

**HEDGES USED IN BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY
SECTIONS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT THESES: A CASE
STUDY AT DIAN NUSWANTORO UNIVERSITY**

THESIS

**Presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the completion of Strata 1 Program
of the English Language Department
specialized in Linguistics**



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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby certify that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Opinion or findings of other included in this theses is quoted or cited to ethical standard.

Semarang, 13 September 2012

Sampurno

MOTTO

One is never too old to learn

You never know till you have tried

Honesty is the best policy

It is better to do well than to say well

Positive thinking is the source of power and freedom

(Ibrahim Elfilky)

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

- God
- My beloved parents
- My lovely big family
- My friends
- All people who always support me to finish my thesis

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ABSTRACT

The thesis is entitled *Hedges Used in Background of the Study sections of English Department Theses: a case study at Dian Nuswantoro University*. It has two objectives. First, it aims at classifying the types of hedges used in Background of the Study sections of English Department theses of Dian Nuswantoro University. Second, it aims at describing the functions of hedges used in Background of the Study sections of English Department theses of Dian Nuswantoro University.

The method used in collecting the data was the documentation one. The data were taken from the Background of the Study part of English student theses in Dian Nuswantoro University in academic years of 2010 to 2012. The steps to analyze the data are reading the data, identifying the types of hedges, classifying the types of hedges, and describing the functions of hedges.

The results of this study show that the types of hedges mostly used in those theses especially in background of the study part are modal auxiliary verbs that consist of modalities *may, might, could, will, would, and should*. The other types of hedges belong to modal lexical verbs; adjectival, adverbial, and nominal modal phrases; approximators of degree, quantity, frequency, and time; if clause; and compound hedges. The thesis' writers may use those types in their background of study to show that they are still doubt with the truth of their statement and they may also avoid personal responsibility from the statement made. The functions of hedges found in background of the study part of student theses are function towards proposition and function towards the writer. Those functions mean that hedges are used to state uncertain scientific claims with appropriate caution and to protect the writer's reputation.

Key words: *Background of the study, functions of hedges, hedges, types of hedges*