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In the novel *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*, John Steinbeck (1962) states that “the honest bookkeeper, the faithful wife, the earnest scholar get little of our attention compared to the embezzler, the tramp, the cheat” (p. 198). That is why the next pages are in acknowledgment of all these earnest, hardworking, dedicated, and inspiring supervisors, teachers, colleagues, students, scholars, friends, and family members that made this dissertation possible. If possible, some words will be used to describe my gratitude. Thank you!

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