



The **Epitome** */i'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Theme,
**THE POWER OF EXPRESSION",
"REFLECTIONS & REALITIES:**

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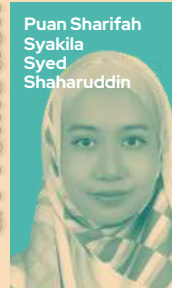


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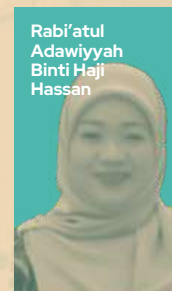
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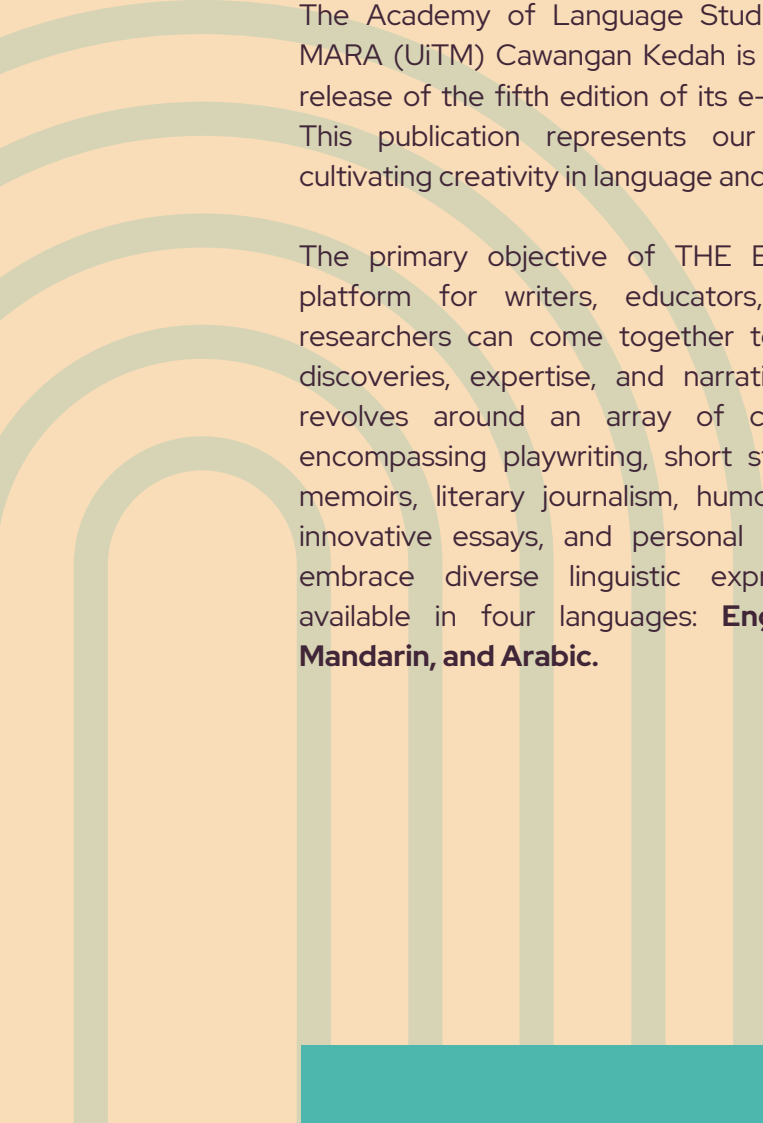
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Synopsis



The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the fifth 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
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UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to the 5th issue of Epitome. This time, we step into a world where reflections shape realities, and where the simple act of expression holds incredible power.

Our theme, "Reflections & Realities: The Power of Expression," captures the spirit of this collection. It reminds us that every creative work is more than just an arrangement of words – it is a mirror, a window, and a bridge. Within these pages, you will encounter a rich variety of voices, each offering a unique glimpse into personal journeys, dreams, questions, and truths. Together, they form a tapestry that reflects both the world as it is and the world as we imagine it could be.

At Epitome, we believe that creativity is not just about telling stories; it's about giving shape to experiences that might otherwise remain unspoken. Through story that stirs the heart, stories that spark new ideas, and essays that invite reflection, we celebrate the courage it takes to put thoughts into words and share them with others.

This issue is not just a showcase of talent – it is an invitation. An invitation to pause, to listen, and to engage with the many realities presented here. It asks us to look beyond the surface, to find meaning in unexpected places, and to recognize the universal threads that connect us all through the simple yet profound act of expression.

As you journey through this edition, we hope you find pieces that resonate with you, challenge your perspective, and awaken new ideas. May these reflections inspire you to embrace your own realities – and perhaps even to express them in your own way.

Thank you for allowing Epitome to be part of your reading experience. We are honoured to share these voices with you.

Happy reading!



Editor'snote

Presenting the fifth edition of THE EPITOME, a humble yet heartfelt collection of voices that reflect who we are, what we've experienced, and the truths we dare to express.

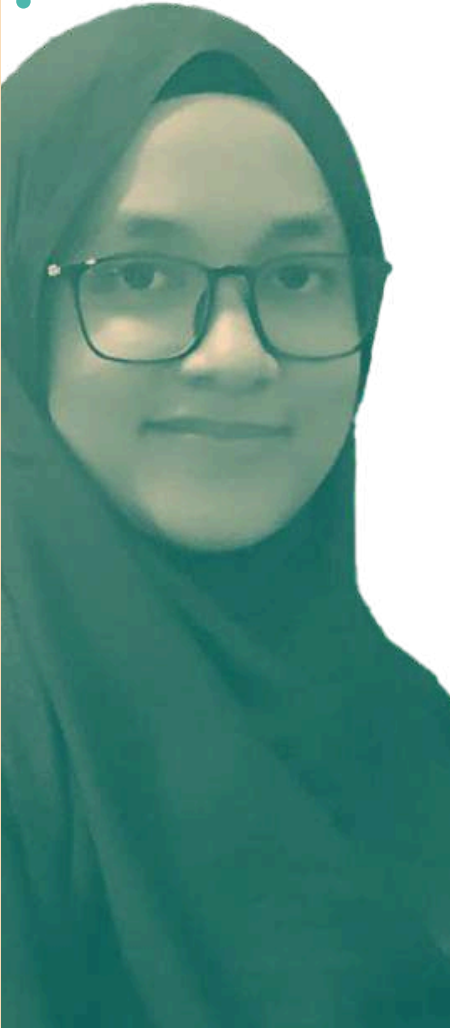
This publication's theme, "Reflections & Realities: The Power of Expression", embraces the essence of storytelling in all its forms—raw, whimsical, honest, and imaginative. Within these pages, our contributors navigate the labyrinth of identity, nostalgia, struggle, resilience, and creativity. Whether through memoirs, fiction, poetry, satire, or cultural musings, each piece represents a unique lens into the human condition, where language becomes both mirror and window—reflecting ourselves and revealing the world.

In a publication that welcomes expression in three languages—English, Bahasa Melayu, and Mandarin—we are reminded of the richness that lies in linguistic diversity. From humorous tales of online shopping to haunting narratives of secrets and self-discovery, from kampung chronicles to cross-cultural encounters, THE EPITOME offers a space for voices that often go unheard to finally be seen, read, and felt.

My deepest appreciation goes to the writers who have entrusted us with their stories, the editorial and design teams whose passion has brought this issue to life, and our readers who continuously support this platform as a space for creative and reflective exploration.

May this edition inspire you to reflect, to connect, and most of all—to express.

Warmly,
Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor
Chief Editor
THE EPITOME 2025



How I Accidentally Became a Tour Guide in Paris

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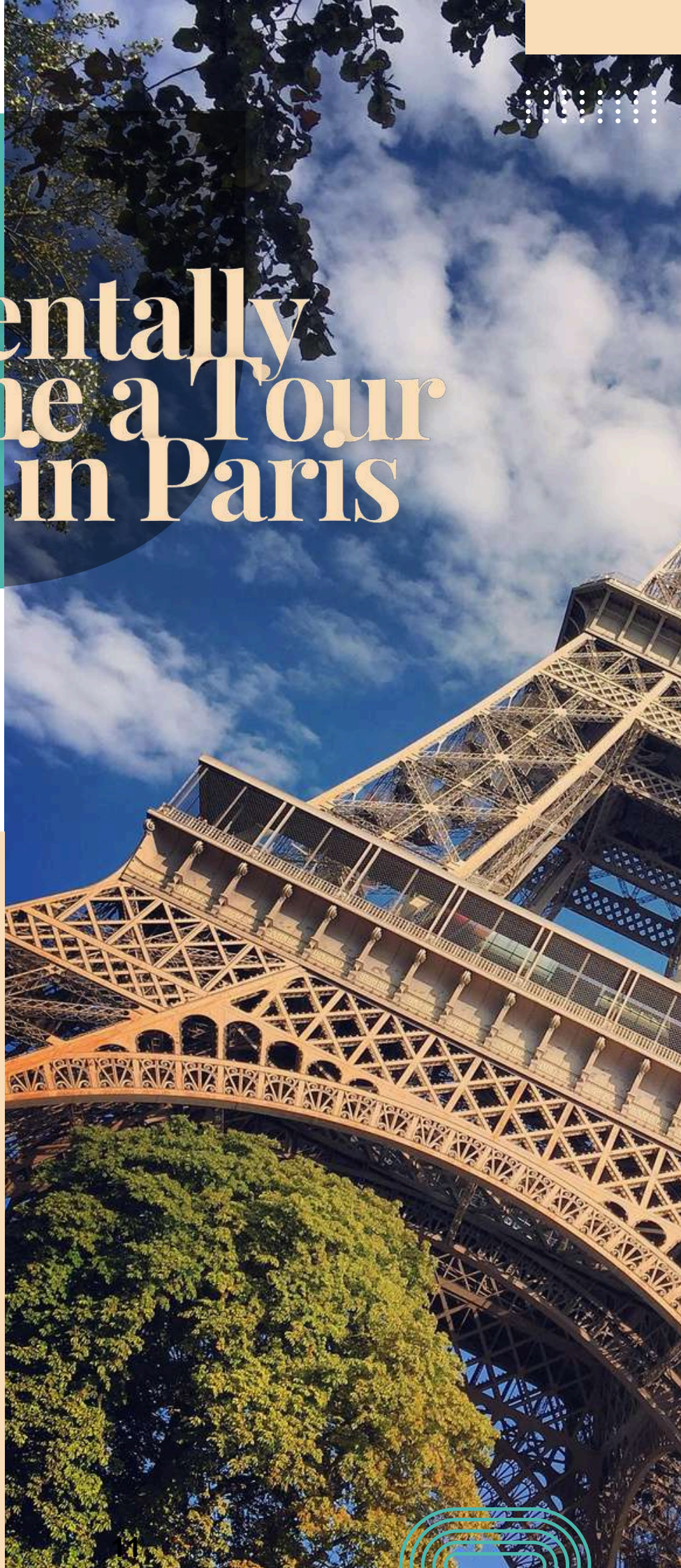
Paris, city of love, lights, and getting lost. When I planned my solo trip, I imagined strolling along the Seine, eating croissants, and blending in with stylish Parisians. What I didn't plan was accidentally becoming a tour guide for other lost tourists.

It all started when I was trying to find the Louvre. My map app told me to "head southeast." Great advice, if I had a compass or any sense of direction. While wandering aimlessly, I ran into a group of American tourists who looked just as lost as me.

Excuse me," one of them asked, "do you know where the Louvre is?"

I should have said, "No clue, I'm lost too." But instead, I smiled confidently and said, "Of course! Follow me."

And just like that, I had a tour group.





"I figured I could secretly Google the directions while walking. Easy, right? Wrong. My phone lost service. But I couldn't admit I was clueless. So, I made things up.

"On your left," I announced, pointing to a random café, "is where Ernest Hemingway wrote his famous stories." Was that true? Probably not. But they snapped photos like it was.

As we walked, I continued making up facts. "This cobblestone street," I said seriously, "is from medieval times. Watch your step, it's historic!" (It was just bumpy.)

By some miracle, we finally found the Louvre. I was ready to say goodbye and sneak off, but one of the tourists said, "You're such a great guide! How long have you been doing this?"

What could I say? "About 30 minutes"? Instead, I smiled and replied, "Oh, a while."

They insisted I join them inside. "You probably know all the good spots," they said. Sure, like the best spot to hide from them. But I went along, and for the next two hours, I led them through the museum, making up "facts" about the art.

"That's the Mona Lisa," I said, pointing to the tiny painting everyone already knew. "She's smiling because she just won a baguette-eating contest."

"Wow," they said, nodding like I'd just shared a deep secret.

By the end of the day, my "tourists" thanked me and even tipped me! Somehow, I had seen Paris and accidentally became a fake expert in the process.

Next time, though, I'm sticking to Google Maps. Or better yet, I'll let someone else lead the way.

Biodata of author(s)

Dr. Roszi Naszariah Nasni Naseri is a senior lecturer at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Melaka, where she has been teaching since 2010. With a PhD in Technology Management and Technopreneurship, her research focuses on technology acceptance, halal studies, and consumer behavior. Passionate about bridging technology, culture, and market trends, Dr. Roszi's work provides practical insights for businesses and society. She is dedicated to exploring how people interact with technology, make decisions, and embrace cultural values in their choices, while also enjoying opportunities to share her knowledge and write about these evolving topics.





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