



HEDGES USED BY SAKI IN THE PEACE OFFERING SHORT STORY

JOURNAL ARTICLE

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By:

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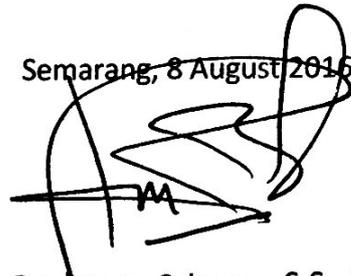
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ABSTRACT

Amin Manjaya. 2016. **Hedges Used by Saki in the Peace Offering Short Story**. English Study Program, Dian Nuswantoro University Semarang. Advisor: Setyo Prasiyanto Cahyono, S.S., M.Pd.,

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Hedges are used to convey meaning, ideas, and attitude for someone. Generally, they are used in the spoken form. Eventually, there will be differences style between speaking and writing forms. As Vande Kople states that hedges are viewed showing lack of full commitment to the propositional content of an utterance. Speaker can use hedges to bargain their offerings to the hearer. The degree of probability can be shown in the hedges through the word: **can, could, would, should, seem, etc.** The authors may use hedges in their stories in order to make readers wanders within the stories. The aim of this study is to reveal the types and to describe the reason the hedges used in the characters of this short story. Moreover, this study wants to reveal the reason of hedges used in this short story. "The Peace Offering" is one of the short stories written by Saki. Saki has a lot of works which famous in the literary works. The data is selected from the book entitled Chronicles of Clovis. The steps to analyze the data are searching the data from the internet, reading the short story, finding the hedges, classifying the types of hedges, and finding the reason why the authors used those hedges within character's utterances. The result shows that the types of hedges also used in those short story. The mostly hedges used are modal auxiliary verbs, such as **might, can, could, would, and should**. The other types of hedges belong to adjectival, adverbial, and nominal modal phrase; approximators of degree, quantity, frequency, and time; and compound hedges. The reasons why the author used those hedges are showing the character meet the style of writing and short stories to show the reader how the reader speaking and writing form this shot story.

INTRODUCTION

Language especially spoken language is an important tool to conduct communication, exchange ideas, knowledge, belief, options, wishes, threats, commands, thanks, promises, declaration and feelings between people in the daily life. According to Holmes (2001:3) “languages provide a variety of ways of saying the same thing – addressing and greeting others, describing things, paying compliments”. People can laugh to express amusement, happiness, or disrespect, we can *smile* to express amusement, pleasure, approval, or bitter feelings, we can *shriek* to express anger, excitement, or fear. Language as mentioned above has the properties of productivity and simplicity. Productivity is the accordance with the diversity of objective things, while simplicity is the contradiction to the abundance of things.

According to Hornby (1995:662) language is the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thoughts and feelings. Halliday (1978:21) also adds that language has function to express our participation, as speakers, in the speech situation; the roles we take on ourselves and impose on others; our wishes, feelings, attitudes and judgments. That is why people may say the same thing to different people in different ways.

However, People sometimes hesitate in conducting and sharing their ideas through spoken language. There are some reasons why people make this hesitation. The hesitation makes their utterances are not well accepted. People used to think that conducting communication is an exchange idea between people, however spoken language performs a variety of other tasks, too. These tasks of language are divided into two categories, which is one covering the exchange of information and the other interpersonal aspects of communication. It means when we are speaking, we don't only convey meaning but also carry interpersonal messages. According (Nikula 1997: 188) hedging is one way of conveying interpersonal messages in spoken interaction which enables speakers to soften the force of their utterances in order to make them more acceptable to the interlocutor. To be successful in conducting communication, the speakers must have an ability to “control the level of personality in their utterances. Hedge is such a central strategy in maintaining interpersonal relations, therefore hedge can be assumed to be found in all languages. In today's world, where communication across language boundaries has become an everyday practice, this can create problems for many.

In this study, there will be a focus on hedges theory. Hedges are used to show politeness way in delivering their idea to others. It is also related with the theory Brown/Levinson that states hedges are mainly used for negative politeness in face-saving, in which they are put to elaborate use. In positive politeness they figure only in expressions of extremes, like marvellous and appalling which are typical of

this form of politeness “safely vague” because they leave it to the addressee to figure out how to interpret them.

Hector Hugh Munro, better known by the pen name Saki, was a British writer, whose witty and sometimes macabre stories satirized Edwardiansociety and culture. He is considered a master of the short story andis often compared to O. Henry and Dorothy Parker. His tales feature delicatelydrawn characters and finely judged narratives. "The Open Window"may be his most famous, with a closing line ("Romance at short notice was her specialty") that has entered the lexicon. In addition to hisshort stories (which were first published in newspapers, as was the customof the time, and then collected into several volumes) he also wrote a full-length play, *The Watched Pot*, in collaboration with Charles Maude;two one-act plays; a historical study, *The Rise of the Russian Empire*, theonly book published under his own name; a short novel, *The Unbearable. Bassington*; the episodic *The Westminster Alice* (a Parliamentary parodyof *Alice in Wonderland*), and *When William Came*, subtitled *A Story of London under the Hohenzollerns*, an early alternate history. He was influencedby Oscar Wilde, Lewis Carroll, and Kipling, and himself influencedA. A. Milne, Noël Coward, and P. G. Wodehouse.

The used hedge in the reader’s letters will make the sentences understandable and besides that, it will make help the writers write their letters politely. That is the reason why the researchers are interested in analyzing hedges in the short story.

RESEARCH METHOD

Data and subject

The data were taken fromEntitled*The Peace Offering* in the book of the *Chronicles of Clovis* by Saki (1911).

Unit of Analysis

The unit of the analysis of this research focused on the hedges used in the short story by Saki “*The Peace Offering*” to describe the hedges used in the characters of this short story and reveal the reason of hedges used in this short story.

Technique of Data Collection and Analysis

Searching the data from the internet the *Chronicles of Clovis* by Saki (1911). In this part of data collection, the researcher searched the data which were found in the internet on Monday, January 19 2015. After that the researcher Read the short story “*The Peace Offering* by Saki to understand the types hedges used in the short story and then analyzing the short story by the hedges used

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

Table 4.1 is the finding of the transitivity choices used by Sumarni as the main In this part the researcher discusses the findings of hedges produced by Saki in “The Peace Offering” Short Story. It can be seen in table 4.1 below:

NO	TYPES OF HEDGES	Σ	%
1	Modal Auxiliary Verb	14	53.84 %
2	Modal Lexical Verbs	3	11.52%
3	Adj., Adverb, & Nominal Modal Phrases	2	7.7%
4	Introductory Phrases	3	11.52%
5	If Clauses, if anything	3	11.52%
6	Compound hedges	1	3.9%
Total		26	100

Table 4.1 reveals that the total number of hedges found in “The Peace Offering” Short Story produced by the main character name Saki is 26 occurrences. The character of this short story is fond of using Modal Auxiliary Verbs as one type of hedges with the frequency of 14(53.84%). The next considerable type of hedges found in this story is the category of Modal lexical verb, introductory Phrases and if clause which appears 3 (11.53%). Share quite similar number in the story that is if clause 3 (11.53%). On the other hand, the writers of short story seem to reluctantly use; compound hedges, approximators of degree, quantity, frequency, and time; Adjective, Adverbial and Nominal Modal Phrases, since each of them appears less than 10%. For the brief description and analysis it can be seen in the following discussion.

Discussion

In this part, the researcher discusses about the description each finding of hedges produces by Saki in a short of “The Peace Offering”. For the brief the explanation it can be seen in the description below.

Modal auxiliary verbs

Modal auxiliary verbs are the most straightforward and widely used means of expressing modality in English academic writing, the tentative ones being: *may, might, can, could, would, should*.

Excerpt 1

I thought a play of some kind **would** be an excellent opportunity for bringing people together again, and giving them something to think of besides tiresome political squabbles.

It can be seen in the bold of word modal auxiliary verb above. There is one modal auxiliary verb found in the short story is *would*. This modal auxiliary verb indicates that there is something express condition Barrones saying to the Levis about the sentence talking about. Meanwhile it also believed that the word part of modal auxiliary verb.

Modal lexical verbs

Modal lexical verb (or so called 'speech act verb' used to perform act such as doubting and evaluating rather than they merely describing) of varying degree of illocutionary force: to seem, to appear (epistemic verbs), to believe, to assume, to suggest, to estimate, to tend, to thing, to argue, to indicate, to propose, to speculate, although a wide range of verbs can be used in this way (Banks, 1994), there tends to be heavy reliance on the above-mentioned examples especially in academic writing.

Excerpt 11

Still, it must have been fairly galling to have herturning up after every catastrophe with a conscious air of 'perhaps anothertime you'll **believe** what I say.'

According the excerpt above, modal lexical verb is *believe*. It indicates to accept or regard something is true what Clovis said.

Adjectival, adverbial, and nominal modal phrases

These forms of hedges include probably adjectives: possible, probable un/likely. Adverbs which could be considered as non-verbal nouns: there are perhaps, possibly, probably, practically, likely, presumable, virtually, apparently. The last one noun: assumption, claim, possibility, estimate, suggestion. The examples of the short story by Saki there are hedges in the form of adjectival, adverbial, and nominal modal phrases can be seen in the examples below:

Excerpt 13

"Dear no. Agamemnon was the father of grown-up children, and **probably** wore a beard and looked prematurely aged. I shall be his charioteer or bath-attendant, or something decorative of that kind. We must do everything in the Sumurun manner, you know."

According to the excerpt 13 above, *probably* that Agamemnon almost likely wore a beard and looked prematurely aged.

Introductory Phrases

Introductory phrases can be realized thought phrases such as: I believe, to our knowledge, it is our view that, we feel that, which express the author's personal doubt and direct involvement.

The example is part of hedges in the form of introductory phrases used in the short story can be seen in the following examples:

Excerpt 15

*"I **suppose** you rush into your lover's arms. That is where one of the flying leaps will come in."*

According to the excerpt 15 above, it can be seen in the bold of the word introductory phrases above. There is an introductory phrase found in the short story is found **suppose**. This is an introductory phrase something to hold as an opinion seems reasonable to suppose that the story would profit.

If Clause

This is usually realized through the use of following phrases if true and if anything. The example is part of hedges in the form of *if clause* used in the short story can be seen in the following examples:

Excerpt 16

"I see woe for this fair country **if** the brood of corrupt, self-seeking, unscrupulous, unprincipled politicians"

Based on the excerpt 16 above, there is part of hedges in the form of if clause. It means that talk about the effect woe for this fair country the brood of corrupt, self-seeking, unscrupulous, unprincipled politicians.

Compound Hedges

These are phrases made up of several hedges, the commonest forms being: A modal auxiliary combined with a lexical verb with a hedging content (e.g., it would appear) and a lexical verb followed by a hedging adverb or adjective where the adverb (or adjective) reinforces the hedge already inherent in the lexical verb (e.g., it seems reasonable/probable). Such compound hedges can be double hedges (it may suggest that; it seems likely that; it would indicate that; this probably indicates); treble hedges (it seems reasonable to assume that); quadruple hedges (it would seem somewhat unlikely that, it may appear somewhat speculative that), and so on. The example is part of hedges in the form of *if caluse* used in the short story can be seen in the following examples:

Excerpt 18

The getting-up and rehearsing of the play ***seemed likely*** to cause, in a restricted area, nearly as much heart-burning and ill-feeling as the election petition.

Based on excerpt 18, there is part of hedges in the form of compound hedges. There are two hedges above of sentence. Modal lexical verb and adjectival modal it means that, the priority getting-up and rehearsing of the play.

Reason for Hedging

Hedges are used for some purposes. There are 4 reasons of hedging that can reveal from the finding:

Minimize the “threat-to-face”

Which avoid personal accountability for statements as understatements used to convey evasiveness, tentativeness, and fuzziness, mitigation of responsibility and or mitigation of certainly to the truth value of a proposition. For example, in the following is:

Our result ***seems to suggest*** that in Third World countries the extensive use of land to grow exportation products ***tends*** to impoverish these countries populations even more.

Be a way of being more precise in reporting results

Hedges are most in linguistics resource which conveys the fundamental characteristics of science or doubt and skepticism. One of the most important aspects of scientific discourse is to weigh evidence and draw conclusions from the data.

*I **thought** a play of some kind **would** be an excellent opportunity for bringing people together again, and giving them something to think of besides tiresome political squabbles. (The Peace Offering by Saki)*

Be positive or negative politeness strategies

Hedges can be used to reflect a polite and diplomatic disagreement (as well as agreement), or it might also display genuine uncertainty on the speaker's part.

*Still, it must have been fairly galling to have herturning up after every catastrophe with a conscious air of 'perhaps anovertime you'll **believe** what I say.'*"(The Peace Offering by Saki)

Conform to an established writing style

Writing is different in some tones that writing needs to be lexically dense and the writer should be aware of writing mechanics and style. Writing is not speaking written down. It gives more emphasize on the formal characterization than speaking. Hedges can be used to meet the condition. Moreover, this established style of writing arose as a consequence of the combination of the needs and stimuli mentioned in definitions 1, 2, and 3 above. A totally unhedged style would not be considered seriously by journal editors.

It should be made clear at this stage that it is difficult to be sure in any particular instance which of the four above mentioned concepts is extended or need we assume that the author of hedged utterances always know why they hedge their statements in the first place.

Conclusion

For the analysis on the previous chapter, researcher draws conclusion as follows: hedges in the short story written by Saki almost used to show politeness way in delivering their idea to others. It is also related with the theory Brown/Levinson that states hedges are mainly used for negative politeness in face-saving, in which they are put to elaborate use. In positive politeness they figure only in expressions of extremes, like marvellous and appalling which are typical of this form of politeness "safely vague" because they leave it to the addressee to figure out how to interpret them.

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Based on the findings it can be said the short story produced by the main characters name Saki has more certainty in writing.

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