

Acknowledgements

I want to take this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to my advisor, Professor Margaret Yang Mar. Without her careful guidance and immense patience and above all the confidence she gave me, I would not be able to finish this thesis. During the period when anxiety and fear of never being able to finish this thesis filled me up, it was Professor Mar who carried me through. The weekly, which later changed to once every two weeks, meetings with Professor Mar were not only enlightening and broadening my knowledge on drama and on literature but also helped me to gain new perspectives on life and its values. Special thanks to Professor Ting Shan-Hsuing and Professor Jerome Keating for their precious comments they offered during the oral defense. I appreciate especially Professor Keating for his suggestions on how to improve my thesis.

Second, I want to thank my parents who stood firmly behind me when I was down on schedule with my thesis. With love, patience and the right amount of pressure, they supported me all the way.

Last but not least, I want to thank my girlfriend, Mina, who accompanied me without complain to the libraries, the coffee shops and fast-food chain stores or whichever place I felt like working. The gratitude I have for her encouragement and support she gave me cannot be expressed in simple words, but I still want to take this opportunity to say: "Thank you for being there for me."

I want to dedicate this thesis to all the aforementioned people. Knowing them has been my privilege and I know that the experience I gained during the eighteen months will help me through many hardships I have yet to face in life.

Tse-yue Wu

November 2007