**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** 

This research could not have been accomplished without the great

encouragement, support and facilitation from many people. In particular, my gratitude

is expressed to Associate Professor Dr. Ketvalee Porkaew for her expert direction and

valuable comments to do such a topic. This has substantially improved my independent

study.

My appreciation is also extended to all the instructors and staff at The Language

Institute for the knowledge and support they have provided me throughout my two

years at Thammasat University.

I also thank all the respondents who kindly gave their valuable time in

answering my questions, and my friends and family, who have always supported me,

no matter how difficult a time it was.

Thammasat University

Sirirat Sanichwannakul

Bangkok, Thailand

March 2009

iii