

A Cecilia, Luis y Carmen

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of my committee for their help, comments, time and support through the writing of this dissertation. I am indebted to my advisor, Fernando Martínez-Gil, for his encouragement, friendship, intellectual support and the stimulating discussions that helped me find the way of my research. I am also grateful to David Odden and Elizabeth Hume who introduced me to Optimality and Correspondence Theories and who gave me hope in phonology at a time when I was so disappointed with syntax. I thank Terrell Morgan for his teachings, support and friendship since my arrival in this country up to present. I also want to thank Norma Mendoza-Denton for coaching me on job searching and for her participation on my committee. To all of them, I am deeply grateful.

I thank Dieter Wanner for his participation on my exam committee and Josep Fontana for his teachings and friendship. I thank all the people at the Spanish Department who offered me their friendship and support throughout my five years at Ohio State.

Lastly but not less importantly, I want to express my gratitude to my parents, Cecilia and Luis, and to my beloved friend Carmen for they have brought inspiration to my life and joy to my heart. Thanks to my family and, above all, thanks to God.