

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Assist. Prof. Phaisan Wutthijumnong for his long time advice. I am also deeply grateful to my co-supervisors, Assoc. Prof. Rungnaphar Pongsawatmanit, Assist. Prof. Thongchai Suwonsichon, Assist. Prof. Sakchai Wittya-areekul for their valuable advice throughout the study and in the preparation of this thesis.

I would like to express my gratitude to Assist. Prof. Ravipim Chaveesuk, for serving as the Graduate School representative of Kasetsart University.

I am extremely grateful to all of my friends at Kasetsart University.

I would also extend my acknowledgements to the Graduate School, Kasetsart University and the Ministry of University Affairs, Thailand for supporting the grant.

Finally, I am greatly indebted to my parents, my sister, my husband, and my children for their support, love and encouragement, their unconditional support give me indistinguishable will power to pursue this doctoral study.

Wilai Sonthipermpon

October 2006