

**LEXICAL HEDGES USED BY WOMEN CHARACTERS IN
THE BIRDS OF PREY MOVIE**

THESIS



**UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A**

BY:

ANNISA AHLA

REG NUMBER: A03218011

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA

2022

DECLARATION

I am the undersigned below:

Name : Annisa Ahla
NIM : A93218011
Department : English
Faculty : Arts and Humanities
University : UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

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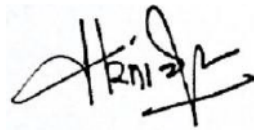
Annisa Ahla

Reg. Number: A03218011

Approved to be examined by the Board of Examiners, English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Surabaya, December 26th, 2022

Thesis Advisor



Murni Fidiyanti, M.A.

NIP. 198305302011012011

Acknowledged by:

The Head of English Department



Endratno Pili Swasono, M.Pd.

NIP. 197106072003121001

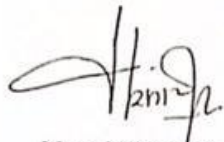
EXAMINER SHEET

This thesis of Annisa Ahla (Reg. Number: A03218011) has been approved and accepted by the Board of Examiners, English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya on December 28th 2022

The Board of Examiners are:

Examiner 1

Examiner 2



Murni Fidiyanti, M.A.

NIP. 198305302011012011



Dr. H. Mohammad Kurjum, M.Ag

NIP. 196909251994031002

Examiner 3

Examiner 4



Endratno Pilih Swasono, M.Pd

NIP. 197106072003121001



Raudlotul Jannah, M.App.Ling

NIP. 197810062005012004

Acknowledged by:

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



Dr. H. Mohammad Kurjum, M.Ag

NIP. 196909251994031002



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA
PERPUSTAKAAN

Jl. Jend. A. Yani 117 Surabaya 60237 Telp. 031-8431972 Fax.031-8413300
E-Mail: perpustakaan@uin-sby.ac.id

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Nama : Annisa Ahla
NIM : A03218011
Fakultas/Jurusan : Adab dan Humaniora / Sastra Inggris
E-mail address : ahlaannisa17@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Ahla, A. (2022). *Lexical Hedges Used by Women Characters in The Birds of Prey Movie*. English Department, Faculty Arts and Humanities. UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Murni Fidiyanti, M.A.

Keywords: Lexical hedges, women's language features, language and gender, movie.

This study investigates the use of hedges in women characters utterances in *The Birds of Prey* movie. This study aims to identify the types and function of hedges in women characters utterances in the movie. This study applied Namsaraev's theory (1997) taxonomy of hedges and Lakoff's theory (1975) to investigate the function.

This study applied a descriptive qualitative approach. The researcher collected the data by watching the movie and downloading the movie transcription of *The Birds of Prey* movie from the internet. Then, the researcher analyzed the types and function of hedges. The data analysis was taken by giving codes to identify the types and functions of hedges. Furthermore, the researcher classified and discussed the identified data to determine the types and function of hedges uttered by the female characters in the movie.

This study found seven from nine types of hedges proposed by Namsaraev (1997) (modal auxiliary verbs, lexical verbs, adverbs of frequency, if clause, nouns, adverb, probability adjectives, compound hedges, and filler) and all four functions of hedges (the expression of uncertainty, the expression to maintain politeness, the expression to weaken or strengthen a statement, and the expression to start a conversation) are found in female character's utterances in the movie. The most dominant type is filler. Furthermore, the most dominant function is the expression of uncertainty and lack of confidence. To conclude, the use of hedges in female characters' utterances soften their conversation to deliver appropriate ideas and prevents them to convey exaggerated information during the conversation. Moreover, it also helps them maintain politeness and avoid the possibility of misunderstandings between participants, which can lead to conflict.

ABSTRAK

Ahla, A. (2022). *Lexical Hedges yang Digunakan oleh Karakter Wanita dalam Film Birds of Prey*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Murni Fidiyanti, M.A.

Kata kunci: Lexical hedges, fitur bahasa perempuan, bahasa dan gender, film.

Penelitian ini menyelidiki penggunaan hedges dalam ucapan karakter wanita dalam film *Birds of Prey*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis hedges menurut teori Namsaraev (1997) dan fungsi hedges menurut teori Lakoff (1975).

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Peneliti mengumpulkan data dengan cara menonton film dan mendownload transkrip film *Birds of Prey* dari internet. Kemudian, peneliti menganalisis jenis dan fungsi hedges. Analisis data dilakukan dengan memberikan kode-kode untuk mengidentifikasi jenis dan fungsi hedges. Selanjutnya, peneliti mengklasifikasikan dan mendiskusikan data yang telah teridentifikasi untuk menentukan jenis dan fungsi hedges yang diucapkan oleh karakter wanita dalam film tersebut.

Studi ini menemukan tujuh dari sembilan jenis hedges yang diusulkan oleh Namsaraev (1997) (modal auxiliary verbs, lexical verbs, adverbs of frequency, if clause, nouns, adverb, probability adjectives, compound hedges, and filler) dan keempat fungsi hedges (mengekspresikan keraguan, ungkapan untuk mempertahankan kesantunan, ungkapan untuk melemahkan atau menguatkan suatu pernyataan, dan ungkapan untuk memulai percakapan) ditemukan dalam tuturan karakter wanita dalam film tersebut. Jenis yang paling dominan adalah filler. Selanjutnya, fungsi yang paling dominan adalah sebagai ekspresi untuk mengungkapkan keraguan dan kurangnya rasa percaya diri. Sebagai kesimpulan, penggunaan hedges dalam ujaran karakter wanita digunakan untuk melunakkan percakapan mereka untuk menyampaikan ide-ide yang sesuai dan mencegah mereka menyampaikan informasi yang berlebihan selama percakapan. Selain itu, juga membantu mereka menjaga kesopanan dan menghindari kemungkinan kesalahpahaman antar pembicara, yang dapat menimbulkan konflik.

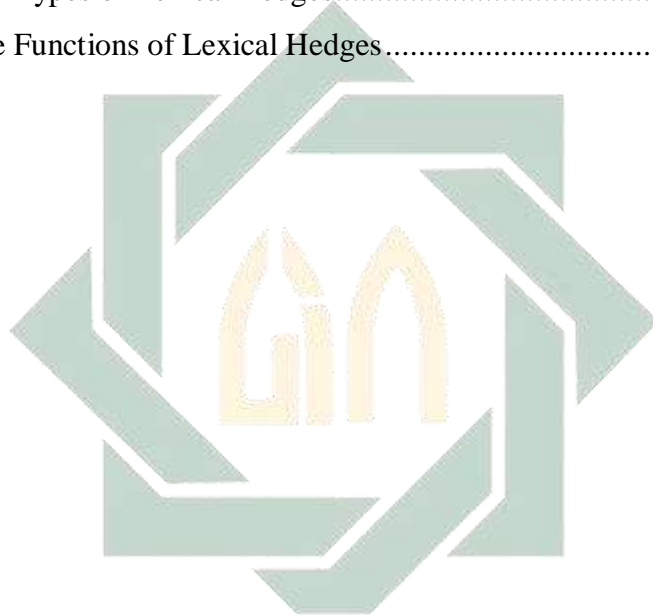
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses five points. They are background of the study, research problems, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key term.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language has different characteristics between women's language and men's language. This difference is caused by several factors, one of which is the social environment and gender. Men and women use a diverse style of language in their daily communication. It means that men and women have features representing their social status in society. Based on this, language also has a relationship with gender. Gender is not brought when a person is born but something that humans create socially and psychologically according to their beliefs and rules when they relate to each other or communicate (Rahmi, 2015).

Meanwhile, Cameron (cited in Wardhaugh, 2015, p. 313) explains the difference between sex and gender. She states that sex is a word used in connection with biological characteristics that characterize humans and animals as male or female. At the same time, gender refers to cultural traits and behaviors that a particular community deems appropriate for men or women. In addition, Coates (2013, p. 4) also stated that the definition of sex refers to a biological distinction, while gender is the term used to describe socially constructed categories based on sex. From the explanation above, the researcher concludes

that language and gender are the relationship between language and language users, which relates to the difference in language features between men and women. Therefore, a study about language and gender intends to introduce the use of language used by men and women, but this study analyses more specifically women's language.

There is an apparent difference between men's and women's speech in the community that reflects the boundaries of gender roles in society. For example, in a gender-exclusive form of speech, several forms are used only for women, and another form is used only for men, reflecting the unique social role of gender (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). Holmes (cited in Wardhaugh, 2006, p. 322) claims that several differences were found in men's and women's speech styles, they are: Women and men expand different patterns of language use, and women are concerned with the affective functions of interaction more often than men, women often use linguistic devices that stress solidarity, women also interact in ways which will maintain and increase solidarity, while men usually interact in ways which will maintain and increase their power and status, so women are stylistically more flexible than men. Those explanations show that women tend to be more careful in conversation, and women have more language features than men.

Holmes (cited in Mu'in, 2019, p. 259) also suggests four reasons women use many standard forms more than men. First, women are more concerned about being status-conscious than men. It is because a woman is more aware that the way they speak signifies their social class background or social status in society.

The general form of speech is commonly considered for its high social status. Therefore, women use a more general form of speech to assert their status. Second, society tends to expect a 'better' women's attitude than men. It is not common for women to break the rules in society, while men are more tolerated. Women are appointed to be models of behavior in society. Because of that, society expects women to speak more correctly than men, especially when they talk to their children. Third, women are still considered subordinate to men. Subordinate people must be polite.

Holmes (cited in Mu'in, 2019, p. 259) asserts that women are subordinate. They should speak carefully and politely. It is said that they seek status in the community by using a more standard language. Using a woman's standard form to protect her 'face,' she also avoids offense against others. The last reason is that men prefer the vernacular form because it contains macho connotations of masculinity and toughness. The opposite is that standard forms tend to be associated with women's values and femininity. From the explanation above, the researcher concludes that women have an essential role in the family and society. Therefore, women tend to be more careful with their words and be more polite in conversation.

Based on this explanation, an American linguist, Robin Lakoff (cited in Holmes, 2013, p. 302), indicates that there are ten characteristics of a woman's language features, including lexical hedges or fillers, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifiers, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, avoidance of strong swear words, and

emphatic stress. One feature of those features is quite interesting to analyze: lexical hedges. The lexical hedges are one of the woman's language features that express the speaker's certainty or uncertainty about a topic being discussed. Lakoff attributes the use of hedges by women to being indecisive. The function of this feature is to express a lack of confidence (Holmes, 2013, p. 303). Moreover, lexical hedges also can weaken statements (Holmes, 2013, p. 330).

Holmes (2013, p. 160) stated that women and men speak in different ways to each other in society. Women tend to use more hedges than men, and women often give compliments to other speakers. Women also use more forms of linguistics related to manners (Coates, 2013, p. 110). Women use hedges more often than men because women are more likely often feel unsure or lack confidence in a conversation. Lakoff clarifies that lexical hedges generally indicate the speakers' timidity. In addition, lexical hedges are also used to give the speaker time to think about what will be said later and to express an opinion, for example, in the following words: you know, sort of, well, you see, etc (Rosanti & Jaelani, 2016). Those explanations show that lexical hedges are one of the woman's language features which a woman quite often uses. It is because women often lack confidence when delivering a statement.

Lexical hedges are often used in women's conversations for two reasons. The first is to show politeness, and the second is to show doubts. Both of these are related to the status of women's position in society. People of lower status should be more polite than those of higher status. In society, women are seen as inferior to men. Therefore women are required to speak more politely than men. Women

will be poorly judged if they use 'disrespectful' language in their conversations. That is why women use hedges to make their utterance sounds more polite (Krismanti, 2019). The second reason to use hedges is to show doubt. The use of hedges when in doubt is done when someone is unsure what she hears or does not understand the meaning of what the other person is saying. In addition, the use of hedges when in doubt sometimes also indicates that the speaker wants to get more information from the addressee. From the explanation above, the researcher concludes that there are many reasons why someone uses hedges, including to show politeness, express doubts, or lack confidence in something that will be said.

In recent years, there have been several studies dealing with lexical hedges. In academic writing (e.g., Demir, 2018; Widiyati, 2018; Engstrom, 2018; and Taymaz, 2021;), in spoken language (e.g., Namaziandost & Shafiee, 2018; Krismanti, 2019; and Muziatun et al., 2021), on written and spoken discourse (e.g., Asfina et al., 2017), in the publication media (e.g., Zakia, 2018; and Ilmiyah, 2019), and movies (e.g., Sundar et al. 1., 2019; Septiarini et al., 2021). Primarily, studies of lexical hedges are focused on hedges used by men or women in academic writing or written text. The studies of lexical hedges focusing on academic writing as the data sources have been conducted by Demir (2018), Widiyati (2018), Engstrom (2018), and Taymaz (2021). These studies prove that hedges are also widely used in academic writing. Demir (2018) analyzed academic texts from English native and non-native writers, intending to find differences in using hedges when writing academic texts. This research uses

Hyland's theory to examine the data. The finding showed that native writers had more lexical variation in their academic writing than non-native writers. On the other hand, Widiyati (2018) analyzed hedges in the conclusion section of theses written by Indonesian EFL students based on Hyland's theory. The findings found that Indonesian EFL students mostly used lexical hedges, as much as 37%. Meanwhile, Engstrom (2018) investigated the use of hedges by males and females, focusing on two hedges: "I think" and "I am sure," based on Lakoff's theory (1975), this study uses a corpus called British National Corpus 2014 (BNC2014) as the data source. In addition, Taymaz (2021) analyzed the use of hedges and boosters by Turkish MA and Ph.D. students using Hyland's theory. The researcher used the data source of the M.A. theses and ten Ph.D. dissertations. In conclusion, the three studies discussed the use of hedges in academic writing using Hyland's theory. At the same time, Engstrom (2018) uses Lakoff's theory but also in the field of academic writing.

Besides the studies mentioned above, the researcher also found several studies that analyzed lexical hedges in spoken language. For example, research conducted by Namaziandost and Shafiee (2018), Krismanti (2019), and Muziatun et al. (2021). Namaziandost and Shafiee (2018) compare the possible differences between female and male EFL students using lexical hedges in their academic spoken language. This research uses Namsaraev's theory (1997) to examine the data. The result of this study shows that Female responders use more lexical hedges than male responders. The most frequent use of linguistic hedges or fillers is: "Uhh" and "yeah" in their utterances.

On the contrary, Krismanti (2019) analyzed hedges, boosters, and tag questions used by Banjarese men and women in their conversations. The result of the study found that Banjarese women use more hedges than men in their conversations. Furthermore, Muziatun et al. (2021) also analyzed lexical hedges in spoken language. This research focuses on the types of hedging by Namsaraev's theory (1997) toward the participants' speech in the Seminar on Language presentation. From the results of this study, it was found that there were five types of lexical hedges in the two participants. Female participants often use filler types that express a lack of self-confidence. Meanwhile, male participants used modal auxiliary verbs that showed firmness and certainty.

Moreover, Asfina et al. (2017) research focused on using hedges in written and spoken discourse. This study analyzed thesis proposals and presentations by 20 ELT graduate students registered in 2015 at a state university in East Java, Indonesia. To examine the data, the researcher uses Salager-Meyer and Hyland's theory. The finding showed that the use of hedges by students is more commonly found in written discourse than in oral discourse. In addition, they also found that the use of hedges in the academic field was influenced by the discourse mode, written or spoken. In conclusion, from those previous studies, there are two similar studies, namely studies by Namaziandost and Shafiee (2018) and Muziatun et al. (2021), which investigated lexical hedges in spoken language based on the same theory which is Namsaraev's theory (1997). Still, those research used different objects as the data source.

The researcher also found several studies that analyzed lexical hedges found in the publication media, such as magazines, online websites, online newspapers, etc. They are Zakia (2018) and Ilmiyah (2019). Zakia (2018) analyzed the function of hedges as a politeness strategy in The New York Times online newspaper entitled "The U.S. Says Syria Has Used Chemical Weapons at Least 50 Times During War". This research use Salager and Mayer's theory and Levinson's theory of politeness. The result of this study found that hedges are not only able to be used as a positive politeness strategy but also as negative politeness. At the same time, Ilmiyah (2019) analyzed hedging used by the writer on the New York Times online website. This research applied Lakoff and Salager Mayer's theory to identify the data. This research showed that there are seven types of hedges. According to the researcher, the function of this hedging is to increase the accuracy of the author's claims. In conclusion, both studies by Zakia (2018) and Ilmiyah (2019) analyze lexical hedges using the same theory, namely the theory of Salager and Mayer. Hence, they also combine with other different theories. Zakia (2018) combines Levinson's theory, while Ilmiyah (2019) combines it with Lakoff's theory.

However, the researcher found that only two previous researchers used Movies as the data source to analyze lexical hedges. The first study was conducted by Sundar et al. (2019). They used Salager Mayer and Yule's theory to examine the data. This research focuses on the hedges words used by women in figurative speech acts in the main character in the Sweet 20 movie. The second study was conducted by Septiarini et al. (2021). They used Lakoff's theory to

analyze the function of hedges in Mamma Mia movie. These two studies both of them use different theories to examine lexical hedges. The first study used Lakoff's theory to analyze the function of hedges. In contrast, the second study used Salager Mayer's theory to identify the type of hedges and used Yule's theory to identify the illocutionary speech acts.

Although the previous studies mentioned above have analyzed lexical hedges using various theories, as far as the researcher's knowledge, none has examined lexical hedges using Namsaraev's theory (1997) combined with Lakoff's theory (1975). Moreover, none of the studies analyzed lexical hedges in the "Birds of Prey" movie as the research data source. Furthermore, the researcher was interested in researching lexical hedges features because this feature is one of the women's language features that women often use. This feature has various types and functions depending on the context and situation.

"Birds of Prey" is an appropriate movie to be analyzed the language features, especially lexical hedges features. Since the Birds of Prey is a thriller movie, the researcher was interested to analyzed the use of hedges uttered by the female characters in this movie. This is because most of the characters are assertive, independent, confident, and mostly have strong character. Thus, the researcher was interested in investigating what types of hedges uses the most by the characters. This movie has many main characters, and they are women. "Birds of Prey (And The Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)" is a film from the D.C. Extended Universe that focuses on Harley Quinn. She is the only female member of the Suicide Squad criminal group. This film can be said as a

continuation of the Suicide Squad movie. In Suicide Squad (2016), Harley Quinn is depicted as Joker's girlfriend, who is always under her boyfriend's protection. Nevertheless, Harley Quinn is now told to have left Joker. After breaking up with Joker, Harley Quinn joins forces with Black Canary, Huntress, and Renee Montoya to save a young girl named Cassandra Cain from being killed by an evil ruler named Black Mask. There have been several studies that used "Birds of Prey" as the object by using various subjects of studies, for example investigating speech style (Cahyani, Utami, and Juniarta, 2021), presupposition (Sari, 2021), psychological analysis (Wirawan, 2021), feminism analysis (Ni'mah, 2022), slang words (Christiana, Fadilah, and Rachmawaty, 2021), the meaning of masculinity analysis (Hutabarat, Lubis, and Oxygentri, 2020), semiotics analysis (Rahmawati, Jupriono, and Palupi, 2020), space and metaphor preposition analysis (Pratiwi, 2021), femininity analysis (Qodarain, 2021). However, according to the researcher's knowledge, no research has investigated "Birds of Prey" movie focusing on lexical hedges features. Since this movie is the latest action-adventure movie that was released in February 2020,

Furthermore, this research tries to find lexical hedges features found in dialogues of selected female characters in the "Birds of Prey" movie. The researcher uses the theory proposed by Namsaraev (1997) to analyze the types of hedges. The researcher also uses Lakoff's theory (1975) to identify the functions of hedges features. Both theories were chosen because, according to the researcher's knowledge, none has examined lexical hedges using Namsaraev's (1997) combined with Lakoff's theory (1975). The characters' utterances in the

movie were investigated in conducting this research by following the existing context.

1.2 Problems of the Study

1. What types of lexical hedges are found in women characters utterances in the "Birds of Prey" movie?
2. What functions of lexical hedges are found in women characters utterances in the "Birds of Prey" movie?

1.3 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to enhance the previous studies on language features, especially on Namsaraev's theory of lexical hedges features and it is expected to add knowledge in the field of sociolinguistics. Furthermore, the researcher hopes that this research can present more detailed information to readers about lexical hedges contained in movie dialogues. Moreover, the researcher also expects that this research can give brief explanation of types and function of lexical hedges contained in the conversation uttered by the women characters in the "Birds of Prey" movie.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This research focuses on women's language features, emphasizing lexical hedges as found in the utterances of the female characters in the "Birds of Prey" movie. This research uses the "Birds of Prey" movie and the transcript as the data source. This study concerns on utterances of the female characters in the "Birds of Prey" movie. The characters are Harley Quinn, Black Canary, Huntress, Renee Montoya, and Cassandra Cain. Furthermore, the researcher restricts the study and

concentrates on the type and function of lexical hedges features by using Lakoff and Namsaraev's theory. The purpose of this limitation is to avoid misunderstanding and expand the unimportant discussion.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Language and gender is a branch of sociolinguistics that studies the relationship between language and language users.

Women's language features are several aspects of women's utterances that indicate the characteristics of women (Holmes, 2013, p. 302).

Lexical hedges or filler is one of a woman's language features that express the speaker's certainty or uncertainty or a lack of confidence about a topic being discussed (Holmes, 2013, p. 303).

A movie is a story or an event recorded by a camera and shown in a theatre or television (Oxford dictionary).

Birds of Prey (And The Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn) is an American superhero film from the D.C. Extended Universe Produced by Warner Bros. This film focuses on the story of Harley Quinn after breaking up with her boyfriend, Joker. Then she joins her new friends to save a girl named Cassandra Cain from being killed by an evil ruler figure known as Black Mask.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter describes the research approach. Includes several theories regarding this research. They are language and gender, women's language features, hedges' types, and function.

2.1 Language and Gender

A language is a communication tool used by a particular community (Cambridge dictionary). Meanwhile, the definition of gender has several relations to the definition of sex. According to Coates (2004, p. 4), 'sex' refers to biological differences, while 'gender' is a term used to describe socially formed categories based on sex. Most people are categorized by two genders, masculine and feminine. Gender is an essential component of identity in society. As Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2003, p. 50) argue, the power of gender categories in social life makes it impossible for us to go through our lives without gender and not to behave in a way that reflects our gender towards someone. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the study of language and gender is a sociolinguistics study that discusses the types of speech in the field of gender, gender relations, gender practices, and sexuality.

Many studies address language differences between men and women. For example, in terms of conversation, women build conversations more often than men. Their conversations tend to be more about people and relationships. Not stuff. Compared to men, women provide more feedback to interlocutors (Brown

& Attardo, 2009, p. 169). According to Trudgill (cited in Wray & Bloomer, 2006, p. 108), women tend not to be able to show their status through their work, so they signal through the way they talk. In addition, women are seen as innovative and conservative figures. It can be seen from the difference in speech between men and women, women tend to use new words more often, but they also keep old words alive (Brown & Attardo, 2009, p. 165). To conclude, the language used by women and men in speaking has different characteristics. Women tend to build conversations more and pay more attention to their choice of words than men.

The difference between women and men are not only in how they speak. According to Wardhaugh (2005, p. 316-317), other differences between men and women include that females have two X chromosomes. In contrast, males have only X and Y. These differences are found on the genetic side. Most women have more fat than men, while men have more muscle than women. Women also mature more quickly and live longer. Besides, female voices usually have different characteristics from male voices, and often women and men exhibit different verbal skills, for example, in terms of 'gossip.' Men like small talk involving insults, challenges, or other harmful behavior. Meanwhile, most women use nurturing, polite words in their conversations, have feedback, and are cooperative. From this difference, it can be seen that men and women have different norms of behavior. However, there are also many differences due to the different ways they socialize in society. For example, the different roles they play in society and their jobs. It can make their point of view and the way they talk differently. Women often speak using "helpless" language more than men.

Furthermore, men often dominate conversations at work regardless of whether they are the boss. In conclusion, men and women have many differences not only in the field of language but also in many ways, for example, based on genetic factors, ways of socializing, etc. These differences can also affect the way they speak in a conversation.

In the field of morphology and vocabulary, There are also differences between the vocabulary items used by women and men. Lakoff stated (cited in Wardhaugh, 2005, p. 318) that women tend to use more specific colored words such as mauve, beige, aquamarine, lavender, and magenta, but most men do not do it. She also revealed that women generally use adjectives such as adorable, charming, divine, lovely, and sweet, while men rarely use them. Women also have their vocabulary to emphasize specific effects on their speech. They use words and expressions like so good, such fun, exquisite, lovely, divine, precious, adorable, darling, and fantastic (Wardhaugh, 2005, p. 319). To sum up, women have more choice vocabulary than men. They have specific words for colors, nicknames, and other adjectives that are often added in conversation.

2.2 Women's language features

Women's language is the stereotype of women's behavior. It can be defined that women's language is a language that indicates the characteristics of women. Women's language features are used to distinguish between female speech and male speech. Commonly, women use language more completely than men. A linguist in the field of language and gender, Robin Lakoff (cited in Brown and Attardo, 2009, p. 164), states that there are several characteristics of women's

language that they often use in their conversations. In women's speech, they generally use words such as *mauve*, *divine*, and *lovely*, which are not used in male conversation. Women also often sound like they are asking questions when making statements, or sometimes their sentences end with a rising intonation. Besides, women also ask more questions than men, especially using tag questions ending, for instance, "Isn't it?" It is because they often feel unsure of their words. Women's language features distinguish between male and female language features in a conversation. These differences can be seen in the use of vocabulary, intonation, and language style they use.

Furthermore, women often use more hedges like "sort of" in their utterances. Lakoff also believes that women use emphatic modifiers such as *so*, *very*, and different intonations that use a lot of emphases. She also said that women pay more attention to grammar and pronunciation in their speech. For instance, women use the -ing pronunciation more often than men, while men use the -in' pronunciation more often than women, for example, in words like *getting* – *gettin'* and *leaving* – *leavin'*. Women generally use more standard grammatical forms than men, whereas men use more vernacular forms than women (Holmes, 2013, p. 163). According to Holmes (2013, p. 167), several reasons make women use standard forms more than men. Namely, the first depends on social class and status, the second refers to the social role of women in society, and the third is due to the status of women as a subordinate group to men. The last reason is the function of conversation in describing gender identity.

Apart from the differences above, there are some other differences.

Women are often given names, titles, and addressed differently from men. They often use address words such as lady, miss, dear, and even baby or babe. Women also don't use profanity or obscenity as men usually do; if they do, they use it in different situations (Wardhaugh, 2005, p. 322). Instead, women make requests very politely, whereas men do not. A linguist, Otto Jespersen, added that women often use hyperbole or exaggerated words. Women are also considered to rarely or even not use taboo expressions. Even in some languages, men and women have several words that have the same meaning (Brown & Attardo, 2009, p. 165). Furthermore, another element often used in women's language namely "powerless." Lakoff says that a specific part of a woman's way of speaking is her tentative way of speaking. Women often feel powerless because the way of their speech is simple and ineffective at making other people think or do what the speaker wants (Eckert, 2003, p. 158-159). To conclude, women rarely use harsh words, and women more often use standard forms than men. It is due to several reasons, including the different roles of women and men in society, differences in mindset, social status, and depending on the function of the conversation is done.

Based on the explanation above, men's and women's languages have many differences. Holmes (Cited in Wardhaugh, 2005, p. 323) states that the most important points that distinguish between female and male languages include: women and men develop different patterns of language use; women tend to focus more often on the affective function of interaction than men; women also use linguistic tools that emphasize solidarity more than men; women tend to interact

in ways that maintain and increase solidarity, while men tend to interact in ways that will maintain and increase their power and status. In addition, women are also more flexible than men. Based on the differences in language characteristics between men and women above, Lakoff revealed several language features that women often use. These features are classified into ten features of women's language, including lexical hedges or filler, tag questions, rising intonation on declarative, empty adjectives, precise color terms, intensifier, hypercorrect grammar, super polite forms, emphatic stress, and avoidance of strong swear word (Holmes, 2013, p. 302-303). Furthermore, based on the limitation of this study, the researcher wants to analyze lexical hedges features based on some linguist theories such as Robin Lakoff (1975) and Namasaraev (1997).

2.2.1 Classification of Women's Language Features

2.2.1.1 *Avoidance of strong swear words*

According to Eckert & Ginet (2003, p. 181), swearing is generally considered an expression of strong emotions or anger at another person in a bad situation. Women avoid using swear words by giving a more subtle form. They use swear words more politely, such as: *Oh my dear! Oh my goodness!* etc. (Nurhayati, 2007).

2.2.1.2 *Emphatic stress*

Emphatic stress is a phrase to emphasize a significant word or meaning in a statement. Emphatic stress is used by women when they want to strengthen the meaning of a statement or utterance. For example, *she is **really** beautiful; it was a **brilliant** idea*, etc (Oktapiani et al., 2017).

2.2.1.3 Empty adjectives

Empty adjectives are used when a woman wants to convey her feeling about something in a specific situation. For example: “*What a **divine** idea!*” (Badari et al., 2017).

2.2.1.4 Hypercorrect grammar

Hypercorrect grammar is related to the use of standard English form, including avoiding rough language, apologies, and using politeness form as additional features in conversation. In other words, hypercorrect grammar is speaking in standard English correctly and properly (Badari et al., 2017). For example, men usually use the word “*goin*,” while women tend to use the word “*going*” based on its original form (Amanda, 2017).

2.2.1.5 Intensifiers

An intensifier is an adverb used to enhance or emphasize the specific meaning of an utterance (Ummah, 2020). Several words include intensifiers such as *absolutely, just, pretty, quite, really, so, such, too, very*, etc. For example: “*I like her so much.*”

2.2.1.6 Precise color terms

Precise color terms are used to make conversations simpler by giving more specific names to colors. In addition, precise color terms also reflect that women have more vocabulary than men (Pebrianti, 2013, p. 115). Color terms that women often use for example, beige, cream, violet, magenta, maroon, mauve, lavender, etc. (Indra et al., 2018).

2.2.1.7 Rising Intonation on Declarative

Rising intonation on declarative is a statement with a high intonation at the end of the sentence (Khoirot et al., 2010). Women commonly use rising intonation on declarative to convince the validity of the information (Indra et al., 2018). For example: "*Oh... it has already six o'clock?*", "*Really? Are you going alone?*" etc.

2.2.1.8 Superpolite forms

Superpolite forms can be defined as indirect request forms. Women employ this feature to choose more polite utterances to request something or give a command in conversation (Murti, 2018, p. 18-19). Some phrases that refer to superpolite forms such as "will you...?", "won't you...?", "please...", etc. For example, "will you open the door?" or another example, such as "passed away" instead of using the word "died" to make the utterance more polite (Apridaningrum, 2018, p. 10).

2.2.1.9 Tag question

Tags questions are usually used at the end of the sentence to ask for confirmation from the recipient. Tag questions can be used to find information or requests, present new topics, invite others to participate in the conversation, and encourage someone to tell something (Khoirot et al., 2010). For example, "*Sure, it's cold here, isn't it?*".

2.2.1.10 Lexical hedges or fillers

Lexical hedges are particles, words, or phrases that change "the degree of the noun phrase in a set, it is partial, or true only in certain fields, or which is more true and complete than might be expected" (Brown & Levinson, 1987, p.

145). Lexical hedges are one of the characteristics of women's language. This feature expresses a lack of confidence and represents a woman's insecurities. It means that when a person uses lexical hedges, she feels less confident or avoids saying something that will offend someone. In addition, lexical hedges can be used when the speaker feels she cannot state her statement correctly (Sanjaya, 2018, p. 794). Lexical hedges are also often used to change from one topic to another in a conversation and as pauses to provide a time sequence for the speaker to think about what they will say next. Another purpose of using lexical hedges is to greet the other person and keep the conversation on track (Nafilaturif'ah et al., 2017). Some lexical hedges words often used by women such as *well, you know, like, kind of, I mean, I guess, you see, etc.*

Holmes (1995, p.72) adds that lexical hedges can weaken or reduce a statement's strength. When talking, women generally use several types of hedges for different purposes (Lakoff, 2004, p. 79). When they feel unsure about what they want to say and cannot guarantee the statement's validity, they use the word *well, you know, and kind a*. Moreover, lexical hedges also show that women should be more polite than men, for example, to state that someone is actually short, but to maintain decency, saying that *John is sorta tall* is better than directly saying that he is short (Lakoff, 2004, p. 79). The words that are forms of hedges are: *you know, sort of, kind of, see, you see, I think, I guess, I wonder, I suppose, I mean, rather, perhaps, probably, like, um, basically, just, if you don't mind me saying, uh, really, I suppose, if truth be told, without a doubt, or something, well, yeah, uhh, of course, so if you know what, etc.* Coates (2013, p. 33) adds several

functions of lexical hedges: expressing doubt and confidence, showing sensitivity to other people's feelings, looking for the right words, negotiating sensitive topics, self-disclosure, and opening conversations.

Apart from hedges, another feature that has the same function as lexical hedges is fillers. Nevertheless, hedges and fillers are slightly different features. Filler is one part of several types of hedges. Fillers refer to meaningless words that women always use, such as *umm*, *uh*, *ah*. At the same time, Lexical hedges are words that contain lexical content. It can be concluded that lexical hedges and filler are phrased as pauses used in conversation to fill gaps in speech, inaccurate information, lack of confidence, uncertainty, doubt, and confusion, which can be interpreted as "meaningless particles" (Oktapiani et al., 2017). Women use lexical hedges more often than men because women often feel unsure of their statements. They often have doubts about whether they are saying something right or not. For example: "*Well, I think I have to go now.*" Coates (2013, p. 31) mentions that lexical hedges include various linguistic forms, consisting of modal auxiliaries (*may*, *might*, *could*, etc.), modal adverbs such as *perhaps*, *possibly*, and *probably*, and also discourse markers such as *I mean*, *I think* and *well*. In sum, lexical hedges are one feature often used by women who lack confidence when saying something in a conversation. Meanwhile, fillers are meaningless words that women always use to express hesitation.

2.3 Types of Hedges

Hedges are one of the language features that women often use. There are several types of hedges. Namsaraev (cited in Markanen & Schroder, 1997, p. 153) suggests nine types of lexical hedges based on their classification.

2.3.1 Modal auxiliary verb

A modal auxiliary verb is one of hedges types that often appear in conversation. According to Coates and Cameron (2014, p. 74) modal auxiliary verb is a feature used to indicate the level of certainty of a statement. Meanwhile, Quirk (2010, p. 219) divides modal auxiliary verbs into three parts. First, modal auxiliary which shows the desire, permission, ability, and possibility. For example, *can, might, may, and could*. Second, modal auxiliary which states necessity and obligation. For example, *should and must*. Last, modal auxiliary which shows prediction and hope. Several modal auxiliary verbs include *will, must, might, can, should, could, would, and may*.

2.3.2 Lexical verb

Lexical verbs express doubt and opinions, or suggestions (Hyland, 1994, p. 248). Examples of lexical verbs include *believe, think, assume, suggest, indicate, argue, propose, speculate, appear*, etc. Holmes & Schnurr (2005, p. 141) state that women and men use lexical verbs in daily conversation. Men and women use lexical verbs to express doubt or uncertainty in their conversations. However, women are more likely to feel unsure in their conversations, so women use lexical verbs more often than men.

2.3.3 Probability adjective

Probability adjectives have a similar definition to adverbs, which indicate information that is uncertain, tentative, or not quite precise (Wang and Tatiana, 2016, p. 48). Probability adjectives indicate the degree of possibility between something true or false (Varttala, 2001, p. 135). Several words refer to this type are *possible, impossible, obvious, sure, and likely*. Nuyts (1999, p. 55) states that almost all modal adjectives are used by both women and men, except for *probable*. However, Nuyts (1999, p. 55) found that the probability of adjectives being used more often by men than women. Schmied (2015, p. 159-184) also asserts that men often use probability adjectives in their utterances.

2.3.4 Noun

A noun is a word used to identify a class of people, places, or things. Besides, it can refer to one of the proper nouns. Meanwhile, according to Namsaraev (2010, p. 155), nouns as types of hedges are nouns that are identified as uncertain or unlimited words. Nouns often used are “*assumption, claim, probability, possibility, estimate, and suggestion*.” Nouns are also frequently used in male conversation (Biber et al., 2004). Men often use nouns such as *assumption, possibility, or claim* to express their uncertainty (Huang, 2015).

2.3.5 Adverbs

Lakoff (1986, p. 403) claims that women use adverbs more frequently in their conversations than men. Adverbs words that are often used include *practically, presumably, clearly, probably, conversely, possibly, perhaps, definitely, certainly, virtually, apparently, completely, obviously, awfully, terribly,*

etc. Adverbs are also found in male conversation, but the use of adverbs in men and women is slightly different. Men use these adverbs to express a high degree of truth, while most women use these words to raise the tone and to express politeness (Hyland, 1994, p. 403). Schmied (2015, p. 159) revealed that adverb words that men often use are *probably, relatively, possibly, and apparently*. It can be concluded that both women and men use adverbs to enhance their claims, but women use adverb words more often than men.

2.3.6 Adverb of frequency

The adverb of frequency, commonly called approximation, is generally used to indicate the frequency or accuracy of information. These expressions describe the frequency, quantity, and time of a topic in a conversation (Namsaraev, 2010, p. 64). The following are some expressions of adverbs of frequency: *often, occasionally, generally, usually, sometimes, normally, frequently, always, rarely, never, seldom, about, a lot of, never, somehow, etc.*

Adverb of frequency is not only used to express a lack of confidence or hesitation but also can be used to strengthen the accuracy of information (Hyland, 1998, p. 170). Women use approximation or adverb of frequency to avoid misinformation conveyed by the interlocutor, either in the form of time, place, or quantity (Dousti & Rasekh, 2016). It can be concluded that women use adverbs of frequency to get the correct information or to know the truth of a statement. On the other hand, men rarely use adverbs of frequency.

2.3.7 “If” clause

The "If" clause is one type of hedges that has its own rules. They attenuate claims about the consequences (Kai & Anthony, 2015). An "if" clause relates to the conditional sentences of a particular thing, which generally begins with an "if"(Sunendar, N.F., et al., 2019). The conditional sentence "If" is one type of hedges because this clause has the meaning of uncertainty. The general term often used for hedges + If clause is conditional hedges. Some examples of If clauses include hedges, such as "*If true*" and "*If anything.*" Another example: "*If he didn't tell Hailey, he told Tina probably.*" Based on the example above, it can be concluded that the "If" clause in hedges is used to express relative ignorance or doubt. Both of the sentences seem to be stating the same thing. Both express limited meaning. Each of these two sentences has a possibility of being true. He might have told Hailey, or else he might have told Tina (Fintel, K.V. & Gillies, A.S, 2015).

2.3.8 Compound hedges

Compound hedges are a combination of two or more types with similar meanings. According to Francoise Salager-Meyer (2017, p. 133), compound hedges have several categories. The most common forms are: first, consisting of one form of a modal auxiliary verb combined with a lexical verb such as "*it would arise.*" Second, multiple hedges consist of a lexical verb followed by an adverb or adjective where the adverb or adjective reinforces already existing hedges in the lexical verb, for instance, "*it seems reasonable.*" Several compound hedges can be

double hedges, for example: “*it may suggest that,*” “*this probably indicates,*” and so on.

2.3.9 Fillers

Filler is a marker expression used by speakers when they are still thinking or hesitating to say something in a conversation (Clark & Tree, 2002). According to Parham (2013), women use fillers more often than men. The utterances of fillers are *well, I think, I mean, sort of, kind of, ehmm, uhmm, hmm, uhh, ahh, yeah, you know, you see, by the way, all I know,* etc. (Lakoff, 1986, p. 405). Meanwhile, several men also use fillers such as “mm,” “ahh,” and “uhh” in their conversation, but in a different way than women.

2.4 Functions of Hedges

One of the most frequently used in woman's language features is hedges. Hedges are also often used in conversations between women and men. There are many theories and explanations regarding the function of hedges in female utterances. However, the researcher decided to take from Lakoff's theory (1975). According to Lakoff (1975, p. 53-54), the use of lexical hedges in women's language features has several functions, including below:

2.4.1. To express uncertainty

Women often feel unsure about something. This feeling can be expressed by using lexical hedges words. Lakoff (1975) claims that the use of hedges is not only to show the speaker's feelings when they feel uncertain about what they want to say but also when the speaker cannot guarantee the validity of the statement.

2.4.2 To maintain politeness

In some situations, women tend to use unkind statements, which makes it sound harsh. Therefore, women use some lexical hedges to avoid using these words, where the purpose is to maintain politeness (Lakoff, 1975, p. 53-54).

2.4.3 To weaken or strengthen a statement

Hedges can be used as an apology for making any statement because the speaker doesn't want to emphasize herself strongly. Furthermore, hedges have different functions in each situation; sometimes, they can be used to weaken a statement, and at another time, they can be used to strengthen a statement.

2.4.4 To Start a Discussion

Women often use lexical hedges to start a conversation in any situation (Rubbiyanti, 2017, p. 48). Some words that are often used, for example, "*well*," "*you know*," "*in my opinion*," "*I think*," etc. These words are hedges words that are often used to start a statement or discussion in women's utterances (Sabela, 2020). Women use these hedges because it contains some meaning, including expressing uncertainty, politeness, and lack of confidence, which is very appropriate for expressing women's feelings when they want to start a conversation.

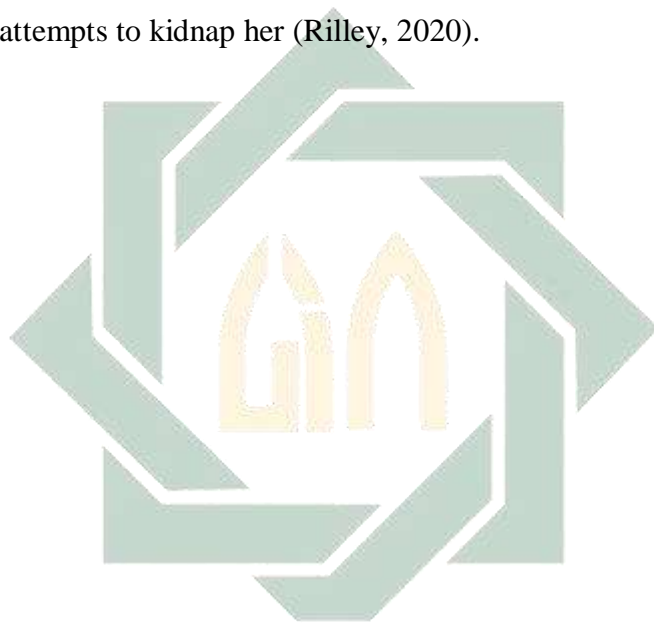
2.5 Birds Of Prey Movie

Birds of Prey (and Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn) is a 2020 American superhero film based on the DC Comics team, produced and distributed by Warner Bros Pictures. The film is directed by Cathy Yan and written by Christina Hodson and stars Margot Robbie, Mary Elizabeth Winstead,

Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Rosie Perez, Chris Messina, Ella Jay Basco, Ali Wong, and Ewan McGregor. This film tells the story of Harley Quinn's life after breaking up with her boyfriend, Joker. Gotham City crime lord Roman Sionis threatens her to find a child named Cassandra Cain. However, Harley Quinn then meets Black Canary, Dinah Lance, Renee Montoya, and Huntress, and they unite to save the child from Black Mask, the main antagonist in the movie, and call themselves Birds of Prey.

The main characters in this movie are women. They are Harley Quinn, Black Canary, Huntress, Renee Montoya, and Cassandra Cain. Harley is a former psychiatrist and member of the Suicide Squad (2016), where she and other supervillains are assigned to take on a high-stakes, life-threatening project for a corrupt government. Harley then falls in love with Joker when Joker is in her treatment as a patient at mental health care. Then she became Joker's girlfriend. Meanwhile, Huntress is a member of the titular superhero team from Gotham. Her real name is Helena, but she prefers to be called Huntress. Huntress is the daughter of the prominent mobster Franco Bertinelli. When she was a child, she witnessed the murder of her parents at the hands of a rival mafia gang. Then Huntress learns martial arts for revenge and vows to take over the leadership of Gotham. Then she teamed up with Harley. Huntress is very good at using arrows. Therefore she has been nicknamed the Huntress. The next character is Black Canary. Black Canary has a super high-pitched voice that can paralyze her enemies. In addition, she is also a skilled fighter who infiltrates criminal gangs to bring them down. Then there is Renee Montoya. Renee Montoya is a detective at

the Gotham City Police who works to investigate essential cases. She feels betrayed by her colleagues in the police force, and she has a grudge against the Black Mask. She ends up joining Harley and the others. The last character is Cassandra Cain. Cassandra is a naughty child who comes from a broken home family. She steals money from people and accidentally steals Black mask's diamond. Luckily, Cassandra had saved by Harley and the Birds of prey team after Black Mask attempts to kidnap her (Rilley, 2020).



UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODS

In this chapter, the researcher explained the research method used to collect and analyze the data. This chapter is divided into several sub-chapters, including research design, data collection, research data, data source, instrument, data collection techniques, and data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

The researcher applied descriptive qualitative research in this study. According to Johnson and Christensen (2017, p. 88), qualitative research does not usually collect data in the form of numbers. Instead, it conducts observations and in-depth interviews, and the data are usually in the form of words. It is similar to the statement of Wray and Bloomer (2006, p. 97), who stated that qualitative research involves description and analysis rather than counting features. In other words, qualitative research focuses on words rather than statistics or numbers. In this study, the researcher applied the qualitative method to investigate the types and functions of lexical hedges used by female characters from the Birds of Prey movie to reveal the research questions.

3.2 Data Collection

The researcher described the method used to collect data in this data collection. They are research data, data source, subject of the study, instrument, data collection techniques, and data analysis.

3.2.1 Research Data

The research data of this research was the utterances of dialogue among the female characters in *Birds of Prey* movie as the primary data of this research. The researcher tried to find out the types and functions of lexical hedges from the utterances of the female characters in *Birds of Prey* movie. Therefore, the researcher focused on the conversation, expression, context, intonation, and utterances of female characters in the movie. The research data in this study was in the form of words, phrases, and sentences based on Namasaraev's theory (1997) uttered by Harley Quin, Black Canary, Dinah Lance, Renee Montoya, Huntress, and Cassandra Cain. The data sources were taken from the *Birds of Prey* movie transcript. Furthermore, the researcher watched *Birds of Prey* movie to help the researcher investigate which types and functions of hedges uttered by female characters.

3.2.2 Data Source and Subject of the Study

The researcher took the data source of this research from an action movie produced by Warner Bros. This research data were taken from the transcript of the selected movie entitled *Birds of Prey*. The duration of the movie was about an hour and forty-eight minutes. The story of this movie was written by Christina Hodson and directed by Cathy Yan. This movie was released in 2020. The movie premiere was held in Mexico City on January 25, 2020. In this study, the researcher used Harley Quin, Black Canary, Renee Montoya, Huntress, and Cassandra Cain as the subject of this research because they were the female character and also the movie's main characters.

Harley is the most crucial character in *Birds of Prey's* movie because she is the lead female character. She has the most conversations in the story. Huntress was a member of the titular superhero team from Gotham. She was an orphan of the mafia family Franco Bertinelli. After her family was killed in a mob attack, she learned martial arts to take revenge and joined Harley and her friends. The next character is Black Canary, who can use her voice to destroy enemy eardrums, break glass and even kill people. She was also a great fighter who could fight a lot of enemies. Then there was Renee Montoya, a former detective of the Gotham City Police Department. She grieves against Black Mask, so she joins the other "Birds of prey" members. The last one was Cassandra Cain. She was a child who stole Roman's diamond, resulting in her being hunted by Black Mask. But luckily, she was protected by Harley and her friends. Moreover, "Birds of Prey" is an American superhero film based on the DC Comics team, produced by Warner Bros. It was one of the successful movies that told about the struggle of women to save a child who was being chased by mafia gangs. The movie also explores gender equality, which shows that women are not weak and can do whatever they want even though men are more dominant than women.

3.2.3 Research Instrument

The main instrument in this research was the human instrument. Since this research used descriptive qualitative, the human instrument was the researcher who collected the data, analyzed the data, and drew the conclusion by herself. The researcher collected data by watching the movie and reading the movie transcript, and then the researcher investigated lexical hedges words from the movie. The

researcher also used other instruments to support this research, including English dictionaries, book references, and several websites.

3.2.4 Data Collection Techniques

The technique of collecting data was the way for the researcher to collect the data in research. In this research, the researcher used data collection in the following steps:

1. Searching the movie

The researcher searched for the movie through one digital content streaming service, Netflix. After searching, the researcher downloaded the video from the internet.

2. Downloading the movie

The researcher downloaded the movie on a website on the internet, that is from <https://t21.press/download/birds-of-prey-and-the-fantabulous-emancipation-of-one-harley-quinn-2020-3>

3. Downloading the movie transcription

The researcher downloaded the *Birds of Prey* movie transcription from <https://transcripts.thedealr.net/script.php/birds-of-prey-and-the-fantabulous-emancipation-of-one-harley-quinn-2020-WMWK>

4. Watching the movie

The researcher carefully listened and watched the movie until it finished based on the duration of the movie.

5. Collecting the data

The researcher collected the data from the movie transcript. The researcher highlighted the utterances of Harley Quin, Black Canary, Renee Montoya, Huntress, and Cassandra Cain, which contained the types of hedges according to Namsaraev's theory (1997), besides the researcher also investigated the lexical hedges words based on the function of lexical hedges according to Lakoff's theory (1975). After highlighting the data, the researcher gave some codes of types and functions for each hedges. The examples of highlighting the transcriptions can be seen as follows:

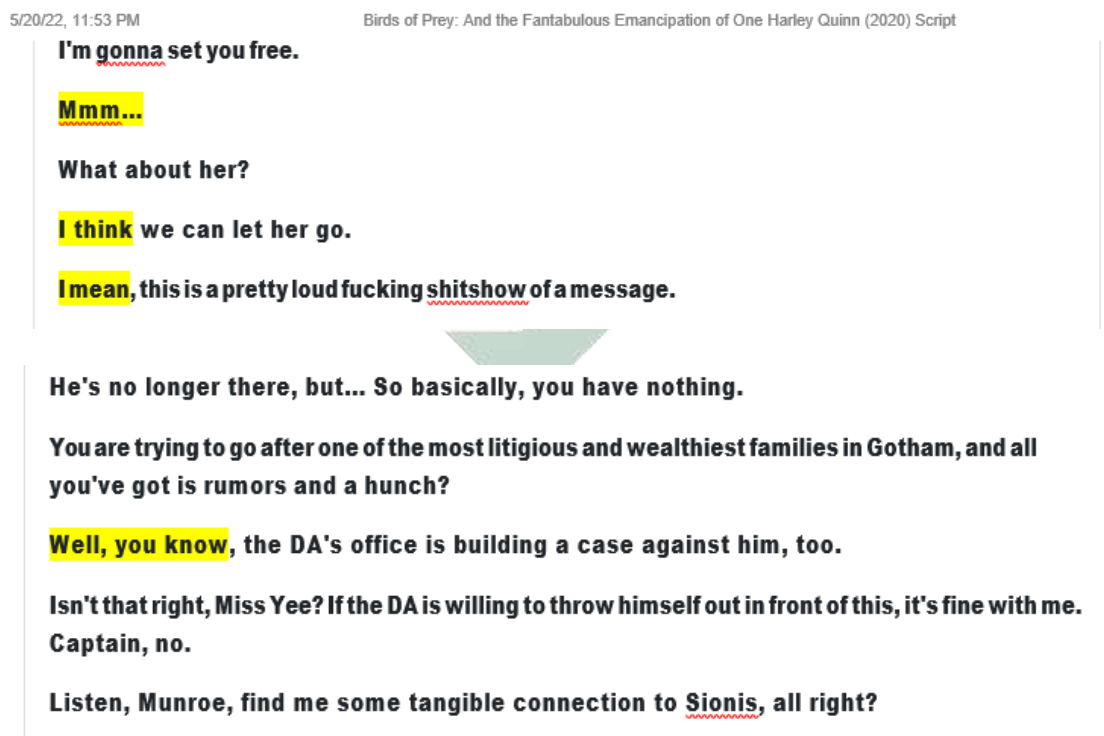


Figure 3.1: Example of Identifying Data Process for Types of Hedges

According to Namsaraev's theory

3.3 Data Analysis

The researcher has carried out four steps to analyze the data in this part. First, the researcher started by giving the codes. Second, the researcher classified the data. Third, the researcher described the classified data. Lastly, the researcher concluded the results.

3.3.1 Identifying Data

After collecting the data from the movie and the movie transcripts, the researcher identified the data. The researcher identified the selected data that indicate lexical hedges words uttered by five female characters in “Birds of Prey” movie. The researcher looked for lexical hedges words in the movie and the function of using hedges in their conversation. The researcher identified data by selecting the words, sentences, and utterances containing lexical hedges based on the theories. In addition, to make it easier for the researcher to identify the types and functions of lexical hedges words, the researcher provided a list of various hedges types and functions to facilitate the researcher in identifying data. Furthermore, the researcher highlighted the lexical hedges words in yellow and assigned different codes for each type of hedges to help the researcher identify the data.

The table of identifying data in the following table:

Table 3.1 Codes of Types of Lexical Hedges

No	Types of Lexical Hedges	Codes
1.	Modal Auxiliary Verb	MAV
2.	Lexical Verb	LV

3.	Probability Adjective	PA
4.	Noun	N
5.	Adverb	A
6.	Adverb of Frequency	AF
7.	“If” Clause	IC
8.	Compound Hedges	CH
9.	Fillers	F

After the researcher made Table 3.1 for identifying the types of hedges by coding, the researcher continued to code the function of hedges. The codes used are presented in the following tables:

Table 3.2 Codes of Lexical Hedges Functions

No	Lexical Hedges Function	Codes
1.	To maintain politeness	TMP
2.	To express uncertainty	TEU
3.	To weaken a statement	TWS
4.	To strengthen a statement	TSS
5.	To Start a Discussion	TSD

The researcher applied types of lexical hedges words code in the movie transcription. Then, the researcher added codes of lexical hedges function in the movie transcription. The following pictures were the example of coding data:

5/20/22, 11:53 PM

Birds of Prey: And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn (2020) Script

I'm gonna set you free.**Mmm...** (TEU) (EF) (F)**What about her?****I think** we can let her go. (TEU) (EF) (LV)**I mean,** this is a pretty loud fucking shitshow of a message.

(TEU) (EF) (F)

Figure 3.2: Example of Identifying Data Process for Functions of Hedges

3.3.2 Classifying Data

After the researcher gave the code to the identified data, the researcher classified the data based on the types and functions of lexical hedges used by female characters in “Birds of Prey” movie by making a table. The classified data are presented in the following tables:

Table 3.3 Classification of Types of Lexical Hedges

Types of Lexical hedges	Codes	Data	Total
Modal Auxiliary Verb	MAV		
Lexical Verb	LV	HQ/P2/L2/01:49	
Probability Adjective	PA		
Noun	N		
Adverb	A		

Adverb of Frequency	AF		
“If” Clause	IC		
Compound Hedges	CH		
Fillers	F		

Note:

HQ, RM, BC, H, CC = Female’s character name

P2 = Page 2

L2 = Line 2

01:49 = Time Stamp

After classifying the types of hedges, the researcher created a classification table of the function of hedges found in female characters' utterances.

Table 3.4 Frequency of Lexical Hedges Function

Lexical Hedges Function	Codes	Data	Total
To maintain politeness	TMP		
To express uncertainty	TEU	HQ/P2/L2/01:49	
To weaken a statement	TWS		
To strengthen a statement	TSS		
To Start a Discussion	TSD		

After classifying the types and functions of hedges, the researcher counted the total types and functions of hedges. The researcher served the final result in a

table to show the total types and functions of lexical hedges spoken by female characters in the movie.

3.3.3 Discussing the data

After the data were categorized based on the types and functions of lexical hedges, the researcher analyzed and described the data by describing the data regarding lexical hedges proposed by Namsaraev's theory (1997) and following lexical hedges functions by Lakoff's theory (1975). The researcher described the data to answer the research problem. The researcher examined lexical hedges used by the female characters through their utterances and covered the functions used. The researcher determined the types and functions of hedges in the "Birds of Prey" movie after identifying the types and functions of lexical hedges spoken by five female characters. Furthermore, the researcher also explained the data and discussed the main reason for the types of hedges and hedges functions used.

3.3.4 Making Conclusion

After conducting the three steps above, the last step that the researcher did was making a conclusion based on the analysis results and findings of this research by giving a brief explanation regarding the types and function of lexical hedges used by the female characters in the "Birds of Prey" movie.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the results of this research to answer the research problem. This chapter is divided into two parts findings and discussion.

4.1 Findings

In this chapter, the researcher described the research results in two sections. First, the researcher discussed the data about the types of hedges words uttered by female characters in the “Birds of Prey” movie. Second, the researcher explained the data about the functions of hedges used by female characters in “Birds of Prey” movie.

4.1.1 Types of Hedges

The first research question of this study relates to the types of hedges. In analyzing types of lexical hedges words, the researcher uses the theory of Namsaraev (1997). Namsaraev (1997) categorized lexical hedges words into nine types, including: Modal auxiliary verbs, Lexical verbs, Probability adjectives, Nouns, Adverbs, Adverbs of frequency, “If” clause, Compound hedges, and Fillers. The following are some examples of the data:

Table 4.1 Number of the Types of Lexical Hedges Used by the Female Character in the Birds of Prey Movie

Types of Lexical Hedges	Code	Data	Total
Modal Auxiliary Verb	MAV	A position I might add	21
Lexical Verb	LV	I think it's the Bertinelli diamond	9
Probability Adjective	PA	-	-
Noun	N	I even opened myself up to the possibility of new love	2
Adverb	A	I agree completely	1
Adverb of Frequency	AF	She's always saying cheesy shit,	14
"If" Clause	IC	I don't know if it's the stray Armenian arm hair, or ...	13
Compound Hedges	CH	-	-
Fillers	F	Yeah , I don't think so	41

By collecting the data through the female characters' utterances in the Birds of Prey movie, the researcher found seven types of hedges words. According to data analysis, the researcher found that the female characters mostly used fillers with forty-one utterances, twenty one data of modal auxiliary verbs, nine data of lexical verbs, two data of nouns, one data of adverb, fourteen data of adverb of frequency, and thirteen data about If clause. Meanwhile, the researcher didn't find probability adjectives and compound hedges in the conversation. In sum, the researcher discovered 101 utterances containing hedges words.

4.1.1.1 Modal Auxiliary Verb

Modal auxiliary verbs are one of hedges types that often appear in conversation. According to Coates and Cameron (2014, p. 74), modal auxiliary verbs are a feature used to indicate the level of certainty of a statement. Modal auxiliary verbs of lexical hedges usually have different forms depending on the situation. Modal auxiliary verbs can be in the form of an interrogative sentences, statements, etc. Furthermore, modal auxiliary verbs are the most straightforward form of hedges that is mainly used to indicate modality (Salager-Meyer, 1997, p. 109). In addition, modal auxiliary verbs have several functions, such as expressing feelings of doubt in conveying something and strengthening statements. Since modal auxiliary verbs can indicate that something being said is only a possibility, they also can reduce the force of a statement. Here are modal auxiliary verbs found in this study:

Data 1

Zsasz: "You drive as good as you fight?"

Black Canary: "Who's asking?"

Zsasz: "The boss. You're getting promoted. You're his new driver".

Black Canary: "Huh. Thanks, but I think I'm good with the singing gig".

Zsasz: "You'll be good at the driving gig. Be here tomorrow. at 9:00 a.m. Sharp".

(Harley Quin: "So, that's how Canary got herself a job driving around Gotham's newest Godfather. A position, I **might** add, that wouldn't have been vacant without the help of yours truly")

In the data above, Harley used the word "might" when explaining that she could get the private driver position if they hadn't given it to Canary. The word "might" was categorized as one of the modal auxiliary verbs. Modal auxiliary verbs are usually used to indicate the level of certainty of a statement. Based on

the statement above shows that Harley uses the word "might" because she is not sure about her thoughts, whether it will happen or not. Harley uses the word "might" to indicate her argument that she felt she would fit for a job as Roman's private driver is only based on her personal view. Harley wasn't sure if she could get that job position. She just thought about the possibility that if Canary didn't take it, she might get the job. The word "might" in Harley's words shows Harley's low level of confidence in her own words.

The conversation above happens when the characters Zsasz and Black Canary are talking about the job offers offered by Roman to Canary. Roman told Zsasz to tell Canary that he was interested in having Canary as his driver because Roman had previously seen Canary's ability to drive. At first, Canary is hesitant about the offer, but in the end, she accepts it because she fears Roman. Meanwhile, Harley's words in the data above are Harley's monologue when telling about how Canary finally became the personal driver for Gotham's newest Godfather, a.k.a Roman Sionis.

The following data is also identified as hedges in the form of modal auxiliary verbs:

Data 2

Cassandra Cain: "Whoaa" (Yawning)

Harley Quinn: "Oh, good. You're awake. Toss that for me, will you?"

Cassandra Cain: "What the fuck? Who did I just blow up?"

Harley Quinn: "Either someone who wants me dead, or someone looking to collect the half million dollar reward on your head."

In Harley's request, Harley uses the word "will you?" as a request for help. The word "will" is one of the modal auxiliary verbs used to express the level of certainty about something. Besides, the word "will" in an interrogative sentence can express politeness when asking someone for help. Harley's statements above are categorized as lexical hedges that use a modal auxiliary verb.

The data above is a conversation between Cassandra and Harley. This incident happened when Cassandra had just woken up from sleep. Cassandra fell asleep in the car after they managed to escape from the people who were trying to catch Cassandra. Harley realized that someone still followed them behind and was trying to chase them, so she intended to throw a grenade at that person. Harley felt difficulty throwing it because she was driving. She notices Cassandra wake up and intends to ask her to throw the grenade. Harley was unsure whether Cassandra was already conscious or not. Then she asked her if she wanted to throw the grenade or not.

Besides that, there are also several different forms of modal auxiliary verbs found as follows:

Data 3

Cassandra Cain: "**Can** we get this?"

Harley Quinn: "You're not gonna try to run, are you?"

Cassandra Cain: "Look, if there's really a half mil on my head, I figure I'm better off with the person who's not gonna cut me open."

Harley Quinn: "Fine. But if you try to run, I will kill you. I do not care that you're a kid."

The word "can" in Cassandra's speech is one of modal auxiliary verbs. The word "can" in the conversation above can be interpreted as a word to express the

ability to do something. "Can" in Cassandra's words above is an interrogative sentence. Cassandra's purpose in using this sentence is to ask someone to do something. As in the conversation above, Cassandra asked Harley to buy something for her. But Cassandra is still uncertain about her request. Cassandra is unsure whether Harley will buy the item for her. Therefore Cassandra asked for permission from Harley politely.

The conversation above occurred when Harley and Cassandra were shopping for their daily necessities in a convenience store. Harley still feels worried that Cassandra is trying to run away from her secretly. Meanwhile, Cassandra already trusts Harley, and doesn't intend to run away. Cassandra was looking for something to buy, then she was interested in one item, and wanted to buy it. She asked Harley if she was willing to buy it, but Harley thought Cassandra was just making excuses to run away from her. Harley felt that Cassandra was just joking or playing games with her to distract her, so Cassandra was finally able to run away from her.

4.1.1.2 *Lexical Verb*

In general, Lexical verbs can be referred to as main verbs or verbs that convey the original meaning of a sentence. Meanwhile, Lexical verbs which are used as lexical hedges can be defined as verbs expressing doubt, opinions, or suggestions (Hyland, 1994, p. 248). The use of lexical verbs generally indicates someone's feelings or thoughts that are expressed to respond to a statement. Based on Salager Meyer (1997, p. 109), lexical verbs can indicate that the speaker is performing acts such as evaluating or doubting and not just describing.

Furthermore, this feature is commonly used to express someone's feelings of doubt or lack of confidence when expressing their opinions, thoughts, or suggestions. The characteristics of lexical verbs that can be categorized as hedges generally contain uncertain meanings, such as the following words: tend, believe, think, assume, suggest, indicate, argue, propose, speculate, appear, etc. Women more often feel a lack of confidence in their conversations. Therefore women use lexical verbs more often than men. Here are lexical verbs found in this study:

Data 4

Harley Quin: “**I guess** all good things have to come to an end. So... we broke up. I handled it real mature. But Mr. J was super broke up about it. I got an amazing new place that was all mine. It gave me the space to really reflect on the mistakes of my past. I had to find a new identity. A new me. It wasn't easy. But after a while, I even opened my self up to the possibility of new love...”

The expression "I guess" is one of the hedges expressions categorized as a lexical verb. Lexical verbs express someone's feelings when expressing their opinions or thoughts. Generally, lexical verbs express uncertain feelings or a lack of confidence in someone. Based on Harley's statement above, Harley expresses her thoughts using the word "I guess." The word "I guess" expresses Harley's feelings when she lacks confidence in her statement. She did not know her statement's truth and she was unsure of her thoughts. So Harley then said the word "I guess" at the beginning of her statement to express her doubts about her thoughts.

In the data above, the female character named Harley is telling her life story. She tells about her family, love story, and career. When telling about her

love story, Harley told how she first met Joker, and they finally started dating.

The following data is also identified as hedges in the form of lexical verbs.

Unfortunately, their relationship has now ended. Even though she felt very disappointed and hurt by Joker, Harley was forced to accept this fact. At the end of the story, Harley says, "I guess all good things have to come to an end..."

Data 5

Renee Montoya: "Listen, I had a source at the club. His driver. He said that Roman couldn't stop talking about this thing. And he said that he overheard something about laser-encoding. Now, I did some research. **I think** it's the Bertinelli diamond. You remember the Bertinelli massacre, right? Which is exactly why Roman Sionis is trying to get his hands on it. That's what makes him so dangerous. He's already building an army. If he gets the diamond, he'll have all the money and connections to bribe every single judge and cop he needs to get a monopoly on the city."

Based on the data above, Renee uses the word "I think" in her utterance to express her opinion. The word "I think" is one of the lexical verb forms. Lexical verbs are commonly used to reflect uncertainty about something. Renee felt insecure about her opinion, so she used the word "I think" to express her feelings.

In the data above, Renee Montoya and the police chief are talking about the theft of diamonds belonging to the Bertinelli family. Renee explains that she got information from someone who is Roman's driver. The driver said that Roman often talks about laser encoding. Then Renee tried to investigate it by herself and found information about the Bertinelli diamond. Therefore, she thought Roman's driver was talking about the Bertinelli diamond. However, she could not guarantee whether her opinion was valid because she didn't have any evidence yet.

Data 6

Harley Quinn : You think I'm a dick after all that. But you heard what the cop said. Sionis is gone. And those guys? They're gonna be just fine. Montoya's boss picked up the gangbangers at the Booby Trap. And took all the credit while he was at it. Again. It was the kick in the balls she needed to see that she had nothing to prove to those blowhard assholes. She quit the same day. We got the secret bank codes off the diamond. And Huntress got her family money back. She's using it to fund a little crime-fighting outfit. They call themselves the Birds of Prey. I call them dorky little do-gooders. The rock itself was worth a chunk of change, so I pawned it. And I invested the cash in a little startup making waves in the East End. Oh! And I found Bruce. He was wandering around Chinatown. **I guess** it proves the theory that hyenas really do have nine lives.

Based on the data above, Harley uses the word "I guess," which is categorized as hedges types, namely a lexical verb. Lexical verbs are one of hedges types that express doubt, opinions, or suggestions. Harley uses the word "I guess" to convey her thoughts. Harley was still unsure about her thoughts. She couldn't tell whether it was true or not. Therefore she uses the word "I guess" to express her feelings.

In the data above, Harley Quinn is speaking a monologue explaining their next life after they defeat Roman Sionis and his troops. Each of her friends has their own business. Meanwhile, Harley has opened her business venture. Harley has also found her lost hyena, Bruce, which she thought was dead.

4.1.1.3 Noun

Nouns are common words that appear very often in daily conversation. Meanwhile, according to Namsaraev (2010, p. 155), nouns categorized as lexical hedges are nouns that have the meaning of doubt or uncertainty. In addition, nouns in hedges can also have other meanings, such as hopes, thoughts, or

suggestions. Some noun words that are often used in lexical hedges include “*assumption*,” “*claim*,” “*probability*,” “*possibility*,” “*estimate*,” “*suggestion*,” *etc.* The following below are some nouns that are categorized as hedges found in this study:

Data 7

Harley Queen: “I got an amazing new place that was all mine. It gave me the space to really reflect on the mistakes of my past. I had to find a new identity. A new me. It wasn’t easy. But after a while, I even opened myself up to the **possibility** of new love.”

The data above shows the female character named Harley talking to the audience about her life. Harley's character in the film has many monologue sections that tell about the storyline and other characters. In the data above, Harley explains her new life after her relationship with her boyfriend ended. She wishes that many good things would happen in the future. She even hopes for a new love in her life. It can be seen from Harley's sentence: "I even opened myself up to the possibility of new love." The word "possibility" is categorized as a noun. It is a noun that has an uncertain meaning. The sentence “the possibility of new love” shows that the arrival of a new love is not clear yet whether it will happen or not. Therefore, the word possibility in those utterances is included in the form of hedges.

The following data is also identified as hedges in the form of nouns:

Data 8

Roman Sionis : “ Harleen Quinzel. Whooh!”

Harley Quinn : “Hiya, Romy.”

Roman Sionis : “Do you know why you’re here? Hmm?”

Harley Quinn: “When it comes to me and Roman Sionis, there are a lot of **possible** answers to this question. Breaking his driver’s leg. There’s that time I called it an ‘expresso’. Having a vagina in the first place pisses this guy off. Constantly interrupting him, like I’m doing right now.”

The word "possible" used by Harley in her utterance has the same meaning as "possibility" which means something uncertain or not clear enough. In addition, the words "possible" and "possibility" are also categorized into the same form, namely nouns. So the word "possible" is an example of a noun used as lexical hedges.

The data above is taken from a scene when Harley is being caught by Roman Sionis. Harley is unsure why Roman caught her and brought her to that place. Harley only knows that Roman hates her, and Roman wants revenge on Harley. Harley realized that she had been treating Roman poorly too many times, so she thought that there could be many reasons why Roman became so upset with her this time. Harley even thinks about some possible reasons and mentions these possibilities in her mind.

4.1.1.4 Adverbs

There is a difference between the use of adverbs as lexical hedges by women and men. Men use these adverbs to express a high degree of truth, while most women use these words to raise the tone of intonation and to express politeness (Hyland, 1994, p. 403). The use of adverbs in hedges can be used to weaken or strengthen a sentence, depending on the context of the sentence. Phrases categorized as an adverb that are often used as hedges, such as: *practically*, *presumably*, *clearly*, *probably*, *conversely*, *possibly*, *perhaps*, *definitely*, *certainly*,

virtually, apparently, completely, obviously, awfully, terribly, etc. Adverbs categorized as hedges can be defined as adverbs that can weaken or strengthen someone's opinions about something. The following are adverbs as lexical hedges found in this study:

Data 9

Renee Montoya : “Sionis is gone, but it’s just a matter of time before some other asshole tries to finish what he started. Right. We gotta clean this city from the inside out.”
 Huntress : “Does she always talk like the cop in a bad ‘80s movie, or is that just me?”
 Renee Montoya : “Fuck you. And fuck you.”
 Huntress : “What?”
 Renee Montoya : “I mean, we were amazing there.”
 Black Canary : “Yeah! Hell yeah!”
 Huntress : “I agree completely. So I’ll do that, as well.”
 Renee Montoya : “Thank you.”

The word "completely" that was used by Huntress above is used to emphasize the previous statement. Her previous word was "agree," which means that Huntress wanted to express that she accepted what Renee had said.

Furthermore, the word "completely" is identified as one of the adverb words. Huntress utters the word "completely" to convince her statement before. It is categorized as lexical hedges because these words have a function to strengthen a statement. Lexical hedges are used not only to show expressions of doubt but also to weaken or strengthen a statement. The use of "completely" explains the high level of certainty used to emphasize something previously conveyed.

In the conversation above, Black Canary, Huntress, and Renee Montoya discuss what they will do after defeating Roman Sionis. This conversation

happens when they are enjoying their meal at a restaurant. Renee said that after Roman Sionis left, they still had a lot of work to catch other criminals in the city. Furthermore, Renee said they looked really cool when beating the baddies. Canary and Huntress also agree with that.

4.1.1.5 Adverbs of Frequency

The adverb of frequency or commonly called approximation, is generally used to indicate the frequency or accuracy of information. According to Namsaraev (2010, p. 64), these expressions describe the frequency, quantity, and time of a conversation topic. The adverb of frequency is used to indicate how accurate the information to be conveyed is. The adverb of frequency has a meaning that aims to show doubt and, at other time, can be used to emphasize certain things in a sentence. Here are some examples of adverbs of frequency that are often used to express doubt in a sentence, such as: *occasionally, generally, usually, sometimes, normally, somehow, rarely, seldom*, etc. Meanwhile, adverbs of frequency can strengthen a sentence, for example: *always, never, a lot of, often*, etc. The following below are adverbs of frequency as hedges found in this study:

Data 10

- Black Canary : “Morning.”
 Roman Sionis : “Come in. We’re just finishing up a little business. Look around.”
 Zsasz : “You’re late.”
 Roman Sionis : “It’s fine.”
 Zsasz : “Should she come back another time, cause she’s late?”
 Roman Sionis : “No. Isn’t this stunning? That is a Chokwe mask. I got it when I was embedded with the Mbangani tribe in Congo-Kinshasa. Have you ever been?”
 Black Canary : “I’ve **never** been. I’ve heard it’s beautiful.”

The word "Never," used by Canary, is recognized as one of the Adverbs of frequency. The adverb of frequency is a type of hedges that shows how accurate the information is. The word "Never" has an absolute meaning that can strengthen the sentence. It means the word "never" indicates the high accuracy of the information conveyed by Canary.

The data above is a conversation that took place in Roman's house. Thus the conversation happened between Roman Sionis, Zsasz, and Black Canary. Roman invites Canary to come over to his house to talk about Canary's new job as his driver. Canary arrived late at that time, but Roman accepted and welcomed her well. Roman then took Canary around for a while to look at Roman's art collection. Then Roman shows one of his collections to Canary and explains where he got it. Roman asks Canary whether she has ever gone to that place or not. But Canary answered, "never." Canary said confidently that she never went there.

The following data is also identified as hedges in the form of adverbs of frequency:

Data 11

Roman Sionis : "I'll give you till midnight. And then I'm gonna peel off that pretty face and pickle it. Okay?"

Harley Quinn : (Call me old-fashioned, but I **always** thought the guy was meant to get the girl a diamond.) "I won't let you down, Romy. I promise."

Based on this utterance, Harley uses the word "always" when expressing her thoughts. The word "always" indicates confidence or definite meaning in her statement. Therefore, the word "always" strengthens Harley's statement. The word

"always" is categorized as one of adverbs of frequency. The use of "always" in those sentences emphasizes the high level of accuracy of the information conveyed by Harley.

The subsequent use of adverb of frequency is found in the conversation between Harley and Roman. Roman asks Harley to find the Bertinelli diamond and give it to him. Meanwhile, Harley thought it should be the man who gave a diamond to a woman, not vice versa. But Harley didn't say that directly to Roman. Harley said it only from her heart, which is part of the monologue Harley said in the movie.

Data 12

- Black Canary : "Hey, nice. What the hell is up with this bow and arrow stick?"
 Huntress : "It's not a fucking bow and arrow. It's a crossbow. I'm not 12."
 Black Canary : "Love this chick. She's got rage issues."
 Huntress : "I don't have rage issues."
 Harley Quinn : "You know, psychologically speaking, vengeance **rarely** brings the catharsis we hope for."

The word "rarely" in Harley's utterance is used to describe the level of accuracy of Harley's statement. The word "rarely" is a hedges feature in the form of an adverb of frequency which implies that Harley is expressing her uncertainty. The use of "rarely" aims to convey a lack of accuracy of information.

In the data above, the female characters talk about Huntress's crossbow. They are Black Canary, Huntress, and Harley Quinn. When preparing to fight against Roman and his troops, Canary is jokingly teasing Huntress by asking about her crossbow. However, Huntress felt offended at Canary's words and

looked angry. Canary then taunts Huntress again by saying that she is short-tempered. Huntress did not accept this, and she became even angrier. Luckily, Harley calmed down both of them by conveying her opinion. Harley said that “vengeance rarely brings the catharsis we hope for.”

4.1.1.6 If Clause

The conditional sentence "If" is one type of hedges because this type has the meaning of uncertainty and indicates something conditional. Some examples of “If” clauses that are categorized as hedges, such as "If true," "If anything," etc. Another example of If Clause as hedges: “If he didn't tell Hailey, he probably told Tina”. The "If" clause in hedges expresses relative ignorance or doubt. Each of these two sentences can be true (Fintel, K.V. & Gillies, A.S, 2015). If clauses in hedges are often related to a situation when someone is confused about choosing between two options or because she is unsure which one between the two choices is right and which one is wrong. Therefore, the use of an if clause indicates something conditional. The following are example of “If” clause as hedges found in this study:

Data 13

Harley Quinn: “Mmm! You’re a lifesaver, Sal. And I’m good for the 75 cents, okay? I promise. That’s all the money I got in the world, and it’s so worth it. (I don’t know **if it’s the stray Armenian arm hair, or the fact that his cheese slices are always six months out of date**, but no one makes an egg sandwich like Sal)

The word "if" in Harley's utterance describes two possibilities that make Harley hesitate in her statement. The word "if" in Harley's statement is a hedges feature in the form of "If" clause, which conveys that Harley is expressing her

uncertainty about two things. The if clause in Harley's utterances can be categorized as hedges since it shows something conditional or prediction. Moreover, Harley conveys the information based on her opinion. Because Harley still does not know which one of those possibilities is correct. Therefore, the "if" clause in Harley's utterance is also used to express a lack of accuracy of information. The if clause in her sentence indicates that Harley is not fully committed to what she said. By using the if clause hedges, Harley's sentence becomes vague and less firm.

The data above shows Harley's utterance when she bought a sandwich at Sal's place. Harley says that Sal's sandwich is the best sandwich ever. She conveyed how much she admired Sal's delicious sandwiches. But Harley said this in her heart, she didn't convey it directly to Sal since she wasn't sure what made the sandwich so delicious and different from the others. She thought the reason was because Armenian hands made it, or because of the cheese she used in it. Harley explained her thoughts using the "If" clause to express her doubts.

The following data is also identified as hedges in the form of If clause:

Data 14

Renee Montoya: "Listen, I had a source at the club. His driver. He said that Roman couldn't stop talking about this thing. And he said that he overheard something about laser-encoding. Now, I did some research. I think it's the Bertinelli diamond. You remember the Bertinelli massacre, right? Which is exactly why Roman Sionis is trying to get his hands on it. That's what makes him so dangerous. He's already building an army. **If he gets the diamond, he'll have all the money and connections to bribe every single judge and cop he needs to get a monopoly on the city.**"

In her utterance, Renee uses the word "If" to show her doubts about her opinion. The "If" clause in Renee's speech indicates two possibilities. First, Roman gets the diamond, and he will easily monopolize and control the city. The second possibility is that Roman's plan is not what Renee thought, or even Roman didn't get the diamond, and his plan was failed. The utterance "If" is used by Renee to express a lack of accuracy of information. This sentence is an example of hedges in the form of If clause. Renee uses the If clause to determine between two things that are likely to happen, and one must be true. This hedging expression shows that what Renee said is something conditional. By using this kind of hedges, Renee made her statement sound assertive since what she said about Roman was only an uncertain prediction.

The data above was taken from Renee Montoya's conversation with the police captain. Renee Montoya is explaining her opinion on the Roman Sionis diamond. Renee states that Roman Sionis has something planned. She said that she suspected Roman of stealing the diamond. Roman wants to get the Bertinelli diamond. Renee also explains what might happen if Roman gets the diamond for real. He can definitely take over the city and make people obey him. Roman will get a lot of connections and all the money from the diamond and use it to bribe all the judges and police to monopolize the city.

Data 15

Harley Quinn : "Wait! Wait! You lost something, right? You lost something. I heard you say it. A diamond. Yeah. I can help you find it. Seriously. Look

in my pocket. Other pocket. I'm starting up my own business. See what it says? Second from the bottom. I know the East End better than anybody. You want this diamond back? I'm your gal. Mr. J once lost a rare photograph of a nude Eleanor Roosevelt, and I found it in a bird's nest in Robinson park. If you let me go, just for now, I'll get you that rock back. What have you got to lose? **If your boys find it first, swear to God, you can kill me later.** Pinky swear. Cross my heart, hope to fart.

In Harley's statement above, she uses an if clause, which is one of hedging expressions which indicates that what she said is something conditional. She still doesn't know which of these two possibilities will happen in the future. So it is something conditional. By using hedges, Harley is modifying her utterance to sound not too solid or assertive since what she says is still something uncertain.

The data above was taken from Harley Quinn's conversation with Roman Sionis. Harley tries to persuade Roman not to kill her, and promises to find the Bertinelli diamond. Harley tries to convince Roman that she can definitely get the diamond. Harley also promises that if she doesn't find the diamond, Roman may kill her later.

4.1.1.7 Fillers

Filler is a marker expression used by speakers when they are still thinking or hesitating to say something in a conversation (Clark and Tree, 2002). Some examples of filler expressions such as: *well, I think, I mean, sort of, kind of, ehmm, uhmm, hmm, uhh, ahh, yeah, you know, you see, by the way, all I know,* etc. (Lakoff, 1986, p. 405). Filler is one of women's language features that women commonly use. This feature often appears when someone is thinking about something that makes her hesitate to say. Some filler words also can be used to open or start a conversation. Here are the Fillers found in this study:

Data 16

Police Captain : “You said you had someone on the inside?”

Renee Montoya : “Yes. He’s .. He’s no longer there, but...”

Police Captain : “So basically, you have nothing. You are trying to go after one of the most litigious and wealthiest families in Gotham, and all you’ve got is rumors and a hunch?”

Renee Montoya : “**Well, you know**, the DA’s office is building a case against him, too. Isn’t that right, Miss Yee?”

In her sentence, Renee used the words "well" and "you know" when she revealed her opinion to the police captain. Thus, both words are examples of hedging expressions in the form of fillers that indicate a person's feeling of doubt or lack of confidence when saying something. In addition, fillers are also often used to start a conversation. By using this type of hedges, Renee expresses her uneasy feelings when conveying her opinion. In the following sentence, Renee even asked Miss Yee to confirm her statement, but Miss Yee ignored her. It can be concluded that Renee uses the words “well” and “you know” to express her doubts since what she said about Roman is only an uncertain prediction.

In the conversation above, the police captain and Renee Montoya discuss the Bertinelli diamond case. Renee explained to the police captain that she got information that Roman Sionis was the one who planned to steal the Bertinelli diamond. Renee even explains why Roman stole the diamond and what benefit he would get if he got the diamond. However, Renee did not have evidence to corroborate her opinion, so the police captain did not believe her statement. Renee tried to explain more, but she wasn't sure whether her opinion was correct.

The following data is also identified as hedges in the form of filler:

Data 17

Cassandra Cain : “What? I don’t know nothing about no diamond.”

Harley Quinn : “The inflection in your voice, the way you can’t hold eye contact, and the fact that you’re a filthy little thief, all suggest that you do. Now, you can give it to me, or I can give you to the man that diamond belongs to. But trust me when I say, you’re not gonna like what he’s gonna do to ya. Now, hand it over.”

Cassandra Cain : “Yeah, not gonna happen.”

In her utterance above, Cassandra uses the word "Yeah" at the beginning of her utterance. Those words indicated Cassandra's doubtful, indecisive, and confused feelings about the current situation. The word “Yeah” in her utterance above can be categorized as filler since it shows a person's hesitation in stating a statement or responding. Moreover, Cassandra says the word “yeah” in a low tone as if she doesn't dare to say it out loud. Cassandra is reluctant to give the diamond because she thinks she cannot give it. She finds it impossible to give it to Harley. That makes Cassandra feel doubtful and afraid to say it to Harley.

The data above shows another hedges in the form of filler. The conversation above occurred when Harley and Cassandra were in the car. Harley knows that Cassandra is the one who stole the diamond. Therefore, Harley asks Cassandra to give the diamond to her, but Cassandra doesn't want to admit that she stole the diamond and doesn't want to give it to Harley. Since Cassandra was so stubborn, Harley forced Cassandra to give the diamond to her. Harley even threatened Cassandra that if she didn't give the diamond soon, she would bring Cassandra to Roman, and Roman would definitely punish her. However, it's not that Cassandra doesn't want to give the diamond, but she is confused about how she will give it

because she has swallowed the diamond. She was afraid Harley would be angry if she found out the truth. She was confused about how to explain it to Harley.

The following data is also identified as hedges in the form of filler:

Data 18

Black Canary : “Morning. Let me guess. Parents?”
 Cassandra Cain : “Foster parents. Right.”
 Black Canary : “Sorry, kid.”
 Cassandra Cain : “Sorry about your face. Shit, you do have something on your face.”
 Black Canary : “You should’ve seen the other guy. **You know**, kid, not every day is gonna be like this. You just gotta hang in there. Get something to eat. Stay outta that. It’s not worth it”.

In her utterance, Canary used the word "You know" to comfort Cassandra.

The word “You know” is a hedges types in the form of filler. This hedges utterance indicates that Canary is not sure that her utterance will happen or not, and she is not sure whether her utterance will be helpful to solve her problem or not. Thus, using this hedges expression, Canary's utterance sounds less assertive or forceful.

The data above was from the conversation between Black Canary and Cassandra Cain when they met near where Cassandra lived. Cassandra was sitting near the stairs alone when Canary passed by and saw Cassandra, who was gloomy. She approached Cassandra and asked what had happened to her. Canary guessed whether it was because of her parents. Cassandra confirmed it but emphasized that they were just her adoptive parents. Her adoptive parents always fight and get angry every day. Canary felt sorry for Cassandra, but Cassandra didn't like Canary's sad expression because she felt sorry for her. Canary then

tried to cheer her up by saying that this wouldn't happen continuously in her life. She just needed to be patient and forget about it by doing other things.

Besides that, the researcher also found filler in other forms:

Data 19

Zsasz : “You drive as good as you fight?”
 Black Canary : “Who’s asking?”
 Zsasz : “The boss. You’re getting promoted. You’re his new driver”.
 Black Canary : “**Huh...** Thanks, but I think I’m good with the singing gig”.
 Zsasz : “You’ll be good at the driving gig. Be here tomorrow. 9:00 a.m. Sharp”.

From the data above, it can be seen that Canary uses the word "Huh" as a filler word when she responds to Zsasz's statement. The word "Huh" in Canary's utterance indicates something uncertain. Since Canary said it in a low and slow tone, Canary said this because she was doubtful about the offer. Would it be beneficial for her, or would it bring bad luck to her. So she couldn't answer that for sure. She also added that she prefers become a singer. The second utterance emphasizes that what was said before is uncertain. Hence, by using this filler, Canary wants to convey that she is still unsure about the decision she will take.

In the data above, the character Zsasz and Black Canary are talking about the job that offered by Roman to Canary. Zsasz is Roman's most loyal henchman. Roman told Zsasz to tell Canary that he was interested in having Canary as his driver because Roman had previously seen Canary's ability to drive. Canary is a singer who usually works at the bar Roman usually attends. In the conversation above, Zsasz confronts Canary after she finishes work. Zsasz told Canary to come

on time at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow if Canary accepts the offer from Roman. Canary hesitates about the offer, but in the end, she accepts it because she fears Roman. In some conversation sometimes you can find several fillers.

Data 20

Cassandra Cain: “Seriously though, how’d you get to be here? **I mean**, shopping at fancy-ass stores, you’re making bank, you have your own business. How’d you do it? Come on, tell me. Woman to woman. Being a pickpocket’s fine and all, but I got real potential. **I mean**, how do I be like you? **Well**, except for the crazy part. But other than that”.

In her utterance above, Cassandra repeatedly used the words "I mean" and "Well" when asking Harley. These two words are filler words, a type of hedges expression. These sentences are often used to express feelings of doubt or lack of confidence in giving a statement or response. Fillers can also be used as pauses in a conversation to think about what to say next. In addition, fillers are often used to start a conversation, such as a word "Well." The use of this type of hedges shows that besides Cassandra delivering doubt, it signifies that the question uttered by Cassandra contains a lack of confidence. Cassandra felt doubtful and lacked confidence when asking Harley because she had just gotten to know Harley, so she felt a little reluctant and hesitant to ask about her personal life. Cassandra also uses the word as a pause to think about the next sentence when asking Harley. Thus, the presence of filler in Cassandra's sentence implies as the expression of doubt.

The data above is found in a dialogue from Cassandra Cain's utterance while she is shopping in the convenience store with Harley Quinn. Harley and

Cassandra stop by a convenience store to buy something that will allow Cassandra to poop and get the diamond out. Besides that, Harley also intends to buy her daily needs. While they were shopping, Cassandra suddenly asked about Harley's life journey. She wants to know how Harley can live her life as it is today, how she can support herself, and how she can build her own business. It makes Cassandra think that Harley has succeeded in her own business, so she wants to be like Harley. She wanted to know many things about Harley. Filler is not only used by adults, but also used by children.

Data 21

- Harley Quinn : “Kid, If that burrito doesn’t make you shit, I don’t know what will”
 Cassandra Cain : “Give me a minute”
 The Girls : “Yes! Right”
 Harley Quinn : “I’ve given her prune juice, laxatives. **I mean**, the kid’s got a stomach made of steel”

In the conversation above, Harley uses the words "I mean" in her utterance.

The word “I mean” is one of the filler words commonly used by speakers when they feel hesitant to say something or pause in a conversation. Harley uses the word "I mean" in her utterance to pause the conversation. Actually, Harley was only joking when she said Cassandra's stomach was made of steel. She didn't really think that way. Therefore, she felt a little doubtful about her joke when she said it. She was afraid that her words would hurt Cassandra's feelings, so she slightly paused her sentence. Through these filler words, Harley pauses in her sentences to express her feelings of doubt.

The data above occurs when Harley Quinn, Black Canary, Renee Montoya, Huntress, and Cassandra Cain enjoy lunch in a restaurant. They celebrated their victory after defeating Roman Sionis and his troops. Meanwhile, when they were all eating, Harley talked about her confusion about how to get the diamond out of Cassandra's stomach. She was confused because Cassandra had not pooped at all even though she had eaten burritos, prune juice, and also laxatives. Harley even said that Cassandra's stomach might be made of steel. Furthermore, the data below are also one of the fillers.

Data 22

Zsasz : "You're a filthy fucking rat."
 Black Canary : "I'm a rat?"
 Zsasz : "I knew you couldn't be trusted. Roman's little bird. You little fucking bird. That's why he needs me to look out for him. That's why he needs me to take care of him."
 Black Canary : "You know you're just being paranoid, Zsasz".
 Zsasz : "Yeah?"
 Black Canary : "Mmm-hmm".
 Zsasz : "Prove it to me. Rip open her little tummy".
 Black Canary : "Yeah, that's not gonna happen".
 Zsasz : "'Now! Rip it open! You piece of shit!"

In her statement above, Canary said, "Yeah, that's not gonna happen" when refusing Zsasz's request. The word "Yeah" in the sentence is an example of hedges in the form of filler. The word "Yeah" in Canary's sentence reflects her doubts at that time. She said it in a low and slow tone which means she was hesitant to comply with Zsasz's request. She felt that it was impossible she could hurt Cassandra, but on the other hand, she wanted to prove to Zsasz that she was not a traitor. There was a feeling of doubt and fear that made her feel in a dilemma

with the situation at that time. Therefore, the word "Yeah" as a filler used by Canary reflects the expression of doubt.

The conversation above occurs when Black Canary tries to save Cassandra from Zsasz. At that time, Zsasz suspected that Canary had betrayed Roman, but Canary refused and said that Zsasz was not right. She admitted that she had never betrayed Roman. However, Zsasz doesn't believe Canary and asks her to prove it. Zsasz asked Canary to rip open Cassandra's stomach to reveal the diamond inside. But Canary refused because she couldn't bear Cassandra, who was still a child. But Zsasz continues to urge Canary to do it. Canary insisted not to do it.

4.1.2 Function of hedges used by main female characters in Birds of Prey movie

The second research question of this study relates to the function of hedges using Lakoff's theory (1975). The researcher collected the statements uttered by the main female characters to show the results. Lakoff (1975) proposed four function of hedges, including: expressing uncertainty, maintaining politeness, weakening or strengthening a statement, and starting a discussion. The researcher provides the results of the function of hedges in a table. The following are some examples of the data:

Table 4.2 Number of the Functions of Lexical Hedges Used by the Female Character in the Birds of Prey Movie

The function of hedges	Codes	Data	Total
To express uncertainty	TEU	I think it's the Bertinelli diamond	39
To maintain politeness	TMP	Toss that for me, will you?	6
To weaken a statement	TWS	Huh. Thanks, but I think I'm good with ..	24
To strengthen a statement	TSS	I always thought the guy was meant ..	29
To start a discussion	TSD	By the way, they cut him off	12

By collecting the data through the female characters' utterances in the Birds of Prey movie, the researcher found all the function of hedges words proposed by Lakoff (1975). According to data analysis, the researcher found that the female characters mostly used hedges to express uncertainty, the researcher found thirty-nine data expressing uncertainty, while maintaining politeness appears in six data. Next, the function of weakening a statement appears in twenty-four data. The

function of strengthening a statement appears in twenty-nine data. The last, the researcher found twelve of data starting a discussion.

4.1.2.1 To express uncertainty

The first and the most commonly used function of using hedges based on Lakoff (1975, p. 53-54) is to express uncertainty or lack of confidence in their statement. Lakoff (1975) claims that the use of hedges is not only to show the speaker's feelings when they feel uncertain about what they want to say but also when the speaker cannot guarantee the validity of the information. When using hedges for this function, the speaker commonly conveys her prediction or opinion that sounds vague or less forceful. Here are several hedges words use for this function:

Data 23

Renee Montoya: "Listen, I had a source at the club. His driver. He said that Roman couldn't stop talking about this thing. And he said that he overheard something about laser-encoding. Now, I did some research. **I think** it's the Bertinelli diamond. You remember the Bertinelli massacre, right? Which is exactly why Roman Sionis is trying to get his hands on it. That's what makes him so dangerous. He's already building an army. If he gets the diamond, he'll have all the money and connections to bribe every single judge and cop he needs to get a monopoly on the city."

Based on Renee's statement above, Renee uses the word "I think," which is a hedges word in the form of lexical verb. This utterance indicates that she is uncertain about the accuracy of the information she has revealed about Roman and the Bertinelli diamond. By using these hedges words, Renee expresses her feelings that she can't guarantee the information she gets. Therefore, Renee uses

hedges words to modify her statement and make the truth in the information she conveys more precise based on her understanding.

In the data above, Renee Montoya and the police chief are talking about the theft of diamonds belonging to the Bertinelli family. Renee explains that she got information from someone who is Roman's driver. The driver said that Roman often talks about laser encoding. Then Renee tried to investigate it by herself and found information about the Bertinelli diamond. Therefore, she thought Roman's driver was talking about the Bertinelli diamond. However, she could not guarantee whether her opinion was true because she didn't have any evidence yet.

Data 24

Black Canary : “Morning. Let me guess. Parents?”
 Cassandra Cain : “Foster parents. Right.”
 Black Canary : “Sorry, kid.”
 Cassandra Cain : “Sorry about your face. Shit, you do have something on your face.”
 Black Canary : “You should’ve seen the other guy. **You know,** kid, not every day is gonna be like this. You just gotta hang in there. Get something to eat. Stay outta that. It’s not worth it”.

In conveying her opinion, Canary used the filler word "You know" to comfort Cassandra. This hedges utterance indicates that Canary is uncertain whether her utterance will be useful to solve Cassandra's problem. This hedges word in Canary's sentence allows her to signify that what she said is merely an assumption. Thus, using this hedges expression, Canary's utterance sounds less assertive or forceful.

In the data above, Black Canary and Cassandra Cain accidentally meet near where Cassandra lives. Cassandra was sitting near the stairs alone when Canary

passed by and saw Cassandra, who was gloomy. She approached Cassandra and asked what had happened to her. Canary guessed whether it was because of her parents. Cassandra confirmed it but emphasized that they were just her adoptive parents. Her adoptive parents always fight and get angry every day. Especially her father, because her father actually doesn't like Cassandra. Canary felt sorry for Cassandra, but Cassandra didn't like Canary's sad expression because she felt sorry for her. Canary then tried to cheer her up by saying that this wouldn't happen continuously in her life. She just needed to be patient and forget about it by doing other things. The following data is also use hedges words for this function:

Data 25

Cassandra Cain : “What? I don’t know nothing about no diamond.”

Harley Quinn : “The inflection in your voice, the way you can’t hold eye contact, and the fact that you’re a filthy little thief, all suggest that you do. Now, you can give it to me, or I can give you to the man that diamond belongs to. But trust me when I say, you’re not gonna like what he’s gonna do to ya. Now, hand it over.”

Cassandra Cain : “**Yeah**, not gonna happen.”

In her sentence, Cassandra uses hedges words in the form of filler "Yeah," which indicates Cassandra's feeling of being doubtful, indecisive, and confused about the situation at that time. The word “Yeah” in her utterance above can be categorized as filler since it shows a person's hesitation in stating a statement or responding. Moreover, Cassandra says the word “yeah” in a low tone as if she doesn't dare to say it out loud. Cassandra is reluctant to give the diamond because she thinks she cannot give it. She found it impossible to give it to Harley. That makes Cassandra feel doubtful and afraid to say it to Harley. Thus, the word

"yeah" in Cassandra's statement expresses that she is uncertain and lacks confidence in her utterance.

In the conversation above, Harley and Cassandra are arguing about the diamond in the car. Harley knows that Cassandra is the one who stole the diamond. Therefore, Harley asks Cassandra to give the diamond to her, but Cassandra doesn't want to admit that she stole the diamond, and she doesn't want to give it to Harley. Since Cassandra was so stubborn, Harley forced Cassandra to give the diamond to her. Harley even threatened Cassandra that if she didn't give the diamond soon, she would bring Cassandra to Roman, and Roman would definitely punish her. However, it's not that Cassandra doesn't want to give the diamond, but she is confused about how she will give it because she has swallowed the diamond. She was afraid Harley would be angry if she found out the truth. She was confused about how to explain it to Harley.

Data 26

Cassandra Cain: "Seriously though, how'd you get to be here? **I mean**, shopping at fancy-ass stores, you're making bank, you have your own business. How'd you do it? Come on, tell me. Woman to woman. Being a pickpocket's fine and all, but I got real potential. **I mean**, how do I be like you? Well, except for the crazy part. But other than that".

In her statement above, Cassandra repeatedly used the word "I mean" when asking Harley. The use of these hedges words in her utterance shows that Cassandra is uncertain about how Harley will respond to her question since they are just getting to know each other. Cassandra thought it might be a sensitive topic for Harley, so she might not want to answer the question. Cassandra's statement

sounds weak through this hedges word because she is elemental and lacks confidence.

The data above is found in Cassandra Cain's utterance while shopping in the convenience store with Harley Quinn. Harley and Cassandra stop by a convenience store to buy something that will allow Cassandra to poop and get the diamond out. Besides that, Harley also intends to buy her daily needs. While they were shopping, Cassandra suddenly asked about Harley's life journey. She wants to know how Harley can live her life as it is today, how she can support herself, and how she can build her own business. It makes Cassandra think that Harley has succeeded in her own business, so she wants to be like Harley. She wanted to know many things about Harley, so she asked her many things.

4.1.2.2 *To maintain politeness*

In some situations, women tend to use unkind statements which make it sound harsh. Therefore, women use some lexical hedges to avoid using these words, where the purpose is to maintain politeness (Lakoff, 1975, p. 53-54). The use of hedges in a certain contexts also can be used to ask for help, permission or asking for opinion from someone in a polite way. Here are several hedges words use for this function:

Data 27

Cassandra Cain : “Whoaa” (Yawning)
 Harley Quin : “Oh, good. You’re awake. Toss that for me, will you?”
 Cassandra Cain : “What the fuck? Who did I just blow up?”
 Harley Quin : “Either someone who wants me dead, or someone looking to collect the half million dollar reward on your head.”

In Harley's sentence above, she uses the word "will you?" as a request for help. The word "will" is one of the modal auxiliary verbs. This word in interrogative sentences can express politeness when asking someone for help. Thus, the utterances above show that hedges can also be used to maintain politeness, such as Harley's utterance above. Harley uses hedges as a modal auxiliary verb to politely ask Cassandra for help by asking her if she's willing to do it.

In the data above, Cassandra had just woken up from sleep. Cassandra fell asleep in the car after they managed to escape from the people who were trying to catch Cassandra. Harley realized that someone still followed them behind and was trying to chase them, so she intended to throw a grenade at that person. She had a hard time throwing it because she was driving. She then sees the awakened Cassandra and intends to ask her to throw the grenade. Harley was unsure whether Cassandra was already conscious or not. Then she asked her if she wanted to throw the grenade or not.

Data 28

Cassandra Cain : "**Can** we get this?"

Harley Quinn : "You're not gonna try to run, are you?"

Cassandra Cain : "Look, if there's really a half mil on my head, I figure I'm better off with the person who's not gonna cut me open."

Harley Quinn : "Fine. But if you try to run, I will kill you. I do not care that you're a kid."

From the conversation above, it can be seen that Cassandra uses the hedging expression "can" in the form of an interrogative sentence. It indicates that Cassandra wants to ask someone to do something. Cassandra asked Harley to buy

something for her. But Cassandra is still uncertain about her request. Cassandra is unsure whether Harley will buy the item for her. Therefore, the hedging expression in Cassandra's sentence indicates that Cassandra asks for permission from Harley politely.

The conversation between Cassandra and Harley occurs when they shop at a convenience store. Harley still worries that Cassandra is secretly trying to run away from her. Meanwhile, Cassandra already trusts Harley and doesn't intend to run away. Cassandra was looking for something to buy, then she was interested in one item and wanted to buy it. She asked Harley if she would buy it, but Harley thought Cassandra was just making excuses to run away from her. Harley felt that Cassandra was just joking or playing games with her to distract her, so Cassandra was finally able to run away from her.

Data 29

Huntress : I killed Galante. I killed his firing squad. I killed Victor Zsasz. And now I'm done.
 Harley Quinn : Bravo.
 Huntress : So **if you don't mind, I'm gonna leave now.**

From her statement above, Huntress uses a hedging expression in the form of if clause in her words, "So if you don't mind, I'm gonna leave now, " indicating that Huntress asked for permission to leave. Since the presence of asking for permission indicates that this statement contains a politeness statement. Huntress wanted to leave the place since her business was finished, but she felt terrible about leaving just like that, so she asked permission beforehand to leave the place. Therefore, the hedging word here is used by Huntress to maintain politeness in

asking for permission to leave. By using this hedging expression, Huntress makes her utterance more polite and avoids uttering a wrong sentence in her statement.

The data above is from the conversation between Huntress and Harley. The conversation occurred when they gathered at the Amusement Mile, The Booby Trap, to save Cassandra. After successfully killing Zsasz in that place, Huntress told them about the grudge she had been harboring all this time. She also told them that she had succeeded in killing all of her enemies. So that she has no more business in that place and intends to ask permission to leave there.

4.1.2.3 To weaken a statement

Women also use hedges as an apology for making any statement because they don't want to emphasize herself strongly in certain situations in a conversation. Furthermore, hedges have different functions in each situation; sometimes, they can be used to weaken a statement, and at another time, they can be used to strengthen a statement (Lakoff, 1975, p. 53-54). Here are several hedges words use for this function:

Data 30

- Black Canary : “Hey, nice. What the hell is up with this bow and arrow stick?”
 Huntress : “It’s not a fucking bow and arrow. It’s a crossbow. I’m not 12.”
 Black Canary : “Love this chick. She’s got rage issues.”
 Huntress : “I don’t have rage issues.”
 Harley Quinn : “You know, psychologically speaking, vengeance **rarely** brings the catharsis we hope for.”

The word "rarely" in Harley's utterance is one of hedges features in the form of an adverb of frequency which is used to describe the level of accuracy in

Harley's statement. Harley makes her sentence sound less assertive through this hedging expression, and her utterance becomes weaker. Because she does not fully know the accuracy of the information, she mentioned before. Thus, it protects her from conveying exaggerated information that is uncertain, and it also helps her give the information without making mistakes in her sentence.

In the data above, the female characters talk about Huntress's crossbow. They are Black Canary, Huntress, and Harley Quinn. When preparing to fight against Roman and his troops, Canary is jokingly teasing Huntress by asking about her crossbow. However, Huntress felt offended at Canary's words and looked angry. Canary then taunts Huntress again by saying that she is short-tempered. Huntress did not accept this, and she became even angrier. Luckily, Harley calmed down both of them by conveying her opinion. Harley said that "vengeance rarely brings the catharsis we hope for."

Data 31

Zsasz : "You drive as good as you fight?"
 Black Canary : "Who's asking?"
 Zsasz : "The boss. You're getting promoted. You're his new driver".
 Black Canary : "**Huh**. Thanks, but I think I'm good with the singing gig".
 Zsasz : "You'll be good at the driving gig. Be here tomorrow. 9:00 a.m. Sharp".
 (Harley Quinn : "So, that's how Canary got herself a job driving around Gotham's newest Godfather. A position, I **might** add, that wouldn't have been vacant without the help of yours truly")

Meanwhile, Harley uses the word "might" when explaining that she could get the private driver position if they hadn't given it to Canary. Based on the statement above shows that Harley uses the word "might" because she is not really

sure about her thoughts, whether it will happen or not. Harley uses the word “might” to indicate her argument that she felt she would fit for a job as Roman’s private driver is only based on her personal view. She wasn't really sure if she could get that job position, she just thought about the possibility if Canary didn't take it, maybe she could get the job. The word "might" in Harley's words shows Harley's low confidence level in her sentence. Thus, by using this hedges expression her statement becomes weaker and less assertive.

From the data above, when Canary responds to Zsasz, she uses the word "Huh" in her sentence. Canary attempt to include vague words in her utterance, which indicate that she feels uncertain about his offer. Moreover, Canary uttered this word in a low and slow tone. It is because she was in dilemma about the offer, would it be beneficial for her or would it bring bad luck to her. So she couldn't answer that for sure. She also added that she thought it was better for her to become a singer than a driver. This utterance emphasizes that what she said before makes her still uncertain. Hence, by using this utterance, her statement becomes weaker. It is because her utterance contains something vague and can not be confirmed. Thus, through the use of hedges in her sentence, implies that Canary wants to convey that she is still not certain about the decision she will take.

4.1.2.4 To strengthen a statement

Data 32

Harley Quinn : “Wait! Wait! You lost something, right? You lost something. I heard you say it. A diamond. Yeah. I can help you find it. Seriously. Look in my pocket. Other pocket. I’m starting up my own business. See what it says? Second from the bottom. I know the East End better than anybody. You want this diamond back? I’m your gal. Mr. J once lost a rare

photograph of a nude Eleanor Roosevelt, and I found it in a bird's nest in Robinson park.

Harley employs the word "can" when she persuades Roman to let her go. By using this hedges feature, Harley uses reassuring words to make her statement more decisive and assertive. Therefore, Roman trusts her and lets her go. Thus, the word "can" make the statement became more forceful.

In the data above, Harley tries to persuade Roman not to hurt her. Harley promised that she would help Roman find the diamond if Roman let her go. She also promised that if she couldn't find the diamond, she would let Roman punish her. Roman wants revenge on Harley, but he also needs the diamond. So he finally complied with Harley's request and believed Harley's words.

Data 33

Roman Sionis : "I'll give you till midnight. And then I'm gonna peel off that pretty face and pickle it. Okay?"

Harley Quinn : (Call me old-fashioned, but I **always** thought the guy was meant to get the girl a diamond). "I won't let you down, Romy. I promise."

It can be seen that Harley applies the word "always" in conveying her thoughts. The word "always" indicates confidence or a definite meaning in her statement. Therefore, the word "always" strengthens Harley's statement. The word "always" is categorized as one of the adverbs of frequency or approximator. The use of "always" in those sentences emphasizes the high accuracy level of the information conveyed by Harley. Therefore, by using this hedges feature, Harley emphasizes her statement to strengthen her opinion.

In the data above, Harley and Roman are talking about the Bertinelli diamond as the topic of their conversation. Roman asks Harley to find the Bertinelli diamond and give it to him as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Harley thought that it should be a man looking for a diamond and then giving it to a woman, not vice versa. However, Harley didn't reveal it directly to Roman. She only keeps it in her mind, which is part of the monologue that Harley said in the movie. She said, "but I always thought the guy was meant to get the girl a diamond."

Data 34

Cassandra Cain : "Can we get this?"

Harley Quin : "You're not gonna try to run, are you?"

Cassandra Cain : "Look, if there's really a half mil on my head, I figure I'm better off with the person who's not gonna cut me open."

Harley Quin : "Fine. But if you try to run, I **will** kill you. I do not care that you're a kid."

The word "will" in Harley's utterance can be defined as a word that indicates a high level of certainty in a statement. As in the conversation above, Harley said that she would kill Cassandra. She actually intended to threaten Cassandra. Therefore, she uses the definite word "will" in her word choice. Thus, by using these hedges in her utterance, she make her argument sounds more strengthened and assertive.

The data above shows Harley and Cassandra shopping for their daily necessities in a convenience store. Harley still worries that Cassandra is secretly trying to run away from her. Meanwhile, Cassandra already trusts Harley and doesn't intend to run away. Cassandra was looking for something to buy, then she

was interested in one item and wanted to buy it. She asked Harley if she was willing to buy it, but Harley thought Cassandra was just making excuses to run away from her. Harley felt that Cassandra was just joking with her to distract her, so Cassandra finally can run away from her. Harley responded to Cassandra's request by saying, "But if you try to run, I will kill you." By using the word "will" in her utterance, Harley wants to strengthen her argument.

Data 35

Harley Quinn : Hiya, Doc. How are ya?
 Doc : Good.
 Harley Quinn : He's the Taiwanese grandpa I **never** had. He knows everything and everyone. Nothing happens around here, let me tell you, without Doc knowing about it. And he happens to be the only person who actually cares about me.

When Harley talks about Doc, she uses the word "never" which indicates that the sentence she said is a strong statement and it is something that is clearly known to be true. The word "never" is one of hedges types in the form of Adverb of frequency or commonly called approximation, that make Harley's sentences sound assertive and robust. Hence, by using this hedges word, Harley tries to emphasize certain words in her utterance to convince Cassandra about her statement.

In the data above, Harley and Cassandra had just arrived at a food stall owned by an older man named Doc. Harley then introduced Cassandra to Doc. Harley said that Doc was the only person who cares about her. She even considered Doc as her grandfather. Usually, if something terrible happens to her,

Harley will hide in a room above the Doc's shop. The room becomes Harley's residence now.

Data 36

Cassandra Cain : Oh, shit. Is that a hyena in a bathtub?

Harley Quinn : I named him Bruce after that hunky Wayne guy. He's my little dumpling, aren't you? Aren't you, my little baby? Aren't you, Brucey? Yes. I love you. I never said that. I love you both equally.

In her sentence, Harley uses the word "never" which can be categorized as one of hedges types in the form of adverb of frequency which indicates that what is said is something she has never done before, and it is something that is clearly known to be true. Through these hedges, Harley wants to strengthen her statement and convince Cassandra about her statement.

The data above was taken from the conversation between Harley and Cassandra when they were at Harley's residence. Harley invites Cassandra over to her house for the first time. When they arrived at Harley's house, Cassandra was surprised to see a hyena in a bathtub. She asked Harley whether it was a real hyena. Harley then replied that the hyena was her pet which she named Bruce. Harley said that she really loved Bruce. She then added that she loved Cassandra too, she had never said it before, but she actually loved them both equally.

Data 37

Renee Montoya : "Sionis is gone, but it's just a matter of time before some other asshole tries to finish what he started. Right. We gotta clean this city from the inside out."

Huntress : "Does she always talk like the cop in a bad '80s movie, or is that just me?"

Renee Montoya : "Fuck you. And fuck you."

Huntress : “What?”
 Renee Montoya : “I mean, we were amazing there.”
 Black Canary : “Yeah! Hell yeah!”
 Huntress : “I agree **completely**. So I’ll do that, as well.”
 Renee Montoya : “Thank you”.

In the data above, Black Canary, Huntress, and Renee Montoya discuss what they will do in the future after defeating Roman Sionis. This conversation happens when they are enjoying their meal at a restaurant. Renee said they looked really cool when beating the baddies. Canary and Huntress also agree with that. When giving her agreement, Huntress uses the word "completely" to emphasize her previous statement. The previous word she uses was "agree", which means that Huntress wanted to express that she definitely accept what Renee had said. Furthermore, Huntress adds the word "completely" which is identified as one of hedges types in the form of adverb. The word "completely" is used to convince her statement before. It is categorized as hedges since this word has a function to strengthen a statement. Besides that, the word "completely" implies the high level of certainty used to emphasize something previously conveyed. Thus, by using the word “completely” Huntress makes her statement become more assertive and robust.

4.1.2.5 To start a discussion

Women often use lexical hedges to start a conversation in any situation (Rubbiyanti, 2017, p. 48). Some words that are often used, for example, "well," "you know," "in my opinion," "I think," etc. These words are hedges words that are often used to start a discussion in women's utterances (Sabela, 2020). Women use these hedges because it contains some meaning, including expressing uncertainty,

politeness, and lack of confidence, which is very appropriate for expressing women's feelings when they want to start a conversation. Here are several hedges words use for this function:

Data 38

Police Captain : "You said you had someone on the inside?"

Renee Montoya : "Yes. He's .. He's no longer there, but..."

Police Captain : "So basically, you have nothing. You are trying to go after one of the most litigious and wealthiest families in Gotham, and all you've got is rumors and a hunch?"

Renee Montoya : "**Well, you know**, the DA's office is building a case against him, too. Isn't that right, Miss Yee?"

In her sentence, Renee used the words "well" and "you know" when she revealed her opinion to the police captain. Thus, both words are examples of hedging expressions in the form of fillers that indicate a person's feeling of doubt or lack of confidence when saying something. In addition, fillers are also can be used to start a conversation. By using this type of hedges, Renee intended starting her argument by using the word "well" and "you know" to express her uncertain opinion.

In the data above, the police captain and Renee Montoya discuss the Bertinelli diamond case. Renee explained to the police captain that she got information that Roman Sionis was the one who planned to steal the Bertinelli diamond. Renee even explains the reason why Roman stole the diamond and what benefit he would get if he got the diamond. However, Renee did not have evidence to corroborate her opinion, so the police captain did not believe her

statement. Renee tried to explain more, but she wasn't sure whether her opinion was correct.

Data 39

- Harley Quinn : Shut that door. Lock it. Keep your sticky paws to yourself, okay?
 Cassandra Cain : This place...
 Harley Quin : **Well**, it ain't much, but it's better than a prison cell.
 Cassandra Cain : ... is so fucking dope.

The conversation above happens between Cassandra and Harley when Harley invites Cassandra over to her house for the first time. When they arrived at Harley's house, Cassandra was quite impressed with the appearance of Harley's house. At first, Harley thought that Cassandra might not like her home and would be uncomfortable living in it. Harley thought that Cassandra was going to say something bad about her house. However, Cassandra admire the appearance of Harley's house. Because it is simple, unique, and comfortable. When Harley responds to Cassandra's statement, Harley uses the word "well" at the beginning of her sentence. "Well" is one of the types of hedges in the form of filler which is commonly used to express someone's feelings of doubt or lack of confidence when starting a conversation. It means that Harley feels a little bit lack of confidence when she says that her house isn't great, but at least it's better than a prison cell. This hedges word reflects that Harley uses the word "well" to start her uncertain argument when conveying her statement.

4.2 Discussion

According to the finding and data analysis, the researcher has answered two problems of the study. The first problem of the study is regarding the types of hedges used by female characters in *The Birds of Prey* movie. From the findings, seven types of hedges proposed by Namsaraev (1997) are used in female characters' utterances a total of 101 times. The most dominant hedges type is filler expressions. There are forty one utterances in total that contain hedges in the form of filler. Most of the female characters use this type of hedges because they were often express their opinions and feelings from their personal view which is reflect that they are hesitate to say something in their utterances and because they also frequently intend to give a space in their utterances to express their doubt or lack of confidence. Through the use of this hedges type, the female characters show the presence of their doubt in their utterances, which reflects that they often lack confidence when starting a topic of conversation. Besides that, by pausing their speech, they can determine the right choice of words to respond to the interlocutor.

This finding differs from the study by Ilmiyah (2019), which analyzed hedges in news articles from the New York Times online website and found that approximators (adverbs of frequency) are frequently used. This finding also differs from Sunendar, Sudana, and Gunawan's (2019) study, which analyzed hedges in the representative speech act of the main female character in *Sweet 20* movie and found that modal auxiliary verbs are the most frequently found. This difference might occur since, in spoken discourse, where the participants share

information and opinion, a speaker may use introductory words or expressions of doubts, expressions that indicate the speaker's direct participation, and they often convey their personal opinion in spoken discourse more often than in written articles. This difference can also occur due to the use of different theories. Ilmiyah (2019) employed Salager-Meyer's (1997) theory, while Sunendar, Sudana, and Gunawan (2019) used Salager-Meyer's (1997) and Yule's (1996) theories. On the other hand, this study used Namsaraev's (1997) theory for classifying the types of hedges.

The second frequently used type is modal auxiliary verbs. According to Coates and Cameron (2014, p. 74), a modal auxiliary verb is a feature used to indicate the level of certainty of a statement. Meanwhile, based on Salager-Meyer (1997, p. 109), a modal auxiliary verbs can express modality and imply that something being said is only a possibility or assumption. There are twenty-one utterances in total that contain hedges in the form of modal auxiliary verbs. The researcher found that several female characters employ this type in their utterances when they talk about something related to the level of certainty and when they want to weaken or strengthen their arguments during the conversation. By using this type, they try to minimize or sometimes emphasize the important statements they want to convey.

The female characters also use adverbs of frequency in their utterances, this type is commonly called approximators. Adverb of frequency is one of hedges type which indicates the degree, frequency, quantity, and time of a topic in conversation. There are fourteen utterances in total that are categorized as hedges

in the form of adverbs of frequency. The women characters apply this type because they want to express something they are uncertain about, related to the degree or frequency. They also employ this type because they attempt to make their utterances vaguer or sometimes more assertive, depending on the situation. This type of hedges helps them to reduce or force their utterances in conversation. Moreover, adverb of frequency is also employed in women characters' utterances when they are looking for suitable words to say.

The researcher also found the use of hedges in the form of an if clauses in women characters' utterances. There are thirteen utterances are categorized as hedges in the form of an if clause. Several female characters apply the if clause as hedges when they want to express something conditional or related to prediction in their conversation. Through this hedges type, they want to represent that the things they say are still doubtful and sometimes predictable depending on certain situations. They also apply if clauses to weaken their sentences when they conclude something based on their predictions which are still unclear. Therefore, the things that are being presented sound less assertive.

Another hedges expression in the form of lexical verbs, nouns, and adverbs are also found in women characters' utterances when they give several unclear information in their utterances. The researcher found nine utterances of lexical verbs, two utterances of nouns, and one utterance of an adverb. Women characters in this movie also use this type of hedges because they want to present their arguments that may differ from the interlocutor's thoughts and to show hesitation

in their statements. Thus, hedges soften their statements and make them not sound too firm.

Meanwhile, the researchers did not find any hedges in the form of probability adjectives in the women's characters' utterances. Probability adjectives have a similar definition to adverbs. It is one of hedges types that indicate information that is vague, tentative, or not quite precise (Wang and Tatiana, 2016, p. 48). The researcher did not find this type of hedges because the female characters in this movie did not use adjectives to express their doubts. Moreover, the researchers also did not find any compound hedges in the female characters' utterances. Compound hedges are a combination of several other types of hedges, for example, consisting of modal auxiliary verbs combined with a lexical verb. The female characters do not use compound hedges because they speak more in firm language and use short word choices when expressing their doubts. Apart from that, most of the female characters in this film are brave, firm, and independent, so they rarely use expressions that express doubt in their utterances. Even when they use it, they try to cover up their doubts or lack of confidence by using the appropriate word choice.

Furthermore, the researcher also analyzed the functions of hedges applied by female characters in the *Birds of Prey* movie to answer the second research problem of the study. The findings show that the female characters use all four hedges functions of Lakoff 's theory (1975) in their conversation. The data analysis shows that the most frequently used function of hedges used in female characters' speech is the most basic function of Lakoff's theory (1975), namely

hedges as an expression to express uncertainty when they give doubtful information or suggestion in their conversation. It is also indicated that women often use words that reflect their hesitation about something they want to say. This result supports the study by Septiarini, Suastra, and Putra (2021), which analyzed hedges using Lakoff's (1975) theory and found hedges primarily used as an expression to show speakers hesitant in the *Mamma Mia* movie. The female character mostly uses this function because they often deliver a statement that express their lack of confidence and lack of accuracy in their utterances. By using hedges, they can choose the right words and be more careful in conveying their doubts. Besides, this function can be used in all nine hedges types. This function helps the female characters to structure their utterance to be better at expressing their doubts. Besides that, it also helps them to avoid conveying wrong information since the information she conveys is not clear yet.

Female characters also use hedges expression to maintain politeness during the conversation. This result is in line with the previous study by Nisa (2018), which applied Hyland's (1998) theory and found that using hedges can express politeness in scientific academic research, especially in the thesis abstract and conclusion. In addition, she also found other functions of hedges, including hedges that can be used to undermine the power of a statement, express respect, signal uncertainty, and so on. The female characters use hedges for this function when they try to convey their statements through judgments, thoughts, and suggestions that might hurt someone's feelings during a conversation. The female characters also try to protect themselves from giving too strong opinions,

judgments, or claims. That way, speakers can convey their statements more politely so that the conversation can be more relaxed. In addition, this function also can be used to avoid the possibility of misunderstandings between speakers, which can lead to conflict.

Another function of hedges used by female characters is to weaken a statement, and at another time, it can be used to strengthen a statement. This result is in line with the study by Hidayati, Muhammad, and Dallyono (2008), which used Hyland's (1998) theory and found the use of hedges to indicate qualifications between strengtheners or weakeners in a statement. The use of this function depends on the situation and the topic during the conversation. This function employs to weaken a statement when the speaker asks for an apology because making any statement because the speaker doesn't want to emphasize themselves strongly. The hedges words that contain this function generally have a doubtful meaning, for example: might, I think, rarely, etc. In addition, this function also can be used to highlight a statement that is important to convey in a conversation. Hedges words that can express this function generally have a strong meaning, for example: completely, always, never, etc. That way, speakers and listeners can avoid receiving wrong information.

Lastly, the female characters also employ hedges in their sentences to represent that they lack confidence when starting a discussion. They tend to pause and think about the appropriate word to begin a statement when they convey specific information. The function of this hedges protects the speaker from uttering mistakes when delivering something in their conversation. Therefore, this

hedges's function always appears at the beginning of the sentence to make them more careful in choosing words.

Furthermore, the researcher found the difference between the use of filler by each female characters in the *Birds of Prey* movie. Harley uses filler more frequently in her utterance, this is because Harley has a manipulative personality, and she often expresses her lies with hesitation through the use of hedges words. Apart from that, Renee also uses hedges as filler to express her doubts when she conveys her opinion or thoughts. Especially since Renee is a police detective, she has many scenes where she has to reveal her thought or idea. Meanwhile, Canary is described as firm but also has a soft heart, so she often feels sorry and sympathizes with others. She primarily uses hedges as fillers to express her doubts when she has to do something for someone.

On the other hand, Huntress often uses filler when she wants to start a conversation. Huntress does not have many conversations in the film, but she uses many fillers to maintain politeness. It is because Huntress comes from a respectable family who educated her well from childhood. Lastly, Cassandra is the second member who uses filler the most after Harley. Cassandra uses fillers to express her doubts when stating something and when she feels pressured by circumstances. This is because Cassandra is a victim who is still a child who does not know many things. She is saved by Harley and her friends from Roman Sionis, who are trying to kill her.

According to the discussion above, the researcher concludes that using hedges in female characters' utterances gives them the ability to soften their utterances in a conversation. The use of hedges allows the characters to find new information and exchange opinions in their conversation. They also can avoid misunderstanding and avoid overstatements. Hedges also make participants avoid words that can offend someone's feelings and prevent conflict in a conversation. In addition, hedges can be used as a pause to choose the right words when starting a statement. In addition, the speakers who use hedges also avoid harsh words or unkind statements so that they can maintain politeness.

Furthermore, this study is very different from the study by Widiyati (n.d.), who explored hedges in the conclusion section of theses written by the Indonesian EFL students in the year 2000-2010 by using Hyland's (1996) theory. This study found that hedges mainly applied as writer-oriented hedges. Meanwhile, this study also differs from the study by Zakia (2018), which investigates hedges as a politeness strategy using Brown and Levinson (1987) and Martin-martin's (2008) theories. This research found that reference hedges have the most frequently used type other types. At the same time, the most frequently used function is to avoid being imposing. The research also found several previous studies that analyzed hedges but applied different theories and found different findings. For example, a study by Asfina, Kadarisman, and Astuti (2018) analyzed hedges in written and spoken discourse used by Indonesian ELT students. By using Salager-Meyer's (1994) and Hyland's (2005) theories, this study found that the students use hedges more frequently in written discourse, and the most frequently used type was

shields types. Another study conducted by Demir (2018) which investigate lexical hedges in academic writing using Hyland's (1998) theory. They found that the most frequently used category of hedges is verbs for Anglophonic writers, while Turkish writers apply models as the most frequently used type. Another study about hedges found by the researcher is a study conducted by Muziatun, Malabar, and Astuti (2019), which analyzed hedges on students' presentation of a seminar on language based on gender. This study used Namsaraev's (1997) theory to categorize the taxonomy of hedges. The finding found that the female participants mostly used filler in their conversation, while the male participants applied modal auxiliary verbs as the most used types in their conversation. Next, the researcher also found a different studies about hedges, as conducted by Rosanti and Jaelani (n.d.), which investigates lexical hedges in spoken language by female and male students using Namsaraev's (1997) theory. The result found that female students have many word choices when using hedges in their sentences, while male students rarely use the hedges in their speech. However, the researchers found that the type of hedges most used by both of them was filler.

From the discussion above, the researcher concluded that Harley and other female characters in the *Birds of prey* movie use hedges in their utterances with different purposes depending on the situation in the conversation. In addition, the genre of this film also influences the use of hedges in the characters' speech. The *Birds of Prey* is a thriller movie about five women who unite and fight against a city criminal. Since *Birds of Prey* is a thriller film, there are not many hedges

words in the characters' utterances. In fact, in some conversations, they tend to cover up their doubts or their lack of confidence when conveying a statement.

Thus, this study contributes to the existing study and theory. This study finds the types of hedges based on Namsaraev's (1997) theory in the *Birds of Prey* movie. This study also served the function of hedges used by the female characters in the *Birds of Prey* movie based on Lakoff 's theory (1975). In sum, the researcher concluded that hedges are often used in everyday life, especially by women. Because people often feel uncertain or lack of confidence when conveying their idea or opinion. Thus, the researcher expects that this study can provide more explanation regarding the use of hedges in daily conversations and presents more knowledge in the field of sociolinguistics.



UIN SUNAN AMPEL
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CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

In this chapter, the researcher provides the conclusion of this study and suggestion for future research.

5.1 Conclusion

Lexical hedges are one of the characteristics of women's language. This feature expresses a lack of confidence and represents a woman's insecurities. It means that when a person uses lexical hedges, she feels less confident or avoids saying something that will offend someone. Lexical hedges are also often used to change from one topic to another in a conversation and as pauses to provide a time sequence for the speaker to think about what they will say next. Another purpose of using lexical hedges is to strengthen or weaken their statement depends on the situation. Some lexical hedges words often used by women such as *well, you know, like, kind of, I mean, I guess, you see, etc.*

This study investigates the types of hedges and the function of hedges uttered by female characters in the *Birds of Prey* movie to generate various kinds of hedges and the function of hedges in the movie. The researcher found seven from nine types of hedges proposed by Namsaraev (1997) applied by female characters in their conversation. The result of this study found forty one utterances of fillers, twenty-one utterances contain modal auxiliary verbs, fourteen utterances of adverbs of frequency, thirteen utterances contain if clause, nine utterances of lexical verbs, two utterances contain nouns, and one utterances of

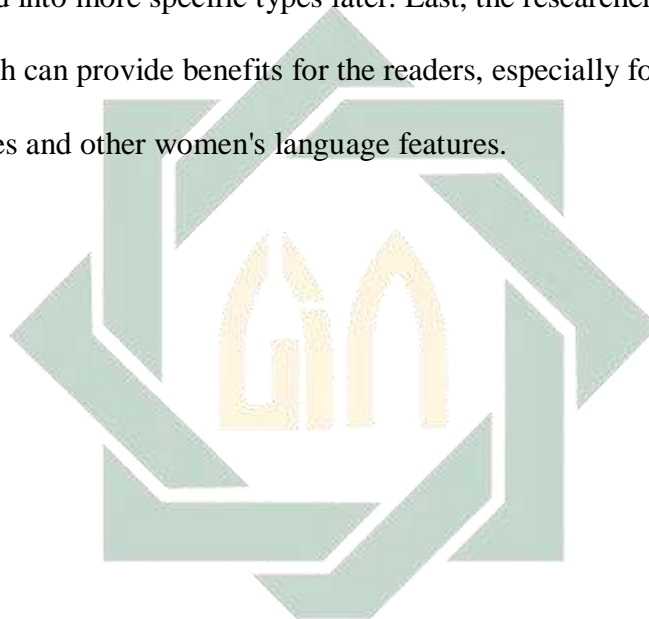
adverb. Meanwhile, the researchers did not find probability adjectives and compound hedges in the female characters' utterances. In addition, the researchers found that the most frequently used hedges types in female character utterances are filler.

The researcher also found the function of hedges used by the female characters in the *Birds of prey* movie. The results show that the researcher found thirty-nine utterances containing hedges used by the female characters to express feelings of doubt or their lack of confidence when conveying information whose truth is unclear. Furthermore, the researcher found six utterances contain hedges used to maintain politeness during a conversation, twenty-four utterances contain hedges used to weaken a statement, twenty-nine utterances contain hedges to strengthen or emphasize a sentence. Twelve utterances contain hedges to start a conversation. It can be seen that the most frequently used hedges are to show a lack of confidence or hesitation when they convey something that is not clear yet.

The female characters use hedges to soften their speech during a conversation. Besides that, hedges can also assist them in conveying ideas, suggestions, or opinions that are appropriate for exchanging thoughts so that the use of hedges can avoid conveying wrong or excessive information. It also assists them in maintaining politeness and good relationships between the characters in conversation. In sum, hedges words applied by female characters in their utterances can affect the interlocutor during the conversations.

5.2 Suggestion

This research has investigated the types of hedges and the function of hedges in female character utterances. For future researchers who are interested in investigating the same thing, the recent research suggests using certain films with different genres. Thus, future researchers can identify which hedges types are used the most and it's reason. Moreover, further researchers can also investigate hedges using Namsaraev's theory combined with other theories. Thus, the research results obtained can be grouped into more specific types later. Last, the researcher expects that this research can provide benefits for the readers, especially for people who study hedges and other women's language features.

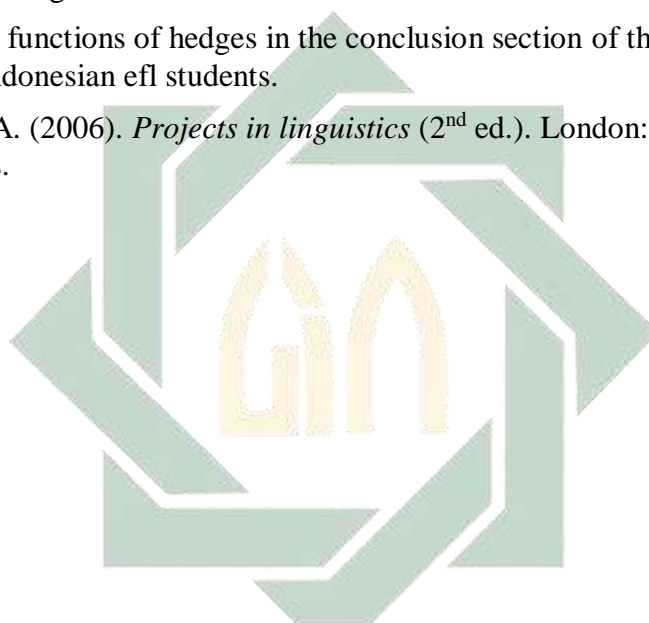


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UIN SUNAN AMPEL
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