Chapter 4

Findings and Discussion

This chapter explains the findings of the investigation procedures described in the previous chapters. I divide this chapter into two main sections: findings and discussion. It attempts to answer the problems mentioned on the first chapter. It also relates to what hedges are found in the talk show, what types and functions of those hedges are belonging to.

Findings

Hedges Found in J.K Rowling’s Interview

After the data were analyzed, I found 87 sentences contain hedges, as they can be seen on table 1 and 2 (appendix 1 and appendix 2). The hedges in the study do not only submit to their types but also their function as well. The types of hedges are for example: modal auxiliary (A), lexical verbs (B), adjectival adverbial and modal phrases (C), approximators (D), introductory phrases (E), if clauses (F), and compound hedges (G). The hedges that belong to their functions they are: expressing doubt and confidence (EDC), sensitivity to others’ feeling (SOF), Searching for the right word (SRW), and avoiding playing the expert as well (APE).

The table 1 appendix 1 shows the essential of the occurrence of the hedges used in the interview. The two kinds of sentences on table 1 in appendix 1 show the difference. The sentences on the right which do not employ the hedges become so direct and strong.
Types of Hedges

After obtaining the difference, I attempt to identify the types of hedges. It can be simplified as seen below:

Table 4.1 Types of hedges in J.K Rowling’s interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>TYPES OF HEDGES</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(A) Modal auxiliary verb</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(B) Modal lexical verb</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(C) Adjectival, adverbial and modal phrases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(D) approximators of degree</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(E) Introductory phrases</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(F) If clause</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(G) Compound hedges</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total of hedges</strong></td>
<td><strong>46</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.1 above shows that type A which is belonging to Modal auxiliary verbs is the most frequent among the others. The second most frequent is D which belonging to approximators of degree. following E which belong introductory phrases, F which is belonging to if clause, C which is belonging to adjectival, adverbial and modal phrases, B which is belonging to modal lexical and the last is G which is belonging to compound hedges.

The table indicates that modal auxiliary verbs as the most frequent among the others in the interview. They are dominant and the most frequent hedges which appear in utterances of J.K Rowling’s interview with Oprah Winfrey.
a. Modal Auxiliary Verbs

The most frequent hedges is modal auxiliary verbs (A). Modal auxiliary verbs consist of *can, could, would, should, may, might, must*. Modal auxiliaries usually express a speaker’s attitude, or moods’.

**Data 1**

| “Yeah – because I started getting my picture in the press and no one **could** pretend I was a man anymore” (2) |
| “I **can** now solve this problem”. (5) |
| “The last word **would** be ‘scar’ and then I changed my mind” (16) |

Modal auxiliary modifies verb or predicate phrases. *Modal can* generally shows ability, possibility, choice, something optional and permission. Modals *can* and *could* do not relate with past tense only. An area of confusion could be in the choice of the modals with reference to the tense such as can and could. Besides they show the ability meaning, both are examples to express possibility in the future, but the use of can denotes a slightly more definite possibility.

Except no.5 can mean ability, while excerpt no.2 Rowling’s emphasizes his proposition. Besides that, Rowling’s also reflects certainty about her proposition. In data no.16, Modal *would* show the speaker’s way to express her claim not directly but politely. The claim refers both to her agreement and disagreement.
b. Approximators Of Degree, Quantity, Frequency and Time

The second frequent hedges that appeared in J.K Rowling’s utterances are approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time (D).

**Data 2**

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“No. No. I'm not pushing any belief system here, although there is a lot of Christian imagery in the books”. (36)
“I sometimes think it’s very analogous to having a lot of money that people think – ‘cause that’s kind of like a super power. I’ve often thought this, since all this happened to me” (44)
“At least half of Harry’s journey is a journey to deal with death in its many forms, what it does to the living.....” (87)
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In approximators of degree, hedges modify the following phrases. As the example, data no 36, a lot of modifies Christian imagery in the books. Then in data no 87, the speaker uses half of to minimize the risk of her statement expressing about Harrys journey in her book. So approximators of degree are used by the speaker as hesitation to modify the force of her statement.

The approximator of time: often is used to approximate the period of time. In this sentence, the speaker showed her certainty about the frequency how many times she think how analogous to have a lot of money.

c. Introductory Phrases

Based on Table 4.1, the third most frequent of hedges is introductory phrases (E). The sentences that belong to this group:
Data 3

| “We know it’s going to end” (09) |
| “I mean I could write – I could – I could definitely write an eighth, ninth, tenth – I could – easily” (18) |
| “I’m not saying I believe magic is real. I don’t” (41) |

Looking more detail to the column of hedges which types as to negotiate sensitive topic, they are complementary with the column of hedges which are types as to introductory phrase. What we can conclude is that they express politeness strategies in the social interactions Rowling between Winfrey. Especially, the claims that refer to sensitive topics, as it can be seen in excerpts No.18. The hedges believe in data no.41 can mean the speaker’s opinion. It has the same meaning as think. It is similar to the excerpts no.9.

d. Certain “If” Clause

The fourth most frequent consists of four if clause. She may used if and unless in the subordinated clause. Words like possibly and probably might also be employed.

Data 4

| “Oddly, if you’d asked me before I wrote it ‘what did I believe’ I maybe couldn’t have told you” (64) |

In the sentence, data no.64 shows the speaker’s vagueness in her statement. She just gave idea that not occurred yet.
e. Adjectival, Adverbial, and Nominal Modal Phrases and Modal Lexical Verbs

According to Salager and Mayer (1997), categorized both adjectival, adverbial and nominal modal phrases and modal lexical verbs as shields. They are including all modal verbs expressing possibility like “to appear, to seem,” probability adverbs like “probably, likely” and their derivative adjectives, epistemic verbs. The examples of verbs are “to suggest, to speculate” and others.

Based on table 4.1 above, the frequency of adjectival, adverbial and nominal and modal phrases modal lexical verbs is 5 and 6 or as the fifth and sixth most frequent among others. Adjectival, adverbial and nominal modal phrases and modal lexical verbs are used by Rowling’s in the interview, to show her claims or statements which relate to probability of proposition. In another words, they reflect the speaker uncertainty of the claims or statement she has made.

Data 5

“And I think that, this is probably true of all writers, but sometimes I know what I believe because of what I have written” (63)

The application of adverbial “probably” reflect the vagueness of the speaker’s thought.

f. Compound/Complex Hedges

In the interview, it is found only one compound/complex hedges, which are as double hedges. The example is presented in the following.

Data 6

“And it is exciting because it so fits what I believe should be done.” (54)
In data No.54 presents modal lexical verbs (believe) and modal auxiliary (should) as hedging content. Also, *believe should* modifies be done. Thus, most of the combination of compound hedges is between modal auxiliary and modal lexical verbs.

**Functions of Hedges**

After analyzing the types of hedges that are used in the study, it comes to discuss on the use of their function. Therefore, I classified the analysis into four functions of hedges. Totally, there are 39 words for expression of doubt and confidence, 0 words for sensitivity to others’ feeling, 28 words for searching for the right word, 8 words for avoiding playing expert.

Table 4.2 Functions of hedges in J.K Rowling’s interview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Function of Hedges</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Doubt and confidence</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sensitivity others’ feeling</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Searching the right word</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Avoiding playing expert</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total of Hedges</strong></td>
<td><strong>75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.1 shows that those hedges have their own classification based on functions of hedges by Coates. The fact is that those hedges have their own characteristics.
a. Expressing Doubt and Confidence

Based on the frequency of occurrence, expression of doubt and confidence is the most frequent. Hedges in this functions is represented with the initial words, such as *I think, I mean, maybe, I said, exactly, I remember, I know and I always knew it*. Some examples of the analyses are provided below:

Data 1

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“You cannot prepare yourself for it. So even though I always knew it would be seven books – that was it” (10)
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Oprah told that she had read Rowling’s first novel entitled *Deatly Hallows*. She was wondering how the series of the end was like. Rowling then responded by saying that her novel was going to end. Rowling was trying to convince Oprah, that’s why she used hedges “*I always knew it*”. Rowling is confident in the truth of the proposition expressed in her utterance. She is so sure that she can finish her seven books.

Data 2

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“I can honestly say I know a hundred percent she would have adored it. Yeah. Yeah” (71)
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Rowling talks about her mother. She is confident in the truth of the proposition expressed in her utterance. She sure her mother loved reading. She hedges her proposition by using hedges. *I know* as the expression of confidence.
b. **Searching For the Right Word**

I found “searching for the right word” as the second most frequent function which occurs in the utterances.

**Data 3**

*I cry, but I’m not someone who can sort of keep crying going. You know what I mean? Some people can – do floods for hours. I’ve never – only twice in my life*

The speaker was searching for the right word to clarify her previous statement in which she was not the type of woman who could cry for so long. She used hedges “*I mean*” to make her statement clearer. However, she convinced that she ever “*do floods (cry eyes out) only twice in her life. It was when her mother died.*

**Data 4**

*Is just the nom de – well, it’s because my British publisher, when the first book came out, thought ‘this is a book that will appeal to boys’ but they didn’t want the boys to know a woman had written it” (1).*

In this case, Rowling used hedge “*well*” to find the right word in answering the journalist’s question about Rowling’s real name. She used *well* to help her to find the right words. She tried to answer Oprah question about her name, that’s why she did not want to be impolite by finding the right word.
c. Avoiding Playing Expert

In Avoiding playing the expert, there are 8 hedges found. For example, 

*well, I believe, we all know that and I suppose.* The following are samples of the analysis:

**Data 5**

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“Well, I mean, you could tie my hands to my sides, I suppose, but I have to write.” (78)
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Winfrey was questioning whether Rowling would be writing more or not. Rowling confidently says “definitely”, means that she would write more and more, However, Rowling did not want to look an expert in writing. In this case, she used hedge “*I mean, you could*” in her utterance. She just want to show that writing is a must for her, she keep writing although her hands were tied. She can not stop write a novel until it finished.

**Data 6**

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“I think one way – although I knew it was coming *we all know that* the people we love are mortal – we are mortal. We know it’s going to end”
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Rowling is known as smart and confident woman according to her role so far in media. She is a good writer as well. Still, she used “*we all know that*” in her statement. It means, she involved Rowling or other people as “her team”. By doing so, it can be seen that she was avoiding playing like an expert.
Discussion

From the findings, types of hedges found in J.K Rowling’s are modal auxiliary (A), lexical verbs (B), adjectival adverbial and modal phrases (C), Approximators (D), introductory phrases (E), if clauses (F), and compound hedges (G). All the types of hedges suggested by Salager-Meyer (1997) are found in J.K Rowling’s interview with Oprah Winfrey Show.

Furthermore, modal auxiliary (A) is very frequently used type. The probably reason can be that it is quite an easy usage of hedges, directly by using modal as avoiding playing expert, such as “Well, I mean, you could tie my hands to my sides,...” From the findings, it shows that all modals can be used as the function of avoiding playing expert. They may also be used by the function of expression of doubt and confidence such as “so even though I always knew it would be seven books”. However, modal is still considered as sensitivity to others feelings, since it is line with Coates’ theory (1996) that modal is used to perform politeness strategies in relation with positive face (the needs to be acknowledge and liked) and negative face (the needs to have personal space respected).

Moreover, I almost found all the functions of hedges in Rowling’s interview. Totally, there are 75 hedges, they are 39 hedges for expressing doubt and confidence, 28 hedges for searching for the right word and 8 hedges for avoiding playing the expert. There is one function of hedges that cannot be found in the J.K Rowling utterances. It is sensitivity others’ feeling. I did not separate the analysis of expression doubt and confidence because Coates puts it on one unity of function.
The function of sensivity to others’ feeling can be used not only to modify the force of the propositional content, that is the person or people being talked to. In addition, it is useful in terms of protecting negative face, it helps us to avoid imposing on people. In this study, I did not find the hedges that indicates the sensitivity to others’ feeling because in her utterance, the speaker only talked about herself without involving other people.

Findings also confirm Coates’s idea that one utterance may consist of more than one hedges. Findings of this study reveal that one utterance may consist of two or three hedges. Accordingly, I found the utterance using two hedges such as “I cry, but I’m not someone who can sort of keep crying going. you know what I mean?” In this utterances, Rowling used two hedges you know and what I mean. She was trying to give good respond to Oprah. So, here, hedges is used for signalling speakers to search for a word or having trouble finding the right words to say what the speakers mean.