CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

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 their 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 Edwardian society and culture. He is considered a master of the short story and is often compared to O. Henry and Dorothy Parker. His tales feature delicately drawn 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 his short stories (which were first published in newspapers, as was the custom of 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, the only book published under his own name; a short novel, The Unbearable. Bassington; the episodic The Westminster Alice (a Parliamentary parody of Alice in Wonderland), and When William Came, subtitled A Story of London under the Hohenzollerns, an early alternate history. He was influenced by Oscar Wilde, Lewis Carroll, and Kipling, and himself influenced A. 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.

1.2 Statement of the problem

In line with the reasons described in the background, the research question can be formulated as follows:

1. What types of hedges used by Saki as the writer in a short story entitle *peace offering* short story?
2. What are the reasons of Saki as the writer using hedges in his utterances?

1.3 Objective of the study

Based on the research questions given above, the objective of the study can be stated as follows:

1. To reveal the types of hedges used by Saki as the writer in a short story entitle *peace offering* short story.
2. To describe the reason of hedges used by Saki as the writer in a short story entitle *peace offering* short story.

1.4 Scope of the study

This research is conducted based on the pragmatics point of view; the analysis is about the hedges used in short story "the peace offering" by Saki. So the scope of the analysis of the research focuses on the hedges used by the charcters in the short story.

1.5 Significant of the study

Hopefully, this research gives some contribution to Dian Nuswantoro University especially faculty of Humanity that this study will give guidance in using hedges to conduct communication. I also wish that it will help anyone who reads this research especially those who study English.

1.6 Thesis organization

This thesis is organized into five chapters, there are consist of the following:

Chapter 1: Introduction. This chapter discusses about the background of study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope of the study, significant of the study and the last is thesis organization.

Chapter 2: Review of related literature. This chapter consists of the theory of languages, pragmatics, hedges theories, and short story.

Chapter 3: This chapter consists of research method, type of research, unit of analysis, source of data, techniques of data collection and techniques of data analysis.

Chapter 4: Data analysis. This chapter consists of the data processing and explaining the result of the research.

Chapter 5: Conclusions. This chapter explains about the result of the analysis.