

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks go first of all to everyone who, by making such an effort in contributing ideas and knowledge, made this project possible. You remain anonymous and anonymized but you know who you are!

My thanks also to my beloved wife, Mia, for our runs together and for keeping me sane: as Hakunna Matata (Aji and Assifa) say, running certainly teaches you a lot about how to write!

Above all, my thanks go to Prof. Dr. Busmin Gurning, M.Pd, Head of English Applied Linguistics Study Program and also my advisor, whose advise, encouragement, reviews, comments, suggestions and patience have been a feature of the writing process from the very beginning of this thesis. His unerring ability to spot his problems and mistakes saved me from many mishaps and inspired me to go further than he might otherwise have done. The writer is also grateful to Prof. Amrin Saragih, M.A., PhD, the co-advisor, for his robust criticisms, reviews and assistance were extremely helpful.

