



The **Epitome** */i'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Capturing Life Lessons and Moments

Volume 1
Issue 4

2024



Copyright Page

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eISSN 3009 – 0075

Published by:

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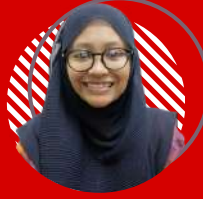


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Synopsis



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

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform for 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.





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Preface

Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman
Head of Faculty
Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Epitome*, where creativity and imagination shine brightly. Within these pages, you will discover a rich tapestry of voices and visions—each piece a celebration of the limitless potential of words.

This issue of *Epitome* is more than a mere publication; it is a tribute to the art of storytelling in all its forms. Whether you are captivated by evocative poetry, enthralled by engaging short stories, or intrigued by insightful essays, we aim to present something that resonates with every reader.

We are passionate about the transformative power of literature, and we hope that this collection will inspire, challenge, and delight you. As you explore these pages, may you uncover new perspectives and experiences that enrich your own creative journey.

Thank you for embarking on this literary adventure with us.

Happy reading!





Editor InChief

Dear gentle readers,

Let me welcome you to our fourth edition of e-magazine, where we explore the beauty of life's journey. Our theme, "Capturing Life Lessons and Moments," encourages you to pause, reflect, and celebrate the wisdom that arises from everyday experiences.

Life is a mosaic of moments, each with the potential to teach us something profound, inspire change, or remind us of the surrounding beauty. Within these pages, we have unfolded stories, reflections, and insights that illuminate the lessons woven into the fabric of our lives. From the quiet wisdom found in fleeting moments to the power of life-changing events, this edition pays tribute to the learning that occurs beyond the classroom, in the heart of our daily lives.

Our contributors have poured their hearts into capturing these moments, sharing personal stories that resonate with authenticity and depth. You will find essays exploring the significance of small acts of kindness, articles reflecting on the lessons learned from adversity, and creative pieces celebrating the joy found in simple leisure. Each piece serves as a reminder that life's greatest lessons often emerge from the most unexpected places.

As you flip through this edition, we hope you find inspiration in the shared stories and perhaps discover a mirror to your own experiences. May these pages encourage you to appreciate the moments that shape you, learn from the challenges that test you, and embrace the wisdom that life offers at every step of your journey.

Thank you for joining us in exploring life's lessons and moments. We invite you to take your time, savour each piece, and maybe even gain a new perspective on the experiences that have shaped your own life.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin
Editor-in-Chief
THE EPITOME



Déjà vu

Nur Syamimi Zahari

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It has been four months we are here, in this new city. Things are getting better, alhamdulillah. I had never imagined my life to be living here, what more to stay under one roof with my parents again after I left them for boarding school 23 years ago. But I do believe and have faith in Him as everything happens for a reason that we might not know now. We can also just plan but Allah is the best of planners. So, we just follow what is written for us, and InshaAllah this is the best.

After 10 years of service in UiTM, we are resetting everything now, not only our workplace but our life in general too. But, it's Deja vu. Things are coming back again. I had the same experience in my first semester of teaching in the old campus I served and the new campus now. I remember the very first semester I taught in UiTM Puncak Perdana; it was really challenging. As a young lady lecturer in the class with the age gap between the students and myself is just 4-5 years, the students seem to have less respect towards me, or maybe it's just me, being so conservative? But I was so shocked, or can I say I was culture-shocked with the language the students used in my class. There was one day, a girl in my class without any guilt cursed and used the f*** word when communicating with her classmates. It was spontaneous and natural. I was speechless, as I myself have never used that kind of word, what more in this professional setting. So, I stopped them and told them immediately not to curse and use bad words in my class and on campus too. Luckily, after the incident I have never heard the cursing words anymore.

Fast forward 10 years, I am now in UiTM Cawangan Kelantan, serving people in my hometown. The first semester I am here makes me reminisce the memories of the first-year teaching back in UiTM Shah Alam. The first half of the semester here was good and smooth but things were coming back again after the semester break. I guess everyone in the class has started to show their true colors now. It's Deja vu. When I was in class, checking the students' tasks, I could hear the words again. Oh dear, it is a boy now communicating among themselves with cursing words. All the b*** and f*** words were out naturally from their mouths. At first, I just pretended that I did not listen to anything. But, how could I? Plus, the volume kept on increasing as they got overwhelmed, hence, I had no choice to ask them to stop.

At one moment I feel so sad and afraid with this kind of generation we are making. Sometimes I think they do not respect the instructor in the class. Sometimes I think they do not have common sense to converse nicely. Sometimes I think they really do not know the proper language to use in different contexts. We, as educators, especially language educators, instructors, lecturers or whatever you call it, need to take action for this not to happen again.

I hope it will stop here. I hope I won't be writing 'Deja vu' again in 10 years to come. I hope our students can really interact professionally in this educational institution. We need to always remind our students that language that we use is a mirror, a reflection of ourselves and people can know our identity just by the way we talk. Thus, we need to be careful when we open up our mouths and mind our language that we use.



The
Epitome
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eISSN 3009-0075



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