## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to express my deepest and sincere gratitude to my thesis advisor, Dr. Hsueh-ying Yu, for her enlightening guidance and inspiring instruction in the development and completion of this study. Dr. Yu stimulated my interest in the field of discourse analysis and improved my ability in writing. In the process of meeting and discussion, Dr. Yu not only provided prudent and pointed guidance but also gave me warm and sincere support.

Thanks also go to the committee members, Dr. Chen-kuan Chen and Dr.

Hsueh-o Lin, for their profound and carefully aimed comments and suggestions
during the oral defense. My gratitude is extended to all my teachers in the Master of
Arts in English Teaching Program, for their devoted instruction.

I am appreciative of the members of my thesis study group, Sarah Hu and Stacey Meng, for their support and encouragement during the tough time of this year. I also want to thank my colleague, Joanna Shen, for her reviewing my writing and offering opinions about the study. Special thanks go to my classmate, Melody Chen, for her warm company and help on my defense.

A special gratitude and love goes to my family for their unfailing support. I thank my parents for their abiding love. I thank my lovely son, Henry, for his sweet smile and understanding. Finally, I want to express my deepest love and thanks to my loving husband, Kenny Sung, for his support, taking care of our son, and sharing the housework during the most difficult time of thesis writing.