Abstract
Hedging is a multi-faceted phenomenon which can be approached from several points of view and which combines semantic, pragmatic and cognitive factors. This paper aims to integrate all these factors, offering an approach to the study of the use and the communicative goals of this type of discourse modulation devices in English and Spanish architecture project descriptions. It will try to discern which is the rhetorical function assigned to each one of the sections of these texts, which are the means used for the fulfilment of this function and in which of these chapters the authors’ intention is made more evident. The analysis of the texts in the corpus seems to indicate that the phenomenon of hedging in the genre of architecture project description fulfils three main communicative purposes. First, these strategies can express the authors’ wish to show deference and politeness towards their audience; secondly, they seem to be an indication of the authors’ need to protect themselves against the possible negative consequences of being proved wrong; and lastly, they are evidence of the authors’ consideration of the required degree of precision in their texts.

Keywords
Discourse analysis, language for specific purposes, architecture project description, hedging, move structure.