

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to all the people who have assisted me in making my research journey a truly knowledgeable experience. My sincere gratitude to them for their help and encouragement during the course of my study.

First and foremost, my profound thanks to Professor Dr. Moses Samuel, my supervisor, who always finds time, in spite of his very tight schedule, to discuss the approach to this scholarly research and writing. Thank you, Prof, for your insightful supervision, invaluable and expert advice, unstinting encouragement and infinite patience.

My sincere thanks and appreciation also to Professor Dr. Siow Heng Loke for his encouragement and help during the course of my study.

My heartfelt gratitude is extended to my family. To my father, Sim Moh Khoon; my mother, Set Nyat Fung; my brother, Lawrence; my sister-in-law, Valerie and my sisters Fiona and Hannah; thank you for spurring me on with your moral and spiritual support, unflinching encouragement and unswerving love. Hannah, thank you for your enormous help, for being with me, for motivating and giving me the strength throughout the course of my study. You are all the inspiration behind this effort!

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the Yayasan Sarawak Tunku Abdul Rahman Foundation for granting me the scholarship, and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) for granting me the study leave to undertake this study. A special word of thanks is due to the English Language teacher and students for their participation and cooperation in sharing their perceptions and challenges of the writing process which enabled this study to come to fruition. I acknowledge with myriad thanks to my best friend, Quah Cheng Sim for her sincere help, motivation and encouragement, for lending a sympathetic ear to my woes when I was inundated with scores of data and figures, and for accompanying me throughout the course of this study. I also greatly value my friends, Dr. Sim Gek Ngoh, Jesstine Goh and Leong Siow Hoo for their moral support and assistance in one way or another.

Above all, I thank God for His steadfast love, abounding blessings and for guiding me through this inspirational research journey.