HEDGES USED BY THE WRITERS IN READERS' LETTER OF THE JAKARTA POST

Thesis

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BY:

**WIKEN GLADYSIA
(C11.2009.01057)**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DIAN NUSWANTORO UNIVERSITY
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PAGE OF APPROVAL

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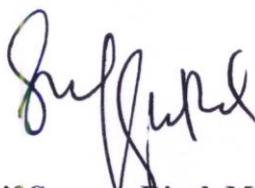
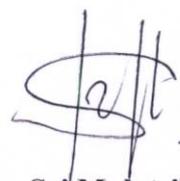Chairperson

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Second Examiner

Sarif Syamsu Rizal, M.Hum.

Advisor

Dra. Sri Mulatsih, M.Pd.

Approved by:
Dean of Faculty of Humanities

Achmad Basari, S.S., M.Pd.

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STATEMENT OF ORGINALITY

I hereby certify that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Opinions or findings of others included in this thesis are quoted or citied with respect to ethical standard.

Semarang, 17 February 2014

Wiken Gladysia

MOTTO

"As you become more clear about who you really are, you'll be better able to decide what is best for you – the first time around."

(Oprah Winfrey).

"It's not what you do once in a while, it's what you do day in and day out that makes the difference."

(Jenny Craig).

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.

(Bill Cosby).

Success has a simple formula: do your best, and people make like it.

(Sam Ewing).

The future you see is the future you get.

(Robert G Allen, Business, Finance & Motivational Author).

Success is a state of mind. If you want success, start thinking of yourself as a success.

(Dr. Joyce Brothers).

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

- ❖ My Almighty God (Allah SWT),

- ❖ My Prophet Muhammad SAW and his family,

- ❖ My greatest grandparents Eyangkung and Eyangti,

- ❖ My beloved parents Papa Wartono and Mama Sriwidjajanti,

- ❖ My beloved sister Grafica Bella,

- ❖ My beloved brother Andro Bugy Prayoga,

- ❖ My self,

- ❖ All my family,

- ❖ All my dearest friends,

- ❖ All people around me who love and care about me

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Hopefully, this thesis will be useful for the readers, especially for the students of English Department of the Faculty of Humanities Dian Nuswantoro University. It can be a reference book to get the information about hedges.

Furthermore, I do realize that due to my limited ability, this thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore I welcome any suggestions, comments and criticisms.

Semarang, 17 February 2014

Wiken Gladysia

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ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled *Hedges Used by The Writers in the Reader's Letters of the Jakarta Post*. This research has two objectives of the study. The first is to find out the taxonomy of hedges used by the writers in the readers' letter of the Jakarta Post. The second is to find out the reasons for hedging used by the writers in the readers' letter of the Jakarta Post.

This research employs a qualitative research design. It describes the types of hedges in the writers found in the Readers' Letter of The Jakarta Post on July 3 and 6, 2013 Edition. The unit of the analysis of this research is hedges produced by the writers in Readers' Letter which were taken from The Jakarta Post on July 3 and 6, 2013 Edition.

The findings show that Nicholas Herriman made the highest number in producing hedges in his writing with 48.97% or equal to 24 hedges. Then, it is followed by Sonita Lontoh with 18.36% or 9 hedges. Meanwhile, both Iaon Voicu and Sun Xi's have a similar place with 16.32% or 8 hedges for each. Based on the finding, it can be said that the writers named Sun Xi and Nicholas Herriman has more uncertainty in writing their comment dealing with the topic of the discussion of the newspaper. They tend to use some hedges to express their messages. In addition, their cultural background also influence to the way they write. The writers named Sun Xi and Nicholas Herriman tend to be more careful in writing because they consider some words which might hurt the reader's feeling when they read the letter's comments. Meanwhile, the writers named Sonita Lontoh and Ioan Voicu tend to be less careful so they write with their own ways and they always use their own language that is English both spoken and written. So, it can be said that the writers named Sonita Lontoh and Ioan Voicu can use English without any hesitation.

Keyword: Hedges, Newspaper, Readers' Letters

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human is said to be a social creature if she/he is able to interact with others. In interaction human requires a device called a language to convey their intentions and goals. Language is very important in communication because with it human could convey their intention and goal to another easily and become more understandable. Communication is the exchange and flow of information and idea from one person to another. Wardhaugh (1992:15) states that "communication is a social activity which requires coordinated efforts of two or more individuals". Communication deals with social activity which involves more than one person. It usually occurs between the speaker and the hearer (receiver)". People cannot communicate without any tool of communication. They need language to communicate with others. It is important because without it they will have difficulties in transferring information to the others. Generally language is divided into two main parts: written language and spoken language. Written language is as important as spoken language. It is the language used in all written form of communication.

Communication is a process that allows organism to exchange several methods. Communication can be done in oral or written form. Basically, all people need to have communication to each other to convey what they want to achieve, whether in informal or formal situations. Communication among people

are possible because such knowledge is shared with others, although how it is shared (or even how it is acquired) is not well understood. When one speak, he must constantly make choices of many different kinds: what he wants to say, how he wants to say it, and the specific sentence types, words, and sounds that best unite the what and the how. Fiske (1990:1) said that communication is one of those human activities that everyone recognizes but few can define satisfactorily. Communication as a social interaction through messages in its own way.

It is known that communication does not only happen in individuals but also in organization. It can be seen that most organizations communicate to one another in order to achieve the goals. These goals can be achieved successfully from how good the communication has been done, because by doing good communication the organization will develop well in its interaction. Gumperz in Wardhaugh (1992:15), stated the definition of communication as follows:

Communication is a social activity which requires coordinated efforts of two or more individuals. Communication deals with social activity which involves more than one person. It usually occurs between the speaker and the hearer (receiver).

In communicating with others, people usually use language as a means of communication; whether it is a spoken language, written language or sign language. Through the use of language, interaction or communication between people becomes easier. It gives greater benefit when they interact by using the same language. Based on the Webster's New College Dictionary (1981:641), the

definition of language is a systematic means of communicating ideas or feeling by the use of conventionalized signs, sounds, gesture, or marks having understood meanings. Another definition of language is stated by Hornby (1995:662), who defines language as the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thought and feelings. From those two definitions, the key word of language function is to express thought and feelings. In conducting this communication, people need strategies when they are communicating. One of the strategies is by using Face Saving Act Strategy or in other words, avoids Face Threatening Acts. In this situation, hedges are often used. (Hayland, 2000), Collins's opinion quoted by Markkanen (2000:1) explains: If you hedge against something unpleasant or unwanted that might affect you, you do something which will protect you from it. If you hedge or hedge a problem or question you avoid answering the question or committing yourself to a particular action or decision.

The use of hedges in the readers's letters will make the sentences understandable and besides that, it will make help the writers write their letter politely. That is the reason why, the researcher are interested in analyzing hedges in both native and non native writer because the researcher wants to know the difference of hedges used by the native and non native writers' writings in the citizen jurnalism of the Jakarta Post. According to Jubhari (2009), In western culture in this case Australia, they usually do not pay attention much to the structure of writing, but they need to convey the message appropriately. Meanwhile, in eastern culture they usually carry about the structure of writing to respect the readers and the message can be understood easily.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

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

1. What are the taxonomies of hedges used by Native and Non Native Writers in the readers' letter?

2. What are the reasons of hedging used by Native and Non native writers in the readers' letter?

1.3 Scope of the Study

In order to keep the research stays in its track and focuses on the matter of what the researcher tries to investigate, the scope of the study should be formulated. This can avoid the unnecessary or overlapping data analysis. The scopes of the study of this research are as follows:

1. The analysis is focused on the native and non native writer in the the readers' letter of the Jakarta Post on Thursday, July 11, 2013 edition.

2. The analysis is focused on the taxonomy and the reasons for hedging using the theory of taxonomy and four reasons for hedging by Françoise Salager-Meyer.

1.4 Objective of the Study

Objective of the study and the statement of the study should go linear in a research. 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 taxonomy of hedges used by the native and non native writers in the readers' letter of the Jakarta Post.

2. To find out the reasons for hedging used by the native and non native writers in the readers' letter of the Jakarta Post.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the study is expected to give contribution for the following person and institution as follows:

1. Readers of this thesis.

   This research is expected to make the readers know about hedges more deeply. The writer also gives reference for further study and helps the reader understand about hedges.

2. Dian Nuswantoro University.

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

3. Other students who are interested in analyzing hedges.

   Considering that there is no previous research written by students in Dian Nuswantoro University which analyzed hedges, the writer tries to give reference for further study and hopefully there will be more research about hedges in Dian Nuswantoro Unversity.

1.6 Thesis Organization

In order to present this thesis systematically in accordance to writing principles and to make it easy for the readers to understand the content of the thesis, it is presented in five chapters with the following thesis organization.

The first chapter is Introduction. It consists of Background of the study, statements of the problem, scope of the study, objective of the study, significances of the study, and thesis organization.

Review of Related Literature, exposed in the second chapter. This chapter is arranged to support and direct the researcher in analyzing the data of the problem.

The third chapter is Research Method that begins with the method used in this research. This chapter contains five sub-chapters: research Design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis.

The next chapter is the fourth chapter. This chapter covers the Data Analysis. It presents research finding and discussion.

The last chapter is the conclusion. It also presents suggestions from the researcher related to the subject being analyzed.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter contains some brief explanation of theories used as the bases for doing the analysis in this thesis. The theories used in this study are linguistic. pragmatics, development of the term hedges, taxonomy of hedgesand readers' letter. The complete discussions of each theory above are given in the following subchapters.

2.1 Lingistics

Linguistics is the science of languages. It is generally a descriptive discipline rather than a prescriptive one, which means that linguists do not lay down hard and fast rules about how to use a certain language, but rather concentrate on describing the rules which (especially native) speakers seem to have internal used. Apart from this, there are various different ways of 'doing' linguistics. For example, we can concentrate on language as used at a certain point of time e.g. in 1989; this is called synchronic linguistics. Alternatively, we can look at language from a diachronic point of view, which involves analyzing the development of a language during a certain period of time e.g. during Middle English, or in the 1950s etc. Linguistics is a science which can either be studied in a theoretical or a more applied way. For example, someone may be interested in finding out exactly how questionsare formed in English (theoretical). Once this is known the knowledge could be applied e.g. to language teaching thereby (hopefully) enabling teachers and pupils to learn the language more effectively.

The branch of linguistics devoted to the study of the theoretical bases for describing language and methods of investigating linguistic phenomena. General linguistics also studies the connection between linguistics and other fields of learning, including dialectical materialism, logic, and psychology (language represents consciousness in action). In addition, it studies the connection between linguistics and historical materialism, as the development of language is conditioned by the structure of society and social processes. General linguistics also studies the relationship between linguistics and semiotics (language is the most universal system of signs used by society), as well as the connection between linguistics and physiology and acoustics (language is materialized and embodied in the sounds of speech).

Language has been very important for our life in the world. This is because the language is used as a means of communication. It is needed for human being to exchange information, good and services. In other words, language is a means of interaction. It is produced to convey expression of our feeling and thought. Hyland (2004: 26) defines language related to genre as special purpose is system of choices by which writers can communicate certain functions, allowing then to express their experiences of the world, to interact with others, and to create coherent message. Language that we use to communicate occurs in daily activity as a text. Macken (1990 : 6) states language occurs in the form of a whole text, as a meaningful event which is made coherent by inter-meshing with all aspects of the social context in which it is produced.

One feature of linguistics is a dual approach to the study of language a structural and social approach engendered by the very nature of language. From the standpoint of structural linguistics, general linguistics studies language as an integrated structure (consisting of interrelated and interacting phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactical, pragmatics and other systems), with internal rules specific to each language (N. S. CHEMODANOV). Based on theory above, one of them is pragmatics as the theory of linguistics.

2.2 Pragmatics

The modern usage of term pragmatics is attributable to the philosoper Charles Morris (1938:6), who was concerned to outline (after Locke and Peirce) the general shape of a science of signs or semiotics. Within semiotics, Morris distinguished three distinct branches of inquiry:syntactics (or syntax), being the study of "the formal relation of signs to one another", semantics, the study of "the relations of signs to the objects to which the signs are applicable" (their designate) and pragmatics, the study of "the relation of signs to interpreters" Morris (1938:6). Within each branch of semiotics, one could make the distintction between pure studies, concerned with the elaboration of the relevant metalanguage and descriptive studies which applied the metalanguage to the description of spesific signs and their usages Morris (1938:24).

As instances of usage governed by pragmatical rule, Morris noted that "interjections such as Oh!, commands such as Come here!, expressions such as Good Morning! And various rhetorical and poetical devices, occur only under certain definite conditions in the users of the language" Morris (1938:48). Such

matters would still today be given a treatment within linguistic pragmatics but Morris went on to expand the scope of pragmatics in accord with his particular behavirouristic theory of semiotics Black (1947:28). "It is a sufficiently accurate characterization of pragmatics to say that it deals with the biotic aspects of semiosis, that is, with all the psychological, biological and sociological phenomena which occur in the functioning of signs" Morris (1938:54). Such a scope is very much wider than the work that currently goes on under the rubric of linguistic pragmatics, for it would include what is now known as psycholinguistics, socialinguistics, neurolinguistics and much besides.

On the other hand and especially within analytical philosophy, the term pragmatics was subject to a successive narrowing of scope. Here the philosoper and logician Carnap wa particularly influential. After an initial Morrisian usage (Carnap,1938:2), he adopted the following version of the trichotomy:

If in an investigation explicit reference is made to the speaker, or to put it in more general terms, to the user of the language, then we assign it [the investigation] to the field of pragmatics… If we abstract from the user of the language and analyze only the expressions and their designate, we are in the field of sematics. And, finally, if we abstract from the designata also and analyze only the relations between expressions, we are in (logical) syntax.

Unfortenately Carnap's usage of the term pragmatics was confused by his adaptionof Morris's further distinction between pure and descriptive studies and he came to equate pragmatics with descriptive semiotics in general and thus with the study of natural (as opposed to logical) language (Carnap, 1959:13). But

Carnap was not even consistent here: he also held (Carnap, 1956:7) that there was room for a pure pragmatics which would be concerned with concept like belief, utterance and intension and their logical inter-relation. This latter usage, now more or less defunct, explains the use of the term in, for example the title of a book by Martin (1959:84). Thus at least four quite different senses of the term can be found in Carnap's works, but it was the definition quoted above that wa finally influential.

The idea that pragmatics was the study of aspects of language that required reference to the users of the language then led to a very natural, further restriction of the term in analytical philosopy. For there is one aspect of natural languages that indubiatably requires such reference, namely the study of deictic or indexical words like the pronouns I and you. The philosopical and especially logical, interest in these terms is simply that they account for the potential failure of generally valid schemes of reasoning. For example, "I am Greta Grabo, Greta Grabo is a woman, therefore I am a woman", is only necessarily true if in addition to the first two presemies being true, the speaker of the conlusion is the same speaker as the speaker of the first premise. Bar Hillel (1954:359) therefore took the view that pracmatics is the study of languages both natural and articial that contain indexical ir deitic terms and this usage was explicitly adopted by Kallish (1967:355), and most influentially by Montague (1968:102). Such a usage has little to offer linguistics, since all natural languages have deictic terms and it would follow as pragmatics. If Gazdar (1979:1) pointsout, that natural languages would have have no semantics but only a syntax and a the trichotomy is to do

some work within linguistics, some less retricted scope for pragmatics must be found.

In fact, in the late 1960s, an implicit version of Carnap's definition investigations requiring reference to the users of language was adopted within linguistics and specifically within the movement known as generative semantics. The history of that movement awaits a historian of ideas but its association with pragmatics can be explained by the resurgence of the interest in meaning which the movement represented. Such an interest inevitably involves pragmatics as it shall see. Moreover this interest in meaning in a wide sense proved to be one of the best directions from which generative semantics could assail Chomsky's (1965:42) standard theory. At the same time, there was a keen interest shown by linguistics in philosopers' attempts to grapple with problems of meaning, sometimes from the point of view of the 'users of the language'. For a period, at least, linguistics and philopers seemed to be on a common path and this commonality of interest crystallized many of the issues with which this writing is concerned. During the period, the scope of pragmatics was implicity restricted. Carnap's investigations making reference to users of the language is at once too narrow and too broad for linguistics interest. It sis too broad because it admits studies as nonlinguistic as Freud's investigations of 'slips of the tongue' or Jung's studies of word association.

As the pragmatics study has been added to the review of related literature, hedges will also be added for this is the most theory that the researcher will use in analyzing the data. Even hedges can be included within the realm of epistemic

modality if we accept Stubbs' (1986, 5) view that "it is possible to indicate degrees of commitment to just three kinds of linguistic item: not only (1) to propositions but also (2) to illocutionary forces and (3) to individual lexical items". The last mentioned type, lexical commitment, is realized through items like so called, so to speak, quote unquote, which makes it possible to include also the Lakoffian type of hedges in modal expressions. Stubbs' view of modality allows even the inclusion of linguistic items and structures like logical and pragmatic connectors, past tense when used hypothetically, and passivization, which allows the deletion of the agent and therefore the avoidance of commitment. This view of modality comes close to the functional, pragmatic definition of hedges referred to above (e.g. Markkanen/Schröder 1989; 1992). Based on theory above, there are relations between pragmatics and hedges for this is the most theory that the researcher will use in analyzing the data.

2.3 Development of the Term Hedges

The study of hedges is well linked to pragmatics which Spencer-Otey and Zegarac (2002) define as the study of relationship between language forms, messages and language users. The use of hedge as a linguistic term goes back at least to the early 1970s, when G. Lakoff published his article entitled Hedges: A Study in Meaning Criteria and the Logic of Fuzzy Concepts. At that time, Lakoff was not interested in the communicative value of the use of hedges but was concern with the logical properties of words and phrases like rather, largely, in a manner of speaking, very, in their ability to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy (Lakoff, 1972:195).

Markkanen and Schröder (200:2-3) explained that the term of hedge has moved far from its origins, particularly since it has been adopted by pragmatists and discourse analysts. The term is no longer used only for expressions that modify the category membership of a predicate or a noun phrase. They then explained that in accordance with Lakkoff's main concern, however, the term later been defined, for example by Brown and Levinson as a particle, word or phrase that modifies the degree of membership that is partial or true only in certain respects, or that it is more true and complete than perhaps might be expected. They also quoted Vande Kople's view of hedges that considers the use of hedges as showing a lack of full commitment to the propositional content of an utterance. In other words, hedges (e.g. perhaps, seem, might, to certain extent) are by him seen as modifying the truth-value of the whole proposition, not as making individual inside it more imprecise.

Furthest away from the original concept of hedge are those approaches in which hedges are treated as realizations of an interactional/communicative strategy called hedging. Thus, Markkanen/Schröder (1989; 1992), who discuss the role of hedges in scientific texts, see them as modifiers of the writer's responsibility for the truth value of the propositions expressed or as modifiers of the weightiness of the information given, or the attitude of the writer to the information. According to them, hedges can even be used to hide the writer's attitude. Markkanen and Schröder also suggest that hedges offer a possibility for textual manipulation in the sense that the reader is left in the dark as to who is

reponsible for the truth value of what is being expressed (Markkanen and Schröder, 2000:4).

As to the motivation for the use of hedges, a lot of the discussion has concentrated on their use in spoken discourse, and the most frequently mentioned motivating factor is politeness, as defined by Brown/Levinson (1987). In their view, 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.

Hedges can also be considered as the interactive elements which serve as a bridge between propositional information in the test and the writer's factual interpretation. As Skleton remarks, hedges can be viewed as part of the larger phenomenon called commentative potentials of any language.

Research on LSP (Language for Specific Purposes) has repeatedly shown that hedges are crucial in academic discourse because they are central rhetorical means of gaining communal adherence to knowledge claims. Indeed, scientific "truth" is as much the product of social as that of an intellectual activity, and the need to convince one's fellow scientific of the facticity of the experimental results explains the widespread use of hedges in this type of discourse. Hyland (1994), for example, asserts that hedging exhibits a level of frequency much higher than many other linguistic features which have received considerably more attention. Skelton (1988) argues that epistemic comments are equally common in the arts

and sciences, occuring overall in between one third and one half of all sentences. Along the same lines,Gosden (1990) reports that writer's perception of uncertainty realized through modality markers constitutes 7.6% of grammatical subjects in scientific research papers. More specifically, modals appear to be the typical means of marking epictemic comment in research papers: Adams Smith (1984) found that they make up 54% all of the forms used to denote epistemic modality; Butler (1990) states that they account for approximately I word in every 100 in scientific articles; Hanania and Akhtar (1984) report that they make up 8.1% all af finite verbs (can and may being the most frequent); finally, modals were also found to constitute 27% of all lexical hedging devices in Hyland's (1994) corpus of biology articles.

2.4 Taxonomy of Hedges

Although not totally comprehensive nor categorically watertight, the scheme below represents the most widely used hedging categories, at least in scientific English. Typically, hedging is expressed through the use of the following "strategic stereotypes" (Salager-Meyer, 1997: 109-110) :

1. Modal auxiliary verbs

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

a. *Such a measure **might** be more sensitive to changes in health after specialist treatment.*

*b. Concerns that naturally low cholesterol levels **could** lead to increased mortality from other causes **may** well be unfounded. (Observe the cumulative hedging effect: the main and the subordinate clauses are both hedged).*

2. 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 think, 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 a heavy reliance on the above-mentioned examples especially in academic writing, for example:

*a. Our analyses **suggest** that high doses of the drug can lead to relevant blood pressure reduction. (Here too we have a cumulative hedging effect).*

*b. These results **indicate** that the presence of large vessel peripheral arterial disease may reflect a particular susceptibility to the development of atherosclerosis. (Same cumulative hedging effect as above).*

*c. In spite of its limitations, our study **appears** to have a number of important strengths.*

*d. Without specific training, medical students' communication skills **seem** to decline during medical training.*

3. Adjectival, adverbial, and nominal modal phrases

   These forms of hedges include probability adjectives: e.g., possible, probable, un/likely, nouns: e.g., assumption, claim, possibility, estimate,

suggestion, and adverbs (which could be considered as non-verbal nouns): e.g., perhaps, possibly, probably, practically, likely, presumably, virtually, apparently.

Example:

a.   *Septicaemia is **likely** to result, which might threaten his life.*

b.   ***Possibly** the setting of the neural mechanisms responsible for this sensation is altered in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome.*

c.   *This is **probably** due to the fact that Greenland Eskimos consume diets with a high content of fish.*

4.   Approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time

This can be realized through for example: approximately, roughly, about, often, occasionally, generally, usually, somewhat, somehow, a lot of, for example:

a.   *Fever is present in **about** a third of cases and sometimes there is neutropenia.*

b.   *Persistent subjective fatigue **generally** occurs in relative isolation.*

5.   Introductory phrases

Introductory phrases can be realized through 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.

Example:

***We believe** that the chronic fatigue syndrome reflects a complex interaction of several factors. There is no simple explanation.*

6.   "If clauses"

This is usually realized through the use of the following phrases: if true, if anything, for example:

If true, then, our study contradicts the myth that fishing attracts the bravest and strongest men.

7. 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, for example:

a. *There are probably many Southeast Asia students who **would like to** study there, but who must choose Malaysia or Singapore instead for economic reasons.*

b. *That **may seem** a lot to accomplish in our country.*

As can be seen then, all the forms presented above imply that the statements in which they appear contain personal beliefs based on plausible reasoning (or empirical data). Without these "strategic stereotypes," readers would imply that information conveyed pertains to universally established knowledge.

2.5 Four Reasons for Hedging

Hedges are used for some purpose. Here are four reasons for hedging based on the theory of Salager-Myer:

1. Minimize the "thread-to-face"

Since one of the functions of hedges is to minimize the threat-to-face, the theory of Face Threatening Acts (FTAs) is very important to understand. The term "face" in linguistics refers to the respect that an individual has for him or herself, and maintaining that "self-esteem" in public or in private situations. Usually someone try to avoid embarrassing other person, or making them feels uncomfortable. In their book, Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage, Brown and Levinson (1987:61) explain the term face as follows:

Our notion of 'face' is derived from that of Goffman (1967) and from the English folk term, which ties face up with notions of being embarrassed or humiliated, or 'losing face'. Thus face is something that is emotionally invested, and that can be lost, maintained, or enhanced, and must be constantly attended to in interaction. In general, people cooperate (and assume each other's cooperation) n maintaining face in interaction, such cooperation being based on the mutual vulnerability of face.

Some acts which threaten a person's face are called face threatening acts (FTA's). FTA's are acts that infringe on the hearers' need to maintain his/her self esteem, and be respected. Yule (1996:36) explained that in most circumstances a person will want to minimize the threat of such an act. A person may, equally, employ a face saving act. For example, if a neighbour is playing very loud music

you might say, 'I'm going to go and tell them to stop that noise right now,' proposing a face threatening act which imposes on the neighbour choice and freedom to act as well as express no closeness or solidarity. Your partner, however, might propose a 'face saving act' by saying, 'Perhaps you could just ask them if they're going to stop soon because it's getting late and people need to get to sleep'. Brown and Levinson (1987: 68) also explained:

In other words, people will take into consideration the relative weightings of (at least) three wants: (a) the want to communicate the content of the FTA's, (b) the want to be efficient or urgent, and (c) the want to maintain Hearer's face to any degree. Unless (b) is larger than (c), Speaker will want to minimize the threat of his FTA's.

We can draw the line between the theory of face threatening acts and hedges because the most widely accepted view is that hedging is the process whereby authors tone down their statements in order to reduce the risk of opposition and minimize the "thread-to-face" that lurks behind every act of communication. This position associated hedges with scientific imprecision and defines them as linguistic cues of bias which avoid personal accountability for statements, i.e., as understatements used to convey evasiveness, tentativeness, fuzziness, mitigation of responsibility and/or mitigation of certainty to the truth value of proposition. In this view, hedging is what Skelton calls "the politician's craft," not only a willed mitigation, but an obfuscation for dubious purposes. Kubui and Fand, for example states that hedges are used to signal distance and to avoid absolute statements

which might put scientist (and the institution they work at) in an embarrassing situation if subsequent conflicting evidence or contradictory finding arise.

2. Be a way of being more precise in reporting results

Salager-Meyer and Banks claim that the exclusive association of hedges with evasiveness can obscure some important functions of hedging, and that expressing a lack of certainty does not necessarily show confusion or vagueness. Indeed, one could consider hedges as ways of being more precise in reporting results. Hedging may present the true state of the writers' understanding and may be used to negotiate an accurate representation of the state of the knowledge under discussion. In fact, academic writers may well wish to reduce the strength of claims simply because stronger statements would not be justified by the experimental data presented. In such cases, researcher are not saying less than what they mean but are rather saying precisely what they mean by not overstating their experimental results. Being too certain can often be unwise. Academics want their readers to know that they do not claim to have the final word on the subject, choosing instead to remain vague in their statement.

Hedges are not a cover-up tactic, but rather a resource used to express some fundamental characteristics of modern science (uncertainty, skepticism and doubt) which reveal the probabilistic nature science started acquiring during the second half of the 19th century (during the 17th and the 18th centuries and the first half of 19th century, science was more deterministic). Moreover, because of the close inter-connection between different scientific fields, no scientist can possibly claim to wholly master the field of knowledge of given discipline. Thw seem/suggest

combination of the example above could display the speaker's genuine uncertainty and thus allow him to offer a very precise statement about the extent of his confidence (or lack thereof) in the truth of the propositional information he presented.

3. Be positive or negative politeness strategies

According to Brown and Levinson, politeness strategies are developed in order to save the hearers' "face." In other words, politeness strategies are developed for the main purpose of dealing with these FTA's. Brown and Levinson in Paltridge (2000:49) also state that politeness is based on the notions of positive and negative face. The definitions of both face is stated as follows:

Positive face is refers to a person's need to be accepted, or liked, by others, and to be treated as a member of a group knowing that their wants are shared by others. Negative face refers to a person's need to be independent and not be imposed on by others.

Positive Politeness Strategy means that someone recognizes that someone else has a desire to be respected. It also confirms that the relationship is friendly and expresses group reciprocity. While Negative Politeness Strategy is a politeness strategy which similar to Positive Politeness in that someone recognizes that they want to be respected; however, it is also assumed that someone is in some way imposing on them. Some other examples would be to say, "I don't want to bother you but..." or "I was wondering if ..." For example:

"I'm sorry to bother you but, I just wanted to ask you if I could use one of those pens?"

In everyday conversation, there are ways to go about getting the things we want. When we are with a group of friends, we can say to them, "Go get me that plate!", "Shut-up!" However, when we are surrounded by a group of adults at a formal function, in which our parents are attending, we must say, "Could you please pass me that plate, if you don't mind?", "I'm sorry, I don't mean to interrupt, but I am not able to hear the speaker in the front of the room." In different social situations, we are obligated to adjust our use of words to fit the occasion. It would seem socially unacceptable if the phrases above were reversed. It is, however, possible to turn up the other side of the coin and emphasize the importance of hedges for the speaker's own face. Their use may be motivated, for example, by the fear of being proved wrong later on. Being imprecise or mitigating one's commitment to the truth-value of a proposition or a claim makes it possible to say, if proved wrong, that the claim was only tentative or an approximation.

Myers (1989) argues that hedges are better understood as positive or negative politeness strategies, i.e., as sophisticated rational strategies" used to mitigate two central positions expressed in scientific writing: to present claims (or findings) pending acceptance by the international scientific community, and to deny claims presented by other researchers. Indeed, to express an opinion is to make a claim, and to make a claim is to try to impose one's opinion on others. The authors are usually presenting a claim to the scientific community while trying to convince their readers of the relevance of their findings. But, in doing so,

they remain somewhat vague because they cannot claim to have final word on the subject. In the social interaction involved in all scientific publishing, hedges permit academics to present their claims while simultaneously presenting themselves as the "humble servants of the scientific community" (Myers, 1989:4). As soon as a claim becomes part of the literature, it is then possible to refer to it without any hedging, as the following example illustrates:

Influenza is the most important viral infection of the respiratory tract.

Thus because new result or conclusions have to be thoughtfully fit in to the existing literature, hedging is not simply a prudent insurance against overstating an assertion, but also a rational interpersonal strategy which both supports the writer's position and builds writer-reader (speaker/listener) relationships. A hedged comment could reflect a polite and diplomatic disagreement, or it might also display genuine uncertainty on the speaker's part (definition 2).

In a debate, it is important to consider the politeness strategy and politeness principles. This is because a good debater should deliver their opinion in such way in order to prevent insulting other debater and minimize possibility of confrontation, even though other debater might not have different social status or different range of age.

4.   Conform to an established writing style

Banks (1994) argues that a certain degree of hedging has become conventionalized, i.e., that the function of hedges is not necessarily to avoid face-threatening acts (definition No. 1), but simply to conform to an established writing style. This established style of writing arose as a consequence of the combination

of the needs and stimuli mentioned in definition 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 intended nor need we assume that the authors of hedged utterances always know why they hedge their statements in the first place. (Salager-Meyer, 1994) stated that hedges are the first and foremost the product of a mental attitude and decisions about the function of a span of language are bound to be subjective.

2.6 Reader's Letter

Reader's Letter is a letter sent to a publication about issues of concern from its readers. Usually, letters are intended for publication. In many publications, letters to the editor may be sent either through conventional mail or electronic mail. Letters to the editor are most frequently associated with newspapers and newsmagazines. However, they are sometimes published in other periodicals (such as entertainment and technical magazines), and radio and television stations. In the latter instance, letters are sometimes read on the air (usually, on a news broadcast or on talk radio).

In academic publishing, letters to the editor of an academic journal are usually open postpublication reviews of a paper, often critical of some aspect of the original paper. The authors of the original paper sometimes respond to these with a letter of their own. Controversial papers in mainstream journals often attract numerous letters to the editor. Good citation indexing services list the

original papers together with all replies. Depending on the length of the letter and the journal's style, other types of headings may be used, such as peer commentary. There are some variations on this practice. Some journals request open commentaries as a matter of course, which are published together with the original paper, and any authors' reply, in a process called <u>open peer commentary</u>. The introduction of the "<u>epub</u> ahead of print" practice in many journals now allows unsolicited letters to the editor (and authors' reply) to appear in the same print issue of the journal, as long as they are sent in the interval between the electronic publication of the original paper and its appearance in print.(<u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_to_the_editor</u>). Based on theory above, readers letters is usually contain of suggestion or critical about social condition and response to opinions or stories on local, state, national, and international current events.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research Design

In conducting this research, it is important for the researcher to determine the research method that researcher would like to use. This chapter discussed the research method used in this research including research design, unit of analysis, source of data, technique data collection analysis.

This study is descriptive and qualitative research. The descriptive research is research conducted to describe systematically the fact and the characteristic of given population or area of interest, factually, and accurately (Maxwell, 1996: 10). It describes the types of hedges in native and non native writers found in the citizen jurnalism of The Jakarta Post on Thursday, July 11, 2013 Edition"

The qualitative research is a procedure of research, in which the collected data will not be created by statistic procedure. In this research, the collected data is often called 'soft data'. It usually reaches in people description that is not easy done by statistic procedure. So this research is not only limited on collecting and arranging the data orderly, but also analyzing and interpreting the meaning its data.

3.2 Unit of the Analysis

The unit of analysis of this research is sentences produced by the native and non native writers in readers' letter of the Jakarta Post neswapaper on Thursday, July 11, 2013 Edition.

3.3 Source of Data

The data of this research were taken from three writings made by one native and two non native writers in English. The native writers here were coming form California, America and her name is Sonita Lontoh, and Ioan Voicu from Los Angeles, America. Meanwhile, the non native writers were from Jakarta, Indonesia and his name is Sun Xi and Nicholas Herriman from Jakarta, Indonesia. The data were taken from the Jakarta Post neswapaper on July 3 and 6, 2013 Edition.

3.4 Techniques of Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher used some steps as follows:

1. Searching the Jakarta Post newspaper in the bookstore.

   In this part of data collection, the researcher went to a bookstore and search the data which were found in the Jakarta Post on Thrusday, July 3 and 6, 2013.

2. Selecting the readers' letter in the Jakarta Post on July 2013 Edition.

   Then in this part, the researcher selected the data which were found in the Jakarta Post on Thrusday, July 3 and 6, 2013.

3.5 Techniques of Data Analysis

After the data were found then the next steps can be list as follows:

1. Reading the citizen jurnalism in the Jakarta Post Edition.

2. Selecting the data which indicate hedges.

3. Finding the native and non native writer's arguments that indicate the use of hedges.

4. Describing the taxonomy of hedges used by the native and non native writer.

5. Describing the reasons for hedging used by the native and non native writers.

6. Comparing the hedges used by the native and non native writers.

7. Analyzing and interpreting the data.

8. Giving conclusion.

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter covers the analysis and the result of the study. The researcher analyzes hedges used by the writers in the readers' letters of the Jakarta Post edition July 3 and 6, 2013. The analysis is focused on the Taxonomy and Four Reasons for Hedging according to Salager Meyer's theory of hedges.

As it has been mentioned in the previous chapter, there are seven types (taxonomy) of hedges according to Francoise Salager Meyer. Those are Modal Auxiliary Verbs; Modal Lexical Verb; Adjective, Adverbs and Nominal Modal Phrases; If Clause; Introductory Phrases; and Compound Hedges. Besides the taxonomy of hedges, Meyers also explains four main reasons why people use hedges. Below are the analysis and its result.

4.1 The Findings

In this part of sub chapter, the reseacher described and explained the findings and the analysis of each hedges used by the writers in the the readers' letter of the Jakarta Post edition July 3 and 6, 2013. For brief explanation it can be seen in the following Table 4.1 below:

The total numbers of hedges used in the data are 62. Those are Modal Auxiliary Verbs (MAV); Modal Lexical Verbs (MLV); Approximators of Degree, Frequency, Quantity and Time (APRX); Adjectival, Adverbial and Nominal Modal Phrases (ADJ, ADV, NOM), Introductory Phrases (I.P), If Clause (If C),

and Compound Hedges (CH). The table below shows the distribution of hedges used by the writers in the Jakarta Post.

No.	The Writers' Name	Hedges Used by the Native and Non Native Writers							Total of Hedges Used by Writers	Percentage of Hedges Used by the Writers
		MAV	MLV	APRX	ADJ, ADV, NOM	I.P	If C	C H		
1	Sonita Lontoh	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	9	18.36%
2	Ioan Voicu	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	8	16.32%
3	Sun Xi's	1	1	2	0	2	1	1	8	16.32%
4	Nicholas Herriman	17	2	0	3	1	1	0	24	48.97%
	TOTAL	23	7	4	5	4	2	4	49	100%

It can be seen in the table above that the highest number of hedges produced by the writer is modal auxiliary verbs with 17. This was produced by a writer named Nicholas Herriman. In his writing, he made some comments dealing with some problems arised from subsidies. Then it is followed by modal lexical verb with 7 and Approximators of Degree, Frequency, Quantity and Time with 4 simultaneously. Meanwhile, it is found that Nicholas Herriman made the highest number in producing hedges in his writing with 48.97% or equal to 24 hedges. Then, it is followed by Sonita Lontoh with 18.36% or 9 hedges. Meanwhile, both Iaon Voicu and Sun Xi's have a similar place with 16.32% or 8 hedges for each. Based on the finding, it can be said the writers named Sun Xi and Nicholas Herriman has more uncertainty in writing their comment dealing with the topic of the discussion of the newspaper. They tend to use some hedges express their

messeges. In addition to, their cultural background also influence to the way they write. The writers named Sun Xi and Nicholas Herriman tend to be more careful in writing because they consider some words which might hurt the reader's feeling when they read the letter's comments. Meanwhile, the writers named Sonita Lontoh and Ioan Voicu tend to be less careful so they write with their own ways and they always use their own language that is English both spoken and written. So, it can be said that the writers named Sonita Lontoh and Ioan Voicu writers can use English without any hesitation. For the brief description and analysis, it can be seen in the following discussion.

4.2 Discussion of the Finding

In this part of sub chapter, the researcher explains and discusses the findings found in the writers' writing of the Jakarta Post.

4.2.1 Hedges used by the Writer Named Sonita Lontoh

In this part of the analysis, the researcher presents the analysis of hedges found in Sonita Lontoh's writing. Below is the analysis and its description.

4.2.1.1 Modal Auxiliary Verbs

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

This type of hedges is rarely used in the first data. Note that not all modal auxiliary verbs can be categorized as hedges, but only those which indicate

uncertainty and understatements. Modal auxiliary verbs which can be categorized as hedges also have the function to reflect unforceful and polite statement. It also covers one or more (or even all) of the four reasons for hedging based on Francoise Salager-Meyer's theory. The most tentative ones are: *may,will, might, can, could, would, should.* Below are some examples of Modal Auxiliary Verbs used by the writer in the data:

Based on the data found in Sonita Lontoh 's writing, it is found that there are only two modal auxiliary verb found in her writings. Those modal auxiliary verbs are *will.* It can be seen in the following examples below:

Excerpt 1

This noble act ***will*** quash the perception of sheer disregarded for the rule of law, convention and accountability in Indonesia.

It can be seen in the bold modal auxiliary verb above, there is only one modal auxiliary verb found in the first data and it is *will.* This modal auxiliary verb indicates that there is something that posibly happends in the future about the noble act. Meanwhile, it also believed that this noble act will rule everything in Indonesia as it is mentioned in the example above.

The following is a similar example of modal auxiliary verb produced by the writer in her writing using *will.*

Excerpt 2

The more Indonesia demonstrates to the world its respect for the rule of law, convention and accountability, the more the world ***will*** respect it back.

It can be seen in the bold modal auxiliary verb above, there is only one modal auxiliary verb found in the first data and it is *will*. This modal auxiliary verbs indicate that there is something which probability happend in the future that when Indonesia demostrates the noble act to the world, then Indonesia will get many respects from other countries in this world.

4.2.1.2 Approximators of Degree, Quantity, Frequency and Time

This approximators can be realized through for example: *approximately, roughly, about, often, occasionally, generally, usually, somewhat, somehow, and a lot of.*

The followings are the examples of this part of hedges found in Sonita Lontoh's writing in the readers's letters of the Jakarta Post.

The excerpt below is approximator of frequency existed in the writing made by Sonita Lontoh in her writing. The analysis can be seen in the following description:

Excerpt 3

While ***usually*** overshadowed by other rapidly growing emerging economies such as Brazil, Russia, India and China, Indonesia has the potential to attract more foreign direct investment given its large and young population.

According to the excerpt 3 above, it is found that the word *usually* is calssified as adverb of frequency. It indicates that *usually* has something occured. It can be seen in the data above that actually Indonesia has a big potential to attract foreigners to inverst to Indonesia. It can be proved by its growing population in Indonesia lately.

Excerpt 4 is the example of approximator quantity made by the writer in her writing which is found in the readers' letters in the Jakarta Post neswaper.

Excerpt 4

In the first quarter of 2013, foreign direct investment rose more than 25 percent to **approximately** US$ 7 billion, while large, this number is still relatively small compared to the country's potential.

According to the excerpt 4 above, it is found that the word *approximately* is calssified as approximators of quantity. It indicates that *appoximately* mesuares a number or something. It can be seen in the data above that in the first quarter of 2013, the investors who have invested their money Indonesia increased rapidly. It is proved that this increasement has reached 25 percent which is nearly U$ 7 billion.

4.2.2 Hedges Used by the Writer Named Ioan Voicu

In this part of the analysis, the researcher presents the analysis of hedges found in Ioan Voicu's writing. Below is the analysis and its description.

4.2.2.1 Modal Auxiliary Verbs

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

This type of hedges is rarely used in the second data. Note that not all modal auxiliary verbs can be categorized as hedges, but only those which indicate uncertainty and understatements. Modal auxiliary verbs which can be categorized

as hedges also have the function to reflect unforceful and polite statement. It also covers one or more (or even all) of the four reasons for hedging based on Francoise Salager-Meyer's theory. The most tentative ones are: *may,will, might, can, could, would, should.* Below are some examples of Modal Auxiliary Verbs used by the writer in the data:

Here is the example of modal auxiliary verb made by Ioan Voicu which is found in the second data.

Excerpt 5

Without appropriate awareness of ASEAN action, it's actual performance remain unknown and its **might** have a negative impact on its capacity to put its own decisions into effect.

It can be seen in the bold of modal auxiliary verb *might* above that there is a meaning behind it. This word has indicated that there is possibility of a negative impact from ASEAN action. It is because there is no actual performance remains unknown from ASEAN.

In the excerpt 6 below, there is another example of modal auxiliary verb found in Ioan Voicu's writing in the readers' letters.

Excerpt 6

From a practical perspective, having a better visibility into ASEAN's multilateral diplomacy **can** make a big difference, irrespective of the venue or duration of its meetings.

According to the excerpt 6 above, it can be seen that the modal auxiliary verb *can* indicates that there is probability which may occur in the near future. It can be assumed that *can* has a meaning to make big difference in the diplomacy

of ASEAN. Besides that, it is also indicated that there is a big opportunity about ASEAN's multilateral diplomacy.

The following is a similar example showing modal auxiliary verb *can* made by Ioan Voicu in his writing.

Excerpt 7

This outcome of these meetings ***can*** fasilitate the task of being able to proactively rather than reactively deal with the recommendations.

According to the excerpt 7 above, it can be seen that the modal auxiliary verb *can* indicates that there is probability which may occur in the near future. It can be assumed that *can* has a meaning that multicultural diplomacy will give a great contribution to ASEAN countries. Besides that, it is also indicated that there is a big opportunity to fasilitate the task of being able to proactively rather than reactively.

The following is the other example showing modal auxiliary verb made by Ioan Voicu in his writing which is found in the readers' letters of the Jakarta Post.

Excerpt 8

Providing reliable and rich information about current ASEAN activities in all leading dailies ***should*** be a paramount objectives of all concerned.

Based on the excerpt 8 above, it is found that there is a modal auxiliary verb *should* in the data above. It indicates that there is something to show when something is likely or expected to be occured. In this case, the ASEAN activities should be a paramount objectives of all concerned. So it will give a reliable and rich information.

4.2.2.2 Modal Lexial 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 think, 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 a heavy reliance on the above-mentioned examples especially in academic writing.

According to the data, there is only one modal lexical verb existed in the writing made by Ioan Voicu in her writing and that is ***estimated.*** For the analysis it can be seen in the following description below:

Excerpt 9

However, beyond this perception, the indifferent attitude of the media toward some important diplomatic events taking place in a geographical area with an ***estimated*** population of 650 million, covered and represented by a prestigious regional like ASEAN, has to be seriously questioned for a major practical reason.

From the example of the excerpt 9 above, it can be seen that the word *estimated* is treated as the modal lexical verb in the data above. It can be said that the meaning of this modal lexical verb is to guess the cost, size, value, etc. of something. It means that the media, in this case the Jakarta Post, July 3, has counted the total number of population which are included in ASEAN countries has to be seriously questioned for a major practical reason. So, here the writer tried to guess the number of people who invloved in this diplomatic events.

4.2.2.3 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 following excerpt below is the example of compound hedges found in the writing produced by Ioan Voicu.

Excerpt 10

Indeed, ***it can be assumed*** thet the very recent ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Bandar Seribegawan, Brunei Darusalam, was not sufficiently covered by the media in the ten ASEAN's member states because people do not ARF's impact of their lives.

Based on the data of the excerpt 10 above, it can be seen that there is one compound hedges found that is *it can be assumed*. This compound hedges functions to give prediction to the statement discussed by the writer in the Jakarta Post. In this case, the writer tried to give his comment based on the previous editorial which was publish on July 3, 2013. Here, the writer assumes that many people do not know the impact of ASEAN Regional Forum (AFR) in their lives.

4.2.3 Hedges used by the Writer Named Sun Xi

In this part of the analysis, the researcher presents the analysis of hedges found in Sun Xi's writing. Below is the analysis and its description.

4.2.3.1 Modal Auxiliary Verbs

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

This type of hedges is rarely used in the second data. Note that not all modal auxiliary verbs can be categorized as hedges, but only those which indicate uncertainty and understatements. Modal auxiliary verbs which can be categorized as hedges also have the function to reflect unforceful and polite statement. It also covers one or more (or even all) of the four reasons for hedging based on Francoise Salager-Meyer's theory. The most tentative ones are: *may,will, might, can, could, would, should.* Below are some examples of Modal Auxiliary Verbs used by the writer which is found in the data:

Here is the example of modal auxiliary verb made by Sun Xi which is found in the third data.

Excerpt 11

A Japanese environmentalist said, "Blaming China ***can't*** solve the air pollution problem."

It can be seen in the excerpt 11 above that the bold word *can't* is classifies as the modal auxiliary verb which was the writer produced in his writing. This modal indicates that there is a probability to blame China. But blaming China will not solve everything.

The following excerpt 12 below describes another example of modal auxialiry verb the writer made in his writing which was found in the Jakarta Post of the readers' letters.

Meanwhile, the excerpt 12 below is another example of modal auxiliary verb found in Sun Xi's writing which is indicated by a modal *will* and *should.*

Excerpt 12

It is good news that Indonesia has agreed to try its best to control the fire and ***will*** begin cloud-seeding "based on needs on the ground", but Singapore ***should*** also be ready to provide possible assistance or even dispatch water-dropping aircraft if necessary later.

According to the excerpt 12 above, it can be seen that there are two modal auxiliary verbs found in the data above which are indicated by *will* and *should.* These two modal auxilary verbs have different function in the sentence above. The modal auxiliary verb *will* functions to talk about what is going to happen in the future, especially things that you are certain about or things that are planned. It can be seen in the data above that there is a good news, in this case Indonesia, will give its help to overcome the fire. Besides that, the modal auxiliary *should* describes that there is something to show when something is likely or expected, in this case Singapore also gives its effort to help Indonesia to overcome the fire happend in both countries.

A similar example of modal auxiliary verb *should* which is found in the writer's writing can be seen in the following example below:

Excerpt 13

It is clear that Indonesia **should** bear the all the responsibility to solve the problem.

Based on the example above, it can be found that there is a modal *should* existed in the data above. This modal auxiliary verb functions to show when something is likely or expected to be happend. In this case, Indonesia is obviously bear all the responsibility to solve the problem that happend in Indonesia at that time.

A similar example of modal auxiliary verb *should* which is found in the writer's writing can be seen in the following example below:

Excerpt 14

Third, global costumers **should** ultimately share the cost-benefit worthy to bear certain cost of the haze pollution abatement.

Based on the example above, it can be found that there is a modal *should* existed in the data above. This modal auxiliary verb functions to show when something is likely or expected to be happend. In this case, global customers are ultimately share the cost-benefit worthy to bear certain cost of the haze pollution abatement.

A similar example of modal auxiliary verb *should* which is found in the writer's writing can be seen in the following example below:

Excerpt 15

Those consumers of palm oil products sourced from Southern Asia ***should*** pay the extra cost caused by non-"slash-and burn techniques, and those foreign visitors ***should*** pay a higher premium for travelling.

Based on the example above, it can be found that there is a modal *should* existed in the data above. Both modal auxiliary verb *should* function to show when something is likely or expected to be happend. In this case, the palm oil costumers from Southern Asia have to pay the extra cost and also the foreigners who visit must pay a higher premium for travelling.

Another example shows modal auxiliary verb Sun Xi produced can be seen in the following excerpt 16 below:

Excerpt 16

Exernalities are one of the typical reasons which ***may*** cause market failures and environment pollution is a typical negative externality.

The example of the excerpt above describes modal auxiliary verb produced by the writer in his writing. This modal *may* has a function that there is possibility that something will happend. In this case, exernalities become one of the typical reasons that cause market failures. Besides that, it is also cause environment pollution is a typical negative externality.

4.2.3.2 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 think, 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 a heavy reliance on the above-mentioned examples especially in academic writing.

According to the data, there are three one modal lexical verbs existed in the writing made by Sun Xi in his writing and that is ***was estimated.*** For the analysis it can be seen in the following description below:

Excerpt 17

The great Southern Asia haze of 1997 **was estimated** to result in US$9 bilion loses in total.

It can be seen in the example above that there is found modal lexical verb in the data above. The modal lexical verb here is *was estimated.* It means that the Indonesia President, Mr. Yudhoyono has taken a good step and he also has given a great contribution to his country Indonesia as the president. Besides that, he also worth to get this respect because he has already made this country Indonesia better and better.

4.2.4 Hedges used by the Writer Named Nicholas Herriman

In this part of the analysis, the researcher presents the analysis of hedges found in Nicholas Herriman's writing. Below is the analysis and its description.

4.2.4.1 Modal Auxiliary Verbs

This type of hedges is rarely used in the second data. Note that not all modal auxiliary verbs can be categorized as hedges, but only those which indicate uncertainty and understatements. Modal auxiliary verbs which can be categorized as hedges also have the function to reflect unforceful and polite statement. It also covers one or more (or even all) of the four reasons for hedging based on Francoise Salager-Meyer's theory. The most tentative ones are: *may,will, might, can, could, would, should.* Below are some examples of Modal Auxiliary Verbs used by the writer which is found in the data:

Here is the example of modal auxiliary verb made by Nicholas Herriman which is found in the third data.

Excerpt 18

Leaving aside the economics, cutting subsidies *might* also help with another problem Jakarta's traffic.

It can be seen in the excerpt 18 above that Nicholas as the writer of the article made a modal auxiliary verb in his writing which is indicated by **might.** This modal auxiliary verb refers to an posibility if the government cut the subsides, it will help another problem Jakarta's traffic.

The following excerpt below is another example of modal auxiliary verb made by Nicholas Herriman in his writing.

Excerpr 19

These *should* focus on cars

It can be seen in the excerpt 19 above that Nicholas as the writer of the article made a modal auxiliary verb in his writing which is indicated by **should.** This modal auxiliary verb refers to that there is a possibility if the fuel subsidies are crucial to cars nowdays.

The example below also shows a modal auxiliary verb made Nicholas Herriman in his writing.

Execerpt 20

The government diverts money that *could be* better spent on hospitals and schools in order to help create traffic jam.

Based on the example above, it can be seen that there is a modal auxiliary verb with **could be.** It is indicated that there is probability if the government diverts the money for hospitals and schools it will be better than the government spend it to create the traffic jam.

Meanwhile, the excerpt below is also describing a modal auxiliary verb produced by Nicholas Herriman in his wiring.

Excerpt 21

Thus, the use of cars *should be* discouraged in favor of motorbike, trucks or busses.

According to the example of the excerpt 21 above, it can be seen that there a modal auxiliary verb **should be**. This modal modal auxiliary verb indicates that there is an obligation if the use of cars can discouraged in favor of motorbike, trucks or busses.

4.2.4.2 If Clause

This is usually realized through the use of the following phrases: if true, if anything. The following is an example of if clause found in Nicholas Herriman's writing.

Excerpt 22

If we stick to less drastic measures, however, further cuts to fuel subsidies are crucial.

Based on the example of the excerpt 22 above, it can be seen that there is if clause found in the writer's writing. In his writing, it can be said that the writer made a possibility if fuel subsidies are important.

Meanwhile, the excerpt below is describing another example of if clause produced by the writer in his writing.

Excerpt 23

Granted, the current movement is ludicrous and unprofessional, but *if a more credible, effective, and secular movement were in place*, wouldn't it make lives easier for a lot of people.

It can be seen in the execrpt 23 of the example above that the grant will be reasonable for the people because it will make their lives easier. Besides that, it also can be used as a fuel subsidies in order to decrease the fuel's price.

4.3 Reasons for Hedging

As stated in the Chapter II, there are four commonly reasons of hedging according to Salager Meyer's theory. In this research, the researcher found some utterances made by debaters which fit that theory. Those hedged utterances and their purpose (reasons for hedging) are explained in the following analysis:

4.3.1   Minimize the "threat-to-face"

In these four writings, most of the writers tried to find a way to strengthen their opinion and convince the readers to what he or she believes to be true. Though sometimes they are too forceful, they also often reduce the risk of opposition and minimize the "threat-to-face" that lurks behind their opinion by using hedges. This is the common reason of the hedging strategy used in these four writings. The attempt of minimizing the threat to face here can be applied either to save the speaker's face or the hearer(s)' face. The act of "saving the hearers' face" here can be applied to save the face of the writers who have different ideas with the readers, and groups of people who read the readers' letters. Below are some of the examples of the analysis:

The following excerpt below is another example of minimize the "threat-to-face" found in the native writer in his writing.

Excerpt 24

Without appropriate awareness of ASEAN action, it's actual performance remain unknown and its *might* have a negative impact on its capacity to put its own decisions into effect.

Based on the excerpt 24 of the example above, it can be seen that the use of modal auxiliary verb *might* also helps the writer to make his writing more polite. Here the native writer tried to strengthen his writing by employing modal auxiliary verb *might* to express his sincerity to an ASEAN action which result a negative impact.

4.3.2 Be a Way of Being More Precise in Reporting Results

There are five hedged arguments which have the function to be more precise in reporting results. The analysis of the use of hedges as a way of being more precise in reporting results found in the data could be seen as follows:

The following excerpt below is the example of *be a way of being more precise in reporting results* found in the writer's letter.

Excerpt 25

These ***should*** focus on cars

According to the example of the excerpt 25 above, it can be seen that there is a modal auxiliary verb *should* employed by the writer, Nicholas Herriman. The function of modal auxiliry verb used by the writer was to strengthen his writing about the fuel subsidies. Here, the non native writer tried to explain his opinion about the use of the government money for the fuel subsidies politely.

The following example below is another example of *be a way of being more precise in reporting results* found in the writer's letter.

Excerpt 26

Those consumers of palm oil products sourced from Southern Asia ***should*** pay the extra cost caused by non-"slash-and burn techniques, and those foreign visitors ***should*** pay a higher premium for travelling.

According to the example of the excerpt 26 above, it can be seen that there is a modal auxiliary verb *should* employed by the non native writer. The function of modal auxiliry verb *should* used by the writer was to strengthen his writing about the extra cost for premium travelling. Here, the non native writer tried to explain his opinion about the use of the extra cost for premium travelling politely.

The following excerpt below is another example of *be a way of being more precise in reporting results* found in the Nicholas Herriman's writing.

Excerpt 27

Exernalities are one of the typical reasons which ***may*** cause market failures and environment pollution is a typical negative externality.

It can be seen in the excerpt 27 of the example above that the writer produced a modal auxiliary verb *may* in his writing. It idicates that there is politeness strategies the writer used in his writing that is *be a way of being more precise in reporting results.* It can be seen that the modal auxiliary verb *may* helps the writer to avoid a rude word in his letter.

Meanwhile, the excerpt below is another example of *be a way of being more precise in reporting results* found in Nicholas Herriman's writing.

Excerpt 28

The government diverts money that ***could be*** better spent on hospitals and schools in order to help create traffic jam.

It can be seen in the excerpt of the example above that Nicholas Herriman produced a modal auxiliary verb *could be* in his writing. It indicates that the writer tried to avoid the use of a rude word in his writing. Since Nicholas Herriman made a comment on the readers' letters, he tried to be more polite in delivering his message.

The example of the excerpt below is also describing the reason of hedges of *be a way of being more precise in reporting results.* It can be seen below:

Excerpt 29

While ***usually*** overshadowed by other rapidly growing emerging economies such as Brazil, Russia, India and China, Indonesia has the potential to attract more foreign direct investment given its large and young population.

Based on the example obove, it can be seen that the native speaker can produce an adverb of time in her writing which is indicated by a word *usually.* The above hedged-utterance indicates that the writer is trying to be more precise in reporting what she absorbs from the source of her argument about economics grows in China, Brazil, Russia, India and Indonesia. She tries to both more humble and precise so she can make readers think that she is not too forceful.

4.3.3 Be Positive or Negative Politeness Strategies

Since one of the crucial functions of hedges is be positive or negative politeness strategies, this subchapter discusses the positive and negative politeness strategies used by the writers in their letters. Below are some of the analyses of the use of hedges as the positive and negative politeness strategies found in the data of this research:

Excerpt 30

> Indeed, ***it can be assumed*** thet the very recent ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Bandar Seribegawan, Brunei Darusalam, was not sufficiently covered by the media in the ten ASEAN's member states because people do not ARF's impact of their lives.

It can be seen in the example of the excerpt above that Nicholas Herriman produced an introductory phrase *it can be assumed* in his writing implies that the speaker is trying to apply positive politeness strategy. By using this hedge, he implies that he does not force the readers to discuss the meaning of reacent ASEAN.

Menahwile the following excerpt below shows a negative politeness strategis produced by the writer in his writing.

Excerpt 31

Those consumers of palm oil products sourced from Southern Asia ***should*** pay the extra cost caused by non-"slash-and burn techniques, and those foreign visitors ***should*** pay a higher premium for travelling.

The use of Modal Lexical Verb above implies that the writer is trying to apply negative politeness strategy. By using those hedges, he implies that he does not force the readers to discuss the palm consumers oil product from Southern Asia. His argument above would bring about different sense if he replace the Modal Auxiliary Verb with different word. Say for example if he replaces Modal Auxiliary Verb *should* with *must*, his utterance would change into:

Those consumers of palm oil products sourced from Southern Asia ***must*** pay the extra cost caused by non-"slash-and burn techniques, and those foreign visitors ***must*** pay a higher premium for travelling

4.3.4 Establish Writing Style

Since this established style of writing arose as a consequence of the combination of the needs and stimuli mentioned in definition 1, 2 and 3 of the reasons for hedging above, establishing writing style covers all of the reasons for hedging made by the writers. In other words, it can be assumed that minimizing threat-to-face, being more precise in reposting results and being positive and negative politeness strategies are all covered in an attempt to establish writing style. It means that each writer whether the writer have their own style of writing based on their on cultural background.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGESSION

5.1 Conclusion

Some conclusions from the analysis of the previous chapter are drawn and provide in this last chapter. The conclusion includes the taxonomy of hedges and reason for hedging used by the writers in the data. From the data that had been analyzed, the results are as follows:

The number of hedges used in the data is 49, while the distribution of the hedges is 9 or 18.36% produced by the writer named Sonita Lontoh; 8 or 16.32% produced by the writer named Ioan Voicu; 8 or 16.32% produced by the writer named Sun Xi; and 24 or 48.97% produced by the writer named Nicholas Herriman. From that analysis, it could be seen that Modal Auxiliary Verbs is the most commonly used hedges type in the data with 17 by the writer named Nicholas Herriman, while the most rarely used of hedges is If Clause.

Based on the finding, it can be said the writers named Sun Xi and Nicholas Herriman has more uncertainty in writing their comment dealing with the topic of the discussion of the newspaper. They tend to use some hedges express their messeges. In addition to, their cultural background also influence to the way they write. The writers named Sun Xi and Nicholas Herriman tend to be more careful in writing because they consider some words which might hurt the reader's feeling when they read the letter's comments. Meanwhile, the writers named

Sonita Lontoh and Ioan Voicu tend to be less careful so they write with their own ways and they always use their own language that is English both spoken and written. So, it can be said that the writers named Sonita Lontoh and Ioan Voicu writers can use English without any hesitation.

The analysis reveals that the writers used hedges to minimize threat-to-face, be positive and negative politeness strategies, be more precise in reporting results and to establish writing style. In other words, all of the four Salager Meyer's theory of reasons for hedging is applied in the data. This is because most of the writers are not too forceful and frontal in delivering their arguments or comments. They also often used hedges to hedge their arguments to be more polite.

5.2 Suggession

Here are some suggestions that the researcher would like to offer related to the results of the research:

The data show that the writers always use hedges to hedge their comments. They often make polite statements in their writings. Though some writers try to respect other's face, apply politeness strategies and be more precise in delivering their comments, not all of them are aware of these aspects. However, we must not easily presume or generalized that certain groups of people are more polite than others.

It is suggested that a writer, whether it is in a newspaper or other media, could use hedges in order to create a comfortable atmosphere of communication. It is also considered very important to use hedges as an attempt to respect other's face and to uphold the politeness value in a communication. Especially in a

writing, the use of hedges could minimize the possibility that the result of their writings become insulting or mocking to other parties.

For the readers who are interested in analyzing hedges, it is suggested to analyze other kinds of data. Since the data of this research are written texts, it is suggested that other researcher could analyze spoken data such as a debate or interview. It is also suggested that other researchers could analyze the use of hedges in other kinds of communication out of readers' letters. By analyzing hedges in different types of communication, it is expected that the knowledge about hedges would be grown up among people, especially among English Department students of Dian Nuswantoro University.

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APPENDIX

**HEDGES USED BY THE WRITERS IN READERS' LETTER OF THE
JAKARTA POST ON JULY 3 AND 6, 2013 EDITION**

No	Sentences	Types of Hedges
1	This noble act *will* quash the perception of sheer disregarded for the rule of law, convention and accountability in Indonesia	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
2	The more Indonesia demonstrates to the world its respect for the rule of law, convention and accountability, the more the world *will* respect it back.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
3	Without appropriate awareness of ASEAN action, it's actual performance remain unknown and its *might* have a negative impact on its capacity to put its own decisions into effect.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
4	From a practical perspective, having a better visibility into ASEAN's multilateral diplomacy *can* make a big difference, irrespective of the venue or duration of its meetings.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
5	This outcome of these meetings *can* fasilitate the task of being able to proactively rather than reactively deal with the recommendations.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
6	Providing reliable and rich information about current ASEAN activities in all leading dailies *should* be a paramount objectives of all concerned.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
7	A Japanese environmentalist said, "Blaming China *can't* solve the air pollution problem."	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
8	All stakeholders *must* cooperate to solve the crisis together.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs

9	It is good news that Indonesia has agreed to try its best to control the fire and *will* begin cloud-seeding "based on needs on the ground", but Singapore *should* also be ready to provide possible assistance or even dispatch water-dropping aircraft if necessary later.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
10	It is clear that Indonesia *should* bear the all the responsibility to solve the problem	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
11	Third, global costumers *should* ultimately share the cost-benefit worthy to bear certain cost of the haze pollution abatement	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
12	Those consumers of palm oil products sourced from Southern Asia *should* pay the extra cost caused by non-"slash-and burn techniques, and those foreign visitors *should* pay a higher premium for travelling	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
13	Exernalities are one of the typical reasons which *may* cause market failures and environment pollution is a Modal Auxiliary Verbs typical negative externality	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
14	Leaving aside the economics, cutting subsidies *might* also help with another problem Jakarta's traffic	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
15	These *should* focus on car.	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
16	The government diverts money that *could be* better spent on hospitals and schools in order to help create traffic jam	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
17	Thus, the use of cars *should be* discouraged in favor of motorbike, trucks or busses	Modal Auxiliary Verbs
18	While *usually* overshadowed by other rapidly	Approximators of Degree,

	growing emerging economies such as Brazil, Russia, India and China, Indonesia has the potential to attract more foreign direct investment given its large and young population.	Quantity, Frequency and Time
19	In the first quarter of 2013, foreign direct investment rose more than 25 percent to *approximately* US$ 7 billion, while large, this number is still relatively small compared to the country's potential.	Approximators of Degree, Quantity, Frequency and Time
20	However, beyond this perception, the indifferent attitude of the media toward some important diplomatic events taking place in a geographical area with an *estimated* population of 650 million, covered and represented by a prestigious regional like ASEAN, has to be seriously questioned for a major practical reason.	Modal Lexial Verbs
21	The great Southern Asia haze of 1997 **was estimated** to result in US$9 bilion loses in total	Modal Lexial Verbs
22	Indeed, *it can be assumed* thet the very recent ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Bandar Seribegawan, Brunei Darusalam, was not sufficiently covered by the media in the ten ASEAN's member states because people do not ARF's impact of their lives.	Compound Hedges
23	**If** we stick to less drastic measures, however, further cuts to fuel subsidies are crucial	If Clause
24	Granted, the current movement is ludicrous and unprofessional, but *if a more credible,*	If Clause

	effective, and secular movement were in place, wouldn't it make lives easier for a lot of people	