



The
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Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

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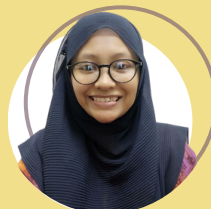


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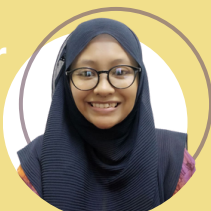
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synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the third edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication exemplifies our steady dedication to fostering creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform where writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing Playwriting, Short stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humour writing, Lyric essays, Innovative essays, and Personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.

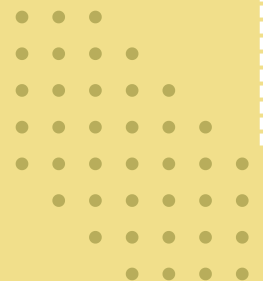




table of **contents:**

My Journeys with The Lone Tree by Sharunizam Shari	34
My Round Hat Dream by Sharina Saad	36
Nur Seri Maya by Shahirah Binti Khairudin	37
Sebuah Perjalanan: “Muhasabah Diri” by Nadia Farleena Bt Mohd Aznan, Siti Maziah Binti Ab Rahman, Yusrina Hayati Nik Muhammad Naziman, Nor Haryanti Md Nor & Dr. Azmahani Yaacob@Othman	40
Teori Sesat Profesor Linguistik by Syahrul Fithri Musa	42
The Conversation That Matters by Suriana Ramli	44
The House Across the Paddy Fields by Norliza Che Mustafa	46
The Inspired Educator (忆良师) by Ng Set Foong	48
True Love’s Chase by Nawal Esa Binti Yazid Esa	49
Universiti Teknologi MARA Joins Sakura Science Exchange Programme at The University of The Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan by Sharir Aizat Kamaruddin	51



Preface



Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

Head of Faculty
Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to Epitome, the 3rd Issue – a collection of thoughts, reflections, and stories that encapsulate the essence of an academic's journey. As the pages unfold, you will embark on a thoughtful exploration of the human experience, woven through the threads of joy, sorrow, and everything in between.

In designing this compilation, our intention is to offer readers a mirror to their own experiences, inviting moments of reflection and connection. Epitome is not just a creative publication; it is an invitation to pause, reflect, and find quality in the shared tapestry of our existence.

Through these pages, the reader may encounter familiar landscapes of the heart and perhaps discover a transformed perspective on the beauty and complexity of academic life. Each piece within Epitome is a humble contribution to the ongoing dialogue of what it means to be human.

I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been a part of this journey – especially to all the contributors and the esteemed Epitome Editorial Team. Your involvement and presence surely added depth and meaning to this publication.

May Epitome serve as a companion, provoking thought and sparking moments of connection and collaboration.

Thank you for embarking on this literary voyage with us.

Editor-In-Chief



Creativity is intelligence having fun

Dear Epitome Community,

We are back for the third issue and enthusiastic to share with all of you the collection of creative writings crafted by dedicated and imaginative writers. In this third issue, we present a variety of articles ranging from playwriting to lyric essays, each offering a unique tone and style of writing. Thanks to all the creative and talented writers, we hope these pieces can inspire you in various ways.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all the inspiring writers for their valuable contributions and unwavering support. Many of these names are familiar to us, as some have been submitting their work since our first volume. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated committee and reviewers for their time and expertise.

Thank you for being a part of our Epitome community.

Till the next volume,

Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor
Editor-in-Chief,
The Epitome

The Conversation That Matters

Suriana Ramli

Arshad Ayub Graduate Business, UiTM, Shah Alam, Selangor

I was engaged in a conversation with someone of great importance and high regard in our society. In light of this, I dedicated my full attention, cleared my schedule, set aside my ongoing responsibilities, and, most importantly, opened my mind to truly listen. Our dialogue began somewhat awkwardly, and I was at a loss for words. My usual train of thought seemed momentarily derailed.

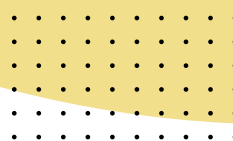
As our conversation unfolded, we gradually broke through the initial awkwardness, and the rigidity began to melt away. We found ourselves growing increasingly comfortable with each other, engaging in discussions about everyday topics. My focus was unwavering; I was fully immersed in the conversation. Every word she uttered was valued, and I made a conscious effort to listen attentively, allowing her to finish her well-articulated sentences without interruption.

As we savoured the delightful ‘kuih’, our conversation took a flavourful turn. She took the opportunity to share her insights on what made this particular “kuih” so delicious, offering intricate details about its preparation. She mentioned that the secret was in the precise combination of ingredients and the meticulous cooking process. It struck me as ironic because, back in my hometown, my mother was renowned as a “kuih” seller, known for her mastery of this traditional delicacy. Yet, I could not help but reflect on how I had overlooked or underestimated this crucial piece of information.

I realised that I had not been a good listener, not just in this instance but perhaps in many others. The busyness of life had consumed me, leading me to take so many things for granted. This experience served as a reminder of the importance of being present, actively listening, and valuing the wisdom and knowledge that others have to share.

As our conversation effortlessly shifted to the subject of coffee, my friend recounted an amusing anecdote. She recalled a time when she was thoroughly impressed by a cup of coffee served by our guest, only to later discover that it was, in fact, instant coffee. All of us shared a hearty laugh at the irony of the situation.

With a warm smile, my guest generously imparted invaluable wisdom regarding the secret craft of coffee making, emphasising the critical factors of precise water temperature and the crucial timing for adding coffee.



At that moment, a profound realisation dawned upon me. In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, we often found ourselves neglecting the significance of following processes and paying attention to details. This oversight often resulted in unnecessary errors, diminishing the quality of outcomes and necessitating additional effort to rectify these mistakes. By observing her, it's impossible to disregard the maternal presence she embodied. Listening to her experiences, I understood the extent of my oversight. I made the mistake of not truly dedicating time to listen to my parents, not allowing them to express themselves fully since my mind was preoccupied with other matters.

It's a poignant reminder that sometimes, we tend to learn more from others than we do from our own parents. This epiphany compelled me to take a step back and reflect on my interactions with my loved ones, particularly my parents. It's a call to strive for more meaningful and attentive conversations, cherish the wisdom they offer, and bridge any communication gaps that may have arisen over time.

What a regrettable oversight it has been to neglect the true teacher in my life. I've often instructed my brain to defer certain matters, deeming them unimportant and capable of waiting. It's truly fascinating how the human brain operates, faithfully following our commands, even filtering out stimuli it deems inconsequential. In my presumption of knowing better and knowing more, I've inadvertently dismissed valuable lessons, insights, and advice without realising it.

The demands of modern life are relentless, accelerated by the rapid pace of technological advancement. The workplace, in particular, exerts increasing pressure, and everyone clamours for your time and attention. In this frantic whirlwind, it's too easy to lose sight of what truly matters and overlook the essential aspects of life.

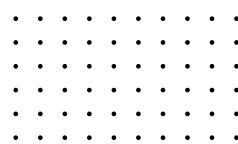
I'll be returning to my beloved parents soon. As I contemplate our impending visit, I find myself pondering what we should discuss and what meaningful conversations we can have. The uncertainty lingers. I imagine us sitting together, gazing at the small screen, engaging in casual chit chat, and embracing the occasional moments of silence. It sounds both simple and complex. But why is that?

My recent conversation with my guest has enlightened me about the importance of having a purpose in every conversation. What is the overarching goal of our meeting? With a clear objective in mind, one is motivated to make every effort to achieve it. My primary aim is to deepen my understanding of my parents and delve into their thoughts and concerns.

Alternatively, perhaps I could set the goal of crafting a "kuih" memoir. After all, my mother is the true expert in this domain. Yet, there's so much more to her than just her culinary prowess. I want to learn about my father's sacrifices for his siblings and unwavering dedication to his children and parents. How has he managed to work tirelessly and loyally for over three decades while supporting my mother's small venture?

In preparing for this visit, I'm reminded that our parents hold a treasure trove of experiences and wisdom. It's incumbent upon us to uncover these gems, to appreciate their sacrifices and contributions, and to strengthen the bonds that tie us together.

I offer heartfelt advice to all: Take a step back and reorient your focus towards what holds genuine importance. Reconnect with your roots and engage in those long-overdue conversations with your parents. There's an abundance of untold stories, wisdom, and perspectives waiting to be shared, and the passing of time may deny you the chance. The prospect of such missed opportunities is indeed regrettable.



The End.



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