UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

The Epitome

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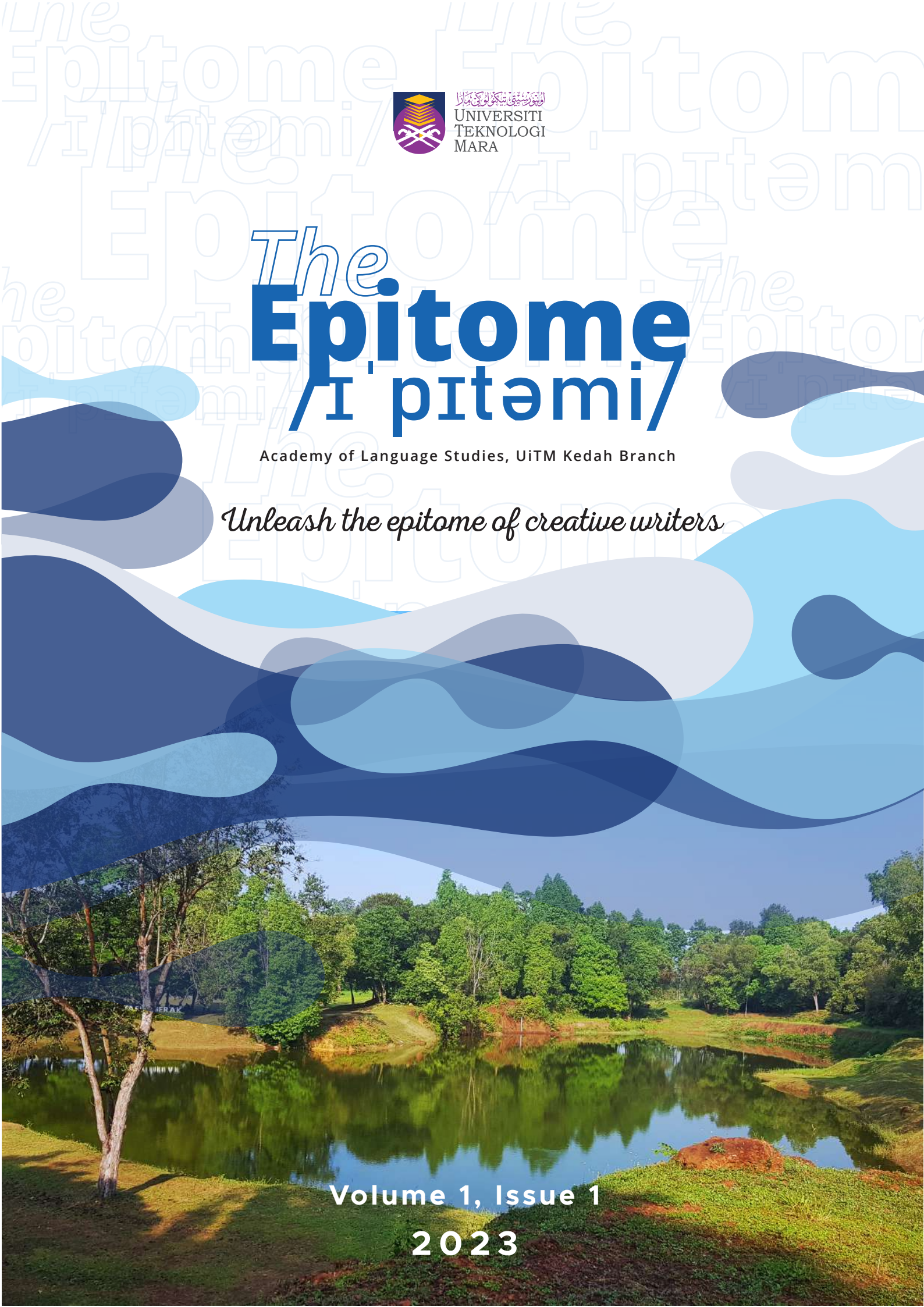
Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Unleash the epitome of creative writers



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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. Alia Nabella Fateha Zolkifli

Graphic Designer: Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin

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EDITORIAL BOARD

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Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

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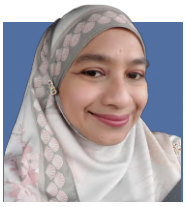

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SYNOPSIS

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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ARE WE LIVING IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL DYSTOPIA?

Dr Sheikh Ali Azzran
Fakulti Senibina, Perancangan dan Ukur, UiTM Shah Alam
sheikhali@uitm.edu.my

The rise of digital technology has become the catalyst in shaping our reality of the digital world. In such a tumultuous time, the disruption of digital technology has influence, for better and for worse, in various aspect of society including politics, economy and especially social. This also warned us on the dark side of the reality that we are inevitably experiencing–the digital dystopia.

Cyber-attacks, scams, fake news, sensational fad of fintech, and many other advance manipulative online methods has taken a toll on the people especially those who are not used to the latest technology. These are only the tips of the ice-berg. The digital dystopia has greatly influenced the social order with unlimited exposure to endless global affairs that somehow fuel our lives with anxiety, vulnerability, and insecurities. The rise of individual fame, political righteousness, conspicuous consumption has put us in the unsettled position and self-destructive manner, thus, affecting the overall health and well-being.

Among the trends in the digital dystopia that has the most profound effect in the society include: automation, disconnection, intellectual degeneration. Without a doubt, technological progress and productivity growth have been self-limiting; rapid change in some sectors of the economy displaces millions of workers has left with people without employment and lead to a dark, downward spiral for the future.

The rise of automation such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT) and blockchain technology, other emerging digital technologies has taken over human tasks and menial works. The effect of automation has displaced most of the low skill levels employment while boosting the productivity of the firms to thrive in the hypercompetitive economy. Most firms could no longer operate the way they used to. They had to invest on innovation so that they could stay relevant in the global market. This could potentially garner mass unemployment and lead to social disparity, as not everyone has the opportunity to develop the necessary technological skillsets required in such a short time. This results in those who can would monopolise the employment market, inevitably increasing the wealth gap.

The disconnection of society in the global-connected world is appallingly worrisome. The pursuit of popularity, visibility and achievement has become the battle of finding sense of worth and value in society. The rise of individualism has not only degrades social ties and community lives but also fueling people with the sense of negativity and distrustfulness. This also compromise with health and wellbeing with no true social relationship, and in constant pursuit of ephemeral happiness such as smartphones, cars and luxury items. This kind of lifestyle inflation trap has made people worse off and in a lot of debt.

Lastly, the digital technology is not just convenient but often makes people less bright and heavily reliant on the online search engines for information effortlessly, leading to a complacent mind without considering flaws in arguments. . The intellectual degeneration phenomenon is seen by many people being scammed and easy prey to cyber-attacks and unscrupulous scammers. . The lack of wit and perception on fraudulent activities online such as clickbait of fabricated website had many being cheated. In terms of education, the recent hype of Open AI chatbot system has been hound by media and seen as threat to the education sector. The concern of rampant academic plagiarism has made it easier for the students to not leaving their intellectual comfort zone–and eventually will have an effect on the student ability to think for themselves and their originality will subsequently subdued.

The trends of digital dystopian are not limited to these themes but impacted in many layers of social issues which could contributed to the fatalistic and pessimism to live. The social harmony had been destabilized, the rate of online hatred, racism and resentment has slowly seeped into the mind of people which make way to apathy, anger and tension around the globe. The digital dystopian has a profound effect on our personal wellbeing, like it or not. We are easily getting envious with flicks and images that we see each day, the feeling of scarcity and self-sabotaging ways that people are judging us based on whatever influences we had in the digitally connected society in order to seek for validation and approvals from the public. The deep-seated misconstrued belief could become the very thing that defeat us from our purpose to live our life more meaningfully.

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