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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

EMBRACING CHANGE:

EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC, LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE



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"Embracing Change: Emancipating the Landscape of Research in Linguistics, Language and Literature"

> 13-14 March 2023 Noble Resort Hotel, Melaka Physical and Online Conference

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POETRY FOR US: EXPRESSING FEELINGS THROUGH CREATIVE WRITING

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ABSTRACT:

There are a lot of websites that exist to help people with their mental health, it's true, but not many of them actually allow people to express their feelings or anything else they want on the website, which is why this one was made. *Poetry for Us* is a one-for-all website that everyone can use to express their feelings, tell about their days or share anything about themselves. Not everyone has a good support system and someone they can talk to when they are sad, happy, confused, excited, and so on. In fact, many tend to keep their feelings to themselves and let them fade away without telling anyone because they don't have anyone on whom they can rely. So, that is what inspired the author to create this website where everyone can share and express their true feelings via poetry. The website contains a lot of tips on poetry writing. Moreover, they can also read other people's poems and even better help one another or provide constructive feedbacks on each other's work. Hence, the website is intended to help people improve their poetry-writing skills because many people enjoy poetry but few know how to write it or the proper technique to write a poem. In addition, the website also offers paid services for poetry reviews, poetry writing and letter writing.

Keywords: Poetry; express feelings; share story

1. INTRODUCTION

Poetry for Us is a website where people can access using their Google or Yahoo account to express their feelings and show their creativity through poetry with other people who either love poetry or are learning about it. The connection between this project and the author's previous studies is that the author is using what she learned in ALS252, creative writing, where she learned how to write an excellent short story as well as an ideal poem. There are numerous techniques that can be employed to produce the ideal poem (Höglund, & Jusslin, 2021). One of the reasons this website exist is to use this website as a platform to teach others the knowledge the author has learned about creative writing.

1.1. Project Objective / Purpose

Poetry for Us seeks to let people know that there are those who are concerned about us. There are many kind-hearted people who are willing to lend their ears to hear about our problems, but we are the only ones who are unaware of this. However, without the appropriate platform, it is also challenging to connect or communicate with them at random. Therefore, this website was made to connect with people like them and to show the "lonely people" that they are mistaken and that there are many people who are willing to listen to them.

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Second, to fill positivity among people because today's internet is so full of negativity that someone can cyberbully another person to the point where they consider committing suicide. One of the recent bad behaviours in our society is this one. Every time someone expresses their feelings or tries to express themselves, they may occasionally be laughed at or made fun of. As a result, some people prefer to keep their opinions and feelings to themselves out of fear of being judged by someone who obviously doesn't know them. Only those who want to share and listen can stay on *Poetry for Us*; anyone acting inappropriately will be banned from the website immediately.

The third goal is to make everyone aware of the enjoyment that comes from reading and writing poetry, with a particular emphasis on young people ages 16 and above. Poetry is well-liked by readers, and typically those who enjoy reading also enjoy poetry. However, the author would like to introduce the fun of writing and reading poems to those who are not readers in order to show that if no one understands you, a poem will.

Next, to help others by offering emotional support. People usually keep their feelings to themselves rather than expressing them because they have no one to talk to. Without them realising it, the things they chose to keep hidden are slowly eating them from the inside. This website is also created because not everyone has the financial ability to consult with a professional. So, this website could be one of their initiatives to express and discuss their feelings with others through poetry rather than keeping them to themselves. It is sometimes better to express yourself to strangers because they do not know your entire life story and therefore can't judge it.

One of the goals the author hopes to accomplish by the end of this project is to have at least six perfect poems from six different members of my *Poetry for Us* website group. At the end of this project, the author will choose six of the best poems and post them on my website's portfolio page. The author will also form a separate group for the top poets so that they can compete to see who writes the best poem.

1.2. Entrepreneurial Opportunities

a. Poetry reviews

The author will be reviewing other people's poetry using the knowledge that has been learned from previous studies about poetry. Before posting or publishing a poem somewhere, people who are interested in this service can use it to consult about it and make changes. The author will then discuss her thoughts and opinions regarding the poem and, if necessary, make any changes. Anyone who wants to use this service will be charged RM 3.

b. Poetry writing service

This service is intended for those who are unable to write a poem. People can connect on Poetry for Us by commenting on other people's posts with poetry or regular text. However, using poetry to communicate with others is preferable, and if someone wants to communicate with others through poetry but doesn't know how, they can use this service. All they have to do is tell the author what they are thinking and what they want the poem to be about, and the author will design and write the poem for them. After that, it is up to them whether they want to send the poem themselves or have the author send it on their behalf. Anyone who wants to use this service will be charged RM 5.



c. Letter writing service

This service is similar to the previous one, Poetry writing service, but this time it is letter writing instead of poetry. As an example, assume person A showed their bad day through their poem, and person B wishes to show their empathy by writing a letter to comfort person A. Person B can use this service to have the author assist them in writing the letter, which the author or they, can then send anonymously to Person A via the chat box.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Costing

As the business will be conducted online, the costs would only include the electricity bill and laptop maintenance. Additionally, since the business does not include any printing equipment, there is no use for the printer. This work will be done exclusively on a laptop, with the occasional help of my iPad.

NO.	COSTING	COST
1.	Electricity Bill	RM20
2.	Laptop Maintenance	RM50
TOTAL		RM70

Table 1: Costing

2.2 Market survey

A market survey was conducted using *Google Forms*, and 55 responses were received, 28 of which were female and 27 of which were male. The survey consists of several questions designed to determine whether or not the targeted audience would be interested in joining *Poetry for Us*.

2.3 Wix.com

The *Poetry for Us* website was made with the free assistance of *Wix.com*. As a result, there are a total of seven pages on the website: the home page, the blog page, the group's list, the portfolio page, the about page, and the page with information about contacting the author.

2.4 Canva

On the website, specifically on the portfolio page, poetry posters are designed and published using this platform. Up to this point, 6 poetry posters have been created and published on the portfolio page, and each of the 6 posters was created using the Canva platform.

2.5 Gantt chart

The Gantt chart showed the project progress which took 14 weeks to be completed.



POETRY FOR US

TASK / PROCESS	W1	W2	wз	W4	W5	W6	W7	ws	w9	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14
Approval for Project Organisational Template														
Design, create and publish the website		-				-								
Working on Progress Report I				_										
Working on the Portfolio (Extended Abstract) and Progress Report II					_									
Working to submit the Portfolio, Poster and Video Recording									_					

Gantt chart of the *Poetry for Us* Website Progress

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The survey was promoted on Instagram and was carried out using online forms. The participants' age in the survey range in age from 15 to 25. Approximately five questions about topics related to the website *Poetry for Us* have been posed to them. The questions cover their personal life experiences, their interest in poetry, and their interest in joining the website.

3.1: Market survey data

Do you have someone to talk to about all your problems or someone you can turn to for support at any time?

55 responses

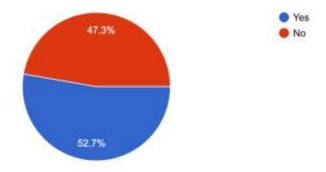


Figure 1. Pie chart from a survey asking if the audience has someone to talk to about their problems.

Figure 1 displays the findings from the market survey regarding whether respondents have a problem-sharing partner. According to survey results, 52.7% of respondents said they had someone to share their problems with, compared to 47.3% who said they did not. Based on the



data, it can be inferred that the majority of people have a shoulder to cry on, but are these people actually listening to them or are they just there to be present?

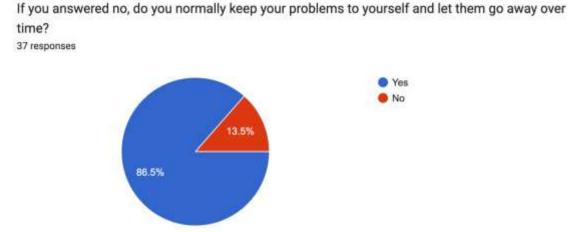


Figure 2. Pie chart from a survey to see if the audience normally keeps their problems to themselves.

According to the pie chart, it can be seen that the question was highlighted for those who responded "no" to the prior question. However, the data also shows that those who responded "yes" also participated in answering this survey question. According to the pie chart, the majority of respondents (86.5%) admitted that they typically keep their problems to themselves, while the remaining respondents (13.5%) said the opposite. We can infer from this that even if people have someone to talk to, we shouldn't assume that they actually confide in them about all of their problems. They might not have actually told their problem-sharing partner about all of their issues for a variety of reasons. It might be the case that the partner didn't actually pay attention to them, inquire about their problems, or even care.

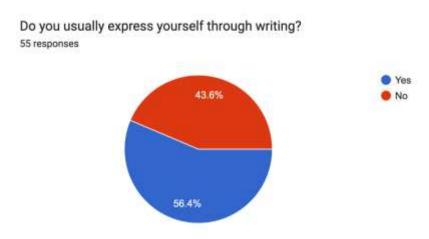


Figure 3. Pie chart from a survey to see if the audience loves to write.

Based on the pie chart above, the yes response represents 56.4% of respondents, while the no response represents 43.6%. According to this pie chart, the majority of respondents love to write and typically vent their problems in their journals, but 24 of the 55 respondents said they did not enjoy using writing as a means of expressing their emotions. Based on research by a cognitive psychologist at the University of Texas, writing has the power to mend emotional wounds (Ravenscraft, 2020).

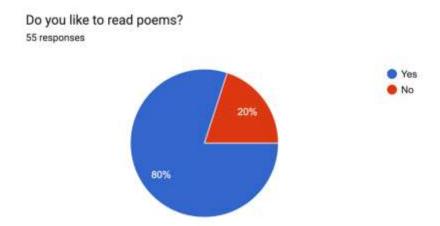


Figure 4. Pie chart from a survey to see if the audience likes to read poems

According to the pie chart above, 80% of respondents indicated that they enjoy reading poems, while only 20% indicated that they do not. Comparing this question to the one before, it can be said that most people would rather read poetry than write in diaries or journals about their lives. This might be a result of the poems' concision and readability. Sometimes it may be difficult to understand, but once you do, the poem's meaning will stick with you forever. Furthermore, research by Hines (2021) shows that poetry is becoming more popular after the pandemic because poetry is an art form that people turn to for comfort and courage during times of crisis (Smith 2013; Bajarin, 2021).

Would you be interested in joining a website where you could exchange poetry with other people who are, in some way, going through the same things as you are?

55 responses

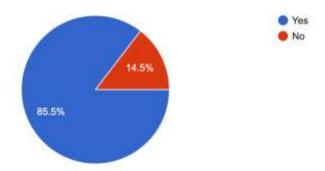


Figure 5. Pie chart from a survey asking if the audience would be interested in joining *Poetry for* Us

According to figure 5, the pie chart shows that the number of respondents who would like to join this website (85.5%) is higher than the percentage of respondents who are not interested in joining the website (14.5%).



4. CONCLUSION

Poetry for Us only wants the best for the users and to provide the best service to the customers. The service's writing and design were developed to meet the highest standards that the customers would demand. Poetry for Us will do everything within its power to ensure that this website serves as the users' safest space, allowing them to share anything they desire freely and without any worries. The only thing preventing this website from expanding further is the difficulty of searching for it on Google without having a link to the site. However, Poetry for Us could be a better platform if we started focusing on physical items instead of just virtual ones like e-posters and online letters. This platform also offers services such as making poster, banner, and possibly handwritten letters, as many people now also prefer handwritten letters. Finally, Poetry for Us will succeed and become a popular choice one day.

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