



THE IMPACT OF LOGISTICS SERVICE QUALITY ON USER  
BEHAVIORAL INTENTION:  
A CASE STUDY OF A THIRD-PARTY LOGISTICS SERVICE  
PROVIDER

By  
TING LIU

A Final Report of the Six-Credit Course  
SCM 2202 Graduate Project

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

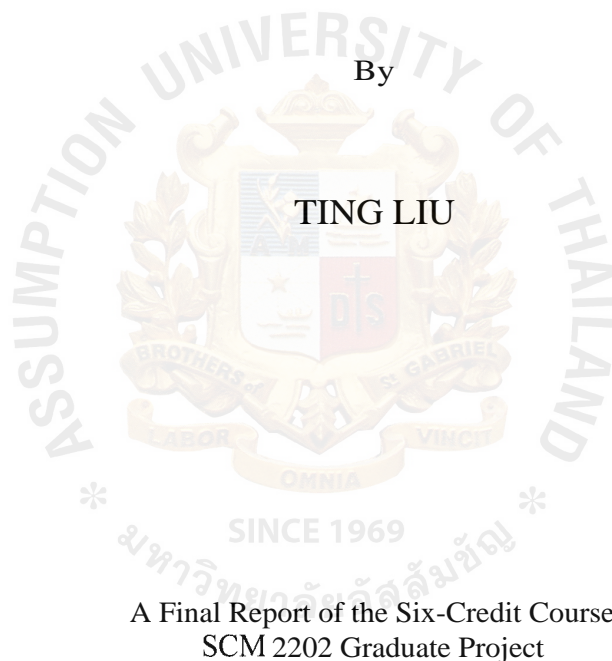
Martin de Tours School of Management  
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Examination Committee:

1. Dr. Ismail Ali Siad (Chair) .....
2. A. Piyawan Puttibarncharoensri..... (Member) .....
3. Asst. Prof. Dr. Nucharee Supatn..... (Advisor) .....

Approved for Graduation on: April 3, 2009

Martin de Tours School of Management  
Assumption University  
Bangkok, Thailand

April 2009

**Assumption University**  
**ABAC School of Management**  
**Master of Science in Supply Chain Management**

**Form signed by Proofreader of the Thesis/Project**

Asst. Prof. Brian Lawrence \_\_\_\_\_, have proofread this Graduate Project entitled


The Impact of Logistics Service Quality on User Behavioral Intention:

A Case Study of a Third-Party Logistics Service Provider

Ms. Ting Liu

and hereby certify that the verbiage, spelling and format is commensurate with the quality of internationally acceptable writing standards for a master degree in supply chain management.

Signed a<sup>1</sup>



(Asst. Prof. Brian Lawrence)

Contact Number / Email address blawrence au.edu

Date: /0,c/c ci

## ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the study was to explore the relationship between logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and customer behavioral intention to respond to the logistic service providers. Mentzer's nine-dimensional model of logistics service process was used to assess service quality provided by **Zhongshou** Third-Party logistics service provider. The nine-dimensions of Mentzer's model include personnel contact quality, order release quantities, information quality, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality, order discrepancy handling and timeliness. The research was conducted using primary data. Questionnaires were sent to 86 User Companies of **Zhongshou** logistics service provider across mainland China.

Results of the study indicated that there are significant relationships between logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and behavioral intention. However, only personnel contact quality and timeliness dimensions were found to have positive significant effect on customer satisfaction, and only information quality and timeliness significantly affect behavioral intention.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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I would be remiss if I did not thank the many others who have contributed along the way. Recognition is necessary for the other members of my project committee, Dr. Ismail Ali **Siad** and Dr. **Thanapat Panthanapratez**, both of who provided me with critiques and input to make this project complete. In addition, I appreciate **Mr. Yuehan M.**, the senior vice-president of **Zhongshou** Third-party logistics Service Company, who was the key informant for the expert interview as well as assisting me during the data collection process: this study would not have come to fruition, were it not for his help.

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# CHAPTER I

## GENERALITIES OF THE STUDY

In today's highly competitive market, logistics is recognized as a critical factor in gaining competitive advantage from the business world. The original logistics operations process includes the purchasing, storing, transporting and distributing of physical goods. Over the years, to fulfill the need of the market, logistics service has developed from a single-party logistics to fifth-party logistics service provider. There is a long way from self-managed to using e-logistics networks focusing on global operation. For those, the third party logistics (**3PL**) is contractual logistics focusing on regional operations and could help a firm to concentrate on its core activities and thus may result in lower cost and better customer service. Hence, **3PL** providers are no doubt key contributor to the success of user firms.

In China, with a high economic growth rate and huge market potential, outsourcing of logistics activities to **3PL** service providers has become a widely prevalent direction. Hence, the Chinese third party logistics industry has entered a period of rapid expansion and transformation. The Report '2006 Third-Party Logistics, Result and Findings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Study" by Capgemini Consulting Co. (Langley et al, 2006) reported that users of **3PL** services plan to develop a wide spectrum of activities in China. The most popular activities (more than 50% response) are the importing and exporting of finished goods to and from China. The item of outsourcing production to third parties in China (47%) was closely followed. They also mentioned that the top four logistics services **outsourced** in China are: transportation, warehousing, custom clearance, and freight forwarding. Here exist tremendous opportunities as well as intense competition. Compared with other developed countries, China's logistics are still not enough to operate cheaply, smoothly and effectively. The general problems that arise in logistics include delays, inaccurate information, incomplete service, slow and inefficient operations, and high product damage rate.

Currently, Logistics service quality (**LSQ**) has gained more attention from service providers, because it is important to gain a significant competitive advantage in customer satisfaction. There are many empirical studies that provide strong support for the link between improvements in **LSQ** and customer satisfaction and loyalty (Daugherty, Stank, and Ellinger 1998; **Menzer**, Flint, and **Hult** 2001, Johnson et al., 2001; Lam et al., 2004).

The studied company is a **3PL** service provider which was set up with huge investment assets. Face with China's lively market, a high level customer service quality becomes a determinant to defeat competition. This paper will focus on the impact of logistics service quality on **3PL** user satisfaction and behavioral intention, by using relevant theory and an analytical case study.

### **1.1 Background of the Company**

**Zhongshou** Logistics Company (hereafter to be called **ZS**) is a third-party logistics company that was established in 2003. It provides freight forwarding, transportation, inventory management, warehousing, and other related logistics services. For the warehousing service, the firm has a total of 162,000 square meters space to offer to customers, which includes three modern warehouses and container yards in Beijing. It employs over 150 full-time employees. In 2007, the company recorded annual revenue of 12,000 million Chinese Yuan (**CNY**) and 798 million profit before tax.

**ZS** provides logistics service to two major customers in the steel and automotive business. This study focuses only on the automotive business customer. For this sector, **ZS** has invested a huge amount of money to build an integrative logistics center to cooperate with Beijing Hyundai Automobile Co. Ltd., which is a joint venture company between China and Korea. **ZS** provides the **3PL** service to Hyundai and their cooperators, including **MOBIS** (Hyundai Automotive accessories), and Beijing **HanTai** (Automotive parts) as well as its suppliers which



are located across China. The main logistics functions that ZS serves for those are transportation, inventory management and warehousing. The activities are show in the following table:

**Table 1.1: Detailed Activities of Each Logistics Function**

<b>Logistics Function</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Transportation	Customs clearing, forwarding, brokering, household goods, relocation, (de)consolidation, contract delivery
Inventory Management & Warehouse	Storing, receiving, assembling, returning goods, marking/Labeling, Forecasting, Location analysis, layout design
Order processing	Order entry fulfillment
Information Systems	EDI, VMS

Source: Adapted from Sink et al. (1996)

When the automobile parts arrive at the port, ZS will handle the customs broker and clearance procedures; after that, ZS will carry the containers to their own bonded warehouse center to operate. During this process, the operations start with unloading the cargo, unpacking, consolidation, assembling until relocation. Then, the cargo will be forwarded to the Hyundai's private storage. Finally, ZS must also deliver the cargo to the Hyundai plant for the manufacturing process.

This paper aims to study the impact of logistics service quality on customer satisfaction, which, in turn, affects behavioral intention such as word of mouth, complaint, recommending and switching.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

The purpose of the study is to explore the relationship between logistics service quality, customer satisfaction, and customer behavioral intention to the logistics

industry. Mentzer's nine-dimensional model of the logistics service process is used to measure the service quality received from **Zhongshou** Third-Party logistics service provider. The nine-dimensions of the model are: personnel contact quality, order release quantities, information quality, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality, order discrepancy handling, and timeliness. Hence, this study attempts to answer the research question: "how does third party logistic service quality impact user satisfaction and intention to **outsource** the logistics service in the future?"

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

There are three major objectives in this study:

- 1.3.1 To formulate and examine the conceptual model of behavioral intention for the logistics industry.
- 1.3.2 To study the impact of logistics service quality on customer satisfaction and behavioral intention.
- 1.3.3 To draw conclusions and give recommendations on the use of logistics service quality, and customer's satisfaction to enhance behavioral intention.

### **1.4 Scope of the study**

This is a case study of **Zhongshou** Third-party logistics service provider. The data were collected from their users' census survey which is the process of obtaining information about every member of a population. Then the respondents of this study are their 86 users who are located across mainland China.

## **1.5 Limitation of the study**

The study is limited by the following factors:

1.5.1 The small population size is a limitation of the study. Also, both of the respondents are focused on only one service provider.

1.5.2 The respondent's truthfulness in responding to the questions within the survey.

1.5.3 The ability of the respondents to comprehend the questions provided to them and to provide appropriate responses

## **1.6 Summary**

This study used the Zhongshou Third-Party Logistic Company to explore the relationship between logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and customer behavioral intention.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The definition of logistics adopted by The Council of Logistics Management, is that part of the supply chain process that plans, implements, and controls the efficient, effective flow and storage of goods, service, and related information from the point of origin to the point of consumption in order to meet customers' requirement. The main functions that are **outsourced** to third party logistics include transportation, warehousing, freight consolidation and distribution, product marketing, labeling and packaging, inventory management, traffic management and fleet operations, cross-docking, product returns, rate negotiation and logistics information systems (Sink, et al 1996).

#### 2.1 Development of 3PL Service Providers in China

Many researchers, in investigating the Chinese logistics industry from various perspectives, have three main categories of logistics providers in Chinese logistics industry, in terms of their ownership: state-owned, private, and foreign logistics companies (Hong & Liu 2004).

Under a centrally planned economy, only state owned logistics providers were allowed to enter the market, which offered transportation and warehousing services, but rarely performed value-added and other logistics activities. In 1978, the government reformed the logistics industry through establishing a new commodity circulation system. In this system, state owned enterprises played a leading role, while private companies were encouraged to engage in some logistics activities. Some restrictions to foreign logistics investments were not removed until China entered the **WTO** in 2001. Most restrictions to foreign investments were removed at the end of 2005. The promising market potential has encouraged many foreign



companies to enter the market, including some leading logistics service providers, such as UPS, FedEx, and DHL (Hong et al., 2004).

Hong and Chin (2006) studied location decisions of foreign logistics providers in China based on a census database. They found that the location decisions are determined by market size, labor cost and quality, transport conditions, and government policies. In addition, foreign logistics firms tend to cluster in cities with a large number of existing logistics providers, confirming the existence of logistics agglomeration.

## **2.2 Problems of the 3PL Industry in China**

Considerable research has been done concerning strategic decisions of logistics providers in China. For instance, there are several shortcomings of local logistics providers, especially their undependable services and unresponsiveness to customer needs (Carter et al. 1997).

Normally, young foreign companies cannot achieve high levels of local purchasing, and managers have to develop both technological and management expertise in their local suppliers (Zhang and Keith 2001).

Luk (1996) reviews a series of distribution reform activities and **finds** that some problems, such as regional differences, still exist and deter the development of the Chinese logistics industry.

Jiang and Prater (2002) conclude that although there are some barriers to logistics development, three factors such as a booming economy, entering the **WTO**, and e-commerce, provide opportunities for the Chinese logistics service providers.

Wang et al. (2006) examine strategic postures of **3PL** providers in China. They find

that differentiation strategy users perform better, and companies pursuing cost leadership are shifting towards differentiation strategy under the pressure of intense competition.

Hong et al. (2004) examined the Chinese manufacturers' usage of outside logistics services and find that there is an increasing trend for firms to **outsource** logistics services. Major dissatisfaction is caused by rate level, poor on-time delivery performance, and limited service offerings.

### **2.3 Behavioral Intentions**

Anderson and **Mittal** (1994) defined behavioral intentions as an outcome of the satisfaction process, which can be grouped into two categories: economic behavior and social behaviors (Smith et al., 1999)

Economic behavioral intentions are customer behaviors that impact the financial aspects of the firm such as repeat purchase behavior (Anderson and **Mittal**, 2000), willing to pay more, and switching behavior (**Zeithaml** et al., 1996). Szymanski and **Henard**(2000) also mentioned there is a positive relationship between customer satisfaction and repeat purchasing. Also the repurchase intentions of satisfied customers are significantly higher than the intentions of dissatisfied customers (Halstead and Page, 1992). Increasing overall satisfaction leads to greater repurchase intentions, as well as actual repurchase behavior (Anderson et al., 1994; Anderson and **Mittal**, 2000; Ralston, 1996; **Zeithaml** et al., 1996; Bolton, 1998). For the purpose of the present research, we refer to economic behavioral intentions in the context of intention to return.

Social behavioral intentions are customer behaviors that impact the responses of other existing and potential customers of the firm, such as complaint behaviors (Johnston, 1998; **Nyer**, 1999; Tax et al., 1998) and word-of-mouth communication

(Szymanski and **Henard**, 2001; Wright et al., 1996). Social behavioral intentions, both positive and negative, impact the individual customer as well and influence the opinions of other customers too. Information disseminated through word of mouth of existing customers is then used as an input for expectations of future customers (Anderson et al., 1994). Consumers take performance outcomes of a product/service, and then use the information to shape their own subsequent expectations as well as expectations of others through word-of-mouth (Oliver, 1997). For the purpose of the present research, we refer to social behavioral intentions in the context of intention to recommend.

## **2.4 Customer Satisfaction**

In the existent studies, the concept of customer satisfaction has been included in various theoretical and conceptual frameworks. Hunt (1977) and Westbrook (1980) defined the concept of customer satisfaction as a process of evaluating or measuring a purchase experience where expectations are compared with the result. It was also defined by Oliver (1997) as the consumer's fulfillment response which is a judgment that a product or service provides a pleasurable level of consumption-related fulfillment. In other words, it is the overall level of contentment with a service or product experience.

The important question of this concept is what factors could measure the customer satisfaction. Some approaches which have been used, identify drivers of customer satisfaction which include concepts like expectations, emotions, equity, service, quality and price (Oliver, 1997; Szymanski and **Henard**, 2001). In conclusion, customer satisfaction could be measured in two ways: measuring overall perceived satisfaction or comparing the reception and expectation of the customers on those related attributes (**Hausknecht**, 1990; Ryan et al., 1995).

Customer satisfaction is mentioned as a key driver of long-term relationships

between suppliers and buyers by (Geyskens et al., 1999; Woodruff and Flint, 2003) and it is positively related to customer loyalty (Johnson et al., 2001; Lam et al., 2004).

## **2.5 Logistics Service Quality (LSQ)**

Logistics Service quality is defined as describing the company's ability to deliver the right amount of the right product at the right place at the right time in the right condition at the right price with the right information (Coyle, Bardi, and Langley 1992; Shapiro and Heskett 1985; Stock and Lambert 1987). It is also considered by (Perrault and Russ 1974) as playing the most important role in customer satisfaction.

From all of the above literature, the most comprehensive treatment is that of Mentzer, Flint, and Hult's development of a nine-dimensional model of logistics service process segmentation (2001). Their framework provides the basis for the current examination of logistics service quality. The nine dimensions include: personnel contact quality, order release quantities, information quality, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality, order discrepancy handling, and timeliness.



Table 2.1: Nine Dimensions of Logistics Service Quality

<b>LSQ Dimension</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Personnel contact quality</b>	Refers to the customer orientation of the supplier's logistics contact people. Specifically, customers care about whether customer service personnel are knowledgeable, empathize with their situation, and help them resolve their problems.
<b>Order release quantities</b>	Related to the concept of product availability. The 3PL provider can challenge customer's requests to ascertain the need behind their volume requests. Customers should be the most satisfied when they are able to obtain the quantities they desire.
<b>Information quality</b>	Refers to customer's perceptions of the information provided by the supplier regarding products from which customers may choose..
<b>Ordering procedures</b>	Refer to the efficiency and effectiveness of the procedures followed by the supplier.
<b>Order accuracy</b>	Refers to how closely shipments match customer's orders upon arrival. This includes having the right items in the order, the correct number of items and no substitutions for items ordered.
<b>Order condition</b>	Refers to the lack of damage to orders. If products are damaged, customers cannot use them and must engage in correction procedures with suppliers, depending on the source of the damage.
<b>Order quality</b>	Refers to how well products work. This includes how well they conform to product specifications and customers' needs. Whereas order accuracy addresses the complete set of products in the order (i.e., the accuracy of the kinds and quantities of the products in the order) and order condition addresses damage levels of those items due to handling, order quality addresses the manufacturing of products.
<b>Order discrepancy handling</b>	Refers to how well any discrepancies in orders are addressed after the orders arrive.
<b>Timeliness</b>	Refers to whether orders arrive at the customer location when promised. More broadly, timeliness also refers to the length of time between order placement and receipt. This delivery time can be affected by transportation time, as well as back-order time when products are unavailable.

Source: Adapted from Mentzer et al. (2001)

## 2.6 Summary

Based on the literature review above, the Chinese Third-Party Logistics industry has entered a period of rapid expansion and transformation. But compared with other developed countries, China's logistics still do not **sufficiently** operate cheaply, smoothly and effectively. The general problems that are raised in logistics include delayed and inaccurate information, incomplete service, slow and inefficient operations and high product damage rate. Therefore, Mentzer's nine-dimensional model of logistics service process is used in this case study to measure the logistics service quality provided by Zhongshou.



## CHAPTER III

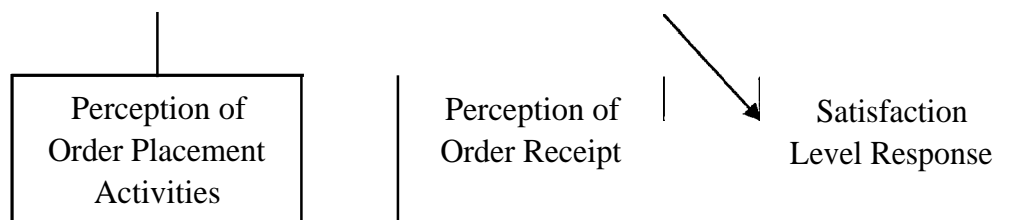
### RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

This study is a descriptive study with a main objective to investigate factors influencing the customer behavioral intention of 3PL users. The literature will be reviewed and a conceptual framework will be proposed.

#### 3.1 Theoretical Framework

As mentioned, the important variables related to the 3PL service quality have been identified from Mentzer's literature. It is generally understood that customers place orders, orders are processed, order are shipped, and orders are received (e.g., Byrne and Markham 1991; Mentzer, Gomes, and Krapfel 1989; Persson 1995). Customers have contact with this process when placing and receiving orders. When order receipt is not as expected, customers stay engaged in the logistics process through discrepancy handling. The general framework is shown in Figure 3.1:

**FIGURE 3.1**  
**A General Customer-Perceived LSQ Framework**



Source: Adapted from Mentzer et al. (2001)

Mentzer and colleagues discussed their model based on the stages that from order placement to order receipt. First, order placement components include four

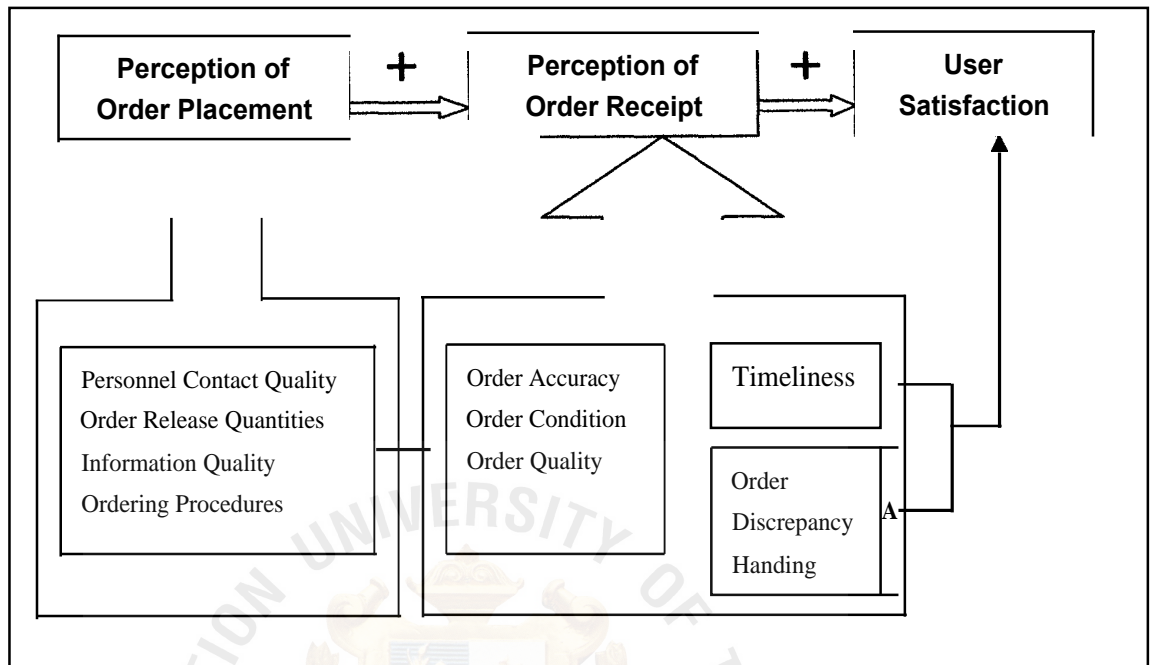
components which are personnel contact quality, order release quantities, ordering information quality and ordering procedures. Until the order receipt stage, customers do not have any perception of the tangible products that are delivered.

At the order receipt stage of **LSQ**, there are three components, order accuracy, order condition and order quality. Timeliness is also part of order receipt. This is the first time that a customer can really assess the timeliness of the logistics process. Perceptions of these four order receipt components are driven by other four order placement components. However, customers do not always receive orders as they expected. In this situation, customers ask the service provider to correct the mistake. Thus, dealing with service providers about orders not received as expected (i.e. discrepancy handling) is still part of order receipt activities. When discrepancies need to be addressed, timeliness is affected. Orders are not considered on time until they are received as ordered. Thus, timeliness is driven by the process of placing orders.

Finally, satisfaction should be driven by the timeliness of orders received and the manner in which discrepancies are handled. It is expected that order accuracy, order condition, and order quality will operate through timeliness and through order discrepancy handling to influence satisfaction. Figure 3.2 shows the conclusion of the **LSQ** Model from Mentzer et al. (2001).



**FIGURE 3.2**  
**The Conclusion of LSQ Model**

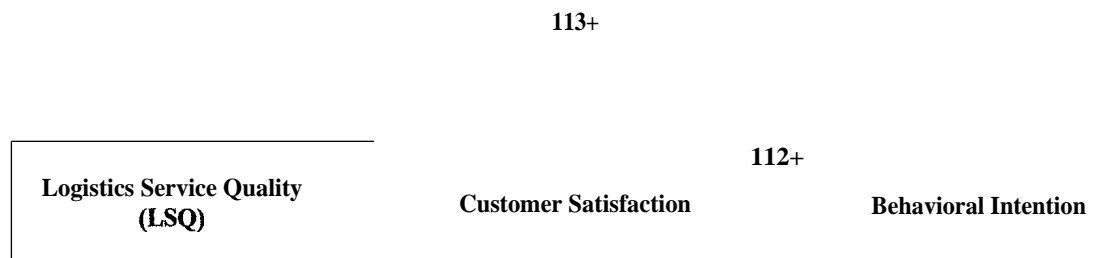


Source: Adapted from Mentzer et al. (2001)

### 3.2 Conceptual Framework

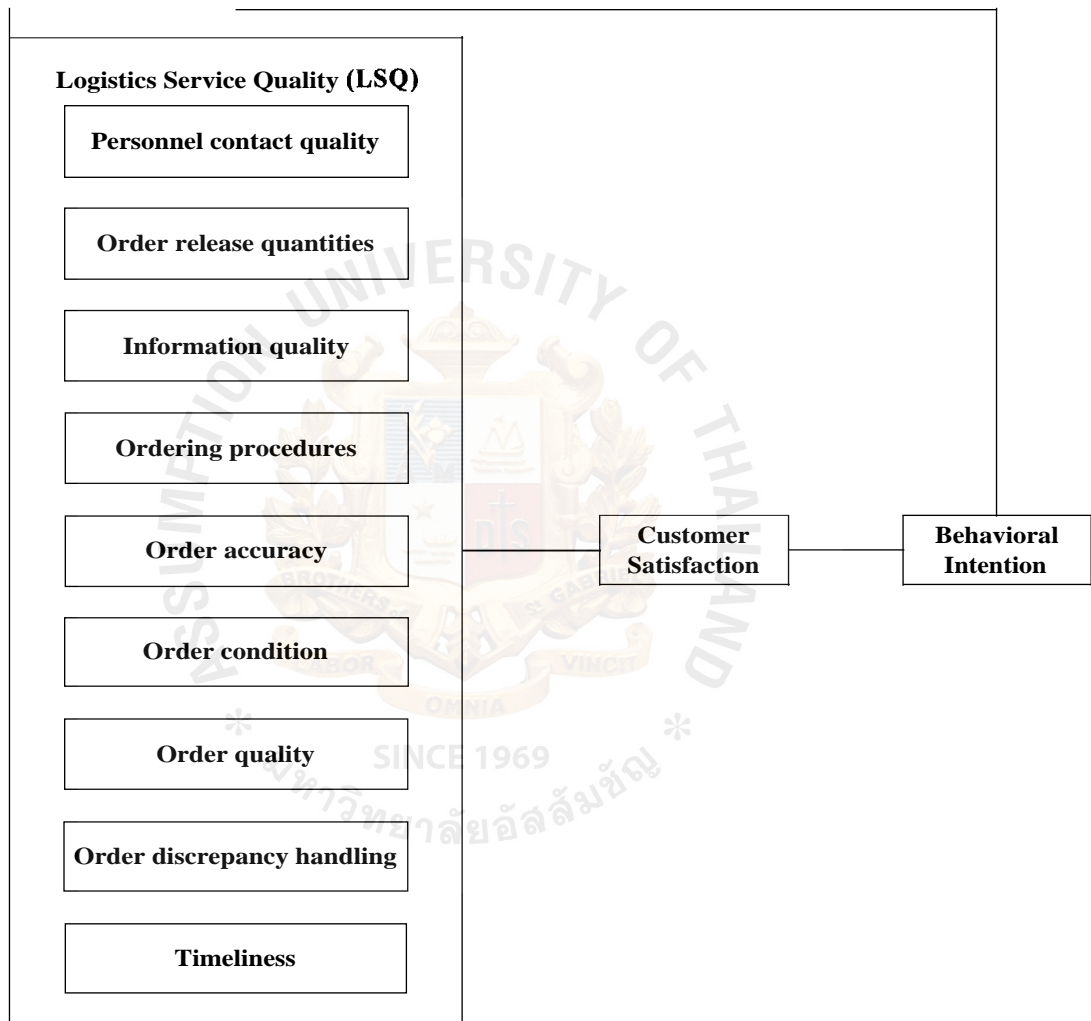
Moreover, the previous studies in service (Cronin et al., 2000), suggest that service quality demonstrates positive relationships with a number of behavioral intentions either directly or through the mediating effect of satisfaction. Hence: the conceptual framework could be proposed as follows:

**FIGURE 3.3**  
**Conceptual Framework for Behavioral Intention**



However, as logistics service quality is categorized into nine dimensions as discussed previously in the literature reviews, the conceptual framework could be modified as:

**FIGURE 3.4**  
**Research Framework**



### 3.3 Research Hypotheses

Three main hypotheses with 18 sub-hypotheses can be derived from this research framework to explain the relationship between each dimension of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction as well as behavioral intention. The details are presented in the following section.

**Hypothesis 1:** There is a positive relationship between logistics service quality and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1a: There is a positive relationship between personnel contact quality and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1b: There is a positive relationship between order release quantities and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1c: There is a positive relationship between information quality and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1d: There is a positive relationship between ordering procedures and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1e: There is a positive relationship between order accuracy and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1f: There is a positive relationship between order condition and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1g: There is a positive relationship between order quality and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1h: There is a positive relationship between order discrepancy handling and customer satisfaction.

Hypothesis 1i: There is a positive relationship between timeliness and customer satisfaction.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is a positive relationship between customer satisfaction and behavioral intention.

**Hypothesis 3:** There is a positive relationship between logistics service quality and behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3a: There is a positive relationship between personnel contact quality and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3b: There is a positive relationship between order release quantities and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3c: There is a positive relationship between information quality and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3d: There is a positive relationship between ordering procedures and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3e: There is a positive relationship between order accuracy and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3f: There is a positive relationship between order condition and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3g: There is a positive relationship between order quality and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3h: There is a positive relationship between order discrepancy handling and customer behavioral intention.

Hypothesis 3i: There is a positive relationship between timeliness and customer behavioral intention

### 3.4 Summary

Logistics service quality and customer satisfactions were found to be the main factors influencing customer behavioral intention. Moreover, the details and dimensions of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction were studied. Three main variables can be listed and **operationalized** as follows:

**Table 3.1: List of Variables and Operational Definition**

<b>Construct</b>	<b>Operational Definition</b>
<b>Logistics Service Quality</b>	The customer's subjective evaluation of how well or poorly was the service performance provided by the 3PL service provider in nine dimensions: personnel contact quality, order release quantities, information quality, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality, order discrepancy handling, and timeliness.
<b>Customer Satisfaction</b>	An emotional state that occurs in response to an assessment of performance of a service provider which indicates the customer's cognitive and affective evaluation based on their use experience.
<b>Behavioral Intention</b>	An outcome of the satisfaction process.

## CHAPTER IV

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Based on the proposed theoretical model and literature reviewed in the previous chapter, this chapter aims to discuss the research methods and techniques used in this study. There are six sections in this chapter. The first section will discuss the design and the type of research. Data collection methods will be introduced in the second section. Then, the questionnaire development will be explained in the third section. The pre-test results will be presented in the fourth section followed by reliability and validity analysis. The data analysis method will be proposed in the last section. The details of each section are as follows:

#### 4.1 Research Design

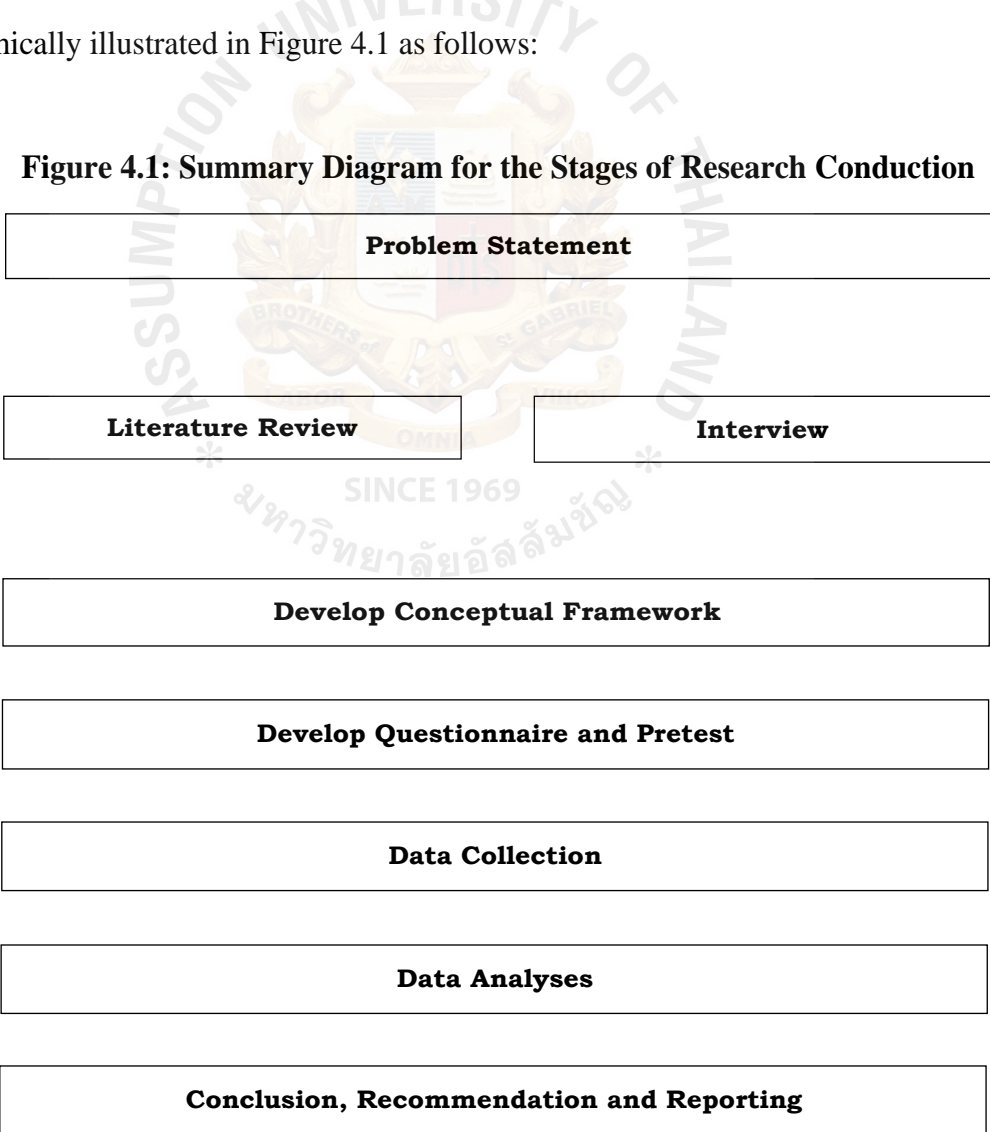
Customer behavioral intention is focused as the dependent variable of the model, while the factors related to the logistics service quality are considered as independent variables. Customer satisfaction is proposed as the mediating factor, and the main purpose of the research is to identify the effects of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction on behavioral intention in the logistics service industry. As a main construct of this study is "Logistics service quality", that is already available in respondents' minds. It was selected because the respondents' attitude for service quality i.e. personnel contract quality, order release quantities, information quality, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality, timeliness and order discrepancy handling have to be measured.

Exploratory research was initially conducted. Its specific objective was to understand all related factors in the actual context, and consisted of four categories, i.e. secondary data study, pilot studies, case studies, and experience surveys (Zigmund and Babin, 2007). This is a case study of **Zhongshou** Third-party logistics

service provider. In-depth interviews were conducted with the vice-president who is a senior manager in the Zhongshou Company, to gather qualitative data on Zhongshou’s logistics service operations.

The data from the literature searches and interviews were used to develop the questionnaire which is the main data collection tool of this study. The details will be discussed in the questionnaire development section. Moreover, a pre-test of the questionnaire was also conducted; the details together with the results will be reported in the pre-test section.

The stages of conducting this research based on the research design can be graphically illustrated in Figure 4.1 as follows:





## 4.2 Data Collection

Two data collection methods were employed in this study. First, secondary data was collected. Then primary data were collected empirically. The details are as follows:

### 4.2.1 Secondary Data Collection

Secondary data gathered from previous literature and research can be considered as qualitative data, which would help in understanding the factors that are related to the user behavioral intention to select a logistics service provider which is the main focus of this study. Several sources of data, such as textbooks, **website** and related journals, were reviewed. Related theories were adopted to identify the important and relevant factors and also to gain more understanding of the concepts of those factors. Logistics service quality and customer satisfaction were found to be the main factors influencing customer behavioral intention in the logistics service industry. Moreover, the details and dimensions of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction were studied. The ideas were generated based on these data. Consequently, the relationship between logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and the behavioral intention, were proposed as the conceptual framework of the research.

### 4.2.2 Primary Data Collection

Primary data were defined by **Malhotra** (2004) as the data originated by the researcher for the specific aim of achieving the research objective. There are several ways to collect primary data such as interview surveys, questionnaire surveys, observation, and experiment (**Zigmund and Babin**, 2007). The data collection method designed to collect primary data in this study is a questionnaire survey. A questionnaire survey was selected as the main primary data collection method in this study. The survey was conducted by using a single case study of **Zhongshou** Logistics Company in China: all data was collected from the users of **Zhongshou** across mainland China.

### 4.3 Questionnaire Development

A questionnaire as a major research tool for survey was developed based on the literature review and conceptual framework. The questionnaire was structured into three parts:

Part A: Company Characteristics

Part B: Service Performance Measurement

Part C: Service Satisfaction and Behavioral Intention

The first part of the questionnaire was about the general characteristics of the respondents such as products, number of companies they serve, number of employees, total annual sales in 2007, used service from ZS, and the time they have dealt with ZS.

The second part of the questionnaire was designed to measure the customer's perception of the logistics service quality from ZS. Nine dimensions of logistics service quality were the focus: personnel contact quality, order release quantities, information quality, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality, order discrepancy handling and timeliness. Twenty-seven measurement items of the logistics service quality were adopted and modified from Mentzer et al. (2001). The details of measurement items are presented in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Measurement Items of Logistics Service Quality**

Scale	Item
<b>Personnel Contact Quality</b>	
PCQ1	The contact person makes an effort to understand your situation.
PCQ2	Problems are resolved by contact person.
PCQ3	The product knowledge/experience of contact personnel is adequate
<b>Order Release Quantities</b>	
ORQ1	Requisition quantities are not challenged.
ORQ2	Difficulties never occur due to maximum release quantities.
ORQ3	Difficulties never occur due to minimum release quantities.
<b>Information Quality</b>	
IQ 1	Product specific information is available.
IQ2	Product specific information is adequate.
IQ3	Product specific information is timely.
<b>Ordering Procedures</b>	
OP 1	Requisitioning procedures are effective.
OP2	Requisitioning procedures are easy to use.
OP3	Requisitioning procedures are flexible.
<b>Order Accuracy</b>	
OA 1	Shipments rarely contain the wrong items.
OA2	Shipments rarely contain an incorrect quantity.
OA3	Shipments rarely contain substituted items.
<b>Order Condition</b>	
OC1	Material received from depots is undamaged.
OC2	Material received from vendors is undamaged.
OC3	Damage rarely occurs as a result of the transport mode or carrier.
<b>Order Quality</b>	
OQ1	Substituted items (if any) work fine.
OQ2	Products ordered meet technical requirements.
OQ3	Equipment and /or parts are rarely nonconforming.
<b>Order Discrepancy Handling</b>	
ODH1	Correction of delivered quality discrepancies is satisfactory.
ODH2	The report of discrepancy process is adequate.
ODH3	Response to quality discrepancy report is satisfactory.
<b>Timeliness</b>	
TL 1	Time between placing requisition and receiving delivery is short.
TL2	Deliveries arrive on the date promised.
TL3	The amount of time a requisition for a back-order is short.

The final part of the questionnaire was designed to measure customer satisfaction with five items which were adopted and modified from relevant literature reviews, in addition to nine questions measuring behavioral intention, modified as illustrated in Table 4.2. The items were measured by using a 5-point scale anchoring at 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

**Table 4.2: Measurement Items of Customer Satisfaction and Behavioral Intention**

Scale	Item
<b>Customer Satisfaction</b>	
Si	The service provided by ZS was excellent
S2	The service was done right at the first time
S3	Experience was as good as it was supposed to be
S4	<b>Zhongshou</b> provides the best value to customer
S5	Overall performance of <b>Zhongshou</b> is good
<b>Behavioral Intention</b>	
BI1	You will highly recommend this provider to others
BI2	You will say positive things about this provider to others
BI3	You will encourage others to purchase services from this provider
BI4	You will refer other companies to this provider
BI5	You will consider this provider as first choice to using logistics service
BI6	You will do more business with this provider in the next few years
BI7	You expect the relationship with this provider to last a long time
B18	You are likely to maintain the percentage of business given to this provider
BI9	You would continue doing business with this provider even if prices increased somewhat

Keeping in mind the difficulty in attaining an adequate response rate in mail surveys, the questionnaire was limited to three pages so that it would not disturb respondents. The questionnaire was originally developed in English, and then it was

translated by an expert into Chinese in order to be easily and clearly communicated to the respondents.

#### **4.4 Target population**

The target population of this research consisted of users of **Zhongshou** Third-Party logistics service provider. A census survey was selected since this research attempts to describe characteristics of users, user behavioral intention and to measure user's perception of service quality served by **Zhongshou** Company. Census survey is the process of obtaining information about every member of a population. It can be contrasted with sampling in which information is only obtained from a subset of a population (<http://www.archivists.org/a-census>). As such it is a method used for accumulating statistical data. The respondents are **Zhongshou's** 86 users who are located across mainland China.

In order to cover the whole of users of ZS and make sure the respondents could provide feedback, the questionnaires were directly sent to users by the customer support department of the ZS Company. The data was planned to be collected within two weeks.

#### **4.5 Pre-test Results**

##### *4.5.1 Reliability*

Reliability is an indicator of a measure's internal consistency. Internal consistency of a multiple-item measure can be assessed by correlating scores on subsets of items making up a scale ( Zigmund and Babin, 2007). Malhotra (2004) also mentioned that the reliability will be weighted from the relationship of scores gained from dissimilar administration of the scale. If the result of the relationship is high, the scale result is also high. Coefficient alpha is the most commonly applied estimate of a multiple item scale's reliability.

Reliability analysis of 36 questionnaires was performed. The reliability of three variables was determined, which included logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and behavioral intention. The **Cronbach's Alpha** coefficient of all measurement items was 0.918 as shown in Table 4.3. **Cronbach's Alpha** of the three variables varied from 0.813 to 0.917 which exceeded the minimum requirement level of 0.7 of reliability. These values of **Cronbach's Alpha** show that these measures are reliable.

**Table 4.3: Reliability Analysis Results**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Cronbach's Alpha</b>
All items	0.918
Logistics service quality	0.848
Customer Satisfaction	0.813
Behavioral Intention	0.917

#### 4.5.2 Validity

Validity of the measures was verified using factor analysis. Then results of factor analysis were performed. The **KMO** is 0.696 which is an index that examines the appropriateness of factor analysis and must be 0.5 or higher, and Bartlett's test of Sphericity (Chi-square= 1688.339; df= 351; sig=.000) indicated that these factors could load to be variables.

**Table 4.4: KMO and Bartlett's Test Results for LSQ**

<b>KMO and Bartlett's Test</b>		
<b>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.</b>		<b>.696</b>
<b>Bartlett's Test of Sphericity</b>	<b>Approx. Chi-Square</b>	<b>1688.339</b>
	<b>Df</b>	<b>351</b>
	<b>Sig.</b>	<b>.000</b>

A factors analysis of each scale was run to establish the **uni-dimensionality** of each multi-item scale. In order to test the validity of 27 items of nine dimensions of logistics service quality, the total variance explained from the initial **eigenvalues** was



77.509 (see details in Appendix C) and the rotated component analysis was performed in Table 4.5 which indicated that some items i.e. order discrepancy handling were not assessed very well. However, all 27 items of nine-dimensions of logistics service quality were decided to be within the operational scope of the service quality scale.

**Table 4.5: Factor Analysis Results for LSQ**

	Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PCQ1			.691					
PCQ2			.749					
PCQ3			.787					
ORQ1			.433				.583	
ORQ2							.905	
ORQ3							.862	
IQ1		.458			.524			
IQ2					.712			
IQ3					.882			
OP1		.615						
OP2		.734						
OP3		.495			.532			
OA1				.870				
OA2				.926				
OA3				.847				
OC1						.879		
OC2						.921		
OC3						.690		
OQ1	.840							
OQ2	.914							
OQ3	.929							
ODH1	.500							
ODH2								.805
ODH3								.813
TL1		.518			.504			.435
TL2		.779						
TL3		.502						.584

## **4.6 Data analysis plan**

In order to analyze the data collected in this study, the **SPSS** statistical tool was used to conduct descriptive data analysis and regression analysis. Descriptive data analysis was aimed to provide the characteristics of the respondents. The multiple regression analysis was employed to examine all structural relationships. In this case, it was used to investigate the proposed relationship between logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and behavioral intention.

### *4.6.1 Regression Analysis*

In regression terminology, the variable being predicted is called the dependent variable. The variable or variables being used to predict the value of the dependent variable are called independent variables. In statistical notation,  $y$  denotes the dependent variable and  $x$  denotes the independent variable.

Multiple regression analysis is the study of how a dependent variable  $y$  is related to two or more independent variables. In the general case, it could use  $p$  to denote the number of independent variables. The equation that describes how the dependent variable  $y$  is related to the independent variables  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$ , and an error term is called the regression model. In this case, the customer behavioral intention was defined to be the dependent variable and the logistics service quality and customer satisfaction were defined to be independent variables.

## **4.7 Summary**

Based on the design of the research and pre-test result, the research framework and questionnaire of this study were proved to be appropriate.

## CHAPTER V

### PRESENTATION AND CRITICAL DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

In this chapter, the analyses of primary data were performed. The SPSS Version 16.0 and Microsoft Excel were used to analyze data. The survey data were collected from 86 customer companies of **Zhongshou**. The data analysis can be categorized into four parts. (1) Descriptive analysis of respondents' profile, (2) The level of behavioral intention, service quality and customer satisfaction, (3) The effects of service quality and customer satisfaction on customer behavioral intention, and (4) the discussion of the findings. The details are presented in the following sections:

#### 5.1 Sample Profile

To understand the characteristics of **Zhongshou's** users, the respondents' general characteristics include their products, number of companies they serve, full time employees, total annual sales in 2007, used service from ZS and the time they dealt with ZS, and these were analyzed descriptively. The details are presented in Tables below.

**Table 5.1: The Products and Responses of Zhongshou's Users**

Product	Responses	
	N	Percent (%)
Engine & Components	14	12.2
Drivetrains	8	7.0
Steering	6	5.2
Suspension	4	3.5
Brakes	10	8.7
Wheels	3	2.6
Tires	1	0.9
Body Works	18	15.7
Interiors	18	15.7
Electrical Systems& Electronics	13	11.3
Materials Components	20	17.4
Total	115	100

Table 5.1 reports the product type of respondents served, in terms of the automobile industry. Types of products provided by respondents could be categorized into 11 categories, which are Materials Components (17.4%), Interiors (15.7%), Body Works (15.7%), Engine & Components (12.2%), Electrical Systems& Electronics (11.3%), respectively, only 8.7 percent provided brake system parts, 7 percent provided drivetrains, 5.2 percent provided steering, 3.5 percent provided suspension, 2.6 percent provided wheels and 0.9 percent provided tires.

**Table 5.2: Respondents Profile**

Respondents Characteristics		Percent %
Number of employees	Less than 100	17.4
	100 to 200	23.3
	More than 200	59.3
	Total	100.0
Number of companies served by respondents	Less than 5	34.9
	6 to 20	30.2
	More than 20	34.9
	Total	100.0
Annual revenue 2007 ( Million RMB)	Less than 10	8.1
	10 to 50	24.4
	More than 50	67.4
	Total	100.0
Time to deal with ZS Company (Year)	Less than 1	3.5
	1 to 3	39.5
	More than 3	57.0
	Total	100.0

Table 5.2 shows that 59.3 percent (60%) of companies have more than 200 full-time employees, 23.3 percent (23%) of companies have 100 to 200 full-time employees, and 17.4 percent (17%) of companies have less than 100 full-time employees. The Table also shows the number of companies served by respondents. 34.9 percent have less than 5 customers and the same percent have more than 20 companies.

For the total annual sales in 2007, most respondents (67.4%) have more than 50 millions annual sales in 2007, 24.4 percent respondents achieved 10 to 50 million in 2007, and a few respondents (7%) achieved less than 10 million Chinese Yuan in 2007. This means that most customers of ZS have good business performance.

The last characteristic, years dealing with ZS, was categorized into three groups: less than 1 year, 1 to 3 years and more than 3 years. The results show that most of respondents, 57 percent dealt with ZS Company for a long time. 39.5 percent of respondents dealt with ZS Company from 1 to 3 years. Only 3.5 percent respondents have dealt with ZS Company less than 1 year.

**Table 5.3: Logistics Service Used by Respondents**

Logistics Service	Responses	
	N	Percent %
Customs clearance	9	4.1
Freight forwarding	7	3.2
Inventory management	83	37.7
Order fulfillment	36	16.4
Distribution	2	0.9
Assembly/relocation	1	0.5
Warehousing	80	36.4
Contract delivery	2	0.9
Total	220	100

As demonstrated in the table, both data indicate that the most common service used by the user is inventory management (37.7 percent), followed by warehousing (36.4 percent).

## **5.2 The Level of Service Quality, Customer Satisfaction and Behavioral Intention**

The next analysis is of the descriptive characteristics of the key variables which are

logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and customer behavioral intention. The mean and standard deviation of each variable, including the dimensions of service quality and customer satisfaction, was computed. The multi-item measurements were designed for all variables. Thus, the average score of each variable and its dimensions were calculated from all items measuring that particular factor. As the items measuring these variables were rating scales with five categories varying from 1: strongly disagree to 5: strongly agree, the mid-point of each factor is 3.00. The details of means and standard deviations of each factor are presented in the following Tables:

**Table 5.4: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Major Variables**

<b>Variables/dimensions</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
<b>Behavioral Intention</b>	3.91	0.41
<b>Customer Satisfaction</b>	3.92	0.30
<b>Service Quality</b>		
Personnel Contact Quality	3.91	0.49
Order Release Quantities	4.21	0.41
Information Quality	3.98	0.56
Ordering Procedures	4.19	0.46
Order Accuracy	4.07	0.33
Order Condition	4.01	0.22
Order Quality	3.74	0.44
Order Discrepancy Handling	3.34	0.41
Timeliness	4.45	0.41

All the means of each variable, both the behavioral intention and customer satisfaction, were above the mid-point, being 3.91 and 3.92 respectively. Similarly, all means of the 9 dimensions of service quality were also above the mid-point.

### **5.3 The Effect of Service Quality and Customer Satisfaction on Behavioral Intention**

To test the effects of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction on



behavioral intention, three regression analyses were performed. The first regression analysis aimed to test the relationship between all dimensions of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction. The second regression analysis aimed to test the relationship between customer satisfaction and behavioral intention. The third regression analysis aimed to test the relationship between all dimensions of logistics service quality and behavioral intention.

Both regression 2 and 3 were designed to understand the effect of each dimension of the key variables on behavioral intention to select **Zhongshou** Logistics Company. Three Tables associated with the regression analysis are presented as follows:

**Table 5.5: The Effects of Logistics Service Quality on Customer Satisfaction**

Independent variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient	t	Sig
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.751	.603		2.902	.005**
Personnel Contact Quality	.195	.067	.312	2.908	.005**
Order release quantities	.091	.075	.121	1.207	.231
Information quality	.057	.061	.105	.934	.353
Ordering procedures	.108	.075	.166	1.438	.154
Order accuracy	.022	.086	.023	.250	.803
Order condition	-.160	.125	-.116	-1.281	.204
Order quality	-.016	.071	-.024	-.229	.819
Order discrepancy handling	.071	.078	.095	.907	.367
Timeliness	.162	.077	.218	2.104	.039**

Remarks: Dependent Variable: Customer Satisfaction

R=.676 Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>=.393 "p<0.05

Table 5.5 presents the regression results. A moderate relationship between all dimensions of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction shown as the R was 0.676; the adjusted R<sup>2</sup> of 0.393 indicated 39.3 percent of variance in customer satisfaction can be predicted by the logistics service quality dimensions.

This table also indicated the partial relationship between each dimension of logistics service quality and customer satisfaction. As the significance values of personnel contact quality and timeliness were less than or equal to 0.05, the positive and significant effects of personnel contact quality and timeliness to customer satisfaction is at 95% level of significance. However, the remaining dimensions of logistics service quality showed no significant impact on customer satisfaction. Hence, hypotheses **H1a** and **H1i** were supported, and hypothesis **H1b**, **Mc**, **H1d**, **H1 e**, **H1 f**, **H1 g** and **H1h** were rejected. Overall, this study concluded that logistics service quality related to customer satisfaction.

**Table 5.6: The Effects of Customer Satisfaction on Behavioral Intention**

Independent variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient	t	Sig
	B	Std.Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.501	.443		1.131	.261
Customer Satisfaction	.871	.113	.645	7.731	.000**

Remarks: Dependent Variable: Behavioral Intention

$R = .645$   $R^2 = .416$   $p < 0.05$

The result showed a moderate relationship between customer satisfaction and behavioral intention, since the  $R$  was 0.645. The  $R^2$  of 0.416 implied that the customer behavioral intention to select **Zhongshou** could be explained by customer satisfaction by 41.6 percent. The significance value of 0.00 of customer satisfaction indicated that there were positive and significant effects of customer satisfaction on behavioral intention. Therefore, at a 95% level of confidence, the customer satisfaction significance impacted behavioral intention to select **ZS**. Therefore, **H2** was supported.

**Table 5.7: The Effects of Logistics Service Quality on Behavioral Intention**

Independent variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient	t	Sig
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	1.256	.829		1.516	.134
Personnel Contact Quality	.130	.090	.154	1.444	.153
Order release quantities	.085	.101	.084	.845	.401
Information quality	.307	.080	.418	3.811	.000***
Ordering procedures	-.031	.088	-.037	-.355	.724
Order accuracy	-.084	.118	-.066	-.710	.480
Order condition	-.038	.171	-.020	-.221	.826
Order quality	-.044	.094	-.047	-.472	.638
Order discrepancy handling	.122	.091	.137	1.340	.184
Timeliness	.220	.103	.219	2.127	.037**

Remarks: Dependent Variable: Behavioral Intention

R=.675 Adjusted R =.391 \*\*p<0.05 \*\*\*p<.001

Table 5.7 shows the regression results for logistics service quality on behavioral intention. The result showed a moderately high correlation between logistics service quality and behavioral intention, since the R was 0.675. The adjusted R<sup>2</sup> of 0.391 implied that the customer behavioral intention could be explained by logistics service quality by 39.1 percent.

This Table also showed the beta coefficient of each dimension of service quality on customer behavioral intention. As the significance value of information quality and timeliness were less than 0.05, the positive and significant effects of information quality and timeliness on behavioral intention at a 95% level of significance could be concluded. In contrast, as the significance value of personnel contact quality, order release quantities, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality and order discrepancy handling were more than 0.05, this indicated that these factors had no significant impact on behavioral intention. However, the standardized beta indicated that information quality had a higher impact on behavioral intention than other variables. Hence, hypotheses H3c and H3i were supported, and hypotheses H3a, H3b, H3d, H3e, H3f, H3g and H3h were rejected.

## 5.4 Discussion of the Findings

This study focuses on the **Zhongshou** Logistics Company which is a Third-Party logistics service provider. The questionnaire used census surveys from their 86 customers. Based on the primary data analysis, most findings are consistent with the literature.

There are nine dimensions used for measuring their logistics service quality, which are personnel contact quality, order release quantities, information quality, ordering procedures, order accuracy, order condition, order quality, order discrepancy handling and timeliness. Meanwhile, only two dimensions of personnel contact quality and timeliness significantly influenced customer satisfaction. The analysis findings indicate that the most satisfied dimension for customer is personnel contact quality in order to get the highest standardized beta coefficient 0.312.

Significant relationships between logistics service quality, customer satisfaction and behavioral intention were found as expected. Findings in this study indicate that logistics service quality (**LSQ**) have significant effects on customer satisfaction. But, from nine dimensions of logistics service quality, only personnel contact quality and timeliness dimensions have positive significant effect on customer satisfaction. It was also found that customer satisfaction plays an important role in customer behavioral intention to select a service provider. Considering the relationship between each dimension of logistics service quality and customer behavioral intention, the analysis results indicated that information quality and timeliness had significant effects on behavioral intention.

## 5.5 Summary

At least one important inference can be found from the study results. Consistent with the theories by Mentzer et al. (2001) and Cronin et al., (2000), service quality

is at the root of customer satisfaction and has a positive relationship with outcomes of behavioral intentions either directly or through the mediating effect of satisfaction.

Additionally, in this case situation, some findings had not previously been mentioned. Such as the 9 dimensions of logistics service quality associated with different level satisfaction from users and outcomes of behavioral intention. Specifically, personnel contact quality and timeliness had a positive effect on customer satisfaction. Furthermore, information quality and timeliness dimensions had positive effects on customer behavioral intention.

At last, the summary of hypotheses testing can be shown, as follows:

**Table 5.8: Summary of Hypotheses Testing**

<b>Hypotheses</b>	<b>Results</b>
H1. There is a positive relationship between logistics service quality and customer satisfaction	Partially Supported
H2. There is a positive relationship between customer satisfaction and behavioral intention	Supported
H3. There is a positive relationship between logistics service quality and customer behavioral intention	Partially Supported

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **SUMMARY FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter provides the conclusion and recommendation of the survey results. There are two sections in this chapter: the first section is the conclusion of the study, and the second is the recommendation of the study with suggestion for the further research.

#### **6.1 Conclusions**

The main research findings confirmed that the conceptual framework of customer behavioral intention of a select logistics service provider is accurate. The regression analysis indicated that the logistics service quality and customer satisfaction could explain the customer behavioral intention to select ZS. The level of logistics service quality, overall scale and dimensional scores were found to be high in customer's perceptions, while the customer satisfaction was also perceived as high.

Most customers selected Zhongshou Company to be their logistics service provider because ZS could provide high quality of some dimensions of logistics service which at least satisfied with their present needs. For those nine dimensions of logistics service quality, the most important and attractive dimensions to customers were personnel contact quality, information quality, and timeliness.

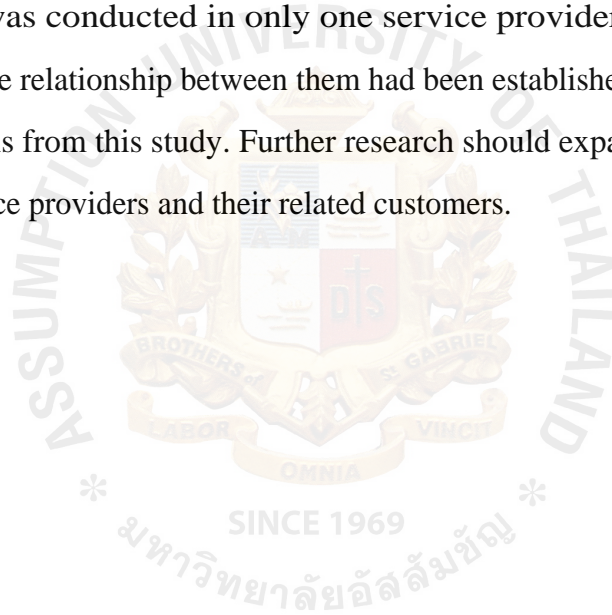
#### **6.2 Implications and Further Research**

The findings of this study have important implications on the management of service quality provided by ZS Company. This study demonstrates the usefulness of the nine- dimensional model of logistics service which developed by Mentzer et al



(2001) as a good measure of service quality in the logistics industry. Once the attributes of logistics service quality from the customer's perspective are more clearly known and understood, ZS Company will be in a better position to anticipate customers' requirements and provide satisfactory service in meeting these requirements.

For further research, logistics service quality and satisfaction are two important routes to impact customer behavioral intention in the logistics industry. Although this study expands knowledge of the relationship between service quality, satisfaction and behavioral intention, viable prospects for further research remain. This study was conducted in only one service provider and its customers, meanwhile, the relationship between them had been established. This may limit any generalizations from this study. Further research should expand the width to more logistics service providers and their related customers.



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# Appendices





## **Appendix A: Questionnaire**



Dear Executives:

This questionnaire is part of a research study entitled "The Impact of Logistics Service Quality on the Third-Party Logistics User Behavioral Intention" which is currently being carried out by **Ms.Ting Liu**, a master degree candidate in Supply Chain Management at Assumption University, Thailand.

The research focuses on logistics service quality and customer intentions in the automotive business of **ZhongShou** Logistics Company. The results obtained from this study would help ZS not only to deeply understand customer service requirements but also to enable ZS to deliver desired service efficiently and effectively. Moreover, the research findings could also enrich the body of knowledge in logistics and help practitioners to make better decisions, perform a better logistics task, and consequently, enhance the company's competence.

As a formal user of ZS service with profound knowledge and extensive experience in the industry, your participation and valuable information will be very beneficial to this study. Please complete the questionnaire with the answers that best represent facts and your opinion in every section. This questionnaire consists of 3 sections and takes about 15 minutes to finish. Please be assured that your response is strictly confidential and only aggregate results are reported.

Thank you for your contribution to this research. If you would like a summary of the result, please fill in your information on the last page of the questionnaire.

Sincerely Yours,

Ms. Ting Liu

Master Degree Candidate,

School of Management, Assumption University

## Section A: Company Characteristics

1. Does your specific job in the company involve operations management that focuses on work flows across many department including purchasing, production, logistics, and marketing?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No (please forward this survey to the person you see fit. Thank you)

2. What's type of products does your company provide?

- |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engine & Components              | <input type="checkbox"/> Drivetrains          | <input type="checkbox"/> Steering  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Brakes               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheels    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tires                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Body Works           | <input type="checkbox"/> Interiors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Systems & Electronics | <input type="checkbox"/> Materials Components |                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others, specify_____             |   |                                    |

3. How many companies do you supply?

- ☐ Less than 5      ☐ 6 to 20      ☐ More than 20

4. How many employees in your firm?

- ☐ Less than 100      ☐ 100 to 200      ☐ More than 200

5. What was your company's total annual sales (Chinese Yuan) in 2007?

- ☐ Less than 10 million      ☐ 10-50 million      ☐ More than 50 million

6. Please ☒ one or more of the following logistics services from ZS Company used by your firm.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customs clearance    | <input type="checkbox"/> Freight forwarding | <input type="checkbox"/> Inventory management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Order fulfillment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution       | <input type="checkbox"/> Assembly/relocation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cargo insurance      | <input type="checkbox"/> Warehousing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Contract delivery    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others, specify_____ |   |   |

7. How long have you dealt with Zhongshou Logistics Company?

- ☐ Less than 1 year      ☐ 1 to 3 years      ☐ More than 3 years

## Section B: Service Performance Measurement

Please rate your opinion towards the service performance provided by Zhongshou Company, from 1 to 5, (1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3= average, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree).

<i>Opinion</i>	Strongly Agree	4	3	2	1
<b><i>Personnel Contact Quality</i></b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
The contact person makes an effort to understand your situation.					
Problems are resolved by contact person.					
The product knowledge/experience of contact personnel is adequate.					
<b><i>Order Release Quantities</i></b>					
Requisition quantities are not challenged.					
Difficulties never occur due to maximum release quantities.					
Difficulties never occur due to minimum release quantities.					
<b><i>Information Quality</i></b>					
Product specific information is available.					
Product specific information is adequate.					
Product specific information is timely.					
<b><i>Ordering Procedures</i></b>					
Requisitioning procedures are effective.					
Requisitioning procedures are easy to use.					
Requisitioning procedures are flexible.					
<b><i>Order Accuracy</i></b>					
Shipments rarely contain the wrong items.					
Shipments rarely contain an incorrect quantity.					
Shipments rarely contain substituted items.					
<b><i>Order Condition</i></b>					
Material received from depots is undamaged.					
Material received from vendors is undamaged.					
Damage rarely occurs as a result of the transport mode or carrier.					
<b><i>Order Quality</i></b>					
Substituted items (if any) work fine.					
Products ordered meet technical requirements.					
Equipment and /or parts are rarely nonconforming.					
<b><i>Order Discrepancy Handling</i></b>					
Correction of delivered quality discrepancies is satisfactory.					
The report of discrepancy process is adequate.					
Response to quality discrepancy report is satisfactory.					
<b><i>Timeliness</i></b>					
Time between placing requisition and receiving delivery is					

short.					
Deliveries arrive on the date promised.					
The amount of time a requisition is on back-order is short.					

### Section C: Service Satisfaction and behavioral intention

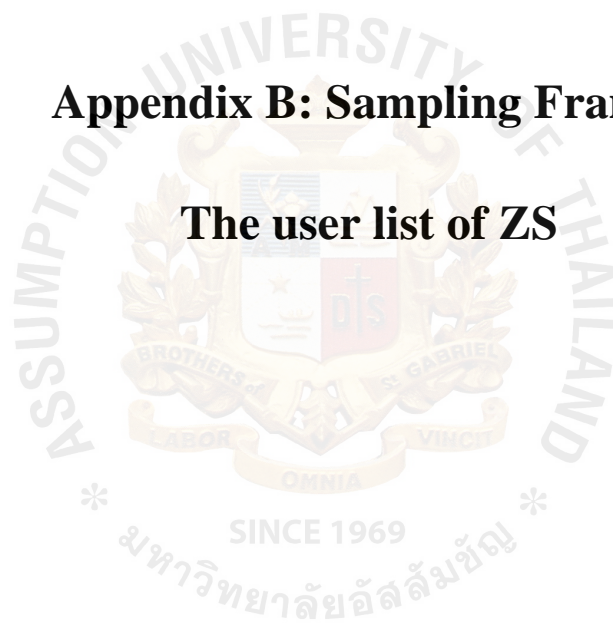
Specify your opinion about Zhongshou Logistics provider and your intended behaviors (1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3= average, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree)

<i>Opinion</i>	Strongly Agree ← 4			Strongly Disagree	
<i>Customer Satisfaction</i>	5	4	3	2	1
The service provided by ZS was excellent					
The service was done right at the first time					
Experience was as good as it was supposed to be					
Zhongshou provides the best value to customer					
Overall performance of Zhongshou is good					
<i>Customer behavioral intention</i>					
You will highly recommend this provider to others					
You will say positive things about this provider to others					
You will encourage others to purchase services from this provider					
You will refer other companies to this provider					
You will consider this provider as first choice to using logistics service					
You will do more business with this provider in the next few years					
You expect the relationship with this provider to last a long time					
You are likely to maintain the percentage of business given to this provider					
You would continue doing business with this provider even if prices increased somewhat					

Thanks for your kind cooperation

## **Appendix B: Sampling Frame**

### **The user list of ZS**





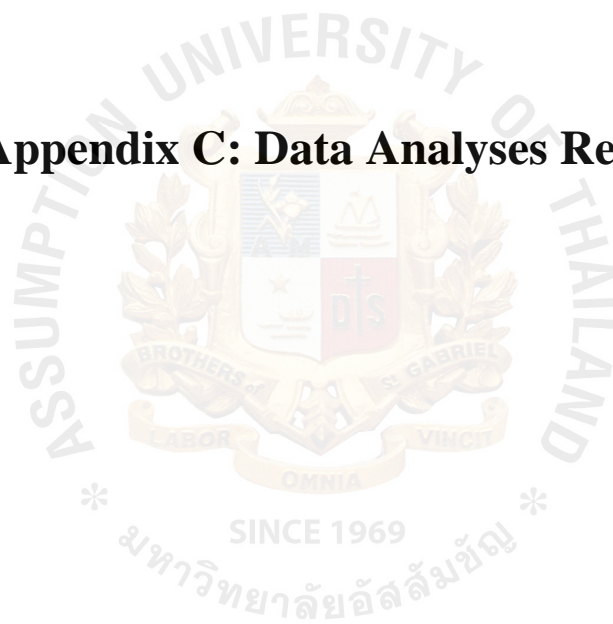
	VEN CODE	VENDER NAME(CHINA)
1	A000	BHMC
2	B001	北京 MOBIS 中车 A 车零部件有限公司
3	B002	万都 OLE 汽 底盘 系统有限公司
4	B004	北京和信汽车部件有限公司
5	B005	北京 中车科技有限公司
6	B006	北京江森汽车部件有限公
7	B007	北京世元伊协斯电器装配有限公司
8	B008	北京三永软轴有限公司
9	B009	伟 汽车 (1M) 有限 司
10	B010	北京世钟汽车配件有限公司
11	B011	北京现代摩比斯汽 零部件有限 司
12	B012	北京三立车灯有限公司
13	B013	北京日进汽车系统有限公 司
14	B014	涉福耐克汽车系统（北京）有限公司
15	B015	北京厚成（中韩）A 车装饰有限公司
16	B017	可附特汽车零部件制造（北京）有限公司
17	B018	北京广 振
18	B019	北京大材
19	B020	新韩（北京）汽车配件系统有限公司
20	B023	北京摩比斯变速器
21	B024	世进汽车安
22	B026	北京 一
23	B027	北京 尔岱摩斯汽车系统有限公 司
24	C001	津相
25	C002	江苏通润机电集团承德千斤顶制造厂
26	C004	承德银河连杆有限公司
27	C005	保 风帆蓄电池有限公司
28	D001	青岛吉明美机械制造有限公司
29	D002	青岛大星电子有限公司
30	D004	烟台福达音响有限公 司
31	D005	青岛东亚精密工业有限公司
32	D006	WA KDG 汽车配件有限公 司
33	D007	青岛成 电气有限公
34	E001	州认知
35	E003	北京 和精工汽车配件有限公司
36	E004	北京和承 R&A 汽车配件（太仓）有限公司
37	E005	江苏富国管路系统有限公司北京 司
38	E006	北京株龙 LIT A 车配件有限公司
39	E007	明和汽车部件（ 锡）有限公 司
40	E008	苏州华昌机电有限公 司
41	E009	禧音响（苏州）有限公司

ID	VEN CODE	VENDER NAME(CHINA)
42	F001	上海江森自控国际蓄电池有限公司
43	F002	延锋伟世通 OLE 汽车饰件系统
44	F004	上海三立汇众汽车零部件有限公司
45	F005	上汽 MOBIS
46	F006	韩晶安 玻璃上海有限公司
47	F008	德尔福电子 (MID A 限公司
48	F009	上海仁众萨克斯减振器有限公司
49	G001	福耀玻璃工业集团股份有限公司
50	11001	贵州丰昌汽车电器有限公司
51	H04D	河北飞达塑料股份有限公司
52	H05H	青岛东明汽车配件有限公司
53	H05N	北京瑞韩恩梯恩汽车配件有限公司
54	H05P	北京大承精技汽车配件有限公司
55	H0PF	江苏汽车配件 (张家港) 有限公司
56	H0R9	三河世原汽车科技有限公司
57	H0RB	伟巴斯特东熙 (北京) A 限公司
58	H0YH	青岛东 胶带有限公司
59	H0YJ	青岛 信汽 配件有限公司
60	H0ZF	天津 兴汽车配件有限公司
61	H0ZG	奥帕汽 配件 ( 津) 有限公司
62	11104	无锡摩比斯汽车 件有限公司
63	H105	青岛 同体系汽车配件有限公司
64	11107	长春一汽四环汽车股份有限公司
65	H1DX	宁波 昌镒万汽车配件有限公司
66	HMO	北京柳成新和汽车部件有限
67	H1M1	北京摩拓尼克汽车 配件有限
68	H1UK	北京 圆亚细亚 科技有限公司
69	H26D	北京 有迪安希汽车部件有限公司
70	H276	北京 韩轮毂有限公司
71	J001	青岛泰明思国际贸易有限公司
72	K001	韩国现代摩比斯
73	L001	锦州汉拿电机有限公司
74	L002	沈阳都瑞轮毂有限公司
75	L004	沈阳玄潭汽车部件有限公司
76	M004	浙江 丰 威汽轮股份有限公司
77	P001	现代电子 (天津) 有限公司
78	P002	东铉马勒滤清器 ( 津) A 限公司
79	P004	天津平和汽车配件有限公司
80	Z001	长春 汽实业合成材料有限公司
81	Z002	SK
82	Z003	津 GS

ID	VEN CODE	VENDER NAME(CHINA)
83	Z004	韩国三洋工业公司
84	Z005	北京韩成达斯克科技发展有限公司
85	Z006	韩国极东制研
86	Z007	北京华瑞荣汽车部件有限公司



## **Appendix C: Data Analyses Results**



### Reliability test of all items

**Case Processing Summary**

		N	%
Cases	Valid	36	100.0
	Excluded	0	.0
	Total	36	100.0

a. **Listwise** deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

**Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.918	41

### Reliability test of Logistics Service Quality

**Case Processing Summary**

		N	%
Cases	Valid	36	100.0
	Excluded	0	.0
	Total	36	100.0

a. **Listwise** deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

**Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.848	27

### Reliability test of Customer Satisfaction

**Case Processing Summary**

		N	%
Cases	Valid	36	100.0
	Excluded	0	.0
	Total	36	100.0

a. **Listwise** deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

**Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.813	5

### Reliability test of Behavioral Intention

**Case Processing Summary**

		N	%
Cases	Valid	36	100.0
	Excluded	0	.0
	Total	36	100.0

a. **Listwise** deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

**Reliability Statistics**

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.917	9



## Factor Analysis results

### KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.	.696
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Approx. Chi-Square	1688.339
Df	351
Sig.	.000

### Total Variance Explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	7.205	26.683	26.683	7.205	26.683	26.683	3.189	11.811	11.811
2	2.990	11.075	37.759	2.990	11.075	37.759	3.017	11.173	22.984
3	2.522	9.342	47.100	2.522	9.342	47.100	2.650	9.813	32.797
4	2.237	8.285	55.386	2.237	8.285	55.386	2.585	9.573	42.371
5	1.909	7.072	62.457	1.909	7.072	62.457	2.577	9.546	51.916
6	1.476	5.467	67.924	1.476	5.467	67.924	2.378	8.807	60.723
7	1.436	5.318	73.242	1.436	5.318	73.242	2.326	8.616	69.339
8	1.152	4.267	77.509	1.152	4.267	77.509	2.206	8.170	77.509
9	.964	3.571	81.080						
10	.707	2.618	83.699						
11	.667	2.472	86.171						
12	.590	2.187	88.358						
13	.533	1.973	90.331						
14	.420	1.554	91.885						
15	.358	1.325	93.210						
16	.340	1.259	94.469						
17	.284	1.052	95.520						
18	.220	.815	96.335						
19	.189	.701	97.037						
20	.176	.651	97.688						
21	.153	.565	98.253						
22	.115	.428	98.681						
23	.103	.382	99.063						
24	.089	.331	99.394						
25	.073	.271	99.665						
26	.063	.235	99.900						
27	.027	.100	100.000						

Extraction Method Principal Component Analysis.

Rotated Component Matrix

	Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PCQ1			.691					
PCQ2			.749					
PCQ3			.787					
ORQ1			.433				.583	
ORQ2							.905	
ORQ3							.862	
IQ1		.458			.524			
IQ2					.712			
IQ3					.882			
OP1		.615						
OP2		.734						
OP3		.495			.532			
OA1				.870				
OA2				.926				
OA3				.847				
( )CI						.879		
OC2						.921		
OC3						.690		
OQ1	.840							
OQ2	.914							
OQ3	.929							
ODH1	.500							
ODH2								.805
ODH3								.813
TL1		.518			.504			.435
TL2		.779						
TL3		.502						.584

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 11 iterations\_

**Frequency tables:**

**The employees of the respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 100	15	17.4	17.4	17.4
	100 to 200	20	23.3	23.3	40.7
	More than 200	51	59.3	59.3	100.0
	Total	86	100.0	100.0	

**The supply companies of the respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 5	30	34.9	34.9	34.9
	6 to 20	26	30.2	30.2	65.1
	More than 20	30	34.9	34.9	100.0
	Total	86	100.0	100.0	

**Total annual sales (Chinese Yuan) of respondents in 2007**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 10 million	7	8.1	8.1	8.1
	10 to 50 million	21	24.4	24.4	32.6
	More than 50 million	58	67.4	67.4	100.0
	Total	86	100.0	100.0	

**The time respondents have dealt with ZS Company**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 1 year	3	3.5	3.5	3.5
	1 to 3 years	34	39.5	39.5	43.0
	More than 3 years	49	57.0	57.0	100.0
	Total	86	100.0	100.0	

## Regression analysis

### 1: Relationship between logistics Service Quality and Customer Satisfaction

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.676 <sup>a</sup>	.457	.393	.23690

a. Predictors: (Constant), MTL, MOC, MPCQ, MOA, MOQ, MORQ, MODH, MIQ, MOP

**ANOVA**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3.588	9	.399	7.104	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	4.265	76	.056		
	Total	7.853	85			

a. Predictors: (Constant), MTL, MOC, MPCQ, MOA, MOQ, MORQ, MODH, MIQ, MOP

b. Dependent Variable: MS

**Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.751**	.603		2.902	.005
	MPCQ	.195**	.067	.312	2.908	.005
	MORQ	.091	.075	.121	1.207	.231
	MIQ	.057	.061	.105	.934	.353
	MOP	.108	.075	.166	1.438	.154
	MOA	.022	.086	.023	.250	.803
	MOC	-.160	.125	-.116	-1.281	.204
	MOQ	-.016	.071	-.024	-.229	.819
	MODH	.071	.078	.095	.907	.367
	MTL	.162*	.077	.218	2.104	.039

a. Dependent Variable: MS

## 2: Relationship between Customer Satisfaction and Behavioral Intention

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.645 <sup>a</sup>	.416	.409	.31572

a. Predictors: (Constant), MS

**ANOVA**

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	5.958	1	5.958	59.774	.000 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	8.373	84	.100		
Total	14.331	85			

a. Predictors: (Constant), MS

b. Dependent Variable: MBI

**Coefficients<sup>a</sup>**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.501	.443		1.131	.261
	MS	.871	.113	.645	7.731	.000

a. Dependent Variable: MBI

### 3: Relationship between Logistics Service Quality and Behavioral Intention

**Model Summary**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.675(a)	.456	.391	.32037

a Predictors: (Constant), TL, OC, PCQ, QA, OQ, ORQ, ODH, OP, IQ

**ANOVA (b)**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6.531	9	.726	7.070	.000(a)
	Residual	7.800	76	.103		
	Total	14.331	85			

a. Predictors: (Constant), TL, OC, PCQ, QA, OQ, ORQ, ODH, OP, IQ

b. Dependent Variable: INTEND

**Coefficients (a)**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	B	Std. Error
1	(Constant)	1.256	.829		1.516	.134
	PCQ	.130	.090	.154	1.444	.153
	ORQ	.085	.101	.084	.845	.401
	IQ	.307	.080	.418	3.811	.000
	OP	-.031	.088	-.037	-.355	.724
	QA	-.084	.118	-.066	-.710	.480
	OC	-.038	.171	-.020	-.221	.826
	OQ	-.044	.094	-.047	-.472	.638
	ODH	.122	.091	.137	1.340	.184
	TL	.220	.103	.219	2.127	.037

a. Dependent Variable: Behavioral Intention



