

Acknowledgements

My warmest thanks go to Dr. Leah C. Y. Yeh, for her inspiring guidance and consistent encouragement throughout my research for this work. For their reading of the manuscript and for helpful suggestions and other support, I want to thank Dr. I-li Yang and Dr. Chen-kuan Chen. My gratitude is also extended to my friends, Pei-lan Chen, Mei-jun Wu, Fu-hui Zeng and Ting-ting Lin for their constant help and encouragement. I would like to thank the nine participants in this study for their generosity and constant help along the way.

I am really grateful to my uncle and my aunt for their suggestions and encouragement. Finally, I would like to extend my heart-felt thanks to my parents, brothers, and husband. Their unfailing love and support have made this work possible.

