

## Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements of course, go to my Director of studies, Professor Alan Sproull, and supervisors Dr. Bob Arnot and Professor John Bryden, for their help over the period of the preparation of this thesis.

Of my colleagues who were not on my supervisory team I would like to specifically acknowledge the advice, support and encouragement of several, in particular Professor Stephen Bailey and Dr Jonathan Cowie.

My thanks go to all those within the Gaelic community who patiently helped me with my many enquiries, and who are too numerous to mention, but whose lives should now be much simpler, given the completion of my thesis.

Throughout this time, without the humour of, and unqualified support from, my fellow researchers, present and past, Marjorie Marshall, Dr. Lisa Fingland, Emily Thomson, Ian Elliot, Donald Campbell and Cathy Mathieson, the period of my research would have been darker indeed. Finally I must acknowledge the full support, encouragement and indeed forbearance of my partner Mhairi McGowan and my three wonderful kids Seonaid, Duncan and Ruairidh who through their own numerous sacrifices allowed me the space to complete this work.

*In memory of my parents Daisy and Frank Chalmers - in particular of my father who only rarely doubted in public that I would complete this work*