



# *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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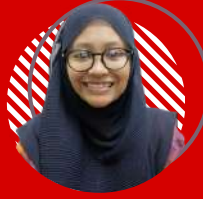


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# Synopsis



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



# What Do You Mean *Being a Lecturer Is Hard?*

Nadiah Zubbir  
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB), UTM Shah Alam

**Have you heard this? As a lecturer, has someone said this to you? Did they have a smirk when they said it? Or was it a frown? I had. It was a family member. It did not hurt me. But it was disappointing. To think that people assume that just because we lecturer are not responsible for a million-ringgit worth of project or high-profit products, does not make our job easy. Do you know what we are responsible for? Your future. Your kids' future. This country's future. I am getting ahead of myself. Maybe I should explain what we do.**

Number one, educating. Many assume that just because we are called lecturers, our job is simply to “teach” students. People probably think that all we do is go to class, teach the syllabus and go home. Simple. Well, there is more to that than you think. We are not only required to teach students what is in the books, but also what comes along with the knowledge IN REAL LIFE. We need to train students problem-solving skills using the knowledge they have gained. We need to guide them to do things ethically and be capable as well as well-mannered adults. We need to educate them on ways to learn how to learn, be resourceful and opportunistic in the realities of adult life. Most of all, we need to show them what having a COMMON SENSE is.

Number two, searching and researching. We, educators, are always required to search for ways to better educate ourselves and our students. We need to either find experts who could demonstrate them to us or find it out by ourselves by researching academically. The experts we chose must align with our teaching policies and philosophy. We are to copy, adapt and alter these techniques effectively to ensure we could maximize our students' potential. When we could not find experts that could aid us in our educating quest, we embark on a journey to discover these methods ourselves.



Through reading, experimenting and constructing frameworks, we pray we could train the young minds to be competent professionally and ethically. But just one method cannot be generally used for all students. Students differ according to faculties, semester, gender, intakes, the time of the class, their temperament and many other factors. They even change throughout the week and day. And to be an excellent educator, we need to adapt accordingly. Thus, we are always searching and researching.

Finally, being exemplary. As the professional adults in students' maturing age, we, lecturers, are what they used as a light post on how to perform work in real life. We must be compassionate yet strict. We must be professional but approachable. We must be able to crack jokes as well as give effective solutions to problems. We must lead as well as allow students to follow side-by-side. We must let them be independent, but at the same time, let them be dependent on us. We are the exemplary of a professional life, yet we are not perfect. When we made mistakes, we must allow students to tell us it was wrong politely. When we do not know, we must let them know we should learn together. When we are tired and angry, we must be able to handle them professionally and tell them like an adult should.

**There are many more things that lecturers are responsible for. Things that only people who worked with the young minds would understand. Many acquit educators with “easy-going” job and for not needing to “wrestle” with the high-risk tasks of other jobs. What they did not know, that we meddle with knowledge, with emotion and with the future of many. So the next time someone asks you a similar question, just answer them the same way I did, “Why don't you try?”.**



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