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Hedging Used in International Journal Articles of Linguistics and Literary Studies

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Abstract

Background: Hedging for scientific article writers means its function is to convey claims carefully, precisely and humbly even though the research writing is completely objective and in accordance with the facts. With these hedges, the writer tries to get the reader to accept certain observations as facts. **Aims:** This research aims to reveal the characteristics and implications of hedging uses in two different international Linguistics and Literary Studies journal articles, namely the Macrothink Institute of Linguistics for Linguistics and the European Journal of Literary Studies for Literary Studies, both of which were published in 2023. **Methods:** The method of analysis employed was the surface-level analysis of epistemic lexical hedges consisting of verbs, adverbs, adjectives, nouns, and modal verbs. **Result:** A detailed investigation of the data revealed both the principal lexical form of hedging and its distribution in the sections of the articles. The study not only provided the major hedging expressions but also suggested aspects of their uses.

Keywords: hedges, linguistics, literary studies, journal article

Introduction

Hedging has long been understood as referring to any linguistic feature used to express a lack of full or temporary commitment to an accompanying truth proposition and a desire not to fully express that commitment (Lakof (1972), Zuck and Zack (1986). Markkanen and Schroder (1989), in other words said hedges are the devices used by writers to state propositions as opinions rather than facts.

Even though journal articles or scientific writing are in the form of a series of impersonal statements of fact or truth, the use of hedges is still very widespread and important for scientific writers because these propositions have a limited period of validity and acceptance. In academic discourse, hedges are also important because they relate to cognition or interpretative statements or arguments. Hedging can allow writers to express perspective on their statements, conveying unproven claims carefully through dialogue with their readers. In addition, as stated by Crismore and Farnsworth (1990), hedges are an important means by which scientists symbolize and represent their membership in the scientific community.

A detail analysis of the formal characteristics or the surface features of hedging in this research includes epistemic lexical verbs, epistemic modal auxiliaries, epistemic adjectives, adverbs, and nouns. Modals have a wide range of meanings and each of them can have overlapping

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meanings with different linguistic styles. The multi-meaning nature of this modal verb is recognized by Huddleston (1971), for example, who states that there are six different meanings of *may* and Coates (1983), who finds that *could* has seven meanings and *should* five. Epistemic in terms of its use aimed at avoiding commitment to categorical statements and epistemic items can be placed on two different parallel scales from belief to doubt, and from inference to non-inference. The modals relating to assumption are *must, should* and *ought*, and those relating to possibilities are *will, may, might,* and *could. Shall* and *would* represent hypothetical epistemic uses. Only affirmative *can* and *need to* have no epistemic senses (Hyland, 1998).

Extensive research has been conducted on the use of hedging across languages and academic disciplines. For example, Mur-Dueñas (2021) presented a corpus-based intercultural analysis of hedging in English and Spanish research articles in Business Management, revealing differences in frequency, distribution, and rhetorical realizations, which are influenced not only by linguistic but also by cultural contexts. Similarly, Hu and Cao (2011) compared English and Chinese abstracts in applied linguistics, finding more hedges in English-medium journals and more boosters in empirical research. Varttala (1998) explored hedging in medical discourse, showing how hedges function differently in popular versus specialist scientific articles. Samaie et al. (2014) examined Persian and English RA introductions, concluding that native English writers use more modal hedges and show greater tentativeness than Persian authors. Afshar and Bagherieh (2014) compared Persian and English abstracts in civil engineering and Persian literature, revealing Iranian MA/MS students' limited use of hedging devices, regardless of discipline or language. Additional work by Afshar et al. (2014) demonstrated disciplinary variation in hedging use in Discussion sections across Geography, Chemistry, and Medicine, as well as differences between native and non-native English authors. Finally, another study by Afshar et al. (2014) identified statistically significant differences in hedge usage across Humanities, Basic Sciences, and Agriculture, including their subfields.

Despite these valuable insights, several research gaps remain. First, most studies have focused on a limited number of disciplines—particularly in the sciences, applied linguistics, or engineering—while hedging practices in disciplines such as Linguistics and Literary Studies remain underexplored. Second, while many studies analyze hedge frequency, fewer investigate how cultural and educational backgrounds shape hedging preferences and rhetorical strategies in academic writing. The aims of this research were to compare, contrast and interpret the frequency and types or characteristics of hedges used in two different international journal articles, namely in the fields of linguistics and literary studies, especially for the six sections of the article, namely abstract, introduction, literature review, method, findings and discussion, and conclusion published in 2023.

To guide the investigation, the following research questions were formulated:

1. How are hedging devices realized and distributed across the six sections (abstract, introduction, literature review, methodology, findings and discussion, and conclusion) in international journal articles in linguistics and literary studies?
2. What are the implications and rhetorical interpretations behind the use of dominant types of hedges by academic writers in these two disciplines?

Those were to know the realization of the use and frequency of the type of hedges device in the abstract, introduction, literature review, methods, findings and discussion, as well as the

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conclusions, and then to reveal the implications and interpretations of the choice of use of the dominant types of hedges by journal article writers in the fields of linguistics and literary studies.

The justification for carrying out this research is, most importantly, for a better understanding of how hedges are used in linguistics and Literary studies, scientific research articles providing insight into how science establishes its claims to knowledge and how scientists carry out their work.

Method

The approach to this research method is descriptive qualitative, namely seeing a phenomenon as it really is. The overall research method is the identification method where the research data is identified. In this case what is identified is data about hedges. Specifically, the data collection method is through direct observation of available data sources. The instrument in this research is the content analysis by the researcher himself, starting from the data collection stage to taking interpretations, it is carried out by the researcher himself.

The population in this study is all data related to hedges in two fields of international journal articles, namely the International Journal of Linguistics, volume 15, no 4 (2023) DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4 and European Journal of Literary Studies, volume, no 2 (2023). data from these two International Journals are equivalent to 200 pages of text. International Journal of Linguistics (ISSN 1948-5425) which is an online scholarly journal, peer-reviewed published by Macrothink Institute. International Journal of Linguistics is now indexed and listed by ANVUR, CNKI Scholar, ERA, Gale's Academic Databases, Google Scholar, J-Gate, Linguistics Abstracts Online, New Jour, PKP Open Archives Harvester, ProQuest, and Sherpa/Romeo.

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The titles of articles from the International Journal of Linguistics, namely:

1. The New-found Status of English in 21st-Century Saudi Arabia by Khalid Al-Seghayer. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4.21262
2. Negotiating Implicit Meaning on the Internet: A Case Study by Francesca Ferrucci. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4.21209
3. English Teachers' Perceptions of the Role of Lesson Planning in Classroom Management by Dr. Rashed Zannan Alghamdy. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4.21260
4. Reflections on Ideologies Underpinning ELT Curriculum and Nature of Global Course Books Used in Saudi Arabia by Muhammad Mansoor Anwar. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4.21251

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5. The Speech Act of English and Arabic Racial Memes of Covid19 Dunia by Ali Hussein. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4.21249
6. Wh-Movement in Iraqi Dialect by Sohaib Mahmood Khudhur. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4.21248
7. Developing Pedagogical Applications for Teaching Politeness Strategies in Advanced English as a Foreign Language Classrooms by Ahmed Alshamrani. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5296/ijl.v15i4.21118

Then, the titles of articles from the European Journal of Literary Studies, namely:

1. Studying The Reception And Influence In The Description Of Natural Themes From Chinese Tang Poetry To The System Of Vietnamese Nom Poetry Of Tang Rules By Nguyen Hong Linhi. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejls.v4i2.430
2. Female Characters In Nguyen Huong Duyen'S Short Stories By Le Thuy Diem1, Nguyen Bich Thu. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejls.v4i2.467
3. Study On Characteristics Of Megastory Category On News Of Vietnam News Agencyi By Tran Ngoc Phuong Uyen, Do Thi Xuan Quyen, Thai Cong Dani. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejls.v4i2.466
4. Features Of Entertainment Column Of Ho Chi Minh City Women'S Online Newspaper By Nguyen Thi Tuong Vy, Do Thi Xuan Quyen, Thai Cong Dan. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejls.v4i2.461
5. Migration, Identity And Reconstruction Of Female Migrants' Experiences In Chika Unigwe'S *Better Never Than Late By* Kufre A. Akpani, Monica Udoette. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejls.v4i2.453
6. Narrative Devices In Paule Marshall'S Fiction By Daniel Tiai. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejls.v4i2.450
7. A Marxist Study Of Dan Brown'S *Inferno By* Mustafa Amjed Jasim Al-Hameedawi, Sajjad Issa Ajlan Al-Moussawi. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.46827/ejls.v4i2.444

Understanding hedges in these two fields of international journal articles, namely Linguistics and Literary studies, involves surface level analysis. This analysis provides empirical validity to explain the emergence of certain forms of hedges that may be encountered in this comparison. The aim of the quantitative analysis was to characterize the extent of representation of hedges in a sample of both areas of international journal articles. This study not only provides a description of the expression hedges in these two genres, but also discovers aspects of their use. In examining and categorizing surface features, a number of regularities become apparent that provide generalizations regarding their function.

The procedure for this research is as follows. First, a list of possible items was created based on the highest frequency used. The next stage of research was to determine how often each hedge word or phrase identified in the list appeared in both fields of international journal articles. Finally, we make implications of the frequent appearance of hedge items and compare them for the two fields of science

Results and Discussion

A. Result

The results of the analysis of the formal characteristics or the surface features of hedging in this research from the most dominant use to the less dominant one respectively include epistemic

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lexical verbs, epistemic modal auxiliaries, epistemic adjectives, adverbs, and nouns.

Table 1: Relative frequency of epistemic lexicals in two different article fields

lexical	Linguistic Articles	Lexical	Literary Studies Articles
Verbs	273 (16.49%)	Verbs	277 (16.73%)
Adjectives	202 (12.20%)	Adjectives	268 (16.19%)
Modal Verbs	159 (9.6%)	adverbs	150 (9.06%)
Adverbs	128 (7.73%)	Modal verbs	145 (8.76%)
Nouns	14 (0.84%)	Nouns	39 (2.35%)
Total	776		879

In the two research fields above, hedges are commonly expressed through epistemic lexical verbs, epistemic adjectives, auxiliary verbs, adverbs, and nouns respectively.

Table 2: Frequency of modal verbs used to express hedging in the fields of Linguistics and Literary Studies

Modal Verbs	Linguistic field	Modal Verbs	Literary Studies field
should	41 (13.26%)	will	51 (16.50%)
may	33 (10.67%)	Must	25 (8.09%)
will	28 (9.06%)	would	22 (7.1%)
could	20 (6.47%)	Could	17 (5.5%)
must	13 (4.2%)	Should	13 (4.2%)
would	10 (3.23%)	Can not	11 (3.5%)
might	7 (2.26%)	may	9 (2.9%)
Can not	7 (2.26%)	might-	2 (0.64%)
Ought to	-	Ought to	-
shall	-	shall	-
total	159		150

Table 2 shows the three modal verbs that are dominantly used from most to least, namely *should, may*, and *will*. Meanwhile, in the field of Literary studies, they are namely *will, must*, and *would*.

Table 3: Most frequent hedging lexical verbs in linguistics and literary studies

items	Linguistics	Items	Literary Studies
show	31 (5.6%)	help	50 (9.09%)
believe	24 (4.3%)	show	40 (7.2%)
said	19 (3.4%)	contribute	23 (4.18%)
note	19 (3.4%)	Said	18 (3.2%)
help	17 (3.09%)	seem	15 (2.7%)
seem	15 (2.7%)	feel	14 (2.5%)
contribute	15 (2.7%)	believe	14 (2.5%)
indicate	15 (2.7%)	appear	12 (2.1%)
suggest	15 (2.7%)	argue	10 (1.8%)
perceive	15 (2.7%)	account	10 (1.8%)
…			-
Total	273		277

Table 3 shows the three dominant lexical verbs in Linguistics articles, namely *note*, *believe*, and *said*. As for the field of Literary Studies, their dominant ones are *help*, *show*, and *contribute*, respectively.

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Table 4: Most frequent hedging lexical adverbs in linguistics and literary studies

items	Linguistics	Items	Literary studies
about	22 (7.5%)	about	28 (9.5%)
like	12 (4.09%)	like	28 (9.5%)
mostly	11 (3.7%)	indeed	18 (6.1%)
around	9 (3.07%)	around	6 (2.04%)
such	9 (3.07%)	such	6 (2.04%)
generally	8 (2.7%)	sometimes	5 (1.7%)
approximately	7 (2.3%)	rather	4 (1.3%)
rather	6 (2.04%)	usually	4 (1.3%)
similarly	6 (2.04%)	just	4 (1.3%
indeed	5 (1.7%)	relatively	3 (1.3%)
…			
Total	143		150

Table 4 shows that *about*, *like*, and *mostly* are the most dominant epistemic adverbs used respectively in articles in the field of Linguistics, and *about, like*, and *indeed* hedges are the most dominant hedge markers used respectively.

Table 5: Most frequent hedging lexical adjectives in linguistics and literary studies

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
most	36 (8%)	many	53 (11.7%)
more	35 (7.7%)	still	39 (8.6%)
some	22 (4.8%)	more	31 (6.8%)
many	21 (4.6%)	some	29 (6.4%)
essential	12 (2.6%)	most	28 (6.2%)
likely	12 (2.6%)	few	12 (2.6%)
possible	11 (2.4%)	essential	10 (2.2%)
general	10 (2.2%)	general	10 (2.2%)
any	8 (1.7%)	necessary	10 (2.2%)
necessary	8 (1.7%)	possible	8 (1.7%)
…			
Total	187		263

Table 5 reveals three epistemic lexical adjectives which are most frequently used in articles in the field of Linguistics, namely *most, more,* and *some*. In contrast to articles in the field of Literary Studies, the most dominant ones are *many, still,* and *more*, respectively.

Table 6: Most frequent hedging lexical nouns in linguistics and literary studies

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
possibility	6 (11.3%)	conclusion	11 (20.7%)
assumption	3 (5.6%)	A kinf of	6 (11.3%)
significance	2 (3.7%)	In essence	5 (9.4%)
sort	2 (3.7%)	sort	5 (9.4%)
conclusion	1 (1.8%)	significance	4 (7.5%)
In essence	-	possibility	2 (3.7%)
possibility	-	A bit	2 (3.7%)
A bit	-	assumption	2 (3.7%)
A kinf of	-	To some extent	2 (3.7%)
doubt	-	doubt	1 (1.8%)
A part	-	A part	1 (1.8%)
Total	14		39

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Table 6 above shows that *possibility, assumption,* and *significance* are items of noun hedges which are successively from the most dominant to the least dominant in articles in the field of Linguistics. Meanwhile, items in the field of Literary Studies are *conclusion, a kind of*, and *in essence.*

Table 7: Number of hedges in sections of international journal articles in the field of Linguistics and Literary Studies

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
Finding and Discussion	446 (27.2%)	Finding and Discussion	325 (19.8%)
Literature review	153 (9.3%)	Literature review	212 (12.9%)
Introduction	105 (6/4%)	Introduction	184 (11.2%)
Conclusion	30 (1.8%)	Conclusion	78 (4.7%)
abstract	23 (1.4%)	abstract	53 (3.2%)
Method	10 (0.6%)	Method	18 (1.09%)
Total	767		870

Table 8: Number of verb hedges in sections of International journal articles in the field of Linguistics and Literary Studies.

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
Finding and Discussion	194 (35.7%)	Finding and Discussion	136 (25%)
Literature review	31 (5.7%)	Literature review	46 (26.8%)
Introduction	28 (5.1%)	Introduction	35 (6.4%)
Conclusion	10 (1.8%)	Conclusion	29 (5.3%)
abstract	8 (1.4%)	abstract	18 (3.3%)
Method	4 (0.7%)	Method	4 (0.7%)
Total	275		268

Table 9: Number of adverb hedges in sections of International journal articles in the field of Linguistics and Literary Studies.

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
Finding and Discussion	83 (30.5%)	Finding and Discussion	61 (22.4%)
Literature review	18 (6.6%)	Literature review	44(16.1%)
Introduction	17 (6.25%)	Introduction	27 (9.9%)
abstract	5 (1.8%)	abstract	9 (3.3%)
Conclusion	3 (1.1%)	Conclusion	3 (1.1%)
Method	1 (0.36%)	Method	1 (0.36%)
Total	127		145

Table 10: Number of adjective hedges in sections of International journal articles in the field of Linguistics and Literary Studies.

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
Finding and Discussion	108 (22.9%)	Literature review	86 (18.25%)
Literature review	44 (9.3%)	Finding and Discussion	76 (16.1%)
Introduction	32 (6.7%)	Introduction	62 (13.1%)
Conclusion	81 (1.6%)	Conclusion	23 (4.8%)
abstract	7 (1.4%)	abstract	17 (3.6%)
Method	3 (0.6%)	Method	5 (1.06%)
Total	202		269

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Table 11: Number of noun hedges in sections of International journal articles in the field of Linguistics and Literary Studies.

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
Finding and Discussion	7 (13.4%)	Finding and Discussion	14 (26.9%)
Literature review	4 (7.69%)	Literature review	10 (19.2%)
Introduction	3 (5.7%)	Introduction	6 (11.5%)
abstract	0 (%)	Conclusion	5 (9.6%)
Method	0 (%)	abstract	3 (5.7%)
Conclusion	0 (%)	Method	1 (1.9%)
Total	14		38

Table 12: Number of modal hedges in sections of International journal articles in the field of Linguistics and Literary Studies.

items	Linguistics	items	Literary studies
Literature review	l 56 (39.1%)	Introduction	54 (13.5%)
Finding and Discussion	54 (13.5%)	Finding and Discussion	38 (9.5%)
Introduction	25 (6.2%)	Literature review	26 (6.5%)
Conclusion	9 (2.2%)	Conclusion	18 (4.5%)
abstract	3 (0.7%)	Method	7 (1.7%)
Method	2 (0.5%)	abstract	6 (1.5%)
Total	249		149

Tables 7 to 12 all show that in scientific article fields, both Linguistics and Literary Studies, the sections that use the most hedges for verbs, adverbs, adjectives, nouns, and modals are respectively in the *Findings and Discussion* section, followed by by the *Literature Review* and *Introduction* sections.

B. Discussion

Hedges as stated by Hyland (1998) are very numerous in the field of science and are a very important tool in academic writing. In line with this statement in relation to this research, the number of hedges found in international articles in the field of linguistics and literary studies was very high, namely 776 compared to 879. This means that articles in the field of literary studies have more composition than articles in the field of Linguistics, although the difference is not that significant. This finding also agrees with what Hyland (1998) said, namely that writing academic research includes various expressions of epistemic lexical hedges. In contrast, this finding does not agree with what was stated in the previous literature review, namely by Afshar and Bagherieh (2014) who said that the scientific field does not determine the number of hedges used.

With regard to modality, Coates (1987) says that epistemic modality is related to the speaker's assumptions or assessments of possibilities and in many cases this shows the speaker's belief or disbelief in the truth of the proposition expressed. Meanwhile, Halliday (1994) calls modality an area of meaning that lies between yes and no.

In connection with this research, the use of modal verbs that are most often used to express hedges in linguistic studies articles and Literary Studies articles in international journals respectively are *should* (13.26%) and *will* (16.50%). Epistemic *should* typically refers to the future and

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consequently has a more tentative meaning, expressing a less confident assessment of probability based on facts known to the writer. Meanwhile, *will* refers to predicted logical outcomes and indicate a general truth.

Examples of data related to Literary Studies and Linguistic articles related to epistemic modal verbs:

Article 8 of Literary Studies (introduction section):

This research will be focusing on the use of that framework's theoretical approach as the basis, along with an ideological and a psychological aspect in which they will support the argument of this paper in terms of addressing the issues and solutions for that matter.

Section two will be focused on the biography of the author, Dan Brown. Section three will be approaching the theoretical framework: Marxism, and explain it. Section four will tackle the approach of the Marxist theory over Brown's Inferno. And finally, section five will be a conclusion of the research.

Article 3 of Literary Studies (literature Review section):

The character must be placed in a specific situation, both universal and unique." In the short story, Vuong Tri Nhan (2001, p.34) wrote "A character is a small piece of the world, embodies a state of social relations, social consciousness or a state of human existence, speaking directly. or indirectly for the writer's thoughts." It can be concluded that characters in short stories must be built in connection with special situations, creating an impression with a series of dense details of life.

Article 4 of Literary Studies (Methods section):

The study would examine 74 articles in the Megastory category on the Vietnam News Agency website (baotintuc.vn) in a 12-month period in 2020.

It would be to analyze the typical manifestations of the content and form of Megastory articles according to a clear system of concepts, and arguments, and to generalize into typical features in each aspect of the article.

Article 3 of Linguistics (Literature Review section):

The importance of lesson planning in classroom management should not be underestimated (Nashruddin & Nurrachman, 2016; Othmane, 2015). When a teacher begins giving a lesson, they should have a documented plan detailing what must be done along with evidence related to why it should be done.

Article 7 of Linguistics (Conclusion sect):

Although EFL students may possess an appropriate linguistic competence to communicate, they may not have sufficient pragmatic knowledge to express their ideas in a courteous manner. As a result, they may unintentionally impose on their professors, leading to the risk of coming across as either excessively polite or disrespectful.

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Article 1 of Linguistics (Literature review section):

This language ability, in turn, will help them to achieve, execute, and materialize Saudi Vision 2030, which entails diversifying and expanding the economy, positioning Saudi Arabia as a leading global economy, and effectively competing with the global workforce by the year 2030.

English language competency will also ensure that their English language skills are aligned effectively with the globalized labor market needs, especially the novel market demands based on English.

Palmer (1986) proposes four ways a writer may express the non-factual status of a proposition. They are speculative, deductive, quotative, and sensory. By that means, writers can mitigate claims by indicating that they are presenting information as subjective opinions, or as based on the evidence of their senses. Speculative and deductive categories involve epistemic judgements by the writer, allowing uncertainty and the tentative assertion of hypotheses. The quotative and sensory categories concern the nature of the evidence the writer employs to support a claim.

Regarding the present data in linguistic articles, it reveals that the epistemic evidential verb is dominantly used, while in Literary Studies articles, the most common verb appearing is help as an epistemic judgement verb hedging that suggests the subject is probably not the only factor involved. *Help* tends to be used where there are positive outcomes (Paterson and Wedge, 2013),

Examples of data related to Literary Studies and Linguistic articles related to epistemic lexical verbs:

Article 6 of Literary Studies (Conclusion section):

The paper also interrogates the artistic representation of the author which imbues the female characters with a new consciousness that helps them survive and transcend their experiences.

Article 3 of Literary Studies (Abstract section):

On that basis, it shows the writer's creative characteristics and places her short stories in the flow of contemporary female short stories.

Article 3 of Literary Studies (Finding and Discussion section):

Nguyen Huong Duyen's works, the art of depicting the character's psychology is clearly shown through moods, thoughts, and concerns, showing the deep and complex inner life of the character.

Article 5 of Literary Studies (Findings and Discussion section)

The authors also make specific statistics on the ways to reach the public on the social networking platforms that the Women's Newspaper is developing, in order to contribute a little effort to research issues related to Women's Newspaper.

Article 3 of Linguistics (Findings and Discussion):

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As demonstrated in Table 2, the attitudes of participants showed a general trend toward approval related to lesson preparation and planning practice, with a mean score of 4.01.

In general, most teachers showed a general acceptance of lesson preparation and planning practice, and they largely answered positively when asked the listed questions

Article 4 of Linguistics (Findings and Discussion section)

We believe that English course books contents are supposed to reflect some issues related to disregarded and denied ethnic minorities and poor citizens in EFL/ESL contexts where a specific course books series is used.

Article 5 of Linguistics (Findings and Discussion section):

In meme 28, the words say that "Aren"t you the one who asked God to die when you get frustrated?" says corona while the young guy says "No not me!"

Dubois (1987) examined imprecision as a rhetorical technique in a scientific genre. She found hedges are as a means of diminishing quantitative precision or approximations realised by adverbs. Adverbial are the fourth most frequent means of hedging in Linguistic articles and the third most frequent means of hedging in Literary Studies Articles. When related to these two fields of Linguistics and Literary, the intended and dominant hedge is the lexical adverb *about*.

Examples of data related to Literary Studies and Linguistic articles related to epistemic lexical adverbs:

Article 8 of Literary Studies (Theoritical Framework section):

Marxism as a theory wouldn't have survived long enough without its disciples, and for that, in order to further more comprehend the theory as a whole; one should learn about the very famous Marxists' who have put as much effort into the theory as Marx himself.

Article 7 of Literary Studies (Literature Review section):

To put it like Mikhail Bakhtin, words in a literary context are never closed or confined:

Article 4 of Literary Studies (Introduction section):

The birth and development of this genre have met the competitive demand through information in the e-brochure, helping to satisfy the public's demand for detailed and in-depth reading. Indeed, in the midst of millions and billions of "mixed true and false" information on social networks, readers need the presence of Megastory …

Article 6 of Linguistics (Conclusion section):

Due to the extensive history of Mesopotamia and the numerous changes brought about by invasions and colonization, the Iraqi dialect is one of the oldest and most complex dialects.

Article 5 of Linguistics (Literature Review section):

Then what happens to a macro if it"s used over and over, simply it becomes a standard

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image like the success kid or Hani Ramzi (Egyptian actor) (Grundingh, 2017: 11)

Article 5 of Linguistics (Abstract section):

Although, Covid19 memes in English and Arabic sometimes share the same caption and image but the racial intention in English memes are reflected through dark humor unlike Arabic memes which are mostly humorous.

Epistemic adjectives items serve to reduce the writer's categorical commitment. The most frequent adjective used in Linguistic articles is *most* (it occurs 36 time or 8%), meanwhile in Literary Studies is *many* (it occurs 53 times or 11.7%).

Examples of data related to Literary Studies and Linguistic articles related to epistemic lexical adjectives:

Article 3 of Literary Studies (Literature Review section):

Up to now, there have been many research works and opinions expressed by writers and critical researchers who are deeply interested in "short stories"

Article 1 of Literary Studies (Literature Review section):

Readers can still feel the overwhelming sadness, clear nostalgia, and the echoes echoing from Tang poetry as the mood of seeing off Li Bach's friend:

Article 4 of Literary Studies (Findings and Discussion section):

There are more than 8 reflections recorded on the Megastory category over a 12-month period of the year 2020 on the baotintuc.vn website.

Article 6 of Linguistics (Conclusion section):

The Iraqi dialect comprises several local dialects, the most important of which are Mosuliya, Southern, and the Middle Euphrates region.

Article 5 of Linguistics (Introduction section):

Thus, in the following sections previous studies concepts of memes, racial ethnic humor, memes and humor, multimodality, speech acts and much more will be explained with the analysis then the conclusion on Covid19 memes in English and Arabic.

Article 4 of Linguistics (Findings and Discussion section):

It can be inferred that writing, designing and presenting of the contents in ELT global course book series are not a neutral act rather they embody some implicit or explicit ideological and political agendas.

Epistemic nouns are the least frequent hedging appearing in both Linguistics and Literary Studies. They constitute only 0.84% in Linguistics compared with 2.35% in Literary Studies journal articles. The most dominant item in Linguistics is *possibility* and *conclusion* for Literary Studies.

A number of studies as revealed by Hyland (1998) suggest that forms indicating greater writer intrusion occur in Introduction and Discussion, where argument is emphasized and where

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decisions, claims and justifications most commonly occur. This study is half compatible with this research, especially for the Findings/Results and Discussion sections for the two fields of Linguistics and Literary Studies. Day (1988) argued Results constitutes the core of the research articles by conveying new knowledge through the presentation, explanation, and interpretation of data, it thus represents a carefully constructed discourse to persuade readers of the validity of the scientific facts which underline a particular language claim.

The second dominant part of this research is the Literature Review section, and after that is followed by the Introduction section. The lowest frequency is in the Methods section. This is in line with Myers (1991), Weissberg (1984) who showed that reporting methods are highly explicit, straight forward and formulaic, with a limited use of lexis.

Conclusion

Research writers in Linguistics and Literary Studies can manipulate scientific truths referring to the shared knowledge contained in literature, to the areas deemed true because of the statistical or experimental results of a study, and to non statistical judgements of fact or value about findings. These are depicted in the many types of lexical and modal hedges used in both research disciplines. In the use of hedges, these two fields of international journal articles sometimes have similarities and differences, although they are not very obvious. This research recommends that writers in these two scientific fields pay very close attention to the use of hedges, especially in providing comments or opinions on their findings in the Discussion section because in that section, hedges are mostly used by previous writers. The researcher is aware of the weakness in this research, namely that the template for the parts of the article is less standard in both journal fields, making it difficult to differentiate the boundaries between the parts. Further research is recommended to examine pragmatic types of hedges in the two fields of Linguistics and Literary studies.

Originality Statement

The authors declare that this article is their own work and to the best of their knowledge it contains no materials previously published or written by another person, or substantial proportions of material which have been accepted for publication in any other published materials, except where due acknowledgement is made in the article. Any contribution made to the research by others, with whom the author has worked, is explicitly acknowledged in the article.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that this article was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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