

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is the tool that is used for conveying ideas, concept, messages, and feeling from the language transmitter to the language receiver. According to Hornby (1995:662), language as the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thought and feelings. Another theory also comes from the Webster's New College Dictionary (1981:641) language is a systematic means of communicating ideas or feeling by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gesture, or marks having understood meanings. It means that language has various types which is using to convey message, with the result that the aim of the language could be clearly understand.

Because language is very related with message of language delivering, it concludes that language is an important thing in communication. Communication itself means a social activity which requires coordinated efforts of two or more individuals (Wardhaugh, 1992:15) . Another definition of communication is also stated by Fiske (1990:1), Fiske said that communication is one of those human activities that everyone recognizes but few can define satisfactorily. In communicating, the message of language that transmit from language transmitter could be deliver in various language types. One type of language is written language. Written language is the system of grammatical means employed for the purpose of producing written utterances acceptable in the given language community (Vachek : Josef 1973). A kind of written language is gossip.

Based on meriam webster dictionary the simple definition of gossip is the information about the behavior and personal lives. According to Gerot and Wignell (1994), gossip does not only give information to the reader as the social function of information news genre, but also gives opinion within the text,

similar to the social function of exposition, discussion, or narrative genre. Nowadays, gossip could be found in magazine, newspaper, gossip tv programs, until gossip website.

In writing gossip articles, the writer usually uses technical terms that used for minimizing wrong opinions from the writer. That technical terms call hedges. Hedges can be found in pragmatic theory. Lakoff (1972 : 54) states that hedges is words whose job it is to make things more or less fuzzy.

The data of this research is downloaded from buzzfeed.com. It is a kind of gossip news articles website . Buzzfeed.com contains with a lot of gossip articles from celebrities, politicians, and much of the latest issues from holywood lifestyle. The writer of Buzzfeed gossip website uses hedges in this website gossip articles.

In this research, the researcher is interested in the hedges that contain in gossip articles from buzzfeed.com. The main topic of the gossip articles is “Kesha VS Dr.Luke”. “Kesha VS Dr. Luke” gossip articles is reporting about Kesha sex and mentally abusing by Dr. Luke, her music producer for years since she was eighteen years old. Even the topic of those articles containing with sex and mentally abusing, hedges makes those articles more politely to read and minimize the wrongfully accusation. That is the researcher’s reason to examine the hedges used in buzzfeed.com “Kesha VS Dr. Luke” gossip articles and to proof those gossip articles has the reasons of using hedges along with hedges taxonomies.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The statement of the problem in this research can be stated as follows:

1. What are the types of hedges used in “ Kesha VS Dr.Luke” gossip articles from buzzfeed.com ?

2. What is the dominant type of hedges used in “Kesha VS Dr. Luke” gossip articles from buzzfeed.com ?
3. What are the reasons of using hedges in “Kesha VS Dr.Luke” gossip articles from buzzfeed.com?

1.3 Scope Of The Study

Scope of the study is used to keep this research in a track and to avoid the overlapping of data analysis. It can be stated as follows :

1. This research is focused in “Kesha VS Dr.Luke” gossip articles from buzzfeed.com. As the data of this research, the gossip articles that was downloaded from Buzzfeed.com is focusing in sexual and mental abuse case. That case was taken from Buzzfeed.Com gossip articles with the headline “ Kesha vs Dr.Luke “. That headline is reporting about a pop singer “Kesha” with her famous single “ tik- tok “ who has been a victim of sexual and mentally abusing by her music producer Lukasz Gottwald “ Dr. Luke” for years since she was at age 18.
2. This research is focused to find the hedges used and the reasons of using hedges in “Kesha VS Dr.Luke” gossip articles from buzzfeed.com by using the framework proposed by Irigiliati (2007) and Salager – Myer (1997).

1.4 Objective of the Study

According to the statement of the study of this research, the objectives of the study can be stated as follows :

1. To find out the type of hedges used in “Kesha VS Dr.Luke” gossip articles from buzzfeed.com. The hedges used which has function to make those gossip articles more or less understandable for the readers.
2. To find out the dominant type of hedges used in “Kesha VS Dr. Luke” gossip articles.

3. To find out the reasons of using hedges in “Kesha VS Dr.Luke” gossip articles from buzzfeed.com. The reasons why using hedges is needed in those gossip articles.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this research is expected to give contribution for the readers, Dian nuswantoro university library, and everyone who wants to examine about hedges:

1. For the readers

The researcher is expected the readers know about hedges used and the reasons of using hedges more deeply.

2. Dian Nuswantoro University

It is expected that this research would be part of literature collection in the Dian Nuswantoro University and help other students in understanding hedges, taxonomies of hedges, and the reasons of using hedges.

3. Other students who are interested in analyzing taxonomies of hedges and the reasons of using hedges more deeply or hedges as their research. The researcher try to give another example the hedges used research, if the other students is also interest to analyze the hedges used.

1.6 Thesis Organization

For making the readers easily to understand this thesis is composed systematically. In this thesis, the chapters is divided into five chapters and followed by thesis organization in fisrt chapter.

The first chapter is Introduction. In this introduction chapter consist of background of the study, scope of the study, statement of the problem, scope of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, and thesis organization.

The second chapter is review of related literature. Review of related literature chapter is arranged with the brief explanation about the theories which are supporting in analyze the data of this thesis.

The third chapter is research method. This chapter is explaining and discussing about research design, unit of analysis, technique of data collection, and the technique of data analysis.

The fourth chapter is data analysis chapter presents about the data analysis from thesis data "Kesha VS Dr.Luke" gossip articles.

The last chapter is the conclusion of this thesis. Beside the conclusion of this thesis , this chapter is also discussing about the suggestion from the researcher for the next related research.