

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, this *Independent Study* project would not have happened without a clear direction from Asst. Prof. Dr. Somsook Khongpan who inspired me to discover a real topic of my interest. Once the project started, ajarn Somphob Boonmee, Ror Roowong and Somdul Tamnao who are the three joke masters in Chonburi kindly explained the joke riddle background to me. All of their contributions to this project are highly appreciated.

I would like to thank the Language Institute, Thammasat University for supporting me during the coordination period of the field study. My sincere thanks also go to Ajarn Kanjana Makphoon, Ajarn Somjit Nuchpan, Ajarn Samang Leelaphiromchai, Ajarn Ornit Suksathit and respondents from both Chonburi Sukhabot School and Phanatphittayakharn School who were very cooperative in this study.

My gratitude also goes to Assoc.Prof.Dr. Damrong Atthapreechakul, Dr. Pattama Sappapan, and Asst. Prof. Tanom Tiensawangchai who kindly help me set off at the early stage of this study. Then, Asst. Prof. Aree Sa-ad-awut who gave me basic knowledge about statistics and Asst. Prof. Dr. Chatsiri Piyapimonsit who guided me through the statistical analysis. Unforgettably, Dr. Torphong Jamtawee, my kind advisor who gave me guidance, practical advice and encouragement throughout the process of this study.

Finally, I'm grateful for all the unconditional support from my family, especially my beloved sister, Dr. Noppawan Chimroylarp.

Thammasat University
Bangkok, Thailand

Kanya Chimroylarp
March 2009