

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion which is drawn from the findings and discussion in the previous chapter. This chapter also presents the suggestion for further study.

5.1 Conclusion

This study investigates the use of hedging devices by Barack Obama and Mitt Romney during the third United States of America presidential debate on October 22nd, 2012. The study also analyzes the functions of hedging devices in relation to the concept of face of each speaker.

The finding shows that there are 111 occurrences of hedging devices used by Obama and 134 occurrences for Romney. The finding also shows that Obama uses hedging devices in the form of epistemic modality (77.48%), the approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time (11.71%), and the introductory phrases (10.81%). Similarly, Romney also frequently uses epistemic modality (74.62%), the approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time (9.70%), and the introductory phrases (15.68%).

The finding shows the heavy application of the strategy of indetermination. It is indicated by the combination of the use of epistemic modality and approximators of degree, quantity, frequency and time (Martín-Martín, 2005, 2008) by both Obama (89.19%) and Romney (84.32%). Both speakers made an effective use of both components to convey the personal speculation, judgment, prediction, and estimation to manipulate the accuracy of the case being discussed in the context with different degree of certainty and confidence. Aside from the nature of epistemic modality and approximators, the application of both components which is defined as the realization of the strategy of indetermination of hedging devices by both speakers indicates the behavior or action which secures the speaker's own position with a relatively high degree of protection (Martín-Martín, 2005, p. 139).

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As far as the orientation of face concerned, the motivation of both Obama and Romney for taking such action is the consideration to satisfy the needs of the self-positive face and the self-negative face of the speakers (Ting-Toomey, 1988, 1994, 2005). It means that through the use of hedging devices both Obama and Romney emphasize the necessity to be approved by the interlocutor (Ting-Toomey, 1988, cited in Ng, 2009, p. 162), to defend their reputation and to release themselves from the possible violation or rejection (Ting-Toomey, 1994, cited in Morisaki and Gudykunst, 1994, p. 53) by honoring the interlocutor in a way of toning down or not imposing the subjectivity of the personal speculation.

In rhetorics, the politicians in a formal presidential debate are extremely concerned with idea of being precise and trustworthy (*ethos*), logical (*logos*) and emotionally convincing (*pathos*) (Aristotle, 1356, cited in Ross, 2010, pp. 7-8). Hence, Obama and Romney use hedges as an effective rhetorical device to persuade and convince the audience and the people of the United States of America. The feature of hedging devices allows the politicians to camouflage their identity in a public communication. It means that hedges tone down the absoluteness of the personal speculation's subjectivity and manipulate the precision of information to convince the interlocutor as if it is supported by evidence.

The primary function of the hedging devices used by Obama and Romney is to protect the safety of their reputation, status, needs. The use of the devices is motivated by the necessity to be approved by the interlocutor and/ or the people of the United States of America. Both politicians are also concerned about the need to set themselves free from the responsibility for a potential blame, the possible denial, rejection and violation of the interlocutor. Obama and Romney take an advantage of the use of hedging devices in order to manipulate the interlocutor's and/ or the public's mind, so that they would agree on the idea of the personal speculation during the debate and give them vote in the general elections of the United States of America in 2012.

5.2 Suggestions

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This section provides some suggestions for the further study. First, this study focuses only on the analysis of hedging devices on the third United States of America presidential debate on October 22nd, 2012. Further study may conduct an analysis with the same framework using larger data. For instance, the study focuses on the presidential debate on a period of time which consists of three different dates and themes. Second, this study only deals with the analysis of hedging devices on the debate. Further study may consider on other varieties of political discourse to be analyzed. For instance, the study focuses on the analysis of hedging devices in the political interviews, the presidential speeches and remarks, and so on.

Moreover, this study is expected to increase public awareness of the credible leaders, particularly when people will choose and give vote for their president. Through the analysis of hedges, people are able to choose the leaders which are reliable and credible. They can differ the leader who is only good at rhetoric, hides the truth, and lies to people from the leader who is honest and responsible.