Tables

2.1 Adoptees' response to researcher's request to interview birth mother 27
2.2 Adoptees' response to researcher's request to interview adoptive parent 28
2.3 Years between adoptees' contact with birth mother and research interview 29
2.4 Comparison of sample characteristics with the sample characteristics found by Sachdev (1992) and Pacheco and Eme (1993) 30
2.5 Comparison of sample characteristics with characteristics found by Sachdev (1922) 31
2.6 Comparison of study sample's adoptive parent status with adoptive parent status reported by Sachdev's sample at the time of interview 32
2.7 Adoptee siblings' desire for reunion 33
3.1 Adoptees' reasons for desire to search for their birth mothers 41
3.2 Years between adoptees' thought and action 49
3.3 Adoptees' reasons for postponement of the search 51
3.4 Adoptees' postponement of search and fear of outcome of search 51
3.5 Adoptees' life-change event within six months of search for their birth mothers 54
4.1 Response of adoptive parents to adoptees' request for adoption order 64
4.2 Length of adoptees' search before identification of birth mother 71
5.1 Method of contact and response of birth mother 81
5.2 Type of contact established by adoptees with birth mother 88
6.1 Adoptees' first impression of birth mother 99
6.2 Adoptees' description of established relationship 102
6.3 Symbolic gesture and type of contact 103
6.4 Type and frequency of contact maintained between birth mother and adoptee 109
6.5 Type of contact with birth mother and interest in contact with birth father 113
x Tables

6.6 Type of contact and birth mother’s description of birth father 114
6.7 Contact with birth father 118
7.1 Perception of self after contact with birth mother 123