#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of Study

Every human uses language to speak with other people. People use language to express what they thought and what they want. So, people can interact by using language to get information, give recommendation, request, express ideas, express what they feel, etc. While communication, people who are speaking aware by using some strategies to make their language more accepted by other with meaningful sense. The way how people communicate more acceptable, sometimes is not uttered directly and weaken the strength of the force by reducing the speaker's commitment. They use of hedges to avoid meaningless toward the speaker. One way of conveying interpersonal messages in spoke interaction is hedging.

The term 'hedge' was introduced by George Lakoff in "Hedges: a Study Meaning Criteria and the Logic of Fuzzy Concepts", journal of Philosophical Logic. Lakoff stated that Hedges are a group of words whose functions are to conduct communication; the communicative function of words can not work without context" (Lakoff G. , 1972). He gave a list of hedges and related phenomena, including: "sort of, kind of, rather, basically, very, often, almost, as it were, in one sense, a regular, so to say, in name only, really" etc. which we often use to qualify categorical assertions. Hedging has received much attention in

casual conversation as a means to facilitate turn-taking, show politeness, mitigate face-threats, but it is also considered as a means to convey vagueness purposely.

Another linguist, Brown and Levinson who considered hedges as strategies for minimizing the threat to face that hide behind every act communication (Brown, 1978). They connected between hedges and politeness strategy is used for dealing with social interactions. Coates described hedges as words and phrases like "maybe, sort of, I'm sure, you know, perhaps and I mean" which have the effect of weakness the force and make uncertainty about the proposition under discussion. Not only for uncertainty, hedges also for expressing of confidence means that hedges is closer to confidence than to doubt (Coates, 1996). In other resource said that women use more hedges than men. It is because women are less confident than men and feel nervous about asserting anything too strongly (Lakoff R., 1975).

Hedges has received many attention to everyone who doesn't aware that they use hedges to make uncertainty when they talk under discussion with others. Many assumption show that more frequent use hedges is a weakness. But not only for uncertainty, hedges also for expressing of confidence which is closer to express confidence than doubt. Hedges itself become a significant for speaker because they mitigate the force of what is said and protect them from speaker's and hearer's face. Many people who speak with other by using hedges to lack confidence. Holmes (1995) describes that people who speaks by using hedges means they attenuate or reduce the strength of the utterances.

Hedges are used to present the uncertainty of the speaker understanding become an important thing in Islamic perception. Like Surah An Nahl verse 116 as follows:

وَ لَا تَقُوْلُو المَاتَصِفُ أَلْسِنَتُكُمُ الكَلذِبَ هذَاحَلَلٌ وَهذاحَرَامٌ لِّتَفْتَرُواعَلَى الله الْكَذِب، إِنَالَّذِبنَ نَفْتَرُونَ عَلَ اللهِ الْكَذِبَ لِاَتَفْلِحُونَ (116)

"And do not say about what your tongue assert of untruth, "This is lawful and this is unlawful", to invent falsehood about Allah. Indeed, those who invent falsehood about Allah will not succeed" (Lajnah Pentanshih Mushaf Al-Qur'an, 2010).

From the Qur'an Surah An Nahl explained that Allah forbid the humans to speak untruth by talking sweetly. Because, it will cause confuse, vagueness, and uncertainty toward people who are invited to speak. Beside that people who like invention falsehood by using uncertainty and vagueness include unlucky people and will not success in the world. This verse can be related by hedges. It means that hedges show uncertainty and vagueness of word or phrase. One of function hedges based on Coates is lack of confidence. Based on explanation above, people who invent a lie of lack of confidence include unlucky person. So, it is better to everyone speak the truth thing while communicate by using the right language.

According to Coates (1996), there are four functions of hedges. The four functions of hedges are; expressing doubt and confidence, sensitivity to other's feeling, searching for the right word and avoiding playing the expert. In addition, the researcher classifies categories of hedges used Slager-Meyers' Classification. It consists of seven types: modal auxiliary, modal lexical verb, adjectival,

adverbial and nominal modal phrases (probability adjectives, nouns, and adverbs), approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time, introductory phrases, certain 'if' clause, and compound/complex hedges.

To make clear, this study analyzes hedges based on oral analyzing that consist of all utterance from the characters. The researcher is interested in studying movie, because it is one of the entertainment media that most people like and could bring positive effect for audience. Story in movie is a representative most of people in their real life. In movie, people also find out the variation of language that used and apply language variation in social culture. The audience also gets knowledge about language of how the character speaks kinds of variation of language after watching the movie. So, their minds are influenced by language that used by the character in movie.

The researcher focuses on type and functions of hedges. A movie will be analyzed by using hedging is, "Confessions of a Shopaholic". These movies include American romantic comedy film based on the shopaholic series of novels by Sophie Kinsella. It is about Rebecca's life as journalist and she is a shopaholic addict. Her job is a journalist in successful saving, demand her to write an article about spending money wisely. This is different from the real life that she is a shopaholic addict. Because Rebeccca's hobby is shopping, she have problem with a credit card that is over and unrestrained spending money. Finally, she has much debt.

Even though, Rebecca has much debt, she tries to solve the problem. She tries applying in Successful saving in Dantay-West Company. In that company, she meets Luke Brandon as Editor. He is very interested in Rebecca Bloomwood. He likes her and said that she is talented person in working about writing article. She is funny, warm, kind person who speaks cheerfully. She avoids the truly thing toward herself and changes the subject from speaker. Working under Dantay-West Company, Rebecca gets reward from writing article and nicknamed as "The girl with Green Scarf". Behind it all, Rebecca has a big problem with her family, friends, Luke Brandon, and pursued by debt collector Derek Smith. Little by little, Rebecca was conscious of her mistake. She lies to many people including Suze and Luke Brandon. She explains all the truth. With sincerity, Suze, Luke, and the people who close with her finally believed to Rebecca. All her debt was paid off. The condition much better, Rebecca works again as an investigate journalist for Luke's new magazine. She has a relationship with Luke who loves her back.

Redirects the conversation to avoid anything meaningful from the speaker is often used by Rebecca Bloomwood. She speaks to look for an excuse that the person believes her. She also avoids the conversation directly in talking the next chapter. If the speaker talks to Rebecca while she can not answer, she acts like people who can answer and avoid the question by speaker another topic.

The researcher chooses the characters of Rebecca Blomwood and Luke Brandon because of several reasons. *Firstly*, the researcher is interested in function of hedges used by male and female characters in "Confessions of a

Shopaholic" movie. The Male character is an editor and the female one as employee journalist in Dantay-West Company. How they use language of hedges as cooperation in their job and outside of work. *Secondly*, the relation of both characters is close as leader and employee until having special relationship. Besides that, Luke Brandon as a male character has appeared in every scene. So, he can also consider as one of the character who has important role in this movie.

Furthermore, the reasons why the researcher chooses to analyze "Confessions of a Shopaholic" movie are follows. Firstly, the conflict of Rebecca Bloowood is complex. Start from her friends, Luke Brandon, she has many debts because of her hobby like shopping. She just thinks about the satisfaction shopaholic. Rebecca also speaks gently and politely to show her astonishment when she looks a good thing like shawl, cosmetic, blouse and everything relate with women's thing. Secondly, "Confessions of a Shopaholic "movie is one of movie that was nominated for choice movie: Romance in Teen Choice Awards 2009 were held in on August 9, 2009, at the Gibson Amphitheatre, Universal City, California. The Teen Choice Awards is an annual awards show that airs on the Fox Network (Bain, 1999). The film is adapted from original Shopaholic series novel by Sophie Kinsella. This novel is a best seller book which is winning passionate and devoted readership, (Bruckheimer, 2009) more than 15 million readers in 35 countries including the United States and Great Britain, throughout all of Western and Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Turkey, Japan, China, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam have grown to love the endearing, hapless, eternally optimistic shopaholic . Lastly, Because of that achievement, the writer is

interested in analyzing "Confessions of a Shopaholic" movie especially the language that is used by Rebecca Bloowood and Luke Brandon contains hedges. Readers will able to apply the use of hedges while they communicate with other people in daily life. The study also can be used as reference for those who are interested and make further researcher about hedges.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this study, the researcher attempts to find out the use of hedges by characters: Rebecca Bloomwood and Luke Brandon in "Confessions of a Shopaholic" Movie that can be formulated as follows:

- 1. What types of hedges are used by characters: Rebecca Bloomwood and Luke Brandon in "Confessions of a Shopaholic" movie?
- 2. What functions of hedges are used by characters: Rebecca Bloomwood and Luke Brandon in "Confessions of a Shopaholic" movie?

# 1.3 **Objective of the Study**

Related to the problems which mentioned, the purposes of this study are:

- To find out the hedges used by characters: Rebecca Bloomwood and Luke Brandon in Confessions of a Shopaholic movie in terms of types.
- To find out the functions of hedges which are used by Rebecca Bloomwood and Luke Brandon in Confessions of a Shopaholic movie.

### 1.4 Significance of the Study

### 1. For Reader

By doing this study, the researcher hopes that readers would get more knowledge about hedges. The study is intended to investigate in terms of types and functions used by characters: Rebecca Blomwood and Luke Brandon in "Confessions of a Shopaholic" movie. Hopefully, the readers will able to apply the use of hedges while they communicate with other people in daily life.

#### 2. Used as Reference

The study also can be used as reference for those who are interested and make further researcher about hedges.

#### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study focuses on Discourse study especially the types and functions of hedges used by Rebecca Blommwod and Luke Brandon in "Confessions of a Shopaholic" movie. The researcher concerns the relationship between language and context which focuses in all utterances of the movie. The researcher also limits the study to the dialogues line between two characters.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The following terms are used in this study

 Hedges : word and phrase which is used by speaker and writer to convey certainty or doubt toward a statement in discussion. 2. Gender : The way how women and men use strategies in conversational interaction based on social construction.

