

## Hedge Expression on The Novel of ABC Murder by Agatha Christie in Two Decades Versions

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### Abstract

Everything changes, no exception with how the way to communicate, language through the times. In communication among the times, we found the phenomena which related to language barriers, i.e. the difference of cross-culture, race, ethnicity, gender, customs. Furthermore, based on the phenomenon above, it becomes very interesting to explore languages and cultures especially in hedge expression in literary text from the novel of ABC Murder written by Agatha Christie and it's two decade of translation versions, 1976 and 2017. This study is aim to find the function and form of hedge and the translation technique among two translation versions. This study used qualitative research method with the data collection technique by using purposive sampling. Moreover, the collected data are analyzed and classified to see the translation technique used. Additionally, interpretation of the data will have discussed in this paper. Translation technique proposed by Molina & Albir used to see the technique used by translator. The results of the study show that, hedge expression gave an impact in our speech act, especially in politeness context. Moreover, the deletion or the shifting of hedge can change our utterance in cooperative principle context.

*Keywords: hedge expression, pragmatics, speech act, two-decade translations*

### Introduction

In communication, we use language as a tool to delivering our notion, either through conversation directly, or by using the media. Even though, practically, there are a lot of dynamics that make the language "seemingly" different in the way it is used, it caused by our

cultural differences, education, customs, and even language differences itself, e.g. in Central Kalimantan used *pian* as a form of politeness of honorific greeting. Conversely, in Java, especially in Central Java, *pian* or *sampeyan* is the form of impoliteness of honorific greeting to older or respected person. Thus, the used of *Pian/pean* will give

the different impact according to the cultural context.

Additionally, we may have listened a form of utterance “**looks like** I'm going home tomorrow”, and “I **doubt** his ability in reading”. Based on two examples, they are hedge expression on bold word above, it is called hedge expression of a doubt. Hedge is a marker which expressed by the speaker to indicate that the word is polite in disclosure. Djatmika (2016: 76) stated politeness is closely related to the concept of face or face. The faces referred to our self-image or reputation (Brown and Levinson (1987: 61). Furthermore, the concept of face according to Djatmika, can be saved, can be maintained, or even can be lost, can be improved and must be maintained. If both can maintain a principle of cooperative, then the two sides are called polite.

Moreover, the differences background between speakers and partners certainly very influential on the hedge used by speakers. This is not only happened through direct communication, but also in novels. Novel is a literary work and it is different from an ordinary text. Since novel is part of the literature, it is sometimes different from what we usually hear.

Furthermore, novel has many kinds with diverse genres, from comedy to romance story. There are also novels that have been translated into various languages, one of which is Indonesian. Foreign novels

translated into Indonesian are subject to change. It is based on the needs of the readers themselves and to adapt to Indonesian culture. When talking about the politeness, between Source Text (ST) and Target Text (TT) could be changes in form and even the meaning that there can be changed especially in hedge expression. It what makes the author interested to discuss which related hedge expression on the novel *The ABC Murder* and its two versions of the translation among for two decades. Moreover, whether the form, function and meaning of the hedges of ST to TT are changed? This study will show the comparison of two translation novels for two decades and what translation techniques used.

### **Review of Related Theories**

Nababan (2016: 19) stated that, many different opinions about the definition of translation. scholars defined translation in different ways. Catford (1980) defines, translation is the turn of a source text to the target text, furthermore, he also mentions that translation is the turn of the material of source text into the target text. Conversely, a different opinion of translation is expressed by Brislin (1976) which he mentions that translation is the transfer of ideas from source to target language. Moreover, closer opinion and often adhered to by scholar is the opinion proposed by Kridalaksana (1985) that translation is transferring a mandate or messages from the source text to the target text by expressing its meaning and the

language style. Other opinion is similar with Kridalaksana's opinion are proposed by Nida and Taber (1982), which state that the definition of translation is the activities in reproducing messages from source text with the nearest and natural equivalent in the target text, first in terms of meaning and second, based of language styles. Since the translator is main actor in delivering the information and send to the target reader, it is necessary to reiterate that the translator should reproduce with the nearest and natural equivalent to the meaning and language style.

The language styles referred to the explanation above, according to Nababan (2016, 21) are a form of the source text that will be translated into the target text. For example, if the translator translating the text related to the field of law, he should translate in accordance with the text by using legal languages, and not change the meaning and style of language. An example relating to the term of law, i.e. a sentence in Indonesia, "*terdakwa kasus cabul tersebut akan dibawa ke meja hijau*". The phrase of are in a bold "*meja hijau*", it does not mean the table is having a green color, but it is the terms of court. That is the reason, why the translator is the main actor of delivering the information conveyed to the target text, thus, to avoiding the unlawfulness of a text.

According to Verhaar (2010: 14) pragmatic is a branch of linguistics studies that discusses about the structure of languages

as the meaning of communication between speakers and listeners. He also mentioned that pragmatics as signs of language on the extra lingual things that were discussed. Furthermore, in line with Verhaar, Levinson (1987) also defines the pragmatics is the study between languages with grammatical or encoded in accordance with the structure of language. Therefore, based on opinions above, it can be concluded that this pragmatic is the study that we have applied it to daily life, which is in building communication to others it is very determining what we want to expect or getting from our speaking partners.

In pragmatic studies, there are four maxims which related to the definition of pragmatic, namely the cooperative principle in communicating. Because, the communication is intertwined in two or more directions, then, the four maxims according to Grice (1975: 48) in Djtamika (2016: 34) are 1) the maxim of quality is, a person is advised not to lie; 2) the maxim of quantity, a person is required to provide sufficient information and it should not be less or more in conveying information; 3) the maxim of relevance, a person is asked to respond to a question in accordance with what is wanted by the questioner and adapted to the context that is occurring in the conversation event; 4) the maxim of the manner, a person is engaging in a conversation is asked to convey his or her idea clearly. Thus, with the explanation of the four maxims in the cooperative principles, we

should understand the other person because, a good communication is established is not making to violate the principle. However, in some contexts, we may violate the maxim of a need or an interest. Here is one example of violations in maxim.

*Anang Utuh : Dad, did last night Santa Claus give me a Christmas present?*

*Abah Ucut : It's supposed to be, because yesterday was Christmas Eve. Look at your mother's basket of clothes*

*Anang Utuh : Hurray!*

The dialogue above is violating the maxim quality and quantity, because the father has lied to his child and adding some answers "because yesterday is Christmas night". But due to certain interests, the child lied by his dad. It is possible to happen in communication accordance with the context that occurs in the conversation. The utterance of *It's supposed to be*, is an expression of hedge or shield of hedge, because the speaker does not want his child become disappointed with his father's utterance that there is no Santa Claus. In line with Yule's opinion (2010: 148) that, hedge is defined as a word or phrase used to show that we are not really sure that what we say is true enough or complete, e.g. the use of "seems", "as far as I know", "it's possible". It illustrates that we are in doubt as to what we are saying because there is no clear evidence but we also want to provide good protection in saving face or

keeping face with a polite expression. Additionally, Fraser (2010: 22) also explain that hedging is a strategy of rhetoric in communicating. Therefore, we can conclude that hedging is an art in establishing communication in a polite way.

In five years recently, there are several studies related to hedging in politic studies Rabab'ah, 2015; Teng, 2015; Arifianto, 2014; Yeganeh, 2014). Furthermore, in socio-cultural studies of the scope of pragmatic fields (Sanjaya, 2016), and also analyzed the addressed to Grice's Maxim (Trihartanti, 2012). Moreover, hedge in translation studies (Ardi, 2015), but it is limited to the form and function of hedge expression. Ardi discussed hedge expression to a novel entitled "To Kill a Mockingbird" and its translation. The findings of his research show that the notion of hedge still can be maintained into the target text despite there is a shift form. Furthermore, which has not been discussed and a gap research is how the translation technique.

The interesting topic in this study is about comparing two decades of translation between 1976 and 2017 versions. The title of Novel as the data of this study is *The ABC Murder* written by Agatha Christie (1936) and its two-translation version in Indonesian entitled *Pembunuhan ABC* (2017) and *Mengenal si Pembunuh* (1976). Additionally, genre of this novel is crime fictional story. The main characters in the novel are Hercule Poirot, Arthur Hastings and Chief Inspector

Japp. The source text of this study is in English and the two-target text is in Indonesian.

This study used qualitative method with the data collection technique is using a purposive sampling by comparing the source text. Collected data are analyzed, classified and then evaluated to see the translation techniques used. The interpretation of the data will discuss in this study. To see the translation techniques is proposed by Molina and Albir (2002: 509-511).

**Findings and Discussion**

In this section we will examine the use and function of hedge expressions that become the data on the novel of ABC Murder according to Fraser (2010: 22-23) the propositional hedge and speech act hedge. Thus, this study used pragmatic approach in reviewing translation results as described. Here is some example the type of hedges in the novel:

**A. Propositional hedge**

This hedge is used in expressing the speakers’ uncertainty on what he tells the partner.

possibility that the murderer lives in or near Andover. That is a possible answer to our question: “Why Andover? ” Well, here were two men known to have been in the shop at the requisite time of day. Either of them <u>might</u> be the murderer. And there is nothing as yet to show that one or other of them is not the murderer.” (on Pg. 071-072 )	<i>kemungkinan</i> <i>n</i> <i>pelakunya</i> <i>tinggal di</i> Andover <i>atau di</i> <i>sekitarnya.</i> Itu <i>kemungkinan</i> <i>n</i> <i>jawaban</i> <i>untuk</i> <i>pertanyaan</i> <i>kita</i> “ <i>Mengapa</i> <i>Andover?</i> ” <i>Terbukti ada</i> <i>dua orang</i> <i>yang</i> <i>diketahui</i> <i>pergi ke</i> <i>took</i> <i>itu pada</i> <i>waktu yang</i> <i>hampir</i> <i>bersamaan.</i> <i>Bisa</i> <u><i>jadi</i></u> <i>satu di</i> <i>antaranya</i> <i>adalah di</i> <i>pembunuh.</i> <i>Dan belum</i> <i>ada bukti</i> <i>yang</i> <i>menunjukkan</i> <i>bahwa</i> <i>mereka</i> <i>bukan</i> <i>pelakunya.”</i> (on Pg. 069 )	<i>kemungkinan</i> <i>n</i> <i>si</i> <i>pembunuh</i> <i>diam di</i> <i>atau</i> <i>di</i> <i>dekat</i> Andover. <i>Itulah satu</i> <i>kemungkinan</i> <i>n</i> <i>jawaban</i> <i>terhadap</i> <i>pertanyaan</i> <i>kita:</i> “ <i>Kenapa</i> <i>Andover ?</i> <i>Well, disini</i> <i>ada dua pria</i> <i>yang</i> <i>diketahui</i> <i>telah berada</i> <i>di kedai itu</i> <i>pada waktu</i> <i>yang</i> <i>diperlukan</i> <i>pada hari</i> <i>itu. Salah</i> <i>seorang</i> <i>mereka</i> <i>dapat</i> <i>menjadi</i> <i>pembunuh.”</i> (on Pg. 055 )
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**Table. 2.1. Hedge used for propositional utterances**

ST	TT 1	TT 2
“There is at least a	“ <i>Paling</i> <i>tidak ada</i>	“ <i>Setidak-</i> <i>tidaknya ada</i>

The context of the speech above occurred when Poirot and Hastings discussed who was behind the ABC murder, which the utterance is produced by Poirot and he is predicted with insufficient evidence that the murderer was

living in Andover. There are three hedges present of the utterances is produced by Poirot in the context of the conversation above, they are: compound hedge, possibly adjectives, and modal auxiliary verbs.

In compound hedge on the utterance of "at least a possibility" that combines two hedges in the utterance that is Approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time that is "at least" and "a possibility" as probably adjectives. The use of hedge in the speech after being analyzed is quite accurate, because Poirot tells his uncertainty by guessing where the murderer lived. Hedge on ST is almost entirely applicable to TT, but in "might" on TT1 and TT2 changes by being "can" and "can". Despite using the same type of modal auxiliary verbs in the hedge that has been translated but it changes the meaning of its own. "Might" itself means possible. Moreover, *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* defines *bisa* and *dapat* is a sure thing to happen. Therefore, the hedge utterance above is opposite of the ST.

Furthermore, in the terms of translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002: 509-511) on the hedge, are as follows:

**Table. 2.2. Translation Technique used on the TT1 and TT2**

ST	TT1	TTEch	TT2	TTEch
at least a possibility	<i>Paling tidak ada kemung</i>	Established equivalence	<i>Setidak-tidaknya ada kemung</i>	Established equivalence

	<i>kinan</i>		<i>kinan</i>	
possible	<i>kemung kinan</i>	Literal translation	<i>kemung kinan</i>	Literal translation
might	<i>Bisa</i>	Established equivalence	<i>dapat</i>	Established equivalence

The translation techniques used by the translator are literal translation and established equivalence. But, there is a difference in meaning, in the utterance hedge of "might" that turns into "*bisa*" and "*dapat*". It should be " *mungkin*", thus, this is contrary to the theory of translation which will change the message from ST into TT.

**B. Speech Act Hedge**

Speech act hedge is an expression used to reduce the power of speech acts in politeness (Ardi, 2015). Additionally, Brown and Levinson (1987: 61) mentioned how the language decency in communicating to the partners in achieving the cooperative principle. Furthermore, it will be discussed related to speech act hedge on the novel *The ABC Murder* and two versions of the translation:

**Table. 2.3. Hedge used of speech act**

ST	TT 1	TT 2
"Yes —I can underst and that from your point	" <i>Ya-saya mengerti sudut pandang an Anda. Tampak nya tak ada</i>	" <i>Ya—aku dapat mengerti itu dari titik pandanganm u. Tampaknya tidak ada alasan untuk</i>

<p>of view. There doesn't seem to be any reason to believe that the man ever came up against you in any way?' 'None whatever.' 'I <u>might</u> make a suggestion. Your name!' 'My name?' "</p> <p>(on Pg. 270)</p>	<p><i>alasan yang masuk akal mengapa orang tersebut memusuhi Anda.</i>"  <i>"Sampai saat ini tidak ada."</i>  <i>"Saya ada pemikiran. Nama Anda!"</i>  <i>"Nama saya?"</i>                  (on Pg. 261)</p>	<p><i>percaya bahwa orang itu berlawanan denganmu bagaimanapun juga."</i>  <i>"tidak bagaimanapun."</i>  <i>"Aku ingin mengusulkan. Namamu?"</i>  <i>"Namaku ?"</i>                  (on Pg. 212 )</p>
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The context of the situation above occurs when Poirot met Dr. Thompson and Chief Inspector Japp to inform Poirot of the results of the Rex case trial of V. Alexander Bonaparte Cust. There is only one hedge comes in the utterance revealed by Poirot to Dr. Thompson in the context of the conversation is in the form of modal auxiliary verbs "might". But, unfortunately, in TT1 the

hedge act speech is omitted, which Poirot must have conveyed by using the expression of the hedge speech act, this is not seen in TT1. It looked less polite when Poirot simply revealed "*Saya ada pemikiran...*". It should be preserved by exposing "*saya mungkin ada pendapat...*". Conversely, in TT2 the utterance revealed by Poirot was very polite by expressing "*Aku ingin mengusulkan. Namamu?*". Further, in terms of translation techniques proposed by Molina and Albir (2002: 509-511) on hedge, are as follows:

**Table. 2.4. Translation technique used in TT1 and TT2**

ST	TT1	TTEch	TT2	TTech
might	-	untranslated	ingin	Established Equivalence

The translation techniques used by the translator is established equivalence. Nevertheless, there is a difference in meaning when the utterance "might" turn into "ingin". However, it could happen, which is important not change the language style and shifting the message from ST into TT.

From some examples on data above, hedges appear several times as modal auxiliary verbs and possibly adjectives, followed by compound hedge on ST. moreover, in target text tends to maintain even if there is one that removed or replaced the form of hedging from modal to noun hedge. Consequently, on the removed hedge

resulted being transformed into less polite utterance.

### Conclusion

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the use of hedge is very influential on our speech acts especially in literary works although through two decades. Moreover, the removal of hedge on the utterances can have a tremendous impact on translation product and violating the principle of cooperation in a conversation. For other researchers that interested in researching on hedge or other metadiscourse markers, this is a great opportunity to dig it deeper. The limitation in this study, that can be used as gap in subsequent research are 1) the assessing the technique of translation used by translator 2) the translation quality i.e. the accuracy, acceptability, and readability.

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