7 Acknowledges

The present dissertation project has been performed in Berlin Geriatric Center (EGZB) of the Medical Faculty Charité of the Humboldt-University Berlin. First of all I would like to express my deep respects and gratitude to my doctor Vater (supervisor), Professor Steihagen- Thiessen who offers me the opportunity to work and study in Germany. During my study here she guides me in this interesting project and gives me a lot of ideas and extends my view in research fields. Throughout the research period, she has continually supported me in completing this study. Her guidance and support have encouraged me work hard. Under her instruction and assistance this project was completed smoothly.

I would like to express my sincerely gratitude and respect to my co-supervisor Dr. Borchelt who patiently taught me how to do clinical research helped me to acquire a lot of knowledge in the field of epidemiology, scientific concepts and guided me to completing the present study. Under his guidance I comprehended the spirit of the study and discovery deeper, which made my study in Germany successful and will benefit my future work too. His strict and serious scientific attitudes impressed me and encourage me to dedicate myself to this field of research. From him I have acquired not only research knowledge, but also the spirit of contributing to science which will help my future career too.

I would like also to show my sincere respect and thankfulness to Dr. Nieczaj for his kindness, patience, thoughtfulness, continuous support and encouragement. He patiently taught me to do medical statistics starting from the basis, and help me step by step to acquire a great deal computer knowledge, which not only enable me successfully to complete this research, but will also help me in my future work.

I also would like to express my gratitude to the head of neuro-psychological department in EGZB, Dr. Gernot Lämmler and his colleagues who gave me a lot of friendly help and useful supports. This friendly help and kindness will stay in my mind forever.

My great thanks and deeply respect also goes to Dr. Hans-Peter Thomas and Dr. Ralf-Joachim Schulz. I am especially very grateful Dr. Thomas for his contribution to the research design at the beginning.

I would like to thank all geriatricians, neuro-psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers and nurses in EGZB for their work on the medical records, which provide a solid basis of present study. And I also thank all of them for their useful advice and support throughout this study.

Moreover, I am very grateful the entire medical staff in EGZB for their friendship and kindness, especially I would like to thank the medical staff in ward 1. Two years study experience in EGZB under a very warmly and friendly atmosphere will always remain in my mind.

Finally, I would like to show my deep love and gratitude to my family, my husband and my daughter, my mother and my sisters, their immense love, encouragement and support motivated me to finish this works.

My special thanks go to the Charite International Cooperation for successfully managing this PhD program with ZAST of China, which made my study in Germany possible.

I would like to formally acknowledge the support of Zhejiang Association of Science and Technology (ZAST) for making my PhD degree education at Charite possible.

I also would like to thank the hospital I worked at China (Zhejiang Hospital) for offering me the chance to study in Germany, and financially supporting my study in Germany and encouraging me to study hard.

If I would like to name everybody who has kindly contributed to my PhD study and my thesis, the list would be endless. Thus, I apologize to everybody reading these lines not mentioned personally.