are saying are not completely accurate or true. What the characters do the most in the conversation related to the function is caused by the fact that the novel provides many mysteries hidden that got the characters to do so.
c. The use of hedging depends on their partner in talk and the culture adhered by the characters.

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