

# A Study on Pragmatic Functions of Hedging Devices in D. H. Lawrence's "The Blind Man"

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## Abstract

Everyday language is used to communicate both in conversation and in writing. The communicators have to understand the interpersonal meaning and the representational meaning about the content or event within its structure at the same time. In fact, hedging devices are really useful in making us realize the interpersonal and attitudinal meaning in our communication. Hedging devices play a very important role in communicative success. Pragmatically, hedging devices in language have a function to express the addressers' intentions in boosting or mitigating the illocutionary force of the speech acts. The present study intends to explore more about pragmatic hedging devices in the light of Willamová's Model of Hedging Devices. This model includes seven types of hedging devices. They are used for the analysis and justification of using hedging devices in the most famous work of D. H. Lawrence which is "The Blind Man".

The present paper includes several sections concerning hedging devices and the model adopted which are regarded as a background to the analysis made in the practical part. As far as the practical part is concerned, the researcher presents many tables and figures which are relevant to the pragmatic analysis of Lawrence's "The Blind Man" in terms of Willamová's Model of Hedging Devices. Actually, hedging devices are very important in comprehending and interpreting the literary work. Moreover, they are influential in analyzing and interpreting Lawrence's "The Blind Man" in many perspectives such as reflecting the personality of the writer and the character within the literary work in terms of their tendencies, goals, desires, inner thinking and philosophy.

**Key words: Pragmatics, politeness, hedges, hedging devices.**

## دراسة الوظائف البراغماتية لأدوات التحوط في قصة لورانس القصيرة "الرجل الضير"

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## المخلص

تستعمل اللغة للتواصل كل يوم في المحادثة والكتابة. في الواقع، تعد أدوات التحوط مفيدة للغاية في جعلنا ندرك المعنى المتبادل بين الأشخاص والمواقف في اتصالاتنا. كما تؤدي أدوات التحوط دوراً مهماً جداً في نجاح ذلك التواصل. فظلاً عن ذلك، فعند الاخذ بنظر الاعتبار الجانب البراغماتي (Pragmatics) في اللغة، تعد أدوات التحوط (Hedging Devices) لها وظيفة في التعبير عن نوايا المخاطبين في تعزيز أو تخفيف القوة اللاذعة لأفعال الكلام (Speech Acts).

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف المزيد حول أدوات التحوط من الناحية البراغماتية في ضوء انموذج (ويلاموفا لأدوات التحوط) (Willamová's Model of Hedging Devices). حيث تضمن هذا الانموذج سبعة أنواع من ادوات التحوط. وقد تم استخدامها لتحليل استخدام أدوات التحوط في العمل الأكثر شهرة للكاتب الانكليزي لورانس وهو "الرجل الضير" وتبريرها تتضمن الدراسة الحالية عدة فصول متعلقة بأدوات التحوط والانموذج المعتمد والتي تعد خلفية للتحليل الذي تم لاحقاً في الجزء العملي. فيما يتعلق بالجزء العملي، يقدم الباحث العديد من الجداول ذات الصلة بالتحليل البراغماتي للعمل الادبي من حيث انموذج (ويلاموفا لأدوات التحوط). في الواقع، تعتبر أدوات التحوط مهمة جداً في فهم العمل الأدبي. وعلاوة على ذلك، فهي مؤثرة في تحليل العمل الادبي "الرجل الضير" وتفسيره في العديد من المنظورات. حيث انها تعكس شخصية الكاتب وكذلك الشخصيات المقدمة في العمل الأدبي فيما يخص ميولها و أهدافها ورغباتها و تفكيرها الداخلي وفلسفتها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: علم البراغماتية أو علم التداولية (Pragmatics)، التآذب (Politeness)، التحوط (Hedges)، أدوات التحوط (Hedging Devices)

## 1. Introduction

Language is an important tool to conduct communication and exchange ideas. In general, Politeness connects with ideas like being tactful, modest and nice with people. In the study of linguistic politeness, the most relevant concept is “face”. In pragmatics, your face is considered as your public self-image. This is the emotional and social sense of self that everyone has and expects everyone else to recognize. Thus, politeness can be defined as showing awareness of and consideration for another person’s face (Yule,2006:119). Being polite means to be a considerate conversational partner. In terms of negative politeness being polite means to choose the right words to express a communicative goal, which might be felt as face-threatening act (FTA) for the addressee such as refusal, disagreement or criticism in order to avoid a potential conflict and hence to maintain harmony in interaction, which is, generally, considered as highly desirable ( Willamová 2005:80). Actually, hedging devices are the dominant means of expressing negative politeness, which confirms the hypothesis that attenuation is connected primarily with respect for other people’s privacy, which is a central concept in English culture(ibid:86).

The present study concentrates on the pragmatic role of hedging devices in the analysis and interpretation of D. H. Lawrence’s “The Blind Man”. It also aims to show how Willamová’s Model of hedging devices helps the researcher in understanding and justifying different perspectives in the literary text. Consequently , it shows how these hedging devices are used by Lawrence and how they can contribute to a better understanding and lead to a more insightful interpretation of the literary work, i.e. “The Blind Man”. Moreover, it reflects that Lawrence, in this story, wants to create a world of value and meekness so as to overcome the bad results of war.

### 1.1.What are Hedges?

Although hedges might be around nearly as long as language itself, it was only in (1966) that they become the topic of linguistic investigation. Weinreich (1966:163) was the first person to write about hedging in the linguistic research literature when he talked about “metalinguistic operators”. However, it was Lakoff (1972) who had the greatest initial impact, and it was his papers ““Hedges: A Study in Meaning Criteria and the Logic of Fuzzy Concepts” that popularized the concept. He wrote some of the most interesting questions are raised by the study of words whose meaning implicitly involves fuzziness – words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy. He was interested in the properties of words such as “rather” or “sort of”, to make things fuzzy or less fuzzy (Lakoff, 1972:195). Lakoff began with a semantic discussion of “rather” and “sort of”, pointing out that this predicate modifier, and others like it, reveal different distinctions of category membership. Later on, he showed that the interpretation of hedges is dependent on context in the sense that the effect of hedging is a pragmatic not a semantic



phenomenon. In the aftermath of Lakoff's discovery, the topic caused a lot of interest and received a good deal of research.

Fraser (1975) introduced the term Hedged Performative, where certain performative verbs such as "apologize", "promise", and "request" when preceded by specific modals such as "can", "must", and "should", as in (Fraser, 2010: 18)

- a) I should apologize for running over your cat.
- b) I can promise that I will never again smoke grass.
- c) I must request that you sit down

It was Brown and Levinson (1978,1987) who developed fully the speech act aspect of hedging. In fact, in their (1978/1987) "Politeness," Brown & Levinson were concerned with two types of politeness: Positive Politeness and Negative Politeness. Positive politeness is defined as redressive action directed to the addressee's positive face (the desire that his/her wants should be thought of as desirable), where redress consists in partially satisfying that desire by communicating that one's own wants are in some respects similar to the address's wants. Negative Politeness is defined as redressive action addressed to the addressee's negative face (the want to have his/her freedom of action unhindered and his attention unimpeded), where redress consists in partially satisfying that need by weakening a challenge to negative face. Brown and Levinson focused primarily on negative politeness strategies which include (i) hedging the illocutionary force of an utterance; (ii) hedging any of the felicity conditions on the speech act; or (iii) hedging any of the four Gricean maxims. Brown & Levinson treated the hedging of the illocutionary force of a speech act in great detail in their efforts to account for politeness phenomena (Fraser, 2010: 29).

Brown and Levinson (1978) stated that

A hedge is a particle, word, or phrase that modifies the degree of membership of a predicate or noun phrase in a set; it says of that membership that it is partial, or true only in certain respect; or that it is more true and complete than perhaps might be expected (p.145).

Moreover, they move to a discussion involving illocutionary force hedging, where the hedge attenuates the strength of the speech act. They write:

Now, the thrust of our argument is that ordinary communicative intentions are often potential threats to cooperative interaction. Communicative intentions are regulated and encoded in speech acts, and if one looks at the conditions on the felicitous use of speech acts, the sources of threat become clear...Consequently, to hedge these assumptions – that is, to avoid commitment to them – is a primary and fundamental method of disarming routing interaction threat. (p.146)

It is interesting to mention that Brown & Levinson maintain both the





attenuation and reinforcement aspects of hedging, although they wrote little of the latter aspect. In this concern, Caffi (1999:12) writes about mitigation, the attenuation of unwelcome effects on the hearer and proposed a classification of mitigating mechanisms (mostly hedging devices) based her view of the three components of the utterance on which mitigation can operate: the proposition, the illocution and the utterance source. She called these bushes, hedges and shields, respectively which are as follows:

- (1) Bushes: they are lexical expressions that reduce the commitment to the propositional content of the utterance and may introduce vagueness in the interpretation of the utterance and affect the truth value of the proposition.
- (2) Hedges: they are lexical expressions whose scope is the illocutionary force of the speech act and attenuate the strength of the force by reducing the speaker's commitment.
- (3) Shields: they are devices to avoid the self-ascription to the utterance and realize an overall shift of responsibility, for instance by introducing a different speaker or by deleting the deictic origin of the utterance.

Locastro (2003:144) mentions that “ speakers may want to signal less than full adherence to them by using expressions called hedges” . Moreover, the term hedge is stuck on everything that in a way modifies the truth-value of a sentence, the commitment of the speaker or the comment on the sentence (Hovy, 2004:1-2). Equally important to introduce that hedges are examined as a pragmatic phenomenon of discourse analysis. In this sense, Willamová (2005:86) stated that hedges occur as mitigating devices which attenuate the propositional content of the message. However, attenuation can be achieved in different ways employing diverse linguistic and non-linguistic strategies. Besides, pragmatic markers are very frequent linguistic means used in expressing negative politeness in English discourse, which confirm the claim that attenuation is a strongly culture-specific phenomenon in which the freedom from imposition is of a highest value (ibid:93).

Caffi (2007: 3) explains that there are other goals that can be achieved by using hedges which include avoidance of the unnecessary risks, responsibilities and functions such as good rapport, giving option, respect, showing uncertainty, caution, or consideration. After that, new approaches widened the scope to become mainly interested in the use of hedges in discourse analysis. Within these, the use of hedges for mitigation, vagueness and politeness were discovered in the early eighties. In addition, Crystal (2008:227) asserted that hedge is considered as an application in pragmatics and discourse analysis of a general sense of the word (to be non-committal or evasive) to a range of items which express a notion of imprecision or qualification.

Tang (2013:1) affirms that fuzziness is one of the objective characteristics of human language, which makes language flexible and reliable. It is helpful to keep communication more euphemistic and convincing. Hedges are core of fuzzy language and the study on hedges contributes to the understanding of the essence of

language. Finally, it is essential to mention that in pragmatics a hedge is a mitigating word, sound or construction used to lessen the impact of an utterance due to constraints on the interaction between the speaker and addressee, such as politeness, softening the blow, avoiding the appearance of bragging and others. Typically, they are adjectives or adverbs, but can also consist of clauses such as one use of tag questions. It could be regarded as a form of euphemism ( In Hedge (Linguistics): Wikipedia\the Free Encyclopedia (2017:1).

## **1.2. The significance of Hedging**

Hyland (1994:241) considers hedging as a reflection of relation between the writer and reader. The use of hedges is of great importance because it tempers the significance of statement and strengthens the effectiveness and credibility of argumentation. In addition, he summarizes the functions of hedge words and considers two main roles for them( *ibid*:435):

1. Expressing claims with certain degree of caution, modesty and humility.
2. Diplomatic negotiation of the claim when referring to work of colleagues and competitors.

Moreover, he believes that when an author wants to develop his hypothesis into knowledge, he needs to achieve acceptance from the audience. For this to happen, he needs “linguistic and rhetorical means of persuasion” and this may be the basis for the use of hedges. Further, Hyland (2000: 193) adds that a clear awareness of the pragmatic impact of hedges and an ability to recognize them in texts is crucial in the acquisition of rhetorical competence in any discipline .

Salagar-Meyer (1994:151) specifies two main purposes for using hedge words. The first one is to make the issue fuzzy. She proposes that explicit expression of a claim makes it easy for others to criticize the author’s claim and reflects his lack of humility, and his ignorance of the others in that research area. The other purpose is to increase the precision in the author’s claim. That is to say, hedging may present the strongest claim that a careful researcher can make.

Varttola (1999:177) investigates the issue from another point of view. To him, the communicative functions of hedges are different in specialist research articles and popular research articles. He maintains that in popular research article, hedging indicates “textual precision and interpersonal negative politeness” and in specialist research articles it functions as textual tools for both imprecision and precision and a feature of interpersonal positive politeness” .

Wills(1997: 134) comments that hedging competence, which entails knowledge and understanding of the conventionalisms , is often considered as integral part of general linguistic competence which allows us to assume our place in community. With reference to community, Myers(1989:4) stresses that in some cases one researcher must always be humble himself or herself before the community as a whole. He regards hedging as one of the strategies of negative politeness which



creates social interaction between writers and their readers. In addition, he thinks that by hedging and introducing one's thought politely, the writer allows readers' judgment and further work.

### 1.3. Willamová's Model of Hedging Devices

Willamová (2005:80) introduces hedging devices as one of the means through which linguistic politeness can be manifested. Moreover, she affirms that hedges (particles, lexical and clausal hedges, pragmatic idioms) are pragmatic markers that attenuate (or weaken) the strength of an utterance. Along with the core principle of negative politeness as postulated in Brown and Levinson's politeness theory (1987) a Face Threatening Act (FTA) is viewed as a violation of the speaker's privacy and freedom of action, for which hedges provide a possible compensation. Willamová's model of Hedging Devices draws on Fraser's (1996) general typology of pragmatic markers and Brown and Levinson's (1987) relevant linguistic politeness strategies. In addition, she enriches the existing classification by introducing signals that reflect different functions of pragmatic markers. The following section deals with an introduction and explanation of seven individual types recognized as hedging devices (ibid:86-92):

#### 1.3.1 Clausal Mitigators

The first and the most significant pragmatic markers are clausal mitigators, namely **pseudoconditionals** and **but-clauses** especially occurring in the final position, i.e. after the propositional content. As negatively polite devices they soften the illocutionary force of the utterance by building upon face-preserving principles. This type of pragmatic markers signal the speaker's desire to reduce the face loss associated with the basic message (ibid:86).

##### 1.3.1.1 Pseudoconditionals

Pseudoconditionals are typically represented by if-clauses in the position of afterthoughts such as ..., if I may say so, ..., if I were you, ..., if you wanted to, ..., if you like, ..., if you insist, ..., if it comes to that, ..., if that isn't an impertinent question, . This group of pragmatic markers is labeled pseudoconditionals, because these if-clauses are not truly conditional sentences in their nature as they syntactically lack the other part of the conditional structure and semantically they lack the condition which has to be fulfilled before something else can happen. Actually, pseudoconditionals function as a very frequent linguistic means which softens the illocutionary force of the utterance by taking into consideration face-preserving principles, for examples (ibid:86-87):

Example 1- Desireé offers Philip (a British university professor), who otherwise has to leave America, a job below his social level. You could work for me, **if you like**.

##### 1.3.1.2 But-Clauses

The other subgroup of Clausal Mitigators are utterances that begin with "but". As





opposed to pseudoconditionals, which soften the illocutionary force by emphasizing the hearer's freedom of action, but-clauses attenuate the propositional content of the utterance by providing an explanation of the speaker's motives for carrying out a face-threatening act. But-clauses occur in several typical contexts. Firstly, they contribute to increased politeness by expressing agreement, or at least pseudoagreement. As Leech (1983: 138) claims, "there is a tendency to exaggerate agreement with other people, and to mitigate disagreement by expressing regret, partial agreement, etc." (ibid:87).

Example 2- The two strangers talking on the plane are discussing a man they both know. Fulvia Morgana has a very low professional opinion of Philip Wallow, whilst Morris Zapp tries to walk on thin ice as Philip Swallow is actually his close friend.

Fulvia: But his lecture was not very eventful, I must say.

Morris: Yeah, well, that doesn't surprise me. He's a nice guy, Philip, **but he doesn't exactly set your pulse racing with intellectual excitement.** (seeking agreement)

As is obvious from the above example the speaker goes on-record with his/her opinion that is different from that of the addressee. Such a disagreement or refusal to provide an answer could be felt as face-threatening and therefore impolite. Firstly, but-clauses represent a strategic means of achieving at least partial agreement and hence maintain harmonious relations between participants in the interaction. Secondly, but-clauses typically occur as parts of face-threatening acts such as refusal or disapproval, or apology. Not only do they soften an FTA by providing an explanation why it must be carried out, but together with the speech act expressed in the first part of the utterance (most often thanking or apologizing) they actually disguise the true nature of the speaker's communicative goal (ibid:87-88).

Example 3 - Rejecting an invitation to stay longer. Thank you, **but I can't stop.** (refusal)

### **1.3.2 Subjectivity Markers**

This type of hedge consists of speaker-orientated markers which emphasize the subjective attitude of the speaker towards the message. Here belong pragmatic expressions such as "I think", "I hope", "I guess", "I suppose", "I don't think", "I wouldn't say", etc. The pragmatic role of this type of hedge lies in the fact that it attenuates the speaker meaning by increasing the degree of subjectivity of the utterance. By using attitudinal hedges the addressee transforms an assertion into a question phrase, which signals a lack of certainty and high degree of indeterminacy on the part of the speaker and consequently implies the necessity of confirmation on the part of the hearer" (Urbanová 1995). Hence, hedges imply to the hearer that the speaker's utterance is not to be taken as something universally true or definite, but rather as a personal opinion, judgment or belief, which is open to further

negotiation (ibid:88).

Example 4- **I was thinking** that before we go any further, perhaps we ought to come to an understanding. (suggestion : = Let's make an agreement ).

Not only do attitudinal hedges increase the degree of subjectivity, but they also serve to indicate the speaker's uncertainty and indecision about the utterance he makes. Being uncertain or indecisive may, of course, be the result of insufficient information or a character feature, but often it is a manifestation of politeness and deference as in Example 4 , which is considered to be a very strong culture-specific phenomenon in English (ibid : 88-89).

Example 5- A young assistant in conversation with an elderly professor, who asks him: Interested in prosody, are you?

-Yes, **I suppose** I am.

### 1.3.3. Downgraders

The next type of hedging devices are downgraders. As has already been said, along with the "core" of negative politeness, it is considered polite to be non-imposing. If, however, this is not possible, then the imposition must be at least minimized. Downgraders, similar to the hedges described, are also speaker-orientated hedges represented by expressions such as just, just in case, a bit, a few, a little, rather, scarcely, etc. The primary role of these attitudinal markers lies in the fact that they minimize the size of the imposition that is being made on the hearer ,as in Example 6, or is often used in order to show tact or modesty towards the speaker. Moreover, they serve as a form of self-protection of the speaker, the reason for which may be insufficient knowledge of the partner's wants, opinions or beliefs as in Example 7 (ibid:89).

Example 6 - An opening turn in a phone call the next day after an argument.

I **just** wanted to apologize for the last night.

Example7- So you really fiddled this for Philip?

-Well, I wouldn't say it was entirely my doing. I **just** gave Stroud a nudge in the right direction.

### 1.3.4. Tentativizers

Tentativizers are pragmatic markers which similarly to subjective markers contribute to a greater degree of politeness by conveying hesitation, uncertainty or vagueness. However, the way they explore them differs from that of subjective markers. This group of markers includes two types of markers, namely (1) expressions such as "well" and "I don't know" which signal reservation and decrease the certainty and definitiveness of the utterance and (2) markers of intentional vagueness represented by pragmatic expressions such as "a kind of", "sort of thing" or "a glass or two" whose main aim is to redress an FTA in the way that it decreases explicitness of an utterance and hence enables the speaker to be less direct and bold on-record in communicating his/her meaning (ibid:90).

Example 8- A host offers her guest possibilities where he can sleep:



**I don't know** where would you like to sleep? This is the main bedroom. Or there's this other room which I use as a study, but it has a bed in it. It is really quite comfortable. Take your choice.

Example 9- After offering his secretary to call him by his first name, the boss invites her to lunch.

Then would you care to join me for a little Italian nosh and **a glass or two** at a trattoria I know in Covent Garden?

### 1.3.5. Performative Hedges

“Politeness is manifested not only in the content of conversation, but also in the way conversation is managed and structured by its participants” (Leech 1983: 39). What do such expressions as “I (just) want to know”, “I must ask”, “I’ll (just) say one thing”, “I (just) wanted to apologize”, “I’m inclined to agree” or “I’m curious to know” actually do? In addition, Performatives Hedged are speaker-orientated markers which merely comment on the speech acts that immediately follow. In that respect they can be called “introductory”. These markers most frequently hedge face-threatening acts such as requests, suggestions, apologies etc. They contribute towards a higher degree of politeness (Willamová , 2005 :90-91).

Example 10- There's something **I must ask** you, Fulvia. It may sound naive, or even rude, but I can't suppress any longer. I just want to know how you manage to reconcile living like a millionaire with being a Marxist.

### 1.3.6. Pragmatic Idioms

Fraser (1996: 174) defines pragmatic idioms as “expressions for which there is no plausible inferential path leading from literal, direct meaning to the accepted basic pragmatic signal”. Expressions such as “please”, “kindly” and “perhaps” or “maybe” belong to this group. Their usual position before an imperative sentence signals the speaker's intention that the sentence is to be taken only as a request or a suggestion.

Example 11- Would you switch the light on, **please**? (request)

Example 12- I thought **maybe** I would sleep in here tonight. (suggestion)

Accordingly, not only do pragmatic idioms function as minimal lexical devices that signal how the illocutionary force of the utterance should be interpreted, but in respect to negative politeness they also increase the degree of politeness of an utterance, because they function as a means of politeness, softening the propositional content of the utterance. There are two ways in which their function can be manifested. Whilst expressions such as “perhaps” or “maybe” typically indicate suggestions and thus contribute to the degree of politeness in that they make the utterance more tentative , expressions such as “please” or “kindly” work rather as polite mitigators purely softening the imposition carried out (Willamová , 2005:91).

### 1.3.7. Hedges on Politeness Maxims

This type of speaker-orientated hedging device builds directly upon Leech's





(1983) politeness maxims. They are represented by conventionalized expressions frequently sentence adverbials such as “I’m afraid”, “unfortunately”, “nothing personal”, “to tell you the truth”, “I must say”, or “you don’t mean to tell me”. Most frequently, the hedges in this group address the Tact maxim (“minimize cost to other”), which confirms Leech’s hypothesis (1983: 133) that not all of the maxims are equally important and that the tact maxim is ranked the highest.

Example 13 -Mary replies to Philip’s question whether she would like to have sex with him.

-I’d just as soon not, **to tell you the truth**, Philip. **Nothing personal**, but I’m tired as hell.

Obviously, hedges exploiting the Tact Maxim indicate a violation of face. This type of hedge seems to express that – as Brown and Levinson (1987: 172) say – “what is said on record might more properly have been said off record or not at all”. In other words, these pragmatic hedges mitigate an FTA such as a refusal or criticism in the way they actually openly admit that they follow Grice’s maxim of Quality, i.e. they are true despite the awareness of the fact that truthfulness maybe felt by the addressee to be impolite. Another type of hedge belonging to this group are hedges whose politeness function is encoded in softening FTAs that convey or react to news which may be felt to be bad or unpleasant by the hearer (Willamová, 2005:92).

Example 14- **You don’t mean to tell me** that he’s been cheating on you?

Example 15-Explanation why they will not be able to meet.

-**Unfortunately**, I’m here till Friday.

**Table: (1) Willamová’s Model of Hedging Devices**

NO.	Hedging Devices
1	Clausal Mitigators
2	Subjectivity Markers
3	Downgraders
4	Tentativizers
5	Performative Hedges
6	Hedges on Politeness Maxims
7	Pragmatic Idioms

## **2.Introduction of Lawrence’ s “ The Blind Man”**

David Herbert Lawrence (11 September 1885 – 2 March 1930) was born in Nottingham, England. He was an English writer and poet. Lawrence was ranked among the most influential and controversial literary figures of the Victorian Period (In Free Essays “ The Blind Man” By D.H. Lawrence ,2016:10). In addition, Lawrence lived for his art. Art for him is a symbol of sentience. It is also a vessel of symbolism by which man can set forth the ideas of his living sentience; that is, it is a means to convey social values and problems of the age (Omran, 2010 :9). In addition, Lawrence's treatment of the scenes either in his long fiction



or his short one is to a considerable extent apocalyptic. It seems that he is really ahead of his time because he saw, in his life time, the losing of the values that "had prophetically haunted the minds of novelists" (Dorothy,1963:15). Moreover, Stephen (1941:121) maintains that Lawrence "is a skillful raconteur because he had the power of entering into the people and things that he was describing and making a whole scene come to life around him." In addition, not only is he "skillful", he is also "unique". His uniqueness lies in the direct, fresh, spontaneous observation of nature and reaction towards human situations(ibid:128)

Lawrence is a rational writer and expresses a well-founded and often prescient series of moral and social concerns. He writes many splendid novels such as "sons and lovers", "The Rainbow", "Women in Love" and "John Thomas and Lady Jane". Moreover, some of his short stories were issued in the collection (England, My England). He writes many famous short stories such as "Odour of Chrysanthemums", "The Blind Man", "The Virgin and the Gypsy" and "The Rocking-Horse Winner". Lawrence's stories reflect his visions. Each story treats a ubiquitous presence and unifying symbol ( Ferretter, 2017:19). The most famous short story is "The Blind Man". This story was first published in (1920) in English Review and its primary source is (England, My England). In "The Blind Man", the central characters are Maurice Pervin, who comes home effectively blind and badly disfigured from the First World War, and his wife, Isabel, who is almost well-educated, living out her life of passion with her husband. Also, there is mutual, cultural rapport between Isabel and her second cousin, Bertie Reid. Maurice and his wife live in isolation due to his blindness and disfiguration (Omran,2010 :14). To sum, the entire story underscores the difficulty and possibility of rebuilding damaged lives after war and overcoming loss.

### **3. Practical Part**

Following Willamova's Model of Hedging Devices, there are (100) hedging devices which are used in Lawrence's The Blind Man. It is found that there are (32) Subjectivity Marker, (19) Clausal Mitigators, (16) Tentativizers, (11) Downgraders, (10) Pragmatic Idioms, (6) Performative Hedges and (6) Hedges on Politeness Maxims (see Table (2) and Figure (1) ). Most of these hedging devices are used by the characters to reflected their "uncertainty" , "indecision" , "seeking agreement" , "hesitation" , "minimize the size of imposition" , "request or suggestion" , "soften unpleasant statements" so as to make their utterances sound smooth, euphemistic, respectable and express a high degree of politeness towards each other.

As if Lawrence wants to mention that British people do not deserve such bad conditions and suffering of life due to war and its consequences. He himself detested the war as something hateful. He writes to his friend, Mcleod, on 5 January,1915, saying that the war is for those who are not needed for a new life. I hate and detest the war; it is all wrong ,all foolish, all a wretched mistake (Harry.:



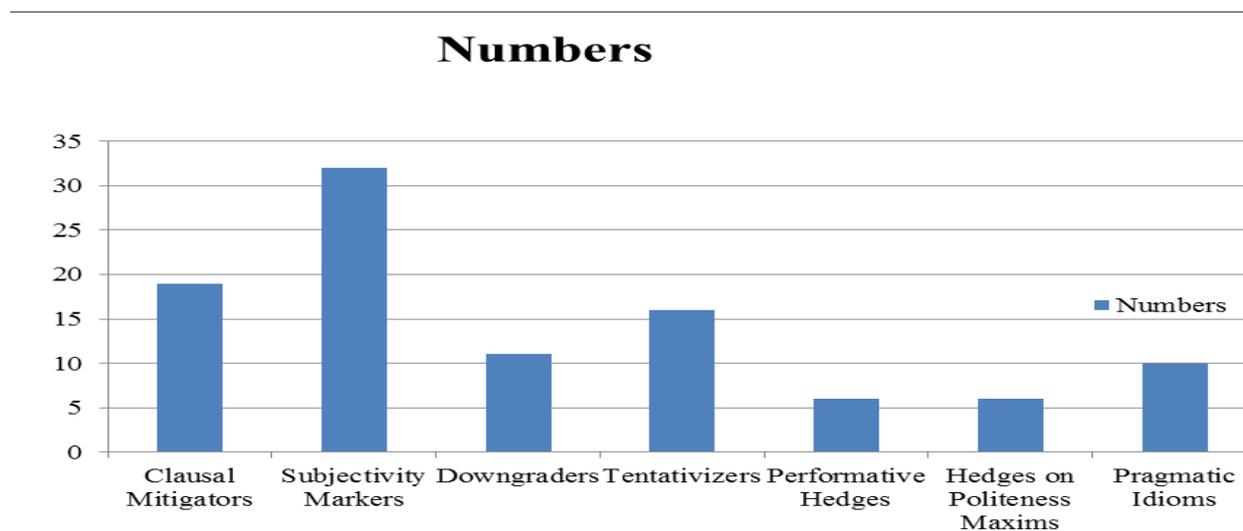
231). He seriously thought of living far away from England, from that horrible incubus of war and modern capitalism – these are the onset of ennui and discomfort. In D. H. Lawrence: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (2018) it is mentioned that Lawrence believes that :

I want to gather together about twenty souls and sail away from this world of war and squalor and found a little colony where there shall be no money but a sort of communism as far as necessaries of life go, and some real decency... a place where one can live simply, apart from this civilization... [with] a few other people who are also at peace and happy and live, and understand and be free.. (p.5)

He wants to mention that the best way to overcome the bad results of war is by being in a high degree of politeness so as to live together happily with deference, respect and more specially love to each other by using euphemistic style of speech and mitigating devices. He wants to create a world of value and meekness. Omran (2010:9) affirms that ,in his works “The Blind Man”, Lawrence almost deviates from the novelistic track and becomes a preacher.

**Table (2) Hedging Devices in Lawrence’s “ The Blind Man”**

NO.	Hedging Devices	Numbers
1	Clausal Mitigators	19
2	Subjectivity Markers	32
3	Downgraders	11
4	Tentativizers	16
5	Performative Hedges	6
6	Hedges on Politeness Maxims	6
7	Pragmatic Idioms	10
Total		100



**Figure (1) Hedging Devices in Lawrence’s “ The Blind Man”**

**3. 1. Hedging Devices Used by the Main Characters in Lawrence’s “ The Blind Man”**

Considering Willamova’s Model of Hedging Devices used by the main characters in Lawrence’s “ The Blind Man”, it is clear that Isabel uses (50) ones, i.e., the highest and the half number of hedges used in the story. In addition, Maurice uses (29) hedging devices which is more than those are used by Bertie. Bertie uses (21) hedging devices which are considered as lower than the other characters (see Table (3) and Figure (2) ).

Actually, it seems that Lawrence represents woman as a highly polite person in British community or Lawrence wants her to be in a high degree of politeness. He believes that she has a great task to undertake this crucial situation of war to keep her husband, especially the wounded soldiers of the war, and the family able to pass this disaster and to complete their life with patient and love. In D. H. Lawrence: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (2018:7) it is affirmed that Lawrence represents women as strong, independent and complex. He produces major works in which young, self-directing female characters were central. In his youth, he supported extending the vote to women, and once he wrote that “all women in their natures are like giantesses. They will break through everything and go on with their own lives.” Consequently, he gives her the half role in this mission.

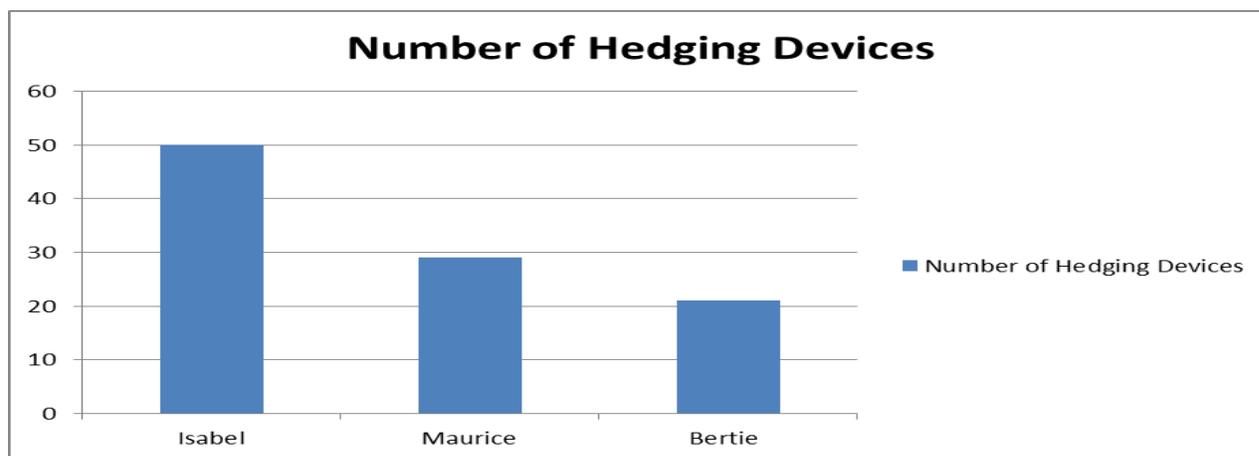
The second role is given for Maurice who is Isabel’s husband. He comes home effectively blind and badly disfigured from the First World War. He has (29) hedging devices in this story(see Table (3) and Figure (2)). Lawrence's stories reflect his visions concerning the world. Graham (1961:165) affirms that “true, Lawrence digs deep in the dark, mysterious secrecy of man's soul.” Lawrence wants to make Maurice be strong and know how to deal with his wife and others politely to exceed his blindness and weakness to complete his life in a respected and satisfactory way.

The Third role is given for Bertie who is cousin and best friend of Isabel. He has (21) hedging devices in this story (see Table (3) and Figure (2)). He is an intelligent person and has a rational mind.

**Table (3) Hedging Devices Used by the Main Characters in “ The Blind Man”**

	Hedging Devices	Isabel	Maurice	Bertie	Total
1	Clausal Mitigators	10	4	5	19
2	Subjectivity Markers	17	9	6	32
3	Downgraders	4	4	3	11
4	Tentativizers	9	5	2	16
5	Performative Hedges	6	-	-	6
6	Hedges on Politeness Maxims	2	2	2	6
7	Pragmatic Idioms	2	5	3	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>





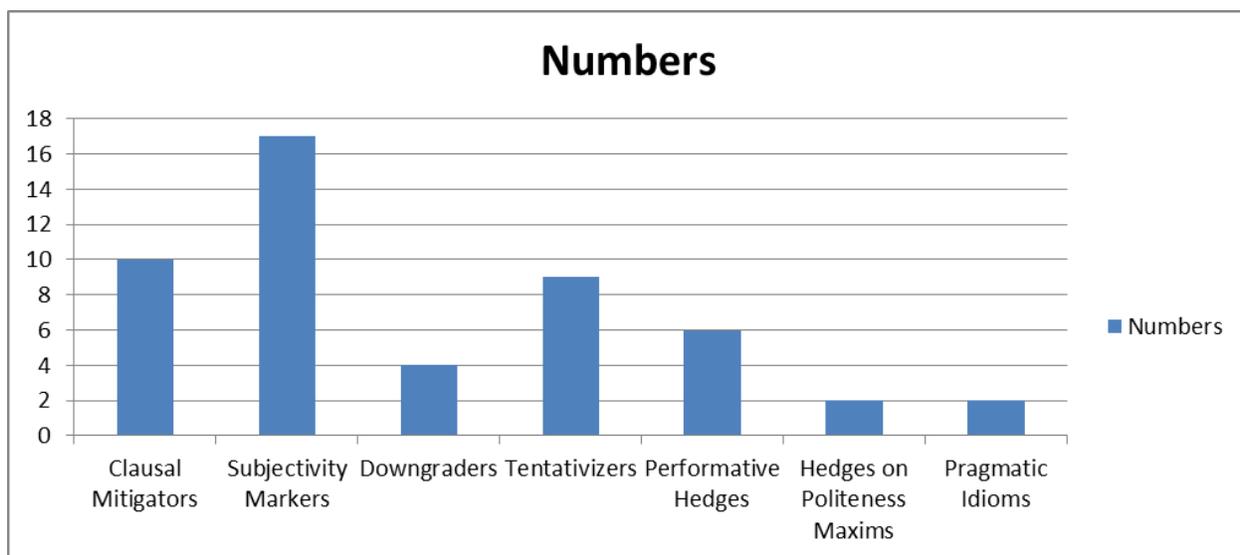
**Figure (2) Hedging Devices Used by the Main Characters in “ The Blind Man”**

**3.1.1. Hedging Devices Used by Isabel in Lawrence’s “The Blind Man”**

As far as Isabel is concerned, there are (50) hedging devices used in Lawrence’s “ The Blind Man” (see Table (3) and Figure (2)). Isabel is the 30-year-old wife of Maurice Pervin and the longtime friend of Bertie Reid. Actually, it is the highest number of hedging devices among other characters. Moreover, it is clear that she gets half of the total number of hedging devices used in the whole story. So woman in English society has a great role in the story and she is represented as more polite, modest, sensitive, effective and elegant in her style and speech. This also presented clearly in getting the highest number in terms of Subjectivity Makers(17) among other characters and the other types of hedges used by her(see Table (2),Table (4) and Figure (3)). This types of hedges reflects a high degree of politeness and respect for the others. Moreover, there are (10) Clausal Mitigators, (9) Tentativizers, (6) Performative Hedges, (4) Downgraders, (2) Hedges on Politeness Maxims and also (2) Pragmatic Idioms (see Table (4) and Figure (3)).

**Table (4) Hedging Devices Used by Isabel**

NO.	Hedging Devices	Numbers
1	Clausal Mitigators	10
2	Subjectivity Markers	17
3	Downgraders	4
4	Tentativizers	9
5	Performative Hedges	6
6	Hedges on Politeness Maxims	2
7	Pragmatic Idioms	2
	Total	50



Figure(3) Hedging Devices Used by Isabel

### 3.1.1.1. Subjectivity Makers (17)

The most influential and the highest number of hedges in Isabel’s dialogue is “Subjectivity Markers”. They include (17) hedging devices (see Table (4) and Figure(3)). They reflect her degree of politeness and deference towards the other characters specially her husband “Maurice”. Most of her hedges with her husband represent “uncertainty” or “indeterminacy” and “politeness” . The writer describes her as “She had one great article of faith, which was, that husband and wife should be so important to one another, that the rest of the world simply did not count” (p.2). Moreover, with Bertie, her hedges are expressing “suggestion and personal opinion” . So She is still polite with her oldest friend. This can be seen in the following(Lawrence, D. H. England, My England :The Blind Man, 2016: 1-27).

- **Isabel: (to Maurice):**

-‘Maurice’, she said , ‘you are not **wishing** he wouldn’t come, are you?’ (p.12)

-‘Well -- in that case -- But I **thought** you didn’t care for him ..... (p.6)

-‘Nay’, she answered. ‘Why should I console you? You **know** we love each other--. you **know** – how - married we are ! What does anything else matter. (p.13)

- **Isabel: (to Bertie):**

- ‘Oh yes’, said Isabel. I’m wonderfully well .How are you ? Rather than , I **think** .....(p.15).

-‘I don’t know’, she said , rousing herself . ‘I feel quite all right, you **know** . The child coming seems to me indifferent to everything , just placid . I can’t feel that there’s anything to trouble about, you **know**.’ (p.22).

-‘well, there it is .I **suppose** it’s just Nature. If only I felt I needn’t trouble about Maurice, I should be perfectly content--‘ (p.22)



### 3.1.1.2. Clausal Mitigator (10)

Concerning Clausal Mitigator , there are (10) hedging devices used by Isabel (see Table (4) and Figure(3)). Such kind of hedge is used to soften the illocutionary force by emphasizing the hearer freedom of action . Most of the time, Isabel talks with Maurice politely and she reflects that he has freedom of action . Thus, she uses both Pseudoconditionals (if) which reflect a satisfactory level of politeness and (but-clause) which expresses agreement. In Comprehensive Guide to Lawrence’s The Blind Man (2016:10) it is mentioned that “during the year that the pervins has been living on the farm , a wonderful intimacy has developed between them as Isabel has devoted herself to her husband’s needs.” While in talking with Bertie , especially about Maurice she tries to provide an explanation for her case to seek an agreement or partial agreement . Leech (1983:183) states that this kind of hedging devices, i.e. (but-clause) are used to “ exaggerate agreement with other people, and to mitigate disagreement by expressing regret or partial agreement, etc.”

- **Isabel: (to Maurice):**

-‘I know he wants to — he’d only be too glad,’ she replied. ‘**But** what about you, Maurice? How would you like it?’ (p.16)

-‘Well — in that case — **But** I thought you didn’t care for him —’ (p.16)

-‘Well, dear,’ she said, ‘**if** you’re quite sure —’ (p.16)

- **Isabel: (to Bertie):**

-‘I don’t know — it’s awfully hard to define it — **but** something strong and immediate. There’s something strange in Maurice’s presence — indefinable — **but** I couldn’t do without it. I agree that it seems to put one’s mind to sleep. **But** when we’re alone I miss nothing; it seems awfully rich, almost splendid, you know.’(p.21)

-‘I suppose so,’ she said. ‘**But** it’s unusual for him to be out now.’ (p.23)

### 3.1.1.3. Tentativizers (9)

There are (9) Tentativizers used by Isabel (see Table (4) and Figure(3)). These hedging devices are used to express “uncertainty” and “hesitation”. They decrease the certainty and definiteness of the utterance on one side and contribute to a high degree of politeness on the other side. Thus, most of the time in talking with “Maurice”, she uses “well” to show her respect and politeness with him. In addition, when she talks with “Bertie”, most of the time especially in talking about Maurice, she uses “I don’t know” so as to minimize her husband’s bad situation.

- **Isabel: (to Maurice):**

-‘**Well** — in that case — **But** I thought you didn’t care for him —’ (p.16)

-‘**Well**, dear,’ she said, ‘if you’re quite sure —’ (p.16)

- **Isabel: (to Bertie):**

-‘**I don’t know** — it’s awfully hard to define it — but something strong and immediate. (p.21)

-‘**I don’t know**,’ she said, rousing herself. ‘I feel quite all right, you know.(p.22)

-‘Well — I don’t know —’ She even resented this much effort. (p.22)

### 3.1.1.4. Performative Hedges (6)

In fact, there are (6) performative Hedges found in “The Blind Man” which are used only by Isabel (see Table (3), Table (4) and Figure(3)). These hedges contribute towards a high degree of politeness in several ways such as “requests”, “suggestions”, “apologies”, etc. The writer makes her appear more polite in her style and speech more than the other characters. Most of these hedges are used with “Maurice” rather than “Bertie”. She believes that her husband and her relationship with him are more important than any other things in her life. That’s why she speaks with her husband with more respect, politeness and love. Undoubtedly, she is really a strong woman. She agonizes to cover and overcome her tension, strain, torture and solitude so as to keep her house full with love and happiness. Lawrence affirms that “The dread went down to the roots of her soul as these black days recurred. In a kind of panic she tried to wrap herself up still further in her husband. She forced the old spontaneous cheerfulness and joy to continue”, (p.2).

- **Isabel: (to Maurice):**

-‘Nay,’ she answered. ‘**Why should I console you?** You know we love each other — you know how married we are! What does anything else matter?’(p. 13)

-‘Yes, **I shall be glad,**’ she answered. ‘It begins to seem long. Yes, **I shall be very glad.** So will you, Maurice, won’t you?’ she added. (p. 19)

- **Isabel: (to Bertie):**

-‘Have you had a miserable drive? **I’m so sorry** we couldn’t send a closed carriage. I can’t see you at all, you know.’ (p.14)

### 3.1.1.5. Downgraders (4)

Considering Downgraders, there are (4) hedging devices used by Isabel (see Table (4) and Figure(3)). They are used to minimize the imposition on the hearer and to show tact. Most of these hedging devices are used with “Bertie”. He was a good friend for Isabel. He was a relative of her and throughout her whole life he had been a brother figure to her. She wants to reflect her modesty with him because he is her close friend. While with “Maurice”, her style is different because, most of the time, she presents her respect with love. Now, she also introduces her modesty with him with love and satisfaction.

- **Isabel: (to Maurice):**

-‘I’m wonderfully all right, love,’ she answered. ‘It’s you I am **a little** troubled about, at times.’ (p.13)

- **Isabel: (to Bertie):**

- ‘Oh, yes,’ said Isabel. ‘I’m wonderfully well. How are you? **Rather** thin, I think —’ .(p.15).

-‘No,’ she replied to Bertie. ‘We’re very **little** later than usual. We’re having a sort of high tea, not dinner. Do you mind? It gives us such a nice long evening, uninterrupted.’(p.17)



-‘I don’t know,’ she said, rousing herself. ‘I feel quite all right, you know. The child coming seems to make me indifferent to everything, **just** placid. I can’t feel that there’s anything to trouble about, you know.’(p.22)

### 3.1.1.6. Hedges on Politeness Maxims (2)

There are (2) Hedges on Politeness Maxims used by Isabel (see Table (4) and Figure(3)). They are used to indicate a request or a suggestion and contribute to the degree of politeness that makes the speech sound more tentative. These hedging devices are used just with “Maurice”. With love and politeness , she requests him (kindly) to give his hand for her to help him in his life. Moreover, she suggests that the coming days will be or ( maybe) much better especially when they will have a baby. By using these hedges , Isabel gives him the hope that tomorrow will be better so as to help him to overcome the bad result of his blindness. She is clever woman that’s why she knows well how to deal with her husband in a way that leave him with a sense of comfort and satisfaction. Lawrence describe her as “Her presence of mind made her call, quietly and musically: ‘Maurice! Maurice — dear!’,(p.10).

- **Isabel: (to Maurice):**

-‘Give me your arm, **dear**,’ she said.

--‘Yes, I shall be glad,’ she answered. ‘It begins to seem long. Yes, I shall be very glad. **So will you**, Maurice, won’t you?’ she added. (p. 19)

### 3.1.1.7. Pragmatic Idioms(2)

There are (2) Pragmatic Idioms used by Isabel (see Table (4) and Figure(3)). They are used to mitigate a refusal . These hedging devices are used with her neighbors. She has really a great degree of politeness because she is still polite even with her neighbors. This is what Lawrence wants a woman in his special society to be polite ,kind, respectable and to deal with other people with a high degree of politeness.

- **Isabel: (to Neighbors):**

-‘No, I won’t come in,’ said Isabel, ‘**I’m afraid** I interrupt your meal.’(p.8)

-‘No, I only wanted him to come in,’ laughed Isabel, as if shyly. (p.8)

### 3.1.2. Hedging Devices Used by Maurice in Lawrence’s “The Blind Man”

In dealing with Maurice, there are (29 ) hedging devices used in Lawrence’s “The Blind Man”. (see Table (3) and Figure (2)). In this concern, it seems that Maurice Pervin, who is English blind man farmer, get the second role in this story. Lawrence suggests the title of the story in accordance to his case “The Blind Man”. His case reflects those who suffer from the misery, depression, torture, dread, hamper, disfiguration, etc., of war. As if the writer wants to present him in a way that shows the suffering and depression of such victims of war. Moreover, he wants to introduce advice and suggestions on how they can complete their life with their wives, families and society in a good and respectable way. Ferretter (2017:2)



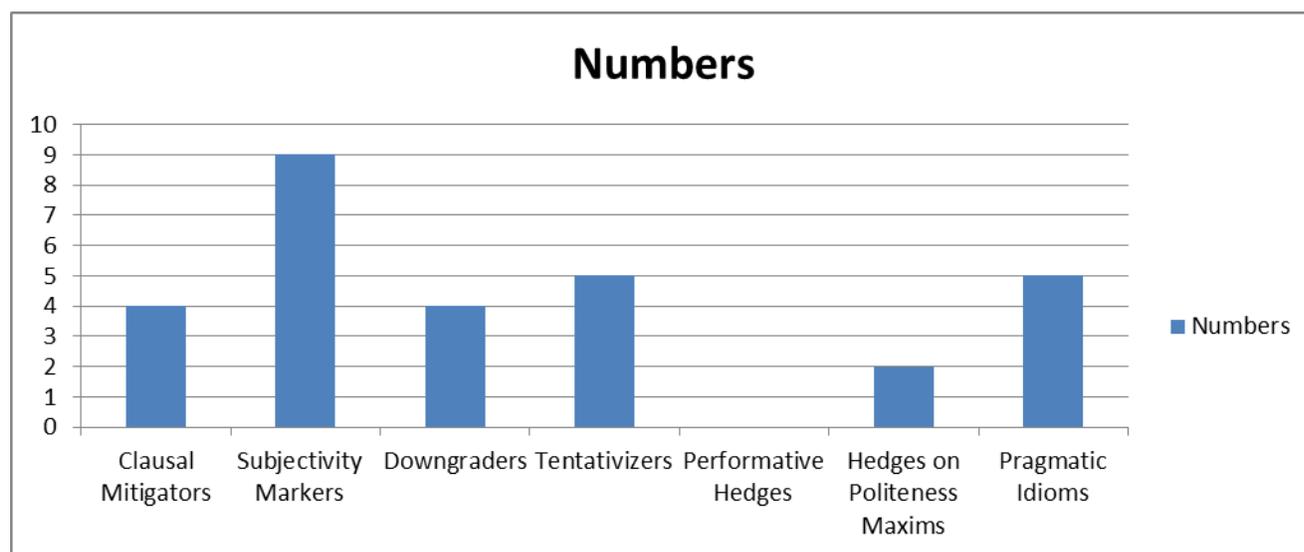


mentions that “Russell sent Lawrence the outline of his lectures, entitled "Philosophy of Social Reconstruction," which Lawrence sent back to him covered in critical notes and marginalia”. Hence, it sounds that Lawrence has certain view concerning "Philosophy of Social Reconstruction" and he has certain suggestions and solutions about how to reconstruct the society after the war so as the people can live in peace, respect and love together.

The writer believes that the best way to achieve this is ,again, by using attenuation and politeness markers in the dialogues with other people especially the family. Accordingly, this style of politeness may minimize the tension, agitation and irritation in the behavior of the people with each other and help them complete their life in a better way. Thus, just like Isabel, the highest number of hedging devices used by Maurice is “Subjectivity Markers” which reflects a high degree of respect and politeness. To sum, the hedging devices used by him are : (9) Subjectivity Markers , (5) Tentativizers , (5) Pragmatic Idioms, (4) Clausal Mitigators, (4) Downgraders, and (2) Hedges on Politeness Maxims(see Table (5) and Figure (4)).

**Table : (5) Hedging Devices used by Maurice**

NO	Hedging Devices	Numbers
1	Clausal Mitigators	4
2	Subjectivity Markers	9
3	Downgraders	4
4	Tentativizers	5
5	Performative Hedges	-
6	Hedges on Politeness Maxims	2
7	Pragmatic Idioms	5
Total		29



**Figure(4) Hedging Devices Used by Maurice**



### 3.1.2.1. Subjectivity Markers (9)

There are (9) Subjectivity Markers used by Maurice in “ The Blind Man” (see Table(5) and Figure(4)). Just like Isabel, Subjectivity Markers get the highest number of hedging devices. In The Blind Man By D.H. Lawrence Essay (2016) it is affirmed that to “understand the meaning of "The Blind Man", one must first try to understand Maurice Pervin.” He has spent most of his life with sight. Because of the war, he becomes totally blinded in Flanders and he had a disfiguration mark on his brow. When he returns home, and his wife Isabel adjust to his new disability, he agonizes to face his blindness and weakness to complete his life with his lovable wife. He depends on her for everything he can no longer do.

With Isabel , he uses certain hedging markers that show his uncertainty, indecision and high degree of indeterminacy. His opinion is open to further negotiation that is suitable for her. This manifests a high degree of politeness and deference. He wants to achieve whatever make her feel happy and satisfied. While with Bertie, he uses hedging markers to present suggestion and seeking agreement. He is still polite in his speech. As if Lawrence suggests that this style of politeness is the suitable one for Maurice to live with his family and the others a natural and respectable life .

- **Maurice (to Isabel):**

-‘Oh, I don’t know. I might **think** differently of him now,’ the blind man replied.(p.6)

-‘I couldn’t quite say,’ he answered. ‘I **feel** myself rather on the qui vive.’ (p.12)

-‘I **suppose** he works himself to death.’(p.16)

- **Maurice (to Bertie):**

-‘No,’ he said, ‘not unbearably. Now and again one struggles against it, you **know**. But there are compensations.’ (p.20)

-‘I don’t know,’ said Maurice. ‘Sometimes I **feel** it isn’t fair that she’s saddled with me.’ Then he dropped his voice curiously. ‘I say,’ he asked, secretly struggling, ‘is my face much disfigured? Do you mind telling me?’(p22).

-‘Oh, my God’ he said, ‘we shall **know** each other now, shan’t we? We shall **know** each other now.’(p.26)

### 3.1.2.2. Tentativizers (5)

There are (5) Tentativizers used by Maurice (see Table(5) and Figure(4)). . They are used to reflect a high degree of politeness by conveying “hesitation” and “uncertainty”. In his speech with Isabel, he connects two types of hedging devices which are “Subjectivity Markers” and “Tentativizers”. Both of them indicate his “hesitation” and “uncertainty” which convey a great degree of politeness and deference in talking with his wife. Moreover with Bertie, he also uses hedging devices that show his “hesitation” and “uncertainty” when they talk about Isabel and his blindness. He doesn’t want to show his weakness for Bertie but he still polite with him.

- **Maurice (to Isabel):**

-‘Oh, **I don’t know**. I might think differently of him now,’ the blind man replied.(p.6)

- **Maurice (to Bertie):**

-‘Oh, **I don’t know**. There’s a good deal when you’re not active.’ (p.20)

- ‘**I don’t know**,’ said Maurice. ‘Sometimes I feel it isn’t fair that she’s saddled with me.’(P.24)

-‘There’s no telling,’ he said. Then again, in an odd tone, he added: ‘**I don’t really know** you, do I?’(p.25)

### 3.1.2.3. Pragmatic Idioms (5)

There are (5) Pragmatic Idioms uses in “ The Blind Man) by Maurice (see Table(5) and Figure(4)). Theses hedging devices indicate suggestions and request and thus contribute to the degree of politeness in that they make the utterance more tentative. With Isabel, he uses suggestion when he talks with her about Bertie besides using another hedging devices at the same sentence to show his love and respect for her. He cannot live without her. It is clear that Lawrence makes him seem very careful in his speech with others especially his wife so as to deal with them politely and then they will be able to pass the difficulties of war and life wisely.

In addition , with Bertie, he also uses hedging devices that make him look more polite in presenting his suggestion. He believes that since Bertie is the person who may take the attention of his beloved wife so he must control this person and know how to deal with him while he still polite with him. Thus, he suggest to touch Bertie and know him as a friend. Again , this is also style suggested by Lawrence wants to make Maurice be strong and know how to deal with others politely to exceed his blindness and weakness to complete his life in a respected and satisfactory way.

- **Maurice (to Isabel):**

-‘Oh, I don’t know. I **might think** differently of him now,’ the blind man replied.(p.6)

-‘**Do you mind**,’ he said, ‘if I go and speak to Wernham?’(p.21)

- **Maurice (to Bertie):**

--‘I don’t know,’ said Maurice. ‘Sometimes I feel it isn’t fair that she’s saddled with me.’ Then he dropped his voice curiously. ‘I say,’ he asked, secretly struggling, ‘is my face much disfigured? **Do you mind** telling me?’(p22).

-‘**Do you mind** if I touch you?’(p.25)

### 3.1.2.4. Clausal Mitigators (4)

There are (4) Clausal Mitigators used by Maurice in this story (see Table(5) and Figure(4)). These hedging devices are used to increase politeness by expressing agreement, request or mitigating disagreement by expressing partial agreement, etc.. With Isabel , he uses these hedging devices to seek her agreement to do



something or to express his partial agreement concerning the attendance of Bertie. He ,again, uses more than one type of hedging devices so as to be more polite with her. He always tries to speak with her lovely and respectably.

With Bertie , he also uses more than one type of hedging devices at the same sentence so as to be more polite. He introduces partial agreement concerning considering blindness as something unbearable. He doesn't want to sound as a weak person. Besides, he requests Bertie to touch him. He wants to know how this person looks like and if he may causes certain trouble for him in the future. In The Blind Man By D.H. Lawrence Essay(2016:6) it is stated that Maurice questions Bertie about his scars and his disfigurements. He asks to touch Bertie's face and in return has Bertie touch his. As Maurice touches Bertie, he makes the comment that Bertie is not as tall and feels much younger than he imagined. This symbolizes who Bertie really is. Maurice has built Bertie up in his mind because of Isabel's praise and the fact that Bertie has sight. It is not until he touches him that he realizes this man is not the threat he originally thought. It gives him a strength and peace to request him to be his friend.

- **Maurice (to Isabel):**

-‘Yes — **if** he wants to.’(p.6)

-‘Do you mind,’ he said, ‘**if** I go and speak to Wernham?’(p.21)

- **Maurice (to Bertie):**

-‘No,’ he said, ‘not unbearably. Now and again one struggles against it, you know. **But** there are compensations.’ (p.20)

-‘Do you mind **if** I touch you?’(p.25)

### 3.1.2.5. Downgraders (4)

Considering Downgraders, there are (4) hedging devices used by Maurice (see Table(5) and Figure(4)). These hedging devices are used to make the speaker seem tact and modest. Maurice tries to show his modesty to his wife and minimize his imposition with her. He couldn't quite say anything for her that may make her upset. In addition, he is ready to do anything for her sake to be happy with him. With Bertie, he also expresses his politeness by minimizing his imposition in his speech. In spite of his fear that Bertie may compose certain threat for his life and happiness with his wife by attracting her attention to him, Maurice is still polite with him. As if he feels that politeness is the best way to deal with others and to gain their respect and interest.

- **Maurice (to Isabel):**

-‘I couldn't quite say,’ he answered. ‘I feel myself **rather** on the qui vive.’ (p.12)

- **Maurice (to Bertie):**

-‘My way? No, not a **bit**. I'm glad Isabel has somebody to talk to. I'm afraid it's I who am in the way. I know I'm not very lively company. Isabel's all right, don't you think? She's not unhappy, is she?’ (p.24)

-‘She needn't be afraid of that.’ He continued to caress the flattened grey head of



the cat with his fingers. ‘What I am a **bit afraid of,**’ he resumed, ‘is that she’ll find me a dead weight, always alone with me down here.’(p.24)

### 3.1.2.6. Hedges on Politeness Maxims(2)

There are (2) Hedges on Politeness Maxims used by Maurice in “The Blind Man” (see Table(5) and Figure(4)). They are used to mitigate refusal or criticism. Both of them are used with Bertie in talking concerning Isabel. He is afraid that she may feel unhappy with him. In spite of his refusal to the attendance of Bertie and his living with them , he is still be polite with him and talk with him politely and respectably.

- **Maurice (to Bertie):**

-‘My way? No, not a bit. I’m glad Isabel has somebody to talk to. **I’m afraid** it’s I who am in the way. I know I’m not very lively company. Isabel’s all right, don’t you think? She’s not unhappy, is she?’ (p.24)

-‘She needn’t be afraid of that.’ He continued to caress the flattened grey head of the cat with his fingers. ‘What **I am a bit afraid of,**’ he resumed, ‘is that she’ll find me a dead weight, always alone with me down here.’(p.24)

### 3.1.3. Hedging Devices Used by Bertie in Lawrence’s “The Blind Man”

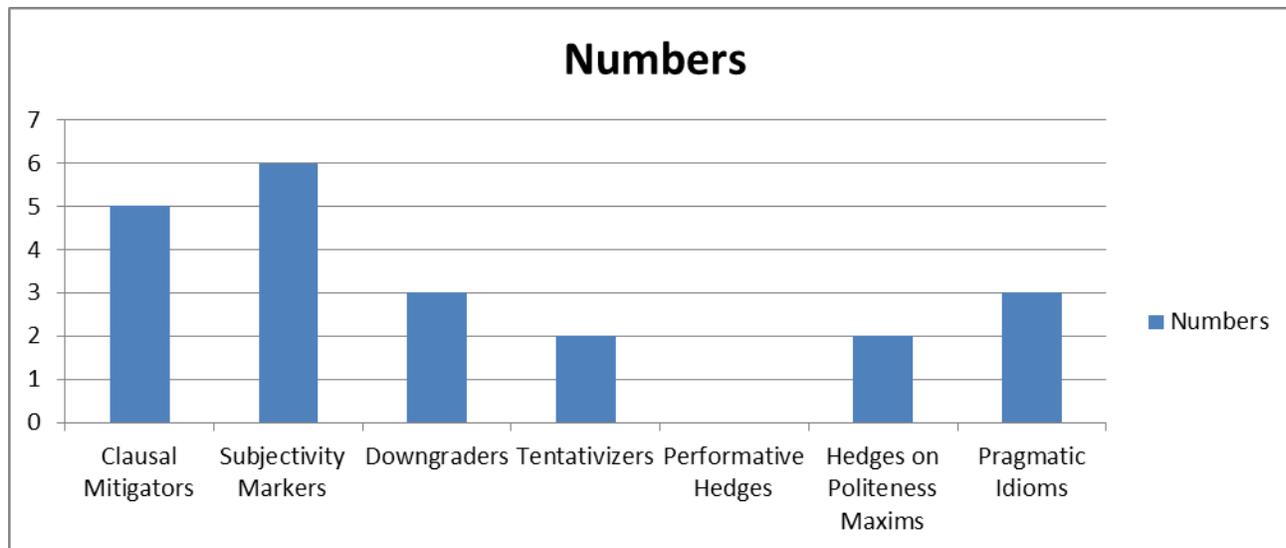
As far as Bertie Reid is concerned, there are (21) hedging devices used in Lawrence’s “ The Blind Man” (see Table (3) and Figure (2)). He is Scottish barrister. He is Isabel's dearest friend and relative. He is intellectual, witty, small and thin person. Lawrence selects him to have the role of other people who should participate in changing the society after the war and how they should behave with the case of the blind man as example for other cases of the suffering society. He uses Scottish person because they have the characteristics that are suitable for the new orientation that he wants for his new society. In How are English and Scottish People Different (2014:3), it is affirmed that “the Scottish outlook is generally socialist, self-effacing one. They are more society –orientated than in England who are more individual- orientated”. Obviously, Lawrence chooses Bertie with his rational mind, social orientation, and politeness to help Isabel and Maurice to get rid of their isolation. Hence, he may help Maurice to exceed his disfiguration and weakness so as to return to his natural life and contact with other people. To sum, the hedging devices used by him are : (6) Subjectivity Markers , (5) Clausal Mitigators (5) , (3) Downgraders, (3) Pragmatic Idioms,(2) Tentativizers, and (2) Hedges on Politeness Maxims(see Table (6) and Figure (5)).

**Table: (6) Hedging Devices used by Bertie**

No.	Hedging Devices	Numbers
1	Clausal Mitigators	5
2	Subjectivity Markers	6
3	Downgraders	3
4	Tentativizers	2



5	Performative Hedges	-
6	Hedges on Politeness Maxims	2
7	Pragmatic Idioms	3
	Total	21



**Figure(5) Hedging Devices Used by Bertie**

### 3.1.3.1. Subjectivity Markers (6)

There are (6) Subjectivity Markers used by Bertie in Lawrence’s “The Blind Man” Just like Isabel and Maurice, Subjectivity Markers get the highest number of hedging devices. These hedging devices are used to indicate personal opinion or belief besides introducing the speaker’s “uncertainty” and “indecision. They attenuate the speaker meaning by increasing the degree of subjectivity of the utterance. Being uncertain or indecisive may present a manifestation of politeness and deference. Ferretter ( 2017) confirms the following:

One of the few passages Lawrence likes in Russell's typescript is his section on "Subjectivism," "the hardening and separation of the individual" which he believes to be the essence of the problems of contemporary society, including the cause of the war. Lawrence writes emphatically beneath this section, "I think this is best" (Russell, "Philosophy" 16; LBR 92). This is no doubt because in this section Russell broaches the kind of criticism of the world-view that underlies social formations for which Lawrence is looking.(p.7)

It seems that Lawrence has certain world-view that underlies social formations which bases on dealing with one another, weather with the member of the family or other people, in terms of a high degree of politeness , respect and kindness .



Consequently, the use of hedging devices is the most important way that can be used to achieve these aims and orientations.

Most of these Subjectivity Markers are used with Maurice like (I believe, I hope, I don't think so). They represent his personal opinion or belief concerning Maurice's case. He doesn't want him to suffer more of his blindness and disfiguration. While with Isabel, he uses (suppose) . This reflects his "uncertainty" which manifest his politeness and deference for her.

- **Bertie (to Isabel):**

-‘I **suppose** we're all deficient somewhere,’ (p.22)

-‘I **suppose** he'll come in,’ he said. (p.22)

- **Bertie (to Maurice):**

-‘I **believe** it is,’ said Bertie. ‘Are there compensations?’ he added, to Maurice. (p.20)

-‘I **hope** I'm not in your way at all at the Grange here,’ said Bertie, rather shy and stiff.(p.24)

-‘I **don't think** so.’(p.24)

-‘I **don't think** you need think that,’ said Bertie, though this was what he feared himself. (p24)

### 3.1.3.2. Clausal Mitigators (5)

There are (5) Clausal Mitigators used by Bertie in this story ( see Table (6) and Figure (5)).They are (if and but) which are used to mitigate the content of the message by adding softener so as to be more polite and respected person. Moreover, they may use to increase politeness by expressing refusal or disapproval. With Isabel, Bertie uses both of these hedging devices . He wants to show her his respect and a high degree of politeness. In addition, with Maurice, he uses these hedging devices to express his politeness with him by softening the force of utterance. Besides, he indicates his refusal to Maurice's belief that his face is disfigured. He wants him to feel that he is a natural person and he can complete his life naturally and happily.

- **Bertie (to Isabel):**

-‘Worked to death — everybody's old cry. **But** I'm all right, Ciss. How's Pervin? — isn't he here?’(p.15)

-‘Well — **if** you wouldn't mind. I'd go, **but** —’ She did not want to make the physical effort.(p.23)

- **Bertie (to Maurice):**

-‘And that is a relief,’ said Bertie. ‘**But** what is there in place of the bothering? What replaces the activity?’ (p.20)

-‘There is the scar,’ said Bertie, wondering. ‘Yes, it is a disfigurement. **But** more pitiable than shocking.’ (p. 24)

### 3.1.2.3. Downgraders (3)

As far as Downgraders is concerned, there are (3) hedging devices used by Bertie



( see Table (6) and Figure (5)). They are used to minimize the size of imposition that is being made on the hearer. All of these hedging devices are used with Maurice. Bertie wants to minimize the imposition on Maurice that is being made by his blindness and disfiguration. He elucidates that Isabel is “just little uneasy or trouble” about you. He doesn’t want him to feel that he is in need to other. He is a natural person and he can depend on himself.

- **Bertie (to Maurice):**

-‘Isabel was a **little uneasy**,’ said Bertie.(p.23)

-‘She says she’s very content — **only a little troubled** about you.’(p.24)

### 3.1.3.4. Pragmatic Idioms (3)

There are (3) Pragmatic Idioms used by Bertie in “The Blind Man” ( see Table (6) and Figure (5)). There are polite mitigators purely softening the imposition carried out. They are used to indicate polite “request” or “suggestion”. With Isabel, he presents his request politely. What’s more, with Maurice, he uses hedging devices to express “suggestion” with a high degree of politeness. He suggests that he shouldn’t be afraid of his scar or disfiguration because this will lead him to live in suffering and dejection. As if Lawrence wants to use Bertie as a mean to make Maurice return to his social and natural life. In this concern, Rudy (2011:10) insists that Lawrence believes that “to be alive, to be man alive, to be whole man alive; that is the point”. Thus undoubtedly, If Maurice still feels afraid and ashamed of his blindness and disfiguration he will live alone and will be dejected.

- **Bertie (to Isabel):**

-‘**Would you like** me to go out and see?’(p.23)

- **Bertie (to Maurice):**

-‘**Perhaps afraid that you might brood**,’ said Bertie, cautiously.(p.24)

-‘**Probably not**,’ said Bertie. (p.25)

### 3.1.3.5. Tentativizers (2)

There are (2) hedging devices used by Bertie in “The Blind Man” ( see Table (6) and Figure (5)). They are used to convey “hesitation” and “uncertainty” to present a greater degree of politeness. Both of these Tentativizers are used with Isabel. Most of the time, when she talks about Maurice she wants to contend that they are happy in spite of his blindness. She affirms that “ ‘**No — no, not at all. No, on the contrary, really. We’ve been wonderfully happy, incredibly. It’s more than I can understand — so wonderful: the nearness, and the peace —**’ ” (p. 15). Thus, he respects her feeling and talks with her with a high degree of politeness. As if he wants to encourage her to feel happy and to complete her life exultantly. Clearly, Lawrence uses Bertie to help Isabel also so as to transcend the difficulties and suffering of life after war.

- **Bertie (to Isabel):**

- **Well**, how are you? You’re looking fit as ever, as far as I can see.’(p15)

-‘Ah! **Well**, **that’s awfully good news** —’(p.15)





### 3.1.3.6. Hedges on Politeness Maxims (2)

As far as the last point is concerned, there are (2) Hedges on Politeness Maxims are used by Bertie in this story. They are used to “minimize cost to other” and mitigate refusal or criticism to show respect and politeness. Again, both of these hedging devices are used with Isabel while they are talking about Maurice and how she feel happy with her husband and in having a new baby. She expounds that “There’s something strange in Maurice’s presence — indefinable — but I couldn’t do without it. I agree that it seems to put one’s mind to sleep. But when we’re alone I miss nothing; it seems awfully rich, almost splendid, you know” (p.21). Moreover, she adds that “I feel quite all right, you know. The child coming seems to make me indifferent to everything, just placid. I can’t feel that there’s anything to trouble about, you know” (p22). He affirms that is really good thing to have a child and to complete the life with her husband with happiness and ambition. In this case, they will achieve a great goal to exceed the blindness and bad results of war to complete the life naturally and happily. This what Lawrence wants to achieve in this story.

- **Bertie (to Isabel):**

-‘**I’m afraid** I don’t follow,’ said Bertie. (p21)

-‘**A good thing, I should say,**’ he replied slowly.(p.22)

### Conclusions

All of the seven types of hedging devices introduced by Willamová’s Model are detected in the dialogue of the three main characters in Lawrence’s “The Blind Man. Moreover, Hedging Devices are really useful in making us realize the interpersonal and attitudinal meaning in our communication. What’s more, the research paper has revealed the significance of using pragmatic hedging devices in the language of the three main characters that help in reflecting their personality, tendencies, goals, social background and the plot of the short story. It has also proved that mental and spiritual aspects are reflected in the language used by the speakers, with special focus on markers of politeness as necessary part of each language to deal with one another with respect and gratitude.

Isabel is very strong woman. She has a great task to undertake the bad results and crucial situation of war so as to keep her husband and their life together. With Maurice, she uses certain hedges expressions that reflect a high degree of politeness, uncertainty, indeterminacy, respect, deference, suggestion, seeking agreement, tact and modesty. Her politeness is manifested not only by the content of her speech but also by its structure. She considers him the most important person in her life. Moreover, she uses request and suggestion with him so as to affirm that they must get on together and tomorrow will be surely better. While with Bertie, she uses certain hedges expressions that reflect suggestion, personal opinion, providing explanation about her husband case, seeking agreement, modesty,

uncertainty. She considers him just as a good friend , brother figure, and relative. What's more, she deals with other people with a high degree of politeness. To sum, Lawrence believes that Isabel will be the good model for woman who agonizes to control her life in a way that makes her and her family overcome the tension, ,violation, devastation, and desperation of war.

Maurice is the blind man. As if the writer wants to present him in a way that shows the suffering, depression, pain, irritation and devastation of such victims of war. The writer gives him a hard task to pass his pain and weakness and to live with other a natural and respectable life. Lawrence believes that the best way to achieve this is by using attenuation and politeness markers in the dialogues with other people especially the family. With his wife, he uses different types of hedging devices so as to show her his love, respect, gratitude and a high degree of politeness. He most of the time uses uncertainty, indecision, deference, polite request, seeking agreement, soften the propositional content of his utterance, minimize his imposition to be modest with her. While with Bertie he uses certain hedging devices that introduces suggestion, request, hesitation, partial agreement, and mitigated refusal. He believes that since Bertie may take the attention of his beloved wife so he must control this person and know how to deal with him while he is still polite with him. Accordingly, it seems that Lawrence makes him be very careful in his speech with others especially his wife so as to deal with them politely and then they will be able to pass the difficulties of war and will be ready to complete life in a respected and satisfactory way.

He is Scottish. Lawrence chooses him with his rational mind, social orientation, and politeness to help Isabel and Maurice to get rid of their isolation and to have a happy and natural life in spite of the difficulties and bad results of war. With Isabel, Barite introduces a high degree of respect and dearness for her. He uses certain hedging devices to show uncertainty, hesitation, softening the illocutionary acts, polite request and softening his reaction towards her speech. While with Maurice, he uses certain hedging devices to present his personal opinion or belief , emphasizing his freedom of action, modesty, minimize the size of imposition and polite suggestion. He doesn't want him to suffer more of his blindness and disfiguration. He wants him to feel that he is a natural person and he can depend on himself. Consequently, it is clear that Lawrence believes that the suitable way to achieve this aim is by using a great degree of politeness that makes the other feel that they have their own respect and position in life in spite of their suffering or disfiguration.



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