

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deepest and sincerest gratitude to my advisor, Professor Peng Chin-ching for his enlightening guidance and inspiring instruction in the development and completion of this study. During the process of writing the thesis, I learned a lot from him. Without his initiation and guidance, this thesis would not have been completed.

Gratitude is also extended to Professor Chou Shuo-kuei and Professor Hsueh-ying Yu for their insightful comments about the content of this thesis during the oral defense.

Furthermore, I heartily thank my students for their cooperation in the experiment. Without them, I could not have explored the issues discussed in the thesis and finished this study.

Sincere gratitude would be given to my dear friend Jason Huang and my dear classmate Grace Hsu, who spent precious time discussing with me and proofreading the thesis.

Last but not least, a special gratitude and love go to my family for their unfailing support. I thank my husband for his loving support to encourage me to get through the difficult times.