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The **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Unleash the epitome of creative writers

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SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch is proud to present the first issue of its e-magazine, The Epitome, as our focus to highlight our commitment to contribute to the areas of creative writing.

THE EPITOME aims to provide a platform for writers, educators, academicians, poet, and researchers to share their ideas, findings, knowledge, and experience, particularly on various creative writing genres - personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects in four different languages (English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure and immense pride that we, the Academy of Language Studies at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah branch, extend our warmest welcome to all writers and readers to honor all 127 artistic masterpieces. This is indeed a tremendous achievement to commemorate our debut.

We are privileged to offer the platform for the writers to show their talents in creative writing in this magazine, which serves as a testament to our commitment to the area of personal essays, poetry, short stories, songs, movie scripts, plays, and innovative projects. Their invaluable contributions and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have played a vital role in shaping this magazine.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Editorial Board




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A LITTLE BUDDY WHO IS THE LIFE TEACHER

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I've always thought that at the age of 25 would be the perfect timing for getting married while building up a good career. Well, the time is just yet to happen. At such age in 2017, I had just completed my master's degree in Applied Linguistics. No luck to find true love so life goes on. The journey continued with my first teaching job in Kedah. That was the time where I got to see my true capabilities in teaching, balancing my life with work and personal time. I enjoyed those so much. I could see myself was very productive and highly committed, giving the best for work. I could still manage going for a travel, experiencing myself working at different places to grow my networks and skills bigger and participating in some committee service activities. One thing left was to pursue my study to a higher level. I gave myself a year before continuing my study to a PhD level. Looking at my ways of handling time and performing work, I was certain to do PhD and even I targeted to finish it in four years time which was to be at least in the mid of 2022.

God's plan is always ultimately unexpected. In early 2022, I got such a beautiful baby boy. Throughout the pregnancy period, I could still able to complete my data analysis which included transcription and documentation of results. What was left was only completing my Chapter 4 and Chapter 5. While I was on maternity leave, I got some time to look at my thesis but my writing was very limited since I had gone through an emergency C-section operation. All I could do was only staring at the data and that's it. I seemed to experience writer's block beyond the critical phase. Nothing could actually come through my mind. So I comforted myself that I should resume my writing once I settled with my confinement.

Once I got back to work after the confinement, I was persistent to continue my work as I used to be. Resuming the thesis writing, continuing my Chapter 4 and joining some activities which were organized by the organization. HOWEVER, these were DREAMS actually. Why dreams? Something that you could only imagine for it and yet the works complied to strive for these were not easy. I could only dream of accomplishing those! I always wonder to myself. What's wrong actually? Where did all of my productivity and consistency in doing work go? Was I the one who should be blamed? While contemplating myself on these, then I heard giggling and saw a beautiful smile coming from my son.

That's the moment where I realized that it's not me for being unproductive. I have changed the priority now to my son, catering for his needs. At this age, attention and care are truly important but I do not totally disregard all of my work. The challenging part is time. My time now has become limited. I can only start doing my work once my baby has gone to sleep. And while he's sleeping, I sleep too! As that's the only time which I can rest too.

Becoming a new mother while you are a full time worker and a student has not been easy. There would require many sacrifices along the way yet I always believe that there are always great outcomes behind. His existence in my life has taught me that; 'it's okay to take some time finishing your writing', 'it's not a crime to take a long rest after a very long day' and 'there will definitely be a reward for your patience and persistence'. Things will just settle for good one day.

So have faith!



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