Acknowledgements

The moment when I finish this thesis, a vivid picture flashes through my mind. I recognize the scene which captures one of the passages from Anya in Anton Chekhov’s *The Cherry Orchard* that she says: “we’ll read during the autumn evenings. We’ll read lots of books and a wonderful new world will open up before us.” To complete this master’s thesis in a series of long “winter evenings” is a stressful experience. In this acknowledgements, I do not feel any intense emotion that I have while writing the thesis but am thereby eager to dedicate my genuine gratitude to those who support and encourage me. The first one I am fully obliged to is my advisor, Dr. Te-hsing Shan, who shows his profound knowledge of literature and labor of love to guide my thesis. In the process of writing, what I learn from him most is that he instructs me to not only assume a careful writer, but also a responsible person. He painstakingly revises my writing and wisecracks that the time he spends on my writing is much more than the time he alone performs an academic production. Although my advisor takes on a position in Academia Sinica, I am not only moved by his academic vigor but I also discern the intellectual rigor followed by a scintillating outburst of inspiration. Besides, I am also deeply indebted to my parents because they accompany with me to navigate through the unstable sea of academic research. Another important person is my elder sibling. With some of his practical advices, I can see a lighthouse directing me to follow. My advisor sometimes alludes to my brother that he has set a remarkable example for me; however, he does not intend to compare my ability with that of my brother. Instead, the aim of my advisor is to encourage me to do what I should do in this moment. After the day of oral defense, I eventually realize the whole writing experience is not only a practice, but it may provide an extraordinary opportunity to recognize and actualize the idea of “strangers within myself.”