



# *The* **Epitome** */i'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

*Capturing Life Lessons and Moments*

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# Copyright Page

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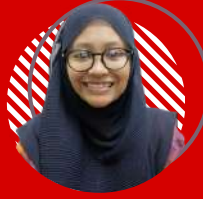


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# Synopsis



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





# It is all about MONEY

**Nur Jihan Md Johan**  
UiTM Negeri Sembilan, Kuala Pilah Branch

**MONEY is finance and finance is money. Every single day we spend our money to buy food and other necessities to continue our living. Sometimes, we do spend on precious and luxury things for our collections. Needing those, are we aware that our savings are tight for our own spending preferences? Yet, some people out there are struggling in their daily lives to own their properties due to financial constraints. Years ago, economic situations were different and people could go everywhere for holidays and shopping. The economic value was high and businesses were at high performance during that moment. Humans shopping habits were unpredictable and unique that includes their personal preferences. However, the spending era like those days are insignificant for us today.**

It is believed or not, financial matters did not reflect individuals so much these days as they would rather and always fulfil their spending desires. It was a shocking moment to witness individuals spend hundred and thousand ringgits just to buy unnecessary items. Well, I know that is their own money, they earned every month and some of them owned a business. But, me? I am different. I know the value of every single cent in this world. I know my hard work paid off. And I know my struggle is real to survive. I have my dreams to achieve, thus, I am a financial planner to myself. I always call myself a 'finance person' and with that title I appoint myself as an unofficial finance manager at home. I have my invisible calculator in my mind where all the simple mathematics and personal budget are kept and I will bring it everywhere I go because I know everything is all about MONEY.

How I wish the barter system still exists today. No need to cash out or swipe a card to buy things, just exchange for our desired items. There is no TAC or PIN number to key in for paying any items. All we need is just to exchange food with food and livestock with livestock. Yes, I know we are living in another modern era. The barter system is no longer used for humans because now everything is all about MONEY.







I wonder how the mukbangers can spend their money to buy food with such a huge amount of food. Where do they get the money from? How are they going to finish their food? How come they can spend so much money on their content? All I heard was the 'ka-ching' 'ka-ching' sound while they were enjoying their food. It feels like they were eating their money but not their food, and maybe some of them did not really enjoy their food, but they just did it for only content and income purposes. How funny it is! Well, if I have a plenty of money, I would like to perform my umrah, will go for Hajj with my parents, take my parents everywhere they want to go, give some to my siblings, give some for donations, do some investments, keep some for saving, build a new mosque, help those who are in need and lots more that I would like to fulfil.

I remembered years ago when my late grandma bought us nasi lemak in banana leaves wrapping. It was only 50 cents each. The aroma and the taste are still mingled in my head. Imagine today the same nasi lemak with the same price is still selling now, it would be the best signature in my kampung. Somehow, the time passes by, the economy is up and down and many nasi lemak sellers are growing like mushrooms with variant prices. Some are quite expensive but some are not. Even some of the nasi lemak portions are less than the expected price. All we can hear from them is that the suppliers' charges are high, raw materials are hard to get and expensive nowadays, competitors bid their price and many other reasons. How sad these changes happened because we know everything is now all about MONEY. However, some of us are willing to pay such a price as long as the brand name is there like Nasi Lemak Royal, Secret Recipe Nasi Lemak and McDonald nasi lemak.



**To all my brothers and sisters, we know money is important for our living but always remember money can't buy us happiness. Use your money wisely and be moderate in your spending pattern. Share with those who are in need and always do sadaqah because you would not lose anything with sadaqah. Our money is just temporary in this world. Do not be afraid to give because the reward is in the hereafter.**



**“The more you give, the more you will get back”**





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