

Acknowledgements

My warmest thanks go to my advisor, Dr. Hsun-huei Chang, for her inspiring guidance and encouragement throughout my research for this work. I greatly appreciate Dr. I-li Yang and Dr. One-soon Her for their helpful suggestions and comments, which make this study more complete. I also want to extend my thanks to all my teachers in the Department of English in Chengchi University for their instructions during the past three years of my study.

Next, I would like to thank all my friends, Xiou-lin, Hsiu-ya, Chiou-hung, for accompanying me to go through this process. I am lucky to have such good friends like you to be able to discuss the questions about my study and to share the ups and downs of my life.

Finally, I would like to dedicate my greatest thanks to my family. My parents' encouragements inspired me to get started with this study. My two brothers' valuable experience of completing a thesis made me have confidence and hope to keep doing my research. And most important of all, my dearest husband's support and love gave me faith and strength to make this work possible.