

## ABSTRAK

Penggunaan *hedging devices* (perangkat berpagar) dalam debat memberikan kontribusi penting untuk membentuk pemikiran yang retorik dan epistemik. Meskipun sejumlah penelitian mengenai *hedging* dalam debat politik telah banyak ditemukan, hanya sedikit penelitian yang berfokus pada pentingnya penggunaan *hedging devices* oleh siswa bukan penutur asli Bahasa Inggris pada debat akademik. Penelitian ini dirancang untuk menginvestigasi strategi-strategi penggunaan sejumlah tipe *hedging devices* oleh mahasiswa Indonesia dalam pertandingan final raya *NUDC (National University Debating Championship)* antara tim *closing government* (pemerintah penutup) dan *closing opposition* (oposisi penutup). Data utama dalam penelitian ini berasal dari transkrip pidato tim *closing government* dan *closing opposition* yang dianalisis menggunakan teori taksonomi *hedging devices* dari Martin-Martin (2008). Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa strategi hedging yang digunakan oleh tim *closing government* dan *closing opposition* menunjukkan perbedaan yang signifikan. Tim *closing government* menggunakan 210 kata-kata *hedging* dari total 2.528 kata yang diucapkan dimana *indetermination strategy* muncul dengan frekuensi tertinggi yaitu 123 kali (58,57%), diikuti oleh 83 (39,53%) *subjectivization strategy* dan hanya 4 kali kemunculan (1,90%) *depersonalization strategy*. Di sisi lain, jumlah *hedging devices* yang ditemukan dalam pidato tim *closing opposition* adalah 314 kata dari total 2.920 kata yang diucapkan. Hasil yang sama menunjukkan bahwa tim ini juga sering kali menggunakan *indetermination strategy* 212 (67,52%), diikuti dengan *subjectivization strategy* 102 kali (32,48%), sedangkan *depersonalization strategy* tidak ditemukan dalam pidato mereka. Dengan demikian, aspek retorik dalam debat dapat dicapai dengan *indetermination strategi* untuk memperlunakan isu-isu yang memiliki efek keras dan negatif. Strategi ini membantu pendebat agar dapat memelihara wajah kedua pembicara dan pendengar baik dalam hal kesopanan positif ataupun negatif.

**Kata kunci:** *debat, perangkat berpagar, pemerintah penutup, oposisi penutup*

## ABSTRACT

The use of hedging devices in debate gives an important contribution to establish epistemic and rhetorical sense. Although a number of hedging studies in the debate have been undertaken in political debate, rather less attention has been paid to the important use of hedging devices by English non-native students in academic debate. This present study was designed to investigate the strategies of using several types of hedging devices by Indonesian college students in NUDC (National University Debating Championship) during grand final round between closing government and closing opposition teams. The corpus of the study collected from the transcription of closing opposition's and closing government's speech was analyzed by using Martin-Martin (2008) a taxonomy of hedging devices. The results of this study show that there are significant differences in hedging strategies used by the closing government and closing opposition teams. The closing government team underlined 210 hedging devices out of 2,528 uttered words in which indetermination is the highest frequency of strategy appeared 123 times (58.57%), followed by subjectivization strategy 83 times (39.53%), and only 4 (1.90%) appearance of depersonalization strategy. On the other hand, the number of hedging devices found in closing opposition is 314 out of 2,920 uttered words. Similarly this team also frequently use indetermination strategy for 212 times (67.52%), followed by subjectivization strategy 102 times (32.48%), whereas depersonalization is absent in their utterances. Finally, it is found that in the debate, the rhetorical aspect can be achieved by indetermination strategy using epistemic modality to soften powerful and sensitive issue. This hedging strategy helps the debater to deal with both speaker's and hearer's face either through negative or positive politeness.

**Keywords:** *closing government, closing opposition, debate, hedging devices*