ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The deepest and sincerest gratitude is expressed to my advisor, Dr. Chi-yee Lin, for his inspiration and consistent encouragement throughout my research for this work, and for his prudent correction and enlightening guidance on the revisions of my thesis. Without his diligent support and guidance, the completion of this thesis would not have been possible.

Gratitude is also extended to Dr. Ming-chung Yu and Dr. Chia-yi Lee for their helpful suggestions and profound comments about the content of this thesis during oral defense. My gratitude is also extended to all my teachers in the Master of Arts in English Teaching program, National Chengchi University, for their devoted instruction.

I am also grateful to my colleague Chia-wen Tsai for undertaking the painstaking job for grading the participants' compositions. She is a dedicated teacher, though busy in school, but still willing to help me with the tiring and time-consuming job. I would also thank my colleague, Yu-chien Wu for helping me to use SPSS. Without my colleagues, it would not be possible for me to accomplish this study.

Finally, special gratitude and love must go to my family for their constant support. I would like to thank my parents and in-laws for their sincerest love, my husband for sharing most housework and offering encouragements and my two lovely children for providing me with enthusiasm. With their encouragement and support, I am able to go through the most difficult time to make the impossible things possible.