
Hedges Used by President Barack Obama at The 2013 Press Conference

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Abstract

This research aims to analyze the phenomenon of hedges usage in political side. Hedges becomes one of the ways of people technique in speaking to make the utterances be more refine and can be accepted by the addressee. The object of this research is presidential press conference which conducted on 14th January 2013. This research discusses: (1) kinds of hedges, (2) intended meanings and (3) the most dominant hedges. The researcher uses pragmatic approach to analyze hedges in Obama's utterances at his Press Conference. The data of this research are the hedges performance inside of the utterances of President Barack Obama at his conference. The data sources to be analyzed are the video and transcription of President Barack Obama at his conference. In analyzing the data, the researcher used qualitative study. The result of this research revealed that Obama used hedges mostly with purpose to make vagueness. In addition, In Obama's utterances at the 2013 Press Conference there were 444 hedges appeared. From the data proven, adverbs/adjectives is the most dominant hedges appeared in Barack Obama's utterance, there were 191 times. The issues were discussed in the Press Conference were related to economy and politics which deal with giving the number of data. That is why the most dominant hedges appeared in form of adverbs/adjectives in which it indicates that the speaker did not have precise information related to the informations were being given to the addressee.

Key Words: Hedges, Pragmatic Approach, Presidential Press Conference, Context.

Introduction

When people speak, basically they not only exchange the information, but also they have certain purpose inside of their utterances, where a traditional view on language sees the exchange of information as the main purpose of human communication. In other words, when people speak their words they do not only convey the meaning but also have interpersonal messages. Also through what people's speaking actually can be seen the quality and insight of them, where it is related to the topic will be discussed and they know how to elaborate it. For example, when the politicians are speaking in the public, they should be in one line with the public since whatever being talked by them in any kinds of condition will trigger the public opinion. According to Mayr (2008:14), "as a practice of power, hegemony operates largely through language: people consent to particular formations of power because the dominant cultural groups generating the discourse represent them as natural." It means that through the language by speaking in front of public can be seen how their powers are. Generally, people give their attention to the one who has close relation to them or at least can be as like as their family. Here, the politicians when delivering the speech arranged as natural as they can. It was aimed to get the interest of the people. That is why in speaking is needed careful technique, hedges becomes one of the ways of people techniques in speaking in which using hedges to show full of confidence or show the dobt toward statement given in order to make the utterances be more acceptable to the other people.

Hedging is a rhetorical strategy, by which a speaker, using a linguistic device, can signal a lack of commitment to either the full semantic membership of an expression or the full commitment to the force of the speech act being conveyed (Fraser in Kaltenbo`ck, 2010).

The speakers use hedges in speaking to refine the utterance that they have made. It is performed by the speakers when they are trying to give their arguments toward the topics being discussed, it is aimed their arguments can be accepted by the addressee. Moreover Nikula in Riekkinen (2009:1) stated that hedging is a communicative strategy which enables speakers to soften the force of their utterances in order to make them more acceptable to the interlocutor. Therefore from the definitions above can be concluded that hedging appears in the speakers's utterance. The speakers use hedges in do communication as the tools for refining the statement to make it can be accepted by the addressee and to protect themselves from the risk of commitment of their utterances.

This research discusses Hedges used by President Barack Obama's at the 2013 Press Conference. According to Davis (1992); Kernell (1986); Smith (1990), the presidential press conference is gathering of reporters in the same room with the president and perhaps another head of state, where the president initially makes some remarks followed by questions to him and his guest. The questions are not scripted, although his aides alert him to the likely content and hot-button issues. The atmosphere is relatively informal and at time quite humorous. In this research, the 2013 President Barack Obama's Press Conference is exactly Press Conference which delivered on 14th January 2013. There are two reasons why the researcher chooses Obama's Press Conference on 14th January 2013. The first reason is that, it was the period transition of Obama's leadership as the President of America, where on that date was the Press Conference which conducted at the end of the first period and will enter into the beginning of the second period of his leadership as president. The second reason is that, in the Press Conference, Obama clarified to the audience about the issue of guns control, then about the condition of America in term deficit, debt ceiling, and fiscal cliff. Inside of his utterances at his conference, he implied that he tried to convince the audience that those problems can be solved properly later by the steps that have already arranged.

Method

Methodology is needed in conducting this research. As Perry (2005) states that the methodology section will tell about who was studied, what was studied, and how the information was collected and analyzed. Related to the notion, the researcher divides the method of research in the form of research design, data and data source, data collection technique, data analysis technique.

2.1 Research Design

Based on Perry (2005:49) "research design often referred to as design, explains the overall structural design used in the study". In research design concerns on what will be done by the researcher to find the result of analysis later. In finding the answer, the researcher analyzes the data by using qualitative study. Based on Marvasti in Losifides (2011:8) "the qualitative research provides detailed description and analysis of the quality, or the substance, of the human experience". In addition, In a book Research in Applied Linguistics, Perry (2005) argues that in qualitative study, the results section contains verbal data consisting of detailed descriptions of what was observed. The researcher uses qualitative study because the data that will be analyzed is not in form of statistic but the utterances given by the speaker.

2.2 Data and Data Source

The data are needed in conducting a research, where it is as the evidence of a research and it also can convince the accuracy of the result of the research. The data can be chosen from the data source. The data that will be used in this research is the hedges performance inside of the utterances of President Barack Obama in his conference. The data sources are the video and transcription of utterances of President Barack Obama at the 2013 press conference, which delivered on 14th January 2013, it was held on East Room of the White House at 11:39 A.M. until 12:31 P.M. The video is downloaded through Youtube and for the transcription is got from www.whitehouse.gov, which there were 15 (fifteen) pages.

2.3 Data Collection Technique

Perry (2005) states that this subsection explains in detail how the information is collected for the purpose of a research study. It means that in data collection technique the researcher deals with the ways or procedures the data are collected. In collecting the data, the researcher will use several steps, namely; (1) Downloading the video. In this step, the researcher downloads the video of President Barack Obama's Press Conference on Monday, 14th January 2013 through Youtube. (2) Searching the transcript. The researcher looks for the transcript of the Obama's utterances at Press Conference which is got from www.whitehouse.gov. (3) Listening the video and reading the transcript for the entire paragraph. (4) Underlying the word, phrase, or even sentence which contains hedges based on the theories used.

2.4 Data Analysis Technique

Based on the method used and the data collected, the researcher analyzes the data by using several stages as follows:

- 1) Selection stage. In this stage the researcher selects the data which can represent the kinds of hedges performed by the President Barack Obama in his utterances. For the theory about kinds of hedges, the researcher will use the theory of Fraser in Kaltenbo'ck (2010). Then, the researcher clasifies the data*

found, 2) Interpretation stage, 3) In this stage, the researcher interprets the meaning of hedges in the sentence by correlates the data with the formulation of the problem. It is done in order to the discussion later will not go far from the scope of the study. 4) Analysis stage. In this research, the researcher uses theory of Bruce Fraser in Kaltenboꝑck (2010) and theory of Salager-Meyer (1994) about compound hedges. Then she elaborates the result of analysis by using qualitative method. She also establishes the frequency count of each kind of hedges to get the most dominant hedges used. Next, the researcher analyzes the intended meanings of verbal hedges in Obama's utterances at the 2013 Press Conference. The researcher inputs each kind of hedges. 5) Evaluation stage Through this stage, the researcher will look back toward the analysis of the data. Whether the data which taken are relevant with the formulation of the problem or not and also the scope of the study that has been arranged previously. It is done in order to this research will give appropriate result later on related to the formulation of the problem and the scope of the study. 6) Conclusion Stage. After all the stages have already done, the last the researcher concludes all the data that have been taken.

Discussion

In this session, the researcher concerns on the discussion of finding the answer of problem formulation. In this research, the researcher conducts the research about hedges which is used by President Barack Obama at his press conference on 14th January 2013 which was held on East Room of the White House.

3.1 The Kinds and the Meanings of Hedges in President Barack Obama's Utterances at the 2013 Press Conference

3.1.1 Adverbs/Adjectives

Based on the theory stated in theoretical framework, adverbs/adjective has function to describe or gives more information about verb, adjective, adverb, noun or pronoun.

Data 1

1	As I said on the campaign, one component to growing our economy and broadening opportunity for the middle class is shrinking our deficits in a balanced and responsible way. And for nearly two years now, I've been fighting for such a plan.
2	
3	

In the data above, Obama performed hedges in term of "nearly", It is kind of hedges which includes in term of adverbs form. The word "nearly" in data above refers to the time. There is unclear measurement of when actually Obama work hard for making such plan like the plan to reduce the deficits and the debt ceiling. The word "nearly" can be referred to the meaning of uncertain time of his effort in making the plan, it can be less of one month or more than it, which close to two years. So this kind of hedges used by Obama as the way to give vague statement which made the addressee did not know exactly about the time he referred to.

Data 2

2	. . .progress towards that goal. Over the past two years, I've signed into law about \$1.4 trillion in spending cuts.
3	

In this term, Obama talks about the success of America in making the progress toward the goal to improve the economy by reducing the deficits. Then Obama told that he has signed the law about spending cut to help in reducing the deficit. The word "about" in data above is included in hedges in the term of adverbs form. The word "about" in Obama's utterance shows that Obama tried to give the amount of spending cut. However, the thing that should be concerned is that Obama did not give the accurate data about the amount of spending cut that has already signed. He used this kind of hedges as the way to give vagueness effect to the addressee, so the addressee did not know exactly about the amount of the law of spending cut which he signed.

3.1.2 Impersonal Pronoun

According to Madison (2013) "impersonal pronoun is a part of speech used to replace nouns. An impersonal pronoun is used when a person does not want to indicate a specific noun". It can be concluded that impersonal pronoun is used to tell person or thing in general, it does not refer to any specific person or thing.

Data 3

4	. . .month. The fact is, though, we can't finish the job of deficit reduction through spending cuts alone. The cuts we've already made to priorities other than Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and defense mean that we spend on everything from education to public safety. . .
5	
6	
7	

Based on the data above, Obama talks about the thing which though the government could not finish deficit reduction matter through doing spending cut that prioritized to the other priorities than in fields of Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and defense which made America spent on everything from education. Partly of spending cut that has already done was from education field. In Obama's utterances there was a word "everything" which referred to whatever the things related to education have already done the spending cut by the government to help reducing the American deficit. "Everything" refers to the thing that is unclear. This kind of hedges creates vagueness that make the addressee does not know what the thing he was being talked about.

Data 4

3	. . .through the lens of politics. Now, the other congressionally imposed deadline coming up is the so-called debt ceiling -- something most Americans hadn't even heard of before two years ago.
4	
5	

In this case, Obama would continue the next topic that was about the debt ceiling which most American people have not heard it before two years ago. The word "something" shows that it is referred to unspecified thing. This kind of hedges gave vagueness effect to the addressee because the addressee does not know what the thing he was being talked.

3.1.3 Concessive Conjunction

Data 5

9	. . .Congress has already committed to. These are bills that have already been racked up and we need to pay them. So while I'm willing to compromise and find common ground over how to reduce our deficits, America cannot afford another debate with this Congress about whether or not they should pay the bills they've already racked up.
0	
1	
2	

The data above tells about American bills that should be paid and Obama's desirability to compromise and find common ground how to reduce the American deficit. Obama asked when he compromised and found the common ground of how to reduce the deficit, America could not afford another debate whether or not they should pay the bills have already racked up. In his remark "while", in the sentence indicates less measurement of time in which very less of information of time which there was no date, month, or year mentioned in the statement. So this kind of hedges creates vagueness effect because the addressee does not know exactly about the time which mentioned by Obama.

Data 6

06	. . .moment. They see their representatives consumed with partisan brinksmanship over paying our bills, while they overwhelmingly want us to focus on growing the economy and creating more jobs.
07	
08	

Through data above, Obama talks about the American people who wanted the government paid the bills and in another hand they also wanted the government focused on growing the economy and creating more jobs for America. The word “while” in his utterance indicates a relation between each clause in which American people wanted the government paying the bills and in another hand they also have the desirability in order government focused in growing the economy and created more jobs for them.

3.1.4 Epistemic Verb

Epistemic verb as stated in theoretical framework, it correlates with the speaker’s view or only based on his/her perception of the proposition expressed.

Data 7

47	. . .we’re reducing the incidents of gun violence. And I think we can do that in a sensible way that comports with the Second Amendment.
48	

In data above any relation with Julie Pace’s question that was about the way to curb gun violence successfully. The shooting case that happend in Newtown gave the fear for the American people. Obama convinced that he would provide the best ways in reducing gun violence, so gun violence would not happen again. Through datum above shows Obama’s thought that he and the other governments can reduce gun violence in sensible way which related to the Second Amendment. The words “I think” which performed in Obama’s utterance indicates that what he talked about was based on his perception. However it was still vague because the truth of what he said was still questionable whether it was true or not.

Data 8

23	. . .Well, as I said, I think it's a fear that's fanned by those who are worried about the possibility of any legislation getting out there.
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In this case, Obama gave his statement related to John Karl’s question that was about his response about people’s fear in term of solving the problem about gun control through legislation. For Obama, the case about gun that were going to be taken away by government was difficult because the gun owners have their right about it based on the law. Based on Obama that the gun owners who had the fear that their guns would be taken away by government that was only the fear which was fanned by the people who were worried about the possibility of any legislation in it. The words “I think” in Obama’s utterance means that the argument being uttered by Obama is only based on his perception which initiate vagueness effect.

3.1.5 Modal Adverb

According to the theory as stated in chapter two, it can be concluded that modal adverb is part of speech which modify the sentence with the function to express the speaker’s or writer’s commitment of the truth of statement was being conveyed.

Data 9

01	. . . away. And there's probably an economic element to that. It obviously is good for business.
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The data above is related to Obama's response toward John Karl's question that was about gun violence especially about what kinds of steps can be taken to reduce gun violence. Obama gave examples about the steps can be taken that were by gathering the data about gun that owned by criminal and tried to track it in more effective way. Then Obama also assumed that there was probably economic element which gave good business for people who still purchasing more guns even federal government took all their guns away. The word "probably" in Obama's utterance indicates that Obama has confidence about gun purchasing which still happen there is correlation with economic element.

Data 10

75	We've already done probably more than half of the deficit reduction we need to stabilize the debt and the deficit.
76	

Obama's statement above correlated with the question of Matt Speetalnick that was about debt ceiling debate between Republicans and Democrats in Congress. Talking about debt ceiling, Republicans wanted to do spending cut, but Democrats did not. Then Matt Speetalnick asked about finding the agreement related to that case. Here Obama tried to clarify, if Republicans and Democrats have one purpose that was to solve how to get the deficit sustainable over time, and getting the debt in sustainable place, then they could achieve it. It because the government knew how much numbers of deficit and the debt and they knew what needs to be done to solve it. Through datum above, Obama clarified that the American governments also have already done the deficit reduction probably more than half of deficit reduction that was about \$2.5 trillion which needed to stabilize the debt and deficit. The word "probably" indicates that Obama has high confident toward the statement was being given. However "probably" creates a vagueness for the addressee whether it was true or not.

3.1.6 Modal Verb

Modal Verbs form of hedges is in term of using modal in the utterance uses modal verb such as might, can, would, could, and etc.(Fraser in Kaltenbo`ck, 2010:24). Moreover, based on (Nordquist, 2013) stated that modal verb (also known as a modal auxiliary) expresses necessity, uncertainty, ability, or permission.

Data 11

1	. . . their part. That's what I want as well. That's what I've proposed. And we can get it done, but we're going to have to make sure that people are looking at this in a responsible way rather than just through the lens of politics.
2	

The hedges in data above especially in line 61 is also still in the same part of propositional hedging as it performs declarative sentence. In the datum above tells that American people and Obama have the same willing that is America can run what the plannings have already set up if it was done in balanced way. The word "can" used by Obama to infer a vagueness meaning of discourse in which the things that was being said has not been done previously. It is still vague whether the American people will do it on the future day or not.

Data 12

4	. . .already racked up. If congressional Republicans refuse to pay America's bills on time, Social Security checks and veterans' benefits will be delayed. We might not be able to pay our troops, or honor our contracts with small business owners.
5	
6	

The data above tells about the impacts will emerge if congressional Republicans refuse to pay American bills on time. There will be impacts which reached many parties, one of them based on Obama was that might America not able to pay the troops or honor the contracts with small business owners. In line 76, there is word "might" which indicates that Obama is less of full commitment of the argument was being conveyed related to the impacts if the American bills were not paid on time. Here, Obama used the word "might" with the goal to

account politeness effect. It is as the way of the speaker to tone down the statement was being given, so if the next what was said and in fact was false the speaker will not loss of face.

3.1.7 Progressive Form

The notion of progressive form as stated in chapter two was the form of the sentence which talking about the thing that is being talked is still happening in that time where the speaker is talking, but no longer in other time that is the time after the speaker talked will not be part of the content. The progressive noun used in the sentence or utterance indicates hedges, particularly hedges in propositional hedging. It becomes hedges because the vagueness effect which appears in the progressive form.

Data 13

	. . . years. I intend to carry out the agenda that I campaigned on -- an agenda for new jobs, new opportunity, and new security for the middle class. Right now, our economy is growing , and our businesses are creating new jobs,
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In the data above, Obama talks about the economy of America which was growing and the bussiness were creating new jobs. The words "is growing" and "are creating" indicates that American economy is growing and American business are creating new jobs at the time when Obama was giving his utterance, but the next when American economy is not growing and American business are not creating new jobs any more, those things will not make the utterances wrong because those have in the different time of uttering the utterances.

Data 14

0	. . . so we've made progress. We are moving towards our ultimate goal of getting to a \$4 trillion reduction.
1	

In this term, Obama told that America had the progress toward deficit reduction case. Over past two years, he signed the spending cuts about \$1.4 trillion, he also signed the law more than \$600 billion in new renew, and by added the money that would save in interest payment on the debt, those all were added by total \$2.5 trillion in deficit reduction. Based on those cases, he said that America is moving towards the ultimate goal that was getting to \$4 trillion deficit reduction. The words "we are moving" indicates that America is moving towards the ultimate goal at the time when Obama gave his utterances, but the next when America is not moving towards the ultimate goal any more, it will not make the utterance wrong because it has in the different time of uttering the utterances. So here Obama used progressive form in his utterances to protect himself from the blame.

Data 15

7	. . . leverage to be used. The full faith and credit of the United States of America is not a bargaining chip. And they better choose quickly, because time is running short.
8	

Progressive form is only talk about the time when the utterance being uttered by the speaker and it is not about the time before or after the utterance is uttered. It is only in term of now on. In the datum above tells about the condition where Republican in Congress should decide what the things should be done related to the American bills. That is why they should decided it quickly. The words "is running" inside of Obama's utterance means that the time is running sort is happens in right now exactly when Obama's utterance was being given. The time before or after that is no longer the area of what was being talked

3.1.8 Hedged Performative

Hedged performative is the use modal to hedge performative verb (Fraser in Kaltenbo`ck, 2010:23). Fraser in Kaltenbo`ck (2010:18) also brings the theory of Fraser who stated that hedged performative, where certain performative verbs such as apologize, promise, and request when preceded by specific modals such as can, must, and should.

Data 16

52	. . .challenge. I promise you, we invite folks from Congress over here all
53	the time. And when they choose to come, I enjoy their company.

In this term, Obama talked about some medias that was preferred by Republican constituencies to demonize him that he did not look real good socializing with the folks. From what the thing happend, Obama assumed that folks would have opinion that was if they look like be too cooperate or too chummy with President, they would cause the problems. In the datum above shows that Obama tried to promise to the audience that he would invite audiences of the Congress to come to White House, and when they came Obama would enjoy them. Means that when the folks or audiences come to White House Obama will respect and accept them.

Hedges is the devices used by Obama to use his rhetorical statement in which to convince people toward argument stated. The word “promise” gives Obama a protection of blamed by people whenever what was being uttered by him was not right or less of right.

3.1.8 Indirect Speech Acts

Indirect speech act comes for the purposes of giving implicit meaning. The problem posed by indirect speech acts is the problem of how it is possible for the speaker to say one thing and mean that but also to mean something else (Searle : 2009).

Data 17

61	. . . sense. will all of them get through this Congress?
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This sentence is not only give meaning of giving question which needs to be answered by yes or no answer but also it is meant as the requesting for the folks to follow the regulation that was set up by government. To solve gun violence, the government have decided the best way that can be taken that was through the stronger background check in order to make sure who the ones were allowed to have gun and did not.

Data 18

26	. . . with what is it that we’re trying to accomplish. Are we trying to
27	reduce the deficit?

In this term any relation with Matt Spetalnick’s question that was about debt ceiling debate between Republicans and Democrats in Congress. The statement above is not the question which needs the answer yes or no, but implicitly gives the intention that Obama requested all American people and government have one purpose that was in reducing the American deficit.

3.1.9 Conditional Subordinator

Data 19

0	. . . Washington politics don’t get in the way of America’s progress. As I said
1	on the campaign, one component to growing our economy and broadening opportunity
2	for the middle class is shrinking our deficits in a balanced and responsible way.

The meaning of hedges from the datum above means that deficits reduction in balanced and responsible way will be happend when what Obama said on campaign was fulfilled. That is by growing the American economy and broadening the opportunity for middle class. So, the words “as I said” is as connector that what Obama has already said on the campaign could reduce the deficit in balanced and responsible way. It means that Obama uses this kind of hedges, he has the commitment of the truth of statement conveyed.

Data 20

70	<p style="text-align: center;">... over and over again. And now is as good of a time as any, at the start of my second term, because if we continue down this path, then there's really no stopping the principle.</p>
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In this term, Julianna Goldman asked to Obama to clarify about the debt ceiling. Talking about debt ceiling that happend there was no agreement between Republicans in Snate and Democrats in Senate. In one side Republicans wanted to do spending cuts as the way to solve debt ceiling, but in another hand Democrats included Obama did not want to do it. The thing that wanted by Democrats was that through increasing the number of the debt limit.

The words "as good of a time as any" inherently indicates that there is a relation between the utterance given by Obama towards the content being conveyed. The debt ceiling problem happend in America have already gave the debates for both parties included Republican and Democrats which was only gave negotiate, but there was no fix solution to solve it. "As good of a time as any" here Obama wanted to invite the Republicans and Democrats through his the start of the second term as the president to stop the negotiation which did not give the result about how to solve the problem. However, it was still vague. The words "as deeply moved and saddened as" means the speaker aimed to give the addressee vagueness in term of the measurement. "As deeply moved and saddened as" does not give clear measurement of the topic coveyed.

Data 21

	<p style="text-align: center;">... middle class. Right now, our economy is growing, and our businesses are creating new jobs, so we are poised for a good year if we make smart decisions and sound investments -- and as long as Washington politics don't get in the way of America's progress.</p>
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Through the datum above, it can be seen that the phrase "as long as" indicates that the speaker only tried to convey that America could get good year of progress in economical side when Washington politics did not get in the way of American progress. In the next time when Washington politics get in the way of American progress and American economy is no longer in progress. It will no longer having responsibility on that context. This kind of hedges was used by Obama as the way to protect himself from blamed.

3.1.10 Conditional Clause

Conditional clause refers to the condition under which the speaker makes the utterance (Fraser in Kaltenbo"ck, 2010: 24). This hedges was appeared by the speaker in saying something that uncertain. One utterance can be said true if another one is fulfilled.

Data 22

5	<p style="text-align: center;">... code for the wealthiest Americans. If we combine a balanced package of savings from spending on health care and revenues from closing loopholes, we can solve the deficit issue without sacrificing our investments in things like education that are going to help us grow. It turns out the American people agree with me.</p>
6	

Fraser in Kaltenbo"ck (2010: 29) stated that politeness effect of hedging can be seen through hedged performative, a felicity condition on requesting, and the maxim quality. It can be seen through the utterance that there is something that can be achieved but previously another one should be done previously.

The meaning of the hedges from the datum above means that by combined the balance package of saving from spending health care and revenues from closing loopholes, it can solve the deficit without do scrificing the education. The utterance indicates that the second part of the utterance that is solving deficit without do scrificing the education can be fulfilled when the previous one has run that is do saving from spending health care and revenues from closing loopholes in balance way. So when do saving from spending health care and revenues from closing loopholes was not combined in balance package, can give the impact in solving deficit problem through do sacrificing America's investment in the education field.

Data 23

4	. . . already racked up. If congressional Republicans refuse to pay America's bills on time, Social Security checks and veterans' benefits will be delayed.
5	

In this case, Obama told about the bills of America that have already racked up and should be payed by America. The utterance in line 74 to 76 above gives the meaning that Congressional Republicans who wanted to refuse to pay the America's bills on time, Social security checks and veteran's benefits would be delayed. When the bills were not payed on time means that the interest rates that should be payed will increase which make America will spend more to pay the bills. Here Obama asserted that Social Security checks and veteran's benefit which be delayed will happen when Congressional Republics refuse to pay the bills on time.

3.1.11 Introductory Phrases

Data 24

49	. . . and then members of Congress I think are going to have to have a debate and examine their own conscience -- because if, in fact -- and I believe this is true -- everybody across party lines was as deeply moved and saddened as I was by what happened in Newtown, then we're going to have to vote based on what we think is best.
50	

The datum above is response of Obama related to the question of Julie Pace about the ways to curb gun violence successfully which related to the difficulty of the assault weapon ban can pass the Congress. Here Obama clarified that he did not worry about the politics. The things that became his focus that were the action which make sense, what works, what should government be doing to reduce gun violence. Obama believed those could be run, and Congress would use their conscience related to the shooting problem that happend in Newtown.

The use of the phrase "I believe" means to ensure the addressee that what was being told by Obama in this case was right. Everybody across party lines has the same feeling like Obama felt related to what happend in Newtown. So that, Obama had strong believe that government would have the vote to decide which the best way to solve it.

In this research, the researcher found hedges in form of compound hedges. There were two compound hedges performed by Obama at 2013 Press Conference inside of his utterances, both of compound hedges are in term of modal auxiliary combined with hedging verb. The category of compound hedges based on Salager-Meyer (1994:8) is phrase made up of several hedges.

Data 25

5	. . . economy. It would slow down our growth, might tip us into recession, and ironically, would probably increase our deficit.
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In this case, Obama told about the impacts that would happen if Congressional Republicans refused to pay the bills of America on time. That were Social Security checks and veteran's benefits would be delayed. America could not pay their troops, or honor the contracts with small business owners. Food inspectors, air traffic controllers, specialists who track down loose nuclear material would not get their paychecks and there were the other impacts that would happen which gave wound to the economy of America.

In data above can be seen the words "would probably" which indicates that Obama had strong belief toward what the thing that would happend if Congressional Republicans refused to pay the bills ontime. He

believed that it would increase the deficit of America. America will pay more not only pay the bills but also America should pay the interest rates more because they did not pay their bills ontime, so as the effect would probably increase the deficit. The words “would probably” in Obama’s utterance show that the statement was being conveyed contained personal belief based on his own view toward the truth statement given. However, it still gave vagueness effect to the addressee toward the case whether Obama’s statement was true or not.

Data 26

12	. . . they have already authorized. And the notion that Republicans in the
13	House, or maybe some Republicans in the Senate, would suggest that “in order for us to get our way on our spending priorities, that we would risk the full faith and credit of the United States” --

The data above any relation with Chuck Todd’s question to Obama that was about debt ceiling issue. Between Obama and congress have not have the same decision in solving debt ceiling. Related to this issue in which Harry Reid asked Obama to use his executive action, but Obama did not want to negotiate it. Then the House Democratic leaders, Jim Clyburn also asked Obama to use the 14th Amandement, where the President could take executive action when Congress would not act. In this case, Chuck Todds asked to Obama about another plan in solving debt ceiling.

Related to Chuck Todd’s question, Obama clarified that Congress wanted America payed its bills, then funded the Defense Department, payed the Social Security Check and payed to care for veteran. In another hand Congress did not give him the authority to pay the bills. And the solution to solve it by giving the authority to him to pay the bills. Related to his idea about the Congress gave him the authority to that case, he had assumption that Republican in the House or some Republican in the Senate would have their own view toward it that was about the way to get spending priorities would give the risk of full faith of the credit of United State.

The words “would suggest” in Obama’s utterance can be indicated that Obama has confident view toward what the Republican in the House or Republican in Senate would give the response related to his idea.

From those compound hedges were found, basically the difference between compound hedges and hedges which consisting of one item is in the level of complexity. The analysis also shown that it did not reveal any differences from compound hedges and hedges consisting of one item.

3.2 The Most Dominant Hedges Appears in President Barack Obama’s Utterances at the 2013 Press Conference.

In this part, the researcher will establish the amount hedges performed by Obama in his utterances at 2013 Press Conference which is delivered on 14th January 2013. Then the researcher will find out the most dominant hedges which appears. The researcher finds that there are 444 hedges found in Obama’s utterances at the Press Conference in which hedges in term of adverbs/adjectives forms are used more often than the other hedges.

From the table above can be seen the most dominant hedges which appears in Obama’s utterances is adverbs/adjectives in which appeared 191 times. The issues were discussed in the Press Conference were related to economy and politics which deal with giving the number of data. That is why the most dominant hedges appeared in form of adverbs/adjectives in which it indicates that the speaker did not has precise information related to the informations were being given to the addressee. In his utterances also there were the other hedges such as; impersonal pronoun 23 times, concessive conjunction 5 times, epistemic verb 36 times, modal adverb 5 times, modal verb 94 times, progressive form 29 times, hedged performative 2 times, indirect speech act 3 times, conditional subordinator 14 times, conditional clause 39 times, introductory phrases 1 time, and the last is in this research, the researcher also found that there were compound hedges appeared 2 times in Obama’s utterances at the conference. Both of them were in term of modal auxiliary combined with hedging verb.

Conclusion

The researcher concludes that hedges has function to make the utterances be more refine and to protect the self toward the commitment of statement given. The analysis is in a way of describing the intended meanings of hedges in each utterance performed. From the analysis shown that the goal of speaker in using hedges was mostly in term of making vagueness. The kinds of hedges which appeared namely; adverbs/adjectives, impersonal pronoun, concessive conjunction, epistemic verb, modal adverb, modal verb, progressive form, hedged performative, indirect speech acts, conditional subordinator, conditional clause, and introductory phrases.

The researcher found there were 444 hedges appeared, which consist of adverbs/adjectives 191 times, impersonal pronoun 23 times, concessive conjunction 5 times, epistemic verb 36 times, modal adverb 5 times, modal verb 94 times, progressive form 29 times, hedged performative 2 times, indirect speech acts 3 times, conditional subordinator 14 times, conditional clause 39 times, introductory phrases 1 time, and the last is in this research, the researcher also found that there were compound hedges 2 times which appeared in Obama's utterances at the conference. These kinds of hedges do not exist in the theory of Fraser in Kaltenbo'ck, but it exist in the theory as proposed by Salager-Meyer. Both of compound hedges found were in term of modal auxiliary combined with hedging verb. From the data proven that adverbs/adjectives is the most dominant hedges appeared in Barack Obama's utterance, there were 191 times. The issues were discussed in the Press Conference were related to economy and politics which deal with giving the number of data. That is why the most dominant hedges appeared in form of adverbs/adjectives in which it indicates that the speaker did not has precise information related to the informations were being given to the addressee. So, when the speaker is not really sure in giving the informations which deal with giving the number of data, he/she can use hedges in form of adverb/adjectives.

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