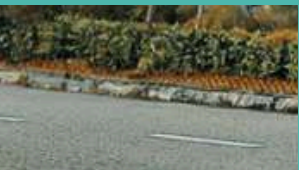


# The Epitome /i'pitəmi/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch



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

Volume 1  
Issue 5

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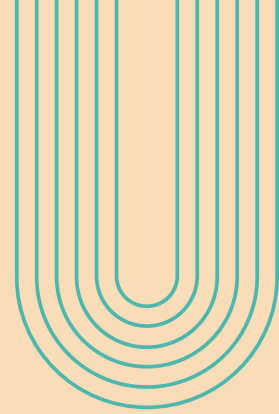
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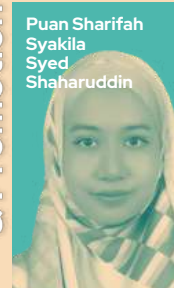
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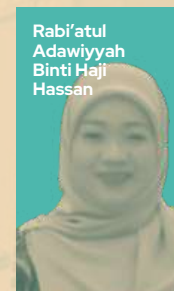
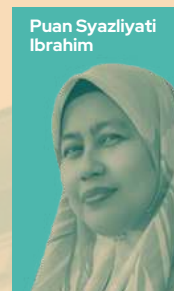
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# Synopsis

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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The  
**Epitome**  
/i'pitəmi/

# Preface

**Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman**  
Head of Faculty  
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB)  
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> 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!





The  
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# Editor's note

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.

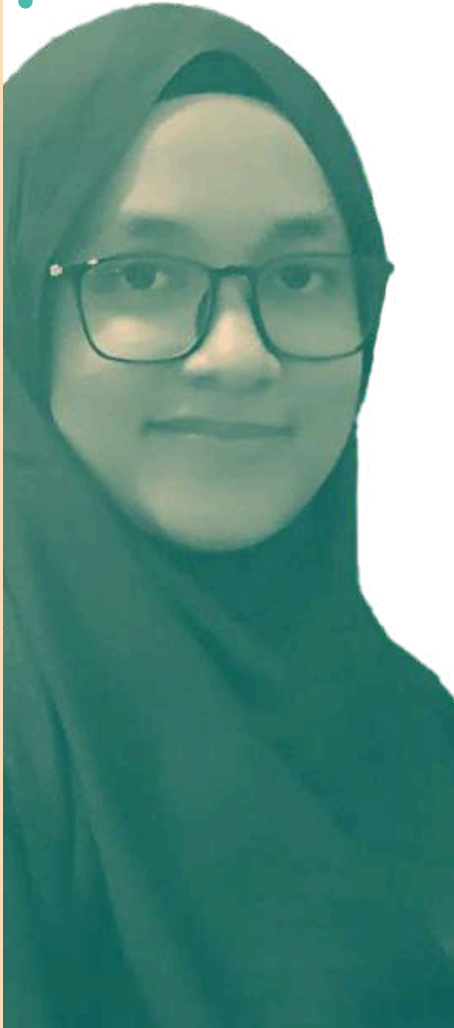
This publication's theme, "Reflections & Realities: The Power of Expression", embraces the essence of storytelling in all its forms—raw, whimsical, honest, and imaginative. Within these pages, our contributors navigate the labyrinth of identity, nostalgia, struggle, resilience, and creativity. Whether 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*







# Memoirs of a Disc Jockey

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His passing was so solemn, perhaps, one of those sombre-filled moments in my life, so heart-gripping that tears welled up in my eyes, constantly swollen. Alas the tear-jerking moments of his passing in mid 2021, could only be consoled through the songs that he usually played on the airwaves during his disc jockey midnight runs. As I grew up, it was uncannily inevitable to have forgotten all those songs, tuneful as they were, ones that I grew up along the way, tunes that conjured the streams of consciousness. My humble but loving father was a musical-minded genius, often cranking up the tunes on the radio that had been ingrained in me till this very day.

Through his nurturing and fortunately, at times, unbridled upbringing of me; his idea of my adulthood training, just to be self-sufficient and independent as he always encouraged to be, there were yet, those moments, facts of life that I learned things through his tuneful memories of a song, or in most instances, a rack full of songs, contained in pure vinyl or in cassette tapes, stacked up in the cupboard at home.

Some of the memorable and notable early anthemic chants, contained in pure vinyl or in magnetic cassette tapes, came from Sir Cliff Richard, belting out spiritedly, the motivational "Congratulations",

**"Congratulations, I want the world to know I'm happy as can be.."**

This very line of the song, though predominantly a love song, ironically embodied the triumph of my primary school years, my 5 straight A's in my Standard 5 academic assessments during the 1970's. Oh how great it felt, my first academic victory, embodied by my father's joy and pride through the words of this very song. More rewardingly, it was a sense of jubilation that marked my maiden academic conquest, through this song that was dedicated to me across the airwaves over Radio Malaysia Kawasan Utara's Rangkaian Biru (subsequently renamed as the Blue Network, and thereafter TraxxFM); broadcast throughout the Northern region of the country from Perlis to Northern Perak.

He was a joy to his adoring listeners, his radio fans, never leaving it to any chance, playing every song request to everyone's delight setting the dimly-lit studio alight. Oh how those melodies, song requests that brought sheer to every radio listener, were never failed to be played, ones that my father, the disc jockey, unresistingly adhered to, which were always met with gratitude; carrying his spirit forward, overcoming all feelings of sadness and solitude, lingering in every musical note that resurfaced throughout the half-hour weekly radio show "Say it with music". that he often played and entertained in every radio show that he hosted for the past 34 years of radio broadcasting. Among the most familiar request cliches that one could almost predict in every song request from his ardent listeners were.....

**"Uncle Richard (a.k.a Richard Murthy), could you please play me my favourite song...."**

...which was often responded with a...

**"Thank you so much for playing my favourite song, you just made my day, Uncle Richard.."**

And there's the other radio show that Uncle Richard used to helm behind the microphone, Pick of this Week, a 30-minute musical rollercoaster, on the DJ console, dedicated to all 80's music enthusiasts. It was probably one of the most memorable educational exploits in my life through this fan-fave, close-to-the edit show that featured Top40 chart topping singles. Most of all, the top 6 songs picked for each week were chosen and decided by the radio fans themselves. As I nostalgically reminisced the production process of one of his memorable show preps, my father showed me one of his technical skills, one that involved the manual cutting and joining – splicing as it was called in radio-broadcasting lingo, in which he re-recorded the CD single version of the chart-topper "The Reflex" by the Birmingham-based supergroup, Duran Duran, the version with the remixed intro that was re-mixed by producer extraordinaire Nile Rodgers, the version that wasn't yet played on Malaysian airwaves (at that point of time).

It was exclusively re-mastered, in terms of the 80's era (when digital wizardry wasn't yet invented) and played on Malaysian airwaves several months long before it reached our shores, much to his radio fans' wonder and bewilderment. And to top it all, Uncle Richard pre-recorded on magnetic tape, the Single-version of "The Reflex" that was aired over the British Broadcasting Service (BBC) World Service Multitrack Chart Show (over the shortwave radio broadcast) and then spliced the pre-recorded version onto the Album-version of "the Reflex" onto the magnetic tape. And walla! As exquisite as it was, my father single-handedly crafted the newly-strung record with the remixed intro and played it on his Pick of This Week radio show over at Rangkaian Biru on that lovely November evening. And the fans loved it, and championed it as The Pick of This Week chart topper!!!

And with that, as they say in show business, that's our show for now; in his calming yet baritone voice, never failing to carve a contented smile on every radio fans' faces. These were some of the golden moments of radio broadcasting, all but a noble profession in the infotainment industry. And long to be remembered, in our hearts will remain, an unsung hero of the airwaves, entertaining and relaying information... May you Rest in peace, my DJ dad...

**Pap, you may be my father in law but the 'in law' part is just a formality. Thank you for accepting me 'your sayang' and loving me as your own.....'Your Sayang'..**



### Biodata of author(s)

Imran Danial Krish Bin Abdullah has been an English Language lecturer of thirty over years at the UiTM Shah Alam. At present, he is attached to the Foundation Studies programme at the Dengkil campus, preparing students for their MUET examinations and onwards to their degree studies.

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