

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, The Loving and The Merciful. The very first of all, the writer's endless and infinite gratitude is primarily expressed to Allah swt as The Creator, for His blessings and mercy that the writer can finish this thesis. In addition, *shalawat* to the Prophet Muhammad s.a.w also must be delivered for his loving that all people can be out of the darkness into the lightness especially in education as experienced by the writer today.

So many people are carried and really helpful in the accomplishing of this thesis, even with direct or indirectly role. Their contributions are really uncountable to be revealed because it is realized by the writer that they have different positions with different ways in supporting the thesis finishing. Hence, the writer would like to convey her great gratitude to her thesis consultants, Prof. D.P.Tampubolon, Ph.D and Dr. Anni Holila Pulungan, M.Hm, for their great ideas, guidance and patience that lead the writer to the end of this thesis completion. She should also thank to the board of examiners Prof. Amrin Saragih, M.A, Ph.D, Prof. Dr. Berlin Sibarani, M.Pd and Prof. T. Silvana Sinar, M.A., Ph.D for their constructive comments, suggestions and valuable time in improving this thesis.

The writer also would like to extend her sincere gratitude to the Head of LTBI, UNIMED, Prof. Dr. Busmin Gurning, M.Pd and his staff, Farid, for their assistance regarding the administrative procedures. In addition, the writer would

like to thank to all lecturers for their knowledge and character building during the process of teaching and learning either at classes or outside.

At this opportunity, the writer also must express her thanks to her husband Sahata Silalahi and her sons Fahmi Syauqi Silalahi (especially for his great role as the subject of this research) and Tasqinal Ardho Silalahi, for their loves and understanding during the writer's time of studying and carrying out the thesis. The writer knows well that their rights as a husband and children have been reduced because of the writer's activity, especially in conducting this research. Later, to the writer's parents, Rubiah and Poniman, for their endless spirit and praying. The writer knows well how both of them always effort to give their attention for the writer's success in all of her life sides.

Finally, the writer realizes that this thesis is still so far from being perfect. Therefore, she really appreciates all of the constructive critics for its improvement.

THE
Character Building
UNIVERSITY

Medan, December 2012

Nurliah