

## Chapter 1

### Introduction

This chapter explains the basic consideration, problem statement, objective of the study, scope and limitation of the study, significant of study and also organization of the study.

#### Basic Consideration

In communication, people provide information, ideas, request, commands, express feeling, and others. People sometimes use hedges to express any ideas, but people often do not realize that their statement contains hedges. Hubler (1983,p.20) suggested that several hedges can be defined as signals of unsureness, like “*you know, I mean, I just think, maybe, and so on*”. According to Nugroho (2002, p. 17) “hedging is not popular as greeting, thanking, or leave-taking. It actually shows the certainty and accuracy of the things that are thought uncertain”.

Hyland (1998) suggested that hedges equated with the expression of tentativeness and possibility, while Markkanen (2000,p. 20) states “that hedging referred only to expressions such as *kind of, sort of or rather* which can be used to modify a degree of membership, for example the hedges “*kind*” in phrase “*a rose is kind of a flower*”, modifies the relationship between roses and flowers in general. However, the use of hedges is essential and has a significant role in social life as well as in academic and professional life.

In addition, the way people talk is different from each other, so hedges are also used differently in different situation. Thus, I used function of hedges are

based on Coates's (1996) theory to find the function of hedges. Four functions of hedges that are used are expressing doubt and confidence, sensitivity to others' feeling, searching for the right word and avoiding playing expert. To classify types of hedges, I used Salager-Meyer (1997) Classification. It consist of seven types of hedges that are modal auxiliary, modal lexical verbs, adjectival, adverbial and nominal modal phrases, approximators of degree, introductory phrases, if clause, and compound hedges.

In this study, I used Oprah Winfrey's Talk Show '**J. K. Rowling's Interview**' as the source to investigate types and functions of hedges.

J.K. Rowling, born on July 31, 1965 in Chipping Sodbury England. She is of *Harry Potter* children's book series that took over the top three slots of *The New York Times* best-seller list. J. K. Rowling is the first billionaire author in history, selling more than four-hundred million books around the world. Harry's final chapter the *Deathly Hallows*, is the fastest-selling book of all time.

*The Oprah Winfrey Show* and its host are the most influential talk shows in television history. Her book club makes celebrities of authors and when she turns the spotlight on an issue, that issue makes headlines. The woman gets things done and she does it in an entertaining and enthralling way

In this study, I was interested in J.K. Rowling's interview since she is the one of inspiring woman nowadays. In addition, Oprah Winfrey`s show is a reality show that provides examples of hedges and the conversation that can be implemented in today's daily conversation. In this study, I took the utterances that are produced by J.K Rowling only. Thus, in my opinion, the study of hedges is

significant as well as interesting. The readers also will see the types and function of hedges used by J.K. Rowling's interview.

### **Problem Statement**

The problem statement of this study is "what types and functions of hedges can be found in J.K. Rowling's interview with Oprah Winfrey Show?"

### **The Objective of Study**

The objective study is to reveal types and functions that cause hedges in 'J.K. Rowling's interview' with Oprah Winfrey.

### **Scope and limitation of the study**

The scope of the study is spoken discourse analysis study focusing on hedges word used in J.K Rowling in Oprah Winfrey show. The data were taken from the talk show in 'J.K. Rowling' interview of *Oprah Winfrey*. The study is limited to investigate J.K. Rowling's utterances in the interview.

### **Significance of the study**

This study, will give the readers some explanations on the use of hedges and functions of hedges in order to enrich the reader's knowledge in relation to hedges word. By understanding the types and functions of hedges, the students of Speaking class also gain benefit since sometimes they have to use hedges in the conversation

From the study, hopefully the readers can be informed about the knowledge of hedges, especially how the hedges words are used in daily conversation among people. This study also can be used as reference in Discourse subject.

## **Definition of Terms**

- Hedges are linguistic forms such as *I think, I'm sure, you know, sort of and perhaps* which express the speaker's certainty or uncertainty about the proposition under discussion. (Coates, 1996)
- Hedging means the act of hedged. It is the way people express their uncertainty about something or state something uncertain. (Nugroho,2002)
- Types of hedges are concerned with the categorization or classification of hedges. They are modal auxiliary verbs, modal lexical verbs, adjectival, adverbial and nominal modal phrases, approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time, introductory phrases, if clauses, and compound hedges. (Salager-Meyer, 1997)
- Functions of hedges are concerned with the meaning or purpose of using hedges. They are expressing doubt and confidence, sensitivity to others' feeling, searching for the right word and avoiding playing expert.