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The Epitome /iˈpɪtəmi/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

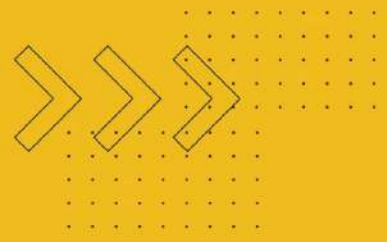
Unleash the epitome
of creative writers

Volume 2 Issue 6

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The
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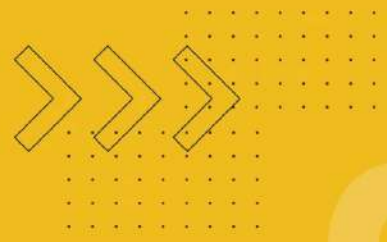
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Synopsis

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
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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





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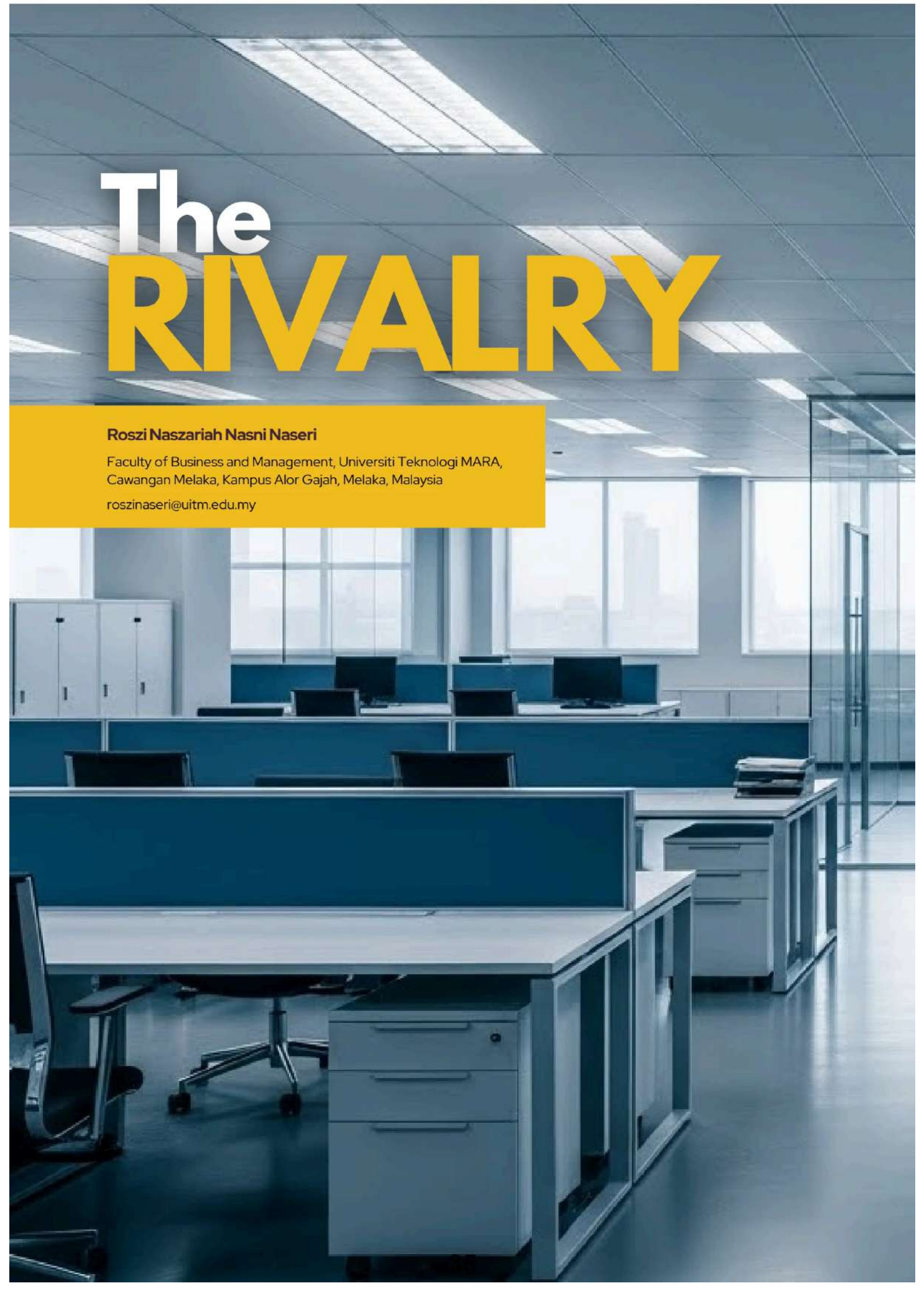
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Setting:

A modern office, open-plan with a manager's glass-walled office at the center.

INT. OFFICE – MORNING

The office is buzzing with activity. Two employees, EMILY (30s, ambitious and practical) and JAMES (30s, charming but competitive), sit at desks across from each other. Both are eyeing the manager's office.

EMILY

(Glancing at James) You know it's mine, right?

JAMES

(Smiling) Confident, aren't we? We'll see what the boss thinks. They exchange tense smiles.

INT. MEETING ROOM – DAY

The manager, MS. CARTER (50s, no-nonsense), calls Emily and James into a meeting.

MS. CARTER

I've been watching you both. The promotion is up for grabs, but I need results. Whoever lands the biggest client by Friday gets it.

Emily and James exchange competitive glances.

MONTAGE: EMILY VS. JAMES

- Emily stays late, brainstorming strategies.
- James charms potential clients during lunch meetings.
- Both make mistakes—Emily spills coffee on her proposal; James forgets a key document in a meeting.

INT. OFFICE – THURSDAY EVENING

Emily finds a key lead but realizes it was flagged by James in a shared folder. She hesitates, then decides to pursue it.

INT. OFFICE – FRIDAY MORNING

James discovers Emily's move. JAMES (Angrily) You stole my lead!

EMILY

It was in the shared folder. If it mattered, you should've followed up.

They argue loudly until Ms. Carter walks in.

MS. CARTER

Enough! I've made my decision. They both fall silent.

INT. OFFICE – LATER

Ms. Carter announces that neither of them gets the promotion. MS. CARTER You've both shown skill, but this office runs on teamwork, not sabotage. Emily and James sit in stunned silence as Ms. Carter walks away.

INT. COFFEE SHOP – WEEKEND

Emily and James meet awkwardly. EMILY Guess we went too far.

JAMES

(Chuckling) Maybe. But at least I know my competition is tough.

They share a reluctant smile, hinting at mutual respect as the rivalry softens into friendship, or something more.

FADE OUT

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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