

ABSTRACT

**WEDIA R, 2012. A STUDY OF HEDGES USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN
DESPICABLE ME, ADVISORS: (I) Prof. DR. H. SOEKEMI, M.A. (II)
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This study discusses about hedges used by the characters in *Despicable Me*. There are two research questions that are formulated, namely: (1) what kinds of hedges are used by the characters in *Despicable Me*? and (2) how are hedges used by the characters in *Despicable Me*?

The writer uses a qualitative approach since the data are in the form of words rather than numbers. The writer uses the descriptive method to investigate and produce descriptive information. Content analysis is used as her technique to get better understanding of the problems. The procedures of data collection done by (1) Watching the movie and reading the novel, (2) Segmenting the dialogues into fragments, (3) Identifying the types of hedges; while the procedures of data analysis are (1) Classifying the kinds of hedges, (2) Describing how the hedges are used.

After analyzing the data, the writer finds out that there are seven types of hedges used by the characters. They are adverbials, pragmatic particles, lexical verbs, epistemic modal, approximators of agreement and degree, compound hedges, probability adjectives, and the last one is modal auxiliary. The characters in *Despicable Me* mostly use pragmatic particles which appear seven times. The second, adverbial hedges appear six times, approximators of degree are appearing three times. Then, lexical verbs, probability adjectives, epistemic modal, approximators of agreement, and modal auxiliaries appear twice. Meanwhile, compound hedges use also twice. The position of hedges words in the middle of utterance appears 16 times. The use of hedges in the beginning of utterance shows in 7 times. Last, position of hedges words in the final of utterance only emerges 5 times.

Finally, based on the findings, the writer concludes that the types of hedges produced by the characters in *Despicable Me* are adverbials, pragmatic particles, lexical verbs, epistemic modal, approximators of agreement and degree, compound hedges, probability adjectives, and modal auxiliary. Pragmatic particles use to precede vulgar word, adverbials are used when the talk is personal. Meanwhile, approximators of agreement are to approximate agreement of opinion. Compound hedges are used to modify a clause, and epistemic modals use to express doubt. They use those hedges at the beginning, in the middle, and in the final of the utterance.