Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

Hedging is one of linguistic case found in daily conversation. It makes someone’s statement or utterance become fuzzy. As stated by Lakoff (in Hyland 1998), the notion of hedging is “words whose makes things more or less fuzzy”. In linguistic, it is used to qualify speaker’s confidence in the truth of proposition. It can be seen from the use of words ‘I think, Maybe, Perhaps’. In a more complete version of term, Fraser (2010:201) connects hedging with all means showing the lack of full commitment. Salager-Meyer (in Fauzi and Irigialati, 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 author’s in that research area. The other purpose is to increase the correctness in the author’s claim.

Hedging is usually used while there is between ‘yes’ and ‘no’. It shows an unwillingness to make a commitment to the truth of proportions (Hyland, 1998, p.3). Realizing that hedging is nowadays used by almost people in society, this study needs to look for how is hedging used among them. The use of hedging on daily conversation from one person to another is different too. It is caused by their background knowledge. People have their own way to express hedging on their daily conversation. Besides, the research about hedging mostly observed its use in
political discourse. They use political discourse for their study because there is much indirectness used by politicians to avoid directness, forthright answers of point (Fraser, 2010; Taweel et al, 2011). Numerous examples of neutral hedging are found. The neutral hedging means that there is no indication that it is being used for evasion or politeness purposes but rather conveying a lack of precision (Fraser, 2010). Even though they have done a research in political, they seem not concern about background of the politicians. Perhaps the researcher does almost not see this aspect, but it has big impact since all the politicians are not in the same background.

In the other research of hedging in the movie The King, seven kinds of hedging are usually used (Fauzi & Iragiliati, 2010). The use of hedges in dialogues of the movie mostly uses modal auxiliary verbs like would, should, may, might, should, could. Although this research observes about the use of hedging in the movie, especially in the four main characters, the researchers just analyze about hedging types used in the movie. They just analyze it from the use of hedging words uttered by the four main characters. In fact, those main characters have different way to express their feeling through their choice of hedging word. As stated before that every people have different way since they have different motives in doing hedging.

Based on the reviews above, the researcher has opportunity to observe about the use of hedging in a movie. Actually, every word of hedging has its own function. Hedging helps people who want to express their point of view in different way. For this research, the researcher uses the data of the movie entitled
Dear John produced in 2010. In this movie, there are male and female main characters. The researcher chooses this movie to be observed because there are dialogues between female and male main characters using hedging. One of the contexts of situations in this movie using hedging is when John talks to Savannah in front of bonfire. “I just think that you’re probably everybody’s type,” he said. He uses probably in order to avoid commitment if the statement that he just says is wrong.

The researcher will not only observe the use of hedging in the dialogues, but also see the function of each hedging uttered by main characters. As explained above, the researcher also sees the context of situation when hedging expression is uttered. Moreover, from this movie, the researcher also observes the way of each main character in expressing their thought through hedging. It can be seen from their choice of words while they are doing conversation. Then, the researcher also finds out the function of hedging that they have said.

B. Gap of Research
   a. There is no research which analyzes about the use of hedging in the movie considering about its function.
   b. Mostly, the researchers only focus on the use of hedging

C. Research Question

Based on the objective of the research, this research will observe the use of hedging in that movie. Then, the research questions will be formulated as follows:

   a. How do the characters express their hedging?
b. What kinds of hedging expression used by the characters?

c. What are the implicit reasons used by main characters while uttering hedging expressions in the movie?

D. Research Objectives

Based on the gap of research, this research try to analyze about the use of hedging in the movie entitled Dear John. The specific objectives in this research are:

   a. To find out the kinds of hedging word that are used in the movie
   b. To describe the use of hedging speech act uttered by the main characters
   c. To describe the functions applied by main characters when using hedging

E. Research Benefits

   This research hopefully can give the right result of the kinds of hedging words used in the movie. It is also hoped that this research can give complete representation of the use of hedging and its function in the society, which represents from the speech of each character in the movie entitled Dear John. Considering that the previous research had not been conducted a research analyzing about hedging in the movie which looks about its function, the research will show the new point of view in seeing the use of hedging.
F. Scope of the Research

This research is conducted to find out the kinds of hedging speech act employed by the main characters in the movie entitled *Dear John*. This research only focuses on the speeches employed by the main characters that contain hedge words.

G. Thesis Organization

This thesis is systematically arranged in five chapters as follows:

Chapter I is the Introduction. The introduction consists of Research Background, Research Questions, Research Objectives, Research Benefits, Scope of the Research, and Thesis Organization in this chapter.

Chapter II is Literature Review. It brings forward the related theories of the research. It explains about Pragmatics, Ethnography of Communication, Speech Act, Direct and Indirect Speech, Hedging, and Function of Hedging.

Chapter III contains the Research Methodology. It consists of the Research Method, Research Location, Sample and Sampling Technique, Data and Source of Data, Technique of Data Analysis, and Technique of Coding Data.

Chapter IV is Analysis. It consists of Data Analysis, Summary, and Discussion.
Chapter V consists of Conclusion and Suggestion.