Analysis of Hedges in English Movies: Gender Differences in Focus

In verbal communication, language can not be precise all the time because speaking has different factors. Some of the circumstances do not need argument; on the contrary they need soft communication to keep the relationship. That is the reason speakers use language to soften their commitment (Hyland, 1996).Hedging can be regarded a pragmatic device and often multifunctional. The present study tends to survey English language forms and functions of hedging in English movies. Additionally, this study considered and examined the differences between male and female characters regarding to the use of hedging. Twenty movies were randomly selected. Forms of hedging suggested by Freaser (2010) and Frader and Bosk(1082)were used as frameworks to analyze the data in this study. The result showed that the highest frequency of occurrence of English forms of hedging was adjectives and adverbs (29/34%) followed by verbs (23.78%)and introductory phrase(15.67%)used by the characters also ,considering English language functions of hedging it was disclosed that the most frequency of occurrence was plausibility (68.57%), followed by adaptors (23.01%) .However, there were no differences between male and female characters on the use of hedging.

Key words: hedging, pragmatic function, gender differences