

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who gave me the possibility to complete this thesis.

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Jen-Te Hwang from the College of Social Sciences of the National Chengchi University for his help, suggestions, and encouragement to write this thesis.

I would like to thank my sister Lisa for her continuous support and advice, also I would like to give my special gratitude to my young daughter Raquel whose patient love and understanding enabled me to complete this work.

