



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA



The Epitome /i'pitəmi/

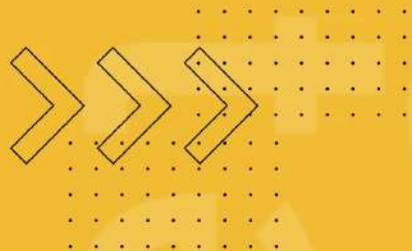
Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

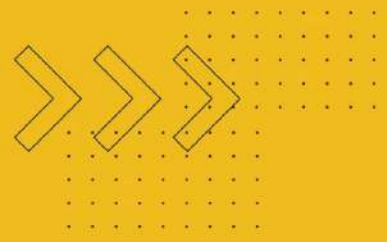
Unleash the epitome
of creative writers

Volume 2 Issue 6

2026

The
Epitome
/ɪˈpɪtəmi/





Copyright Page

Copyright© 2026 by Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah Branch.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission from the Rector, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah Branch, 08400 Merbok, Kedah, Malaysia.

The views, opinions and technical recommendations expressed by the contributors are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors, the Faculty or the University.

eISSN 3009 – 0075

Published by:
UiTM Kedah Branch,
Pn. Razanawati Nordin, Chief Editor,
UiTM Cawangan Kedah, Kampus Sg. Petani, 08400 Merbok, Kedah
Email address: razanawati@uitm.edu.my
Contact No: 044562421

Copy Editor: Ms. Nadhirah binti Azizan
Graphic Designer: Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin

APB KEDAH : THE EPITOME

Editorial Board

Advisor

Puan Robekhah Harun



Chief Editors

Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor



Puan Hajjah Razanawati Nordin



Managing Editors & Promotion

Dr Sharifah Syakila Syed Shaharuddin



Content Reviewers

Dr Hajjah Sharina Saad



Puan Phaveena Primsuwan



Puan Hajjah Samsiah Bidin



Dr. Berlian Nur Morat



Puan Syazliyat Ibrahim



Ustaz Mohd Zulkhairi Abd Hamid



Puan Noor Izzati Ahmad Shafial



Cik Lee Chai Chuen



Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin



Puan Rabi'atul Adawiyyah Haji Hassan



Secretaries

Puan Mas Aida Abd Rahim



Puan Nor Asni Syahriza Abu Hasan



Technical

Puan Rafidah Amat



Puan Khairul Wanis Ahmad



Copy Editor

Cik Nadhirah Azizan



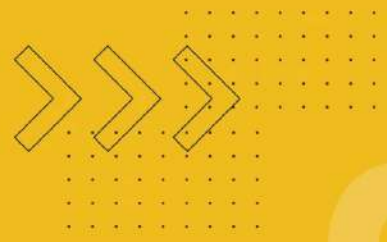
Mr Muhammad Shyazzwan Ibrahim Brian



Graphic Designer

Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin





Synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) is thrilled to unveil the vibrant sixth edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication celebrates our passionate commitment and unwavering dedication to the art and craft of language and literature.

THE EPITOME emerges as a dynamic platform for a community of writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers, all eager to share their unique perspectives, breakthroughs, wisdom, and tales. This edition showcases a mix of creative writing genres, from the dramatic twists of Playwriting to the introspective depths of Personal Essays, including Short Stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humorous Writing, Lyric Essays, and Innovative Essays. With a rich tapestry of voices, presenting and embracing works in English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic, each adding its own uniqueness to the realm of language and literature.

Synopsis



The
Epitome
/i'pitəmi/

Preface

Puan Robekhah Harun
Acting Head of Faculty
Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to Epitome, the 6th Issue. Epitome is the platform where writers transformed moments into meaning and emotions into language, offering readers a mirror in which they may recognize parts of themselves. The theme for this publication is Stories That Stay - A timeless collection of powerful narratives – memories, questions, friendships, losses, and life-altering choices.

Stories That Stay is a quiet yet powerful reminder that the most enduring narratives are often born from moments of reflection rather than spectacle. The stories collected within this bulletin encourages readers to pause, to listen, and to engage with experiences that linger long after the final page is turned.

The writers have approached their work with sincerity and depth, transforming personal moments into shared understanding. In doing so, they remind us that stories do not end on the page; they continue within the reader, shaping thought, emotion, and perspective.

I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the editorial team and all the contributors for bringing Stories That Stay to life. Your dedication, creativity, and thoughtful curation have resulted in a body of work that resonates with sincerity and depth. May this publication serve not as an endpoint, but as a beginning. Continue to write, to publish, and to trust in the power of your voices. The world needs stories like these – stories that stay.

May Epitome serve as both recognition and encouragement for writers to continue to write with honesty, to publish with purpose, and to trust that your words matter. In a world that often moves too quickly, your willingness to slow down and tell stories that endure is invaluable.





Editor's note

Assalamualaikum and warmest greetings,

Dear gentle readers,

Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah SWT, we are delighted to present the 6th issue of our e-magazine, centered on the theme "Stories That Stay." These are not just stories – they are living reminiscences, deepest questions, treasured friendships, deep losses, and life-changing choices that remain with us long after the moment has passed.

Every narrative in this issue carries a spark – a reminder that our journeys are written with wisdom, by the One who knows us best. Some stories teach, some heal, and others strengthen us when we feel we cannot go on. May these pages offer you reflection, comfort, and renewed strength, Insha-Allah.

As the Chief Editor, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors who poured their hearts into their writing, and to you – our beloved readers – for your continuous support. May Allah bless your path as you read, reflect, and grow through these timeless stories.

Happy reading, and may your heart find what it needs.

**With love and gratitude,
Hajah Razanawati Nordin
Chief Editor**





19 **MEMOIR OF SITI KHADIJAH: MY IUM JOURNEY**
By: Siti Khadijah Omar
Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam, Malaysia

21 **MRS. CARMELA, A CARING POLICEWOMAN** Genre: Crime Drama Setting: Taormina, Sicily, Italy
By: Piermauro Catarinella
Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam

23 **OPPOSITE ORBITS**
By: Muhammad Zulfadhli Saifuddin
Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Cawangan Selangor, Kampus Shah Alam, Selangor

25 **RAGAM ANAK MEWARNAI KEHIDUPAN**
By: Nurul Atiqah Mohd Azlan
Faculty of Communication and Media Studies, UiTM Shah Alam

27 **RED-HANDED FATE**
By: Noli Maishara Nordin & Roslan Sadjirin
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa & Kolej Pengajian Pengkomputeran, Informatik & Matematik, UiTM Cawangan Pahang

29 **TARIAN GULA**
By: Nur Maisarah Sarizan
Faculty of Applied Sciences, UiTM, Cawangan Perlis, Kampus Arau, Perlis

31 **THE BEAUTY OF LOW-MAINTENANCE FRIENDSHIPS: QUALITY OVER QUANTITY**
By: Hanani Hussin
Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Cawangan Kedah

33 **THE MONTY HALL OF LIFE**
By: Maisarah Ahmad Kamil
Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Shah Alam

35 **THE RIVALRY**
By: Roszi Naszariah Nasni Naseri
Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Cawangan Melaka

37 **UNSPOKEN REMINDERS**
By: Abdul Azim Mahda
Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Cawangan Sarawak

39 **WAKE UP**
By: Martin Junior
Faculty of Accountancy, UiTM Cawangan Sabah

41 **“WEIGHT OF WORD”**
By: Zainab Razali
Faculty of Applied Sciences, UiTM Perlis Branch



Opposite Orbits

Muhammad Zulfadhli Saifuddin

Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan
Selangor, Kampus Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
mdzulfadhli@uitm.edu.my

As the early sunlight stretched gently over the waking city, Mohsein found refuge in the quiet corner of the park where few ventured at dawn. Each morning, he would settle on a secluded bench beneath the willow's cascading branches, its green curtain offering a gentle hush that matched his inward nature. The low hum of distant traffic and the occasional trill of a songbird became the soundtrack to his private reveries, and the world beyond felt blissfully remote.

On one such morning, however, he discovered a stranger occupying his usual spot. The young man sprawled across the bench, greeted him with a wave and an irrepressible grin, beckoning him closer. The stranger's name was Noah—a force as bright and lively as the rising sun. He brimmed with words and gestures. His laughter rolled through the quiet space as if trying to awaken every leaf and blade of grass to its fullest life.

Reluctantly, Mohsein chose to sit at the far end. At first, Noah's energy unnerved him. He came here for silence, not chatter. Yet, Noah's warmth was infectious; while he spoke of the people passing by, inventing small stories for each stranger, Mohsein listened. He did not reveal much about himself, but he did not need to. Noah's presence alone painted the space with color. Over the following days and weeks, they found themselves sharing the bench as if drawn by some unspoken agreement. Mohsein would watch the world from the edges of his perception, and Noah would fill the quiet moments with commentary, jokes, and questions that often went unanswered. It was an odd companionship—one that formed not through a rush of conversation but through a slow, steady rhythm of trust.

At times, Noah coaxed Mohsein out of the park's sanctuary. He led him to busy food festivals and group outings, nudging him, gently, toward the bustling heart of life. Surrounded by unfamiliar scents and noises, Mohsein would tighten inwardly, but whenever this happened, Noah noticed and guided him to quieter corners. In those moments, words faded, replaced by understanding looks, a reassuring hand on the shoulder, or a simple smile.



As seasons passed, Mohse in learned that even someone as bright as Noah had his shadowed days. Once, after a long absence, Noah appeared at the subdued bench, shoulders drawn inward. The spark in his eyes had dimmed. He admitted, with a heavy sigh, the weight of always having to be the cheerful presence everyone relied upon. This time, it was Mohse in who offered quiet solace. He unlocked his tablet, opened a blank page, and passed it silently to Noah. Without speaking, Noah began to write, pouring unspoken burdens onto the digital page. When he was done, he breathed more easily, and his old grin returned, softer yet somehow more real.

Their differences, once an awkward imbalance, became a quiet harmony. Mohse in found himself more willing to lift his head from his pages, to inhale the scent of street food, to linger in new places. Noah, in turn, discovered the strength in silence and the quiet potency of reflection. He learned to pause, to watch a sunrise unfold without commentary, and to find calm in stillness.

In time, the park's willow turned from green to gold, shedding leaves that caught in their hair and on the surface of Mohse in's tablet. They no longer needed to ask what drew them together. Noah had become a kind of joyous compass, guiding Mohse in outward, and Mohse in had become the calm harbor where Noah could rest. Their friendship had settled into something as natural as the shifting light of morning and evening, each presence completing a cycle the other began.

On a late afternoon many years later, they found themselves at the same bench. The world had changed around them, but the willow still swayed softly overhead. Mohse in read quietly while Noah, now sketching the outline of the horizon, stole a thoughtful glance at his friend. Though words were scarce, both knew: their bond was forged in balance. Where one ended, the other began, the rhythm of their differing natures creating a peaceful duet beneath a setting sun.

Biodata of author(s)

Zulfadhli Saifuddin is a lecturer with an interest in creative writing. Academically, his interest in Global Englishes and World Englishes influences his creative writing, often incorporating his knowledge of Malaysian English in his stories. He holds a master's degree in English Language Studies from Universiti Malaya and is currently pursuing his doctoral study exploring the influence of Englishes around the world.



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

The
Epitome
/i'pitəmi/

