

THE HEDGES USED BY *RONNIE MILLER* AND *STEVE MILLER* DURING SUMMER HOLIDAY IN *THE LAST SONG* MOVIE

Reinzka Unola¹ and Josefa J. Mardijono²

^{1,2}English Department, Faculty of Letters, Petra Christian University
Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia
e-mail: reynzcha@yahoo.com; josefa@peter.petra.ac.id.

Abstract:

This study discussed the types and functions of hedges also some changes of hedges perceived in the using of hedges related to social distance. *The Last Song* by Nicholas Sparks, were used as the source of data and the data of this study were 16 scenes containing conversation between Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller. The theories used were hedges and its functions by Coates (1996), the types of hedges by Salager-Meyer (1997), and hedges related to social distance by Holmes (1996). There were six types of hedges out of seven types found out by the writer in her data. After analyzing hedges based on the types and functions, the writer also analyzed the changes that can be perceived in using hedges and their functions. The data analysis showed that there were some changes in using hedges related to the functions. The changes of the function may be influenced by social distance between the two characters which is expression of doubt, followed by expression of confidence, searching for the right word and sensitivity of others' feeling.

Key words: Hedges, types of hedges, functions of hedges, social distance

Language is very important in human life. By using language people can communicate with other people. In communication, people use language as a tool to provide information, expressing ideas, to request, expressing feeling, commands, etc. In expressing ideas and feeling, people often use statement that contains hedges. Coates (2004), said "Hedges are linguistic forms such as *I think, I'm sure, you know, sort of, and perhaps* which express the speaker's certainty or uncertainty about the proposition under discussion"(p.88). Another linguist, Holmes, also stated her opinion about hedges. Holmes (1995) did not use the term "hedges". She used the term "pragmatics particles". The pragmatics particles are *you know, I think, sort of, and of course*. These words are similar to Coates' categorization of hedges.

Holmes said that the pragmatics particles serve as hedging or boasting devices in different context, and their contribution to politeness also varies in context (Holmes, 1995). Hedges are used to show the uncertainty that is perceived as indicator of unreliability. There are four functions of hedges based on Coates's theory (2004). The four functions of hedges that used are; expressing doubt and confidence, sensitivity to others' feeling, searching for the right word and avoiding playing the expert. In addition, to classify types of hedges the writer used Salager-Meyers' Classification (1997, p.1). It consists of seven types: modal auxiliary, modal lexical verbs, adjectival, adverbial and nominal modal phrases (probability adjectives, nouns, adverbs), approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time, introductory phrases, certain 'if' clauses, compound/complex hedges.

A movie is one of the entertainment medias that most people like. It is also a good media to find the language variation in fictional narratives and know how these narratives can be representative of society (source). The audience of the movie are sometimes being influenced by watching the movie. So, language used in the movie also shape the ideologies of the audiences.

The theme of *The Last Song* movie is about family. In the family usually there is no distance relationship between father and children, except father and mother got divorced. When the parents got divorced, it will create gap, and it might influence the language used and the way they communicate. It also happened in this movie. It is an American romantic movie developed alongside Nicholas Sparks's novel by the same name. *The Last Song* is the title which describes the last song created by the father before he died. And that song was played by her daughter at the funeral ceremony. The last song also symbolizes their intimacy at the end of summer holiday. The plot of the story of this movie is about a rebellious girl, Veronica "*Ronnie*" Miller who felt so abandoned after her parents got divorced and her father moved from New York City to

Wilmington, North Carolina. When her father, Steve left his family three years earlier, Ronnie blamed him. She refused to see him when he visited or to read the letters he sent. Ronnie took her parents' divorce personally and was unable to address her negative feelings towards her father. However, Ronnie was sent by her mother to spend the summer holiday in Steve's house, Ronnie's mother wanted to reconnect the relationship between Steve and Ronnie. Although, Ronnie kept a distance from Steve, Steve was interested in reconnecting with Ronnie. Steve did not want the summer holiday that they spent together to end in vain.

According to Holmes (1993, p. 101) "hedges can reduce the social distance for a relaxed relationship with the addressee." The distance created between Ronnie and her father still happen during summer holiday. But, when Ronnie met a guy and she fell in love with the guy. She needed somebody to share what she felt, since she lived only with Steve and her brother. So, she had to find somebody to share. It happened firstly when Ronnie went home, and she tried to share what she had done that day to her father. Her father was very happy because Ronnie could share her feelings, naturally. Since that moment, the relationship created between Ronnie and Steve become closer. They did not feel awkward as much as before. This situation can be considered as the turning point for the relationship between Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller to be closer. The closer relationship may be revealed by the use of hedges. The hedges might be changed along with the relationship become closer. In this study was examined to find out the types, and functions of hedges used by Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller before and after the turning point. In this way, it is interested find out the changes of hedges that may be influenced by social distance between Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller.

Hedges

Hedges are expression of uncertainty, possibilities, or tentativeness, all of which convey the sense of vagueness. This may be to show doubt and indicate that information presented is opinion, or it may be to convey deference, humility, and respect the others views (Coates, 2004). Another linguist, Holmes (1995), also stated her opinion about hedges. Holmes did not use the term "hedges". She used the term "pragmatics particles". The pragmatics particles are *you know*, *I think*, *sort of*, and *of course*. These words are similar to Coates' categorization of hedges. Holmes said that the pragmatics particles serve as hedging or boasting devices in different context, and their contribution to politeness also varies in context (Holmes, 1995). In addition, Fairclough (1992, p.160), from his research on British and American conversation, argues that rather than straightforwardly show certainty, doubt and attitudes, hedging the sentence will be good intersection for signification of reality and the enactment of social relations. He suggested that hedges will represent interlocutors' relationship such as solidarity, affinity, and other power relationship (Precht, 2003, p.240). It can be concluded that hedges are linguistic forms which modify and express the speaker's certainty or uncertainty, and tone down the utterances or statements in order to reduce riskiness of what one says depending on the communicative context or co-text.

Types of Hedges

The types of hedges based on Salager-Meyer's classification (1997, p.1), typically, hedging is expressed through the use of following strategic stereotypes:

1. Modal Auxiliary Verbs (the most straightforward and widely used means of expressing modality in English academic writing), the most tentative ones being: *may*, *might*, *can*, *could*, *would*, *should*. For examples:
 - Such a measure *might* be more sensitive to changes in health after specialist treatment.
2. Modal Lexical Verbs (or the so called speech act verbs used to perform acts such as doubting and evaluating rather than merely describing) of varying degree of illocutionary force: *to seem*, *to appear* (epistemic verbs), *to believe*, *to assume*, *to suggest*, *to estimate*, *to tend*, *to think*, *to argue*, *to indicate*, *to propose*, *to speculate*. (p.5)

The examples:

- Our analyses *suggest* that high doses of the drug can lead to relevant blood pressure reduction.

- These results *indicate* that the presence of large vessel peripheral arterial disease may reflect a particular susceptibility to the development of atherosclerosis.
3. Adjectival, Adverbial and Nominal Modal Phrases:
 - a. Probability adjectives: e.g., *possible, probable, un/likely*
 - b. Nouns: e.g., *assumption, claim, possibility, estimate, suggestion*
 - c. Adverbs (which could be considered as non-verbal modals): e.g., *perhaps, possibly, probably, practically, likely, presumably, virtually, apparently*
 The examples:
 - Septicemia is *likely* to result, which might threaten his life
 - *Possibly* the setting of the neural mechanisms responsible for this sensation is altered in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome.
 4. Approximators of Degree, Quantity, Frequency, and Time: e.g., *approximately, roughly, about, often, occasionally, generally, usually, somewhat, somehow, a lot of* (p.8)
 The examples:
 - Fever is present in *about* a third of cases and sometimes there is neutropenia.
 - Persistent subjective fatigue *generally* occurs in relative isolation.
 5. Introductory Phrases such as *I believe, to our knowledge, it is our view that, we feel that*, which express the author's personal doubt and direct involvement. (p.9)
 For example:
 - *We believe* that the chronic fatigue syndrome reflects a complex interaction of several factors. There is no simple explanation.
 6. If Clauses, e.g., *if true, if anything*. (p.10) For example:
 - *If true*, our study contradicts the myth that fishing attracts the bravest and strongest men.
 7. Compound Hedges. These are phrases made up of several hedges, the commonest forms being (p.11):
 - a. a modal auxiliary combined with a lexical verb with a hedging content (e.g., *it would appear*).
 - b. a lexical verb followed by a hedging adverb or adjective where the adverb (or adjective) reinforces the hedge already inherent in the lexical verb (e.g., *it seems reasonable/probable*). Such compound hedges can be double hedges (*it may suggest that; it seems likely that; it would indicate that; this probably indicates*); treble hedges (*it seems reasonable to assume that*); quadruple hedges (*it would seem somewhat unlikely that, it may appear somewhat speculative that*), and so on.

Functions of Hedges

Coates (1996, pp. 154-162) proposed multiple functions of hedges as follows.

1. The expression of doubt and confidence

The basic function of hedges is to signal that the speaker is not committed to what he/she is saying. In other word, when hedging he/she are saying that they lack confidence in the truth of the proposition expressed in that utterance (p.154).

For example:

 - Meg: *I think she's got a body hair problem* (she signals by the use if hedge *I think* that is not totally confident about the truth of the proposition *she's got a body problem?*)

I think, maybe, you know, I don't think, may, might are kind of hedges to communicate the speaker's uncertainty. However, the hedge *probably* is closer to confidence than to doubt.

For example:

 - Susan: *Well, I probably told them about the story* (It shows confidence than susan says, *Well, I think I told them about the story*. Based on English dictionary probably means almost certainly; as far as one knows or can tell)
2. Sensitivity to others' feelings

One of the strengths of hedges is that they can be used not just to modify the force of the propositional content of an utterance, but also to take account of the feelings of the

addressee, that is the person or people being talked to. When talking, communication not just propositions, but also attitudes to addressees (p.156).
For example:

- a. Meg: *She looks very sort of um – kind of matronly really*(The hedges *sort of*, *kind of*, *really* in this utterance signal that Meg is not firmly committed to the proposition *she looks matronly*.)

3. Searching for the right word

Hedges are also useful devices signalling that people are searching for a word, or having trouble finding the right words to say what they mean (p.158).

For example:

- a. Becky: it feels like your nose is just sort of . expanding/

The hedge *sort of* alerts that she is trying to find the right word; it also signals that the word that used may not be perfect choice.

4. Avoiding playing the expert

The use of hedges before a key word is sometimes used deliberately by speakers. Rather than the meaning that the speaker is searching for the right word, hedging can be a strategy to avoid the appearance of playing the expert. Playing the expert means conversational game where participants take it in turns to hold the floor and to talk about a subject which they are an expert on (p.161).

For example:

- a. Meg: They can sort of um test that out by . showing people sort of video tapes/ (*discussion of child abuse*)

Meg use *sort of* to makes her appear less fluent, and thus avoids opening up distance between participants).

Social Distance and Hedges

As Hubler (1983) affirms, “The functions of hedges is to reduce the risk of negation. Thus, it can be claimed that, in all communication, while showing deference to addressee, the speaker or writer tries to protect him or herself from potential anger, contempt or other humiliation on the part of addressee (Markkannen et al, 1997, p 9). So, hedging is also considered as useful tool for the creation of social distance in matters of power relations in certain discipline. Holmes also said that Hedges function to reduce social distance for a relaxed relationship with the addressee (Holmes, 1993, p 101).

METHODOLOGY

In this research, the writer used qualitative approach supported by quantitative data because 1) the instrument of this research is the writer herself, 2) it uses small sample size of participant, 3) the data analysis is done with words, 4) it is concerned with subjective opinions, and 5) it uses number to help the writer analyzing the data (Dörnyei, 2007, pp. 32, 37-38).

The source of the data is the whole of the movie. The data of this study was all the utterances that contains hedges spoken by the *Ronnie Miller* to *Steve Miller (Ronnie's father)* and *Steve Miller (Ronnie's father)* to *Ronnie Miller*. The data of this research were hedges spoken by *Ronnie Miller* and *Steve Miller (Ronnie's father)* during summer holiday in *The Last Song (Movie)*.

Data Collection and Data Analysis

The writer applied several steps in collecting the data. First, the writer watched the movie, from DVD to get the data and understand the plot of the movie. Second, the writer typed down the English subtitles given while watching the movie. Next, she read the transcript of the film to find out dialogue lines, which consist of hedges. Then, the writer underlined each of the hedges found in each dialogue lines. Subsequently, the writer gave numbering system of the data to the functions of the hedges used by *Ronnie Miller* and *Steve Miller*, related to their social distance.

The analysis was based on the theories presented in chapter two. With the purpose of answering the research questions of this study, the writer used two tables (table 3.1, table 3.2). Table 3.1.illustrated each hedge spoken by *Ronnie Miller* and *Steve Miller* classified based on types and functions. Then, Table 3.2.illustrated the change that can be perceived in the use of

hedges by Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller during the summer holiday. In the table of summary, the writer divided into two phases which were described as before and after the turning points.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The whole findings were summarized in one table. From the table, it shown the changes that perceived in using hedges by two main character in *The Last Song* movie.

Table 4.1 The Summary of The Types and Functions Used by Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller

Functions Types	I (before the turning point)						II (after the turning point)							
	EOD		EOC		SFTRW		EOD		EOC		SFTRW		STOF	
	n	%	N	%	N	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
MA	2	10%	1	5%			2	12,5%	1	6,25%				
MLV	1	5%												
ADV	1	5%	1	5%			1	6,25%	1	6,25%				
APP			1	5%							3	18,75%		
IF	5	25%			1	5%	1	6,25%						
CH							1	6,25%						
0			3	15%	4	20%	1	6,25%	1	6,25%	3	18,75%	1	6,25%
Total	45%		30%		25%		37,5%		18,75%		37,5%		6,25%	

After the data were analyzed, it was found that the utterances of Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller contain several hedges. There are 30 utterances containing hedges. There are 7 types of hedges: *Modal auxiliary (MA)*, *Modal lexical verb (MLV)*, *adjectival, adverbial, and nominal modal phrases (Probability adjectives (PA), Nouns (N), Adverbs (ADV))*, *Approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time (APP)*, *Introductory phrases (IP)*, *“if” clauses*, *Compound hedges (CH)*.

As the result, the most frequent among other others is “if” clauses. The second is Modal auxiliary, followed by Approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time (APP), Adverbs (ADV). The rest are Modal lexical verb and Compound hedges (CH). It is also found particular hedges *well* that cannot categorized in the types. To know the meaning of hedges as mentioned above, it is significant to clarify them in detail.

“If” Clauses

The most frequent hedge is “if” Clauses. “if” Clauses here consists of every clause that contain “if” clauses. From these utterances, the writer divided into two parts, Ronnie Miller’s utterances and Steve Miller’s utterances. From the scenes, the utterances that belong to this group are as follows:

Ronnie Miller’s utterances

“Are you going to play? Because if you are, I’m sleeping outside.”

Steve Miller’s utterances

“If you’re gonna be here, you’re gonna have to..”

“if” Clauses above shows that the speakers give factual implication and its consequences. For example: in Ronnie’s utterance, *“Are you going to play? Because if you are, I’m sleeping outside.”* It shows, there is an implication that Steve kept continuing play the piano, Ronnie would sleep outside. The “if” clause here also indicate the ambiguity of the speakers’ thought. Every utterance that Ronnie and Steve made has a proposition. For example: in Steve’s utterance, *“If you’re gonna be here, you’re gonna have to..”* Steve proposed that because Ronnie lived in Steve’s house, she should obey the rule in his house that she could not go home late.

Modal Auxiliary

The second most frequent of hedges is modal auxiliary. Generally, the gradation that is followed from the strongest to the weakest is *can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would*. Modal auxiliaries usually express the speakers' attitude, or "moods". Some example of modal auxiliaries are:

Ronnie's utterances

"Well, you and Mom **would** know about those. I've learned from the best."

Steve's utterances

"Ronnie, **Can** I talk to you?"

Modal auxiliary would show speakers' way to express her claim not directly but politely. *Would* modifies a mistake, which means that the hedge modifies the predicate phrase. Steve was not sure with Ronnie's decision that she would not continue her study to Juilliard, and Steve predicted that Ronnie's decision would be a mistake. Modal *can* generally shows ability, possibility, and permission. It shows permission that Steve asked from Ronnie to have a conversation. So, the use of modal auxiliary in the sentence shows permission to have a conversation.

Approximators of Degree, Quantity, Frequency and Time

The third frequent hedges that appeared in Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller's utterances are Approximators of Degree, Quantity, Frequency and Time. The most frequent use of approximators in the scenes between Ronnie and Steve is approximators of degree. The approximators of degree which are used are *just and kind of*. As can be seen in the examples below:

Ronnie's utterances

"That's **just** it. I don't want to be here."

"Thank you, but you're **kind of** obligated to say that, Dad."

Steve's utterances

"I. **just** stupid. There were some candles burning. I had fallen asleep and..."

In approximators of degree, hedges modify the following phrases. *Kind of* modifies *obligated to say that, that* here means Steve was complimenting Ronnie. As usual, fathers like to give compliment to his daughter. However, Ronnie did not want Steve to compliment her. By using hedges, Ronnie wanted to minimize the risk of her absolute statement. Then, approximators *just* modifies the noun that the speakers used. So, the approximators are used by the speakers as hesitation to modify the force of her statement.

Adjectival, Adverbial, and Nominal Modal Phrases

According to Salager-Mayer's classification this type is divided into three parts probability adjectives (PA), nouns (N), and adverbs (ADV). Adverbs provides four hedges. The types that cannot be found in the scenes between Ronnie and Steve are probability adjectives (PA) and nouns (N). In this types, Ronnie did not use in her utterances. Generally, this type reflect the speaker's uncertainty of the claims or statement that he made. The sentences that belong to this group are:

Steve's utterances

"It's **stupid**, Ronnie. It **really** is, and you're too talented."

"He's **probably** started college by now. Do you miss him?"

The examples above show adverbs. Hedges in this type modify the previous phrases. *Probably* modifies that he has started college by now. It indicates that Steve did not feel sure about Ronnie's boyfriend and his college. He did not want to sound too confident related to her daughter's boyfriend. However, he wanted to give statement related to suggestion of being true. The next, *It's stupid, Ronnie*. Steve tried to give emphasis that what Ronnie had already done was the stupid thing. He saw for the right word to explain the stupid thing that Ronnie had done. He emphasized his statement by adding hedges. In this type, it shows more certainty and less uncertainty.

Modal lexical verb

In the scene between Ronnie and Steve, the writer found only one modal lexical verb. Modal lexical verb is found in the following.

Ronnie's utterance

*"Home (while packing her suitcase) Where do you **think** I'm going? I'm calling mom."*

It confirms the speaker's doubt in giving statement. Ronnie just give assumption about where she was going. In that sentence *think* as hedge modifies the following clauses; *I'm going*. The word *think* represent her doubt. She used *think* to reduce the force of proposition.

Compound Hedges

The writer found one compound hedge in the scene between Ronnie and Steve. That type was found in Ronnie's utterance. The examples are presented in the following.

Ronnie's utterance

*"Dad, I'd **probably** talk about this with a girlfriend if i had one here, but.. I don't so..."*

The application of compound hedges reflects the ambiguity of the speaker's thought and claim. It shows modal auxiliary (would) combine with adverb (probably). *Would probably* modifies *talk about this with a girlfriend if I had one here* as clauses. This is the only combination of compound hedges that the writer found in the scene between Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller is between using modal auxiliary and adverb.

As the conclusion, it is found six types of seven types in Steve Miller and Ronnie Miller utterances. Those types are based on Salager-Mayer's classification (1997). While nominal phrases (N) could not be found in their utterances. Besides, there is one type that cannot be categorized in any of the types, which is labeled miscellaneous. The example of this type is the use of *well*.

Functions of hedges

Using Coates' theory, it was found there were three functions of hedges used, which were expression of doubt, sensitivity of other's feeling, and searching for the right word.

It shows that the most frequent function is expression of doubt, followed by searching for the right word, expression of confidence and sensitivity of others' feeling as the lowest. The result explained that each function had close frequency of occurrence. The discussion of each function is presented in the following.

Expression of Doubt and Confidence

Based on the frequency of occurrence, expression of doubt is the most frequent function. According to Coates (2006, p.88), hedges are "linguistic forms which express speakers' certainty and uncertainty." This result is in line with Coates statement. Here are some sentences that express doubt.

Steve's utterances

*"Ronnie, **Can** I talk to you?"*

Steve hoped that he could have a conversation with Ronnie. Steve knew that Ronnie was going home late and he wanted to hear the explanation from Ronnie, so He asked Ronnie to have a conversation. At first, he asked permission whether he could have a small talk or not. Here, he stated his doubt.

Ronnie's utterances

*"Are you going to play? Because **if you are**, I'm sleeping outside."*

Ronnie gave her supposition in her statement in order to show her doubt. Her supposition about the possibility of Steve in continuing playing the piano made her use hedge to express her doubt.

Expressing of confidence has 8 occurrences. Below is the example that reveals more on expressing confidence:

Ronnie's utterances

*"**Well**, I don't wanna be here, Dad. (raises her voices)."*

Ronnie's statement is closer to confidence that she did not want to live with her father. She felt sure about her statement. She was confident to confirm that she has no desire to live with her father.

Steve's utterances

*"It's stupid, Ronnie. It **really** is, and you're too talented."*

Steve was so confident with what he said about the wrong thing, stopping playing the piano that Ronnie had done. Steve knew that Ronnie was a talented girl. So, it was not good if Ronnie stopped playing the piano. It became the stupid thing that Ronnie did.

Searching for the Right Word

The writer found searching for the right word as the second most frequent function with occurs in the utterances. Some examples are well, like, it's just, etc. Below are the further explanations.

Ronnie's utterances

"Did you go to, like, a nice guy school or something? What's with all you're smiling lately? Seriously, it's creepy."

Ronnie was trying to find the right word to describe her father's smile. The uses of word *like* help her to find the right word.

Steve's utterances

"Well, it's almost 1:00, so..."

Steve wanted to remind Ronnie that it was already late at night, and it was not good for girl to stay outside house. Steve tried to search for appropriate word to say that it was already late night and a girl should not be outside the house. She used *well* to search the right word.

Sensitivity to Others' Feeling

In the scenes, it shows that this function is the third most frequent function. Here is an examples containing hedges to express sensitivity to others' feeling which is *well*.

Steve's utterances

"Well, a little, but..love is, Ronnie. Crazy... a little."^{2.11.20}

Ronnie wanted to state *crazy*, indirectly. Hedges *well* to soften his statement. He wanted to say that love is crazy, but he say indirectly by saying 'a little'..

Changes of Types and Function

In this research, it is found that there are some changes in the using hedges. During summer holiday changes are perceived in the use of hedges by the two characters. According to Holmes (1993, p. 101), hedges function to reduce social distance for a relaxed relationship with the addressee.

In the process of reducing social distance, the writer put into two phases in the table. The first phase referred to the context before the turning point and second phase referred to the context after the turning point. Here, two phases were the most important phases in this movie that make change of their relationship. The first phase which is "before the turning point," where Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller had a distance that because of parent's divorce. The second phase which is after the turning point, where Ronnie needed somebody to share her feeling. From that moment, the relationship between Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller change. The relationship between them is getting closer. Before and after the turning point is the two phases that created changes of relationship and the use of hedges between them.

By looking at the table, there are some changes in term of functions of hedges. The change can be perceived in the use of hedges that happen before and after the turning point of the relationship to become closer, in term of the function related to expression of doubt. Before the turning point, there 45% occurrence and after their relationship become closer it occurred 37,5 %. By looking at the percentages, there were some changes. The use of expression of doubt seems to be reduced, after their relationship became closer. The distance between Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller influence their use of hedges. At the beginning, Ronnie and Steve had a distance because of the parents divorce so the use of expression of doubt could be more than after the turning point of the relationship became closer. Ronnie and Steve still felt doubtful with what he/she said. For example, when Steve tried to make a question and ask Ronnie to have a conversation, he used *can*. He felt doubtful with what he stated, he was not sure about whether he could have the conversation with Ronnie or not. Not only Steve, but also Ronnie committed the uncertainty when give the statement. However, the use of expression of doubt after the turning point the relationship become

closer is lessen. Ronnie became relaxed, so did Steve. The distance was reduced, and it influenced their use of hedges. They did not feel doubtful as much as before. Their close relationship could make them feel close and tend to give certainty in their statement.

Another change perceived in using hedges is expression of confidence. The occurrence of using this expression before the turning point is 20% and after the relationship being closer it occurred 18,75%. The use of expression of confidence before the turning point could be more often than after they became closer. Before and after the turning point of the relationship became closer, Ronnie and Steve still used this function. It seemed like they felt confident with every statement they stated. For example, in Ronnie's utterance: "*Well, I don't wanna be here, Dad.*" At that point, Ronnie was confident to confirm that she had no desire to live with Steve. The use of *well* here stated her certainty to her father. It was different with the use of *well* in the Steve's utterances, "*Well, it's almost 1:00, so...*" The use of *well* here means that Steve was starting to search for the right word, in order to be sensitive. He tried to search for the appropriate word to describe his want.

Then, the use of function searching for the right word, occurred 25% before the turning point and after the relationship become closer it became 37,5%. It might happen because Ronnie and Steve had a trouble in finding the right word. However, after their relationship become closer there were some changes in searching the right word. It was because their relationship had already been closer, and they did not want to make it away. So, they tried to find the right word in order to maintain their close relationship. The last thing was the use of function, sensitivity of others feeling. Before the turning point, there was no use of this function. But, after the relationship became closer, it occurred 6,25%. So, there was a change before and after the relationship become closer. At first, they did not show their sensitivity. However, after the relationship become closer the use sensitivity to others' feeling in the small occurrence.

In this study, the hedges used by Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller could help to reveal the distance between them. There were some changes in their using of hedges before and after their relationship became closer. At first, there was a distance between Ronnie and Steve due to the parent's divorce. However, as the time went by, when Ronnie Miller needed somebody to share her feelings, she shared her feeling to her father, which became the turning point to make the relationship become closer. In this way, their social distance was reflected in their use of hedges.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to find out the types and functions of hedges in *The Last Song* movie. There were 16 scenes involving two main characters, Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller. The theories used of types of hedges by Salager-Meyer (1997) and functions of hedges Coates (1995).

The writer found that there were 30 utterances containing hedges. It was revealed that there were six types of hedges found by the writer out of seven types according to the Classification of Hedges by Salager-Meyer (1997). Then, there were 3 functions of hedges out of four functions by Coates (1995). The writer found that most of the six types of hedges represented the function, expression of doubt from the speakers. In addition, the writer also found out that there were some changes could be perceived in their use of hedges. There were some changes of hedges found. There were some changes of functions that occurred in expression of doubt and confidence, searching for the right word. The changes that perceived in using of hedges was influenced by social distance.

From the study of hedges in *The Last Song* movie, the writer learned that hedges are used by two of main character, Ronnie Miller and Steve Miller. Moreover, it shows that there was a change of functions that can be perceived in the using of the hedges before the relationship became closer and after the relationship became closer.

REFERENCES

- Coates, J. (2004). *Women, Men, and Language*. London: Pearson Longman
- Coates, J. (1996). *Women Talk*. London: Pearson Longman
- Dörnyei, Z. (2007). *Research Methods In Applied Linguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Fairclough, N. (1992). *Discourse and Social Change*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

- Holmes, J. (1996). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic*. London: Longman Publishing Company
- Holmes, J. (1995). *Women, men, and politeness*. New York: Longman.
- Holmes, J. (1993). *New Zealand women are Good to Talk to: An analysis of Politeness strategies in interaction*, *Journal of Pragmatics* 20, 91-116
- Moniaga, A. (2009). *Types and functions of hedges used in Hillary Rodham Clinton's interview entitled expanding the U.S - Indonesian dialogue*. (Thesis No. 02011894/ING/2009). Unpublished undergraduated thesis, Petra Christian University, Surabaya.
- Precht, K. (2003, February). *Men and women talk: Different cultures? A linguistic analysis*. Ohio: Kent State University Department of English, Kent.
- Salager-Meyer, F. (1997). *I think that perhaps you should: A study of hedges in written scientific discourse*. September 10, 2012. Retrieved from <http://eca.state.gov/education/engteaching/pubs/BR/5111FRM.htm>.
- Sudjiman, N. (2008). *Hedges occur in 'Michael Jackson' interview of Oprah Winfrey show*. (Thesis No. 02011796/ING/2008). Unpublished undergraduated thesis, Petra Christian University, Surabaya.