



UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

# *The* **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

*Unleash the epitome of creative writers*

Volume 1, Issue 1

2023

## **COPYRIGHT PAGE**

Copyright© 2023 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](mailto:razanawati@uitm.edu.my)  
Contact No: 044562421

Copy Editor: Ms. Alia Nabella Fateha Zolkifli

Graphic Designer: Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin

# APB KEDAH: THE EPITOME EDITORIAL BOARD

**Advisor**



Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

**Chief  
Editors**



Dr. Nur Syazwanie  
Mansor



Puan Razanawati  
Nordin

**Managing Editors  
& Promotion**



Puan Sharifah Syakila  
Syed Shaharuddin

**Editor &  
Content Reviewers**



Puan Hajjah  
Sharina Saad



Puan Phaveena  
Primsuwan



Puan Samsiah  
Bidin



Puan Ho Chui Chui



Puan Syazliyati  
Ibrahim



Ustaz Mohd  
Zulkhairi Abd  
Hamid



Puan Noor 'Izzati  
Ahmad Shafiai



Cik Lee Chai  
Chuen



Mr. Mohd Hamidi  
Adha Mohd Amin

**Secretaries**



Puan Nor Asni  
Syahriza Abu  
Hassan



Puan Mas Aida  
Abd Rahim



Puan Rafidah  
Amat



Puan Khairul Wanis  
Ahmad

**Technical  
& Website**



Mr. Mohd Hamidi  
Adha Mohd Amin

**Graphic  
Designer**



Ms. Alia Nabella  
Fateha Zolkifli

**Copy  
Editor**



## 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



- 30 HERS**  
By Iffah Insyrah Mohd Zarali, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Melaka
- 32 SOUL WITNESS**  
By Maryam Azizan, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Shah Alam
- 34 AKU – VIRUS COVID-19**  
By Mohd Izani Othman (DR.), Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Pulau Pinang, Bertam Branch
- 36 BUNGA ANEH DAN SEBUAH KEHIDUPAN**  
By Nurhafizah Ali, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Terengganu
- 37 WHAT?!**  
By Ong Elly, Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Perak, Tapah Branch
- 38 A LONGED VACATION**  
By Siti Husniah Husin, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Dengkil
- 40 A WITNESS**  
By Siti Husniah Husin, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Dengkil
- 42 SECRET LOVE**  
By Siti Husniah Husin, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Dengkil
- 43 ABAH**  
By Siti Norfatimah Ismail, Fakulti Sains Kesihatan, UiTM Cawangan Selangor
- 45 CHATGPT: SAY YES OR NO?**  
By Hajah Aishah Haji Othman, Pusat Tingkatan Enam, SMK Keladi, Kulim, Kedah
- 47 SEBUAH PENGAJARAN DAN KESEDARAN**  
By Arrominy Haji Arabi, Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Sarawak Branch
- 48 忆北京留学之食篇**  
By 朱锦芳 Choo Kim Fong, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Johor Kampus Segamat
- 49 ARE WE LIVING IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL DYSTOPIA?**  
By Dr Sheikh Ali Azzran, Fakulti Senibina, Perancangan dan Ukur, UiTM Shah Alam
- 51 “THREE DECADES OF DEAD POETS SOCIETY”**  
By Faiza Rostam Affendi, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Pahang
- 53 THE WAY OF LIFE**  
By Haslina Hassan, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Shah Alam
- 55 播茶飘香 (THE FRAGRANCE OF LEICHA)**  
By Loh Siaw San, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Sarawak
- 56 CURRENT TRENDS OF TRAVEL AGENCY**  
By Mashita Abdul Jabar, Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, UiTM Melaka Branch
- 58 NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES**  
By Mohd Faisal Abdul Wahab<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Azila Azmi<sup>2</sup>, Faculty of Hotel and Tourism, UiTM Pulau Pinang Branch
- 60 PERSONAL ESSAY: WHAT MAKES A GREAT LEADER IN ACADEMIA?  
FIVE QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR**  
By Muhammad 'Arif Aizat Bin Bashir<sup>1</sup>, Ahmad Fauzan Bin Badiuzaman<sup>2</sup>  
Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, UiTM Pulau Pinang, Permatang Pauh Campus
- 61 THE JOURNEY: AM I CAPABLE?**  
By Natasha Zuhaimi, Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Pahang Branch, Kampus Raub

## THE JOURNEY: AM I CAPABLE?

### Natasha Zuhaimi

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Cawangan Pahang, Kampus Raub  
natashaz@uitm.edu.my

I remember vividly the date of my arrival at UiTM Raub Campus, Pahang, 3rd of October 2022. As I drove into the campus, the first thing that popped into my mind was, “this place is so serene”; surrounded by greenery and peaceful ambience, it leaves you breathless. I parked my car and went to the Human Resources department to report for duty. Being a new staff member of the APB Raub campus, the enthusiasm was intense, as if you are eager to bring out the best in yourself. The session with the HR department was quick; they ushered me around the campus and brought me to level 7 Cendekiawan building to meet with my head of department. All praises to the All Mighty; the APB lecturers welcomed me with such warm liveliness, I feel blessed and relieved. Thus far, I would say the first day of my arrival was fine—a quick briefing by the head of APB Raub, reading the course details and pondering my class schedule, which was quite packed, especially on Wednesday and Thursday. “Bring it on!” I say to myself, welcoming new challenges to come. But things do not turn out to be as smooth sailing as I thought...

It all started to be real when the APB Raub campus called for a meeting on the 6th of October 2022. Frankly, I was looking forward to that meeting. Gathering all the APB lecturers to exchange pleasantries and getting to know them in person got me all hyped up. It was fun until reality knocked me. After the gathering session ended, one of the APB lecturers offered me to become an advisor for a theatre competition. The offer took me off guard as I was new—three days of reporting as a new English lecturer and was offered such a task. To top it off, the theme of the theatre was SHAKESPEARE. Oh, my goodness. I expected to have a breather before pursuing my fervour yet ambitious journey. Golden opportunities do not knock twice, they say. With cold hands, I accepted the offer.

Short education background check, I earned my first degree in English for International

Communication (ENCOM), majoring in Applied Linguistics. During my degree days, we studied Introduction to Literature. The word *Introduction* is there for a reason, in which we learned the basics only. I remember during my Literature class, we did theatre as well. Indeed, I am one of the main casts, except we did not cover Shakespearean Tragedies—we played the story of *Layla Majnun*. I pursued my master’s in teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). Yet again, Shakespearean Tragedies were not emphasised during my master’s journey. The scope of Literature during my second degree focused more on studying Literature in Schools and its effectiveness. “Am I Capable?” is the question I asked myself after committing to Macbeth for the theatre play.

The journey began in October 2022. During the first week of my lecture, I observed all my students with intensity, analysing their behaviours and capabilities. Up until week three, I still have yet to decide. I repeatedly changed classes to find the perfect fit for the Drama Festival. Then, I got this self-realisation to follow my gut. Thus, during the fourth week, I entered every class and asked them, “Have any of you joined Theater before?”. Among all five classes, only one class has a student with National level Theater experience. Without hesitancy, I assigned their class to join the Drama Festival just because of that one girl. It was indeed a gamble. I put trust in the Almighty that everything will be fine. Well, this is just the tip of the iceberg— what is life without trials, right?





Assigning and delegating tasks, November 2022. All praises to Allah, the so-called National-levelled-theatre-student volunteered to do the play's script. Deciding the director was hassle-free, as one of my students volunteered to become the Director. I thought assigning the major roles would allow them to move independently. Alas, they did not know each other much. Although, I did not put high expectations on them— knowing they were just part-one students. But their enthusiasm to explore something outside of their league is beyond madness. How could I turn a blind eye and leave them be? If they could sacrifice their time and energy, why can't I? Thus, we started to meet a few times to create a good rapport and get to know each other closer. The voyage was indeed not smooth sailing. There were a few hiccups along our journey of getting to know each other; one of the students, who was supposed to be the main cast, changed campus, and the other, who was supposed to be with the make-up team, withdrew from UiTM. With those mishaps, the students' eagerness started to dim a little...and so did I. Will this be the end? I said. Will I give up? Then a voice in my head said, *you are the advisor. Please support them. Be their torch and light the way!*

December 2022. We did script reading in class to ensure the students enunciated the words correctly. We practised day and night on Wednesday and Thursday with limited time before the Drama Festival. During our last meet-up before the student's special break started, some did not attend the rehearsal, and some came late. I thought I pressured them too much, and perhaps they protested. With a

# MACBETH

JANUARY 05, 2023



heavy heart that night, I told them, *"I have guided you, I have attended all your practices, and now you are on your own. This is as much as I could do for you; it does not matter if we win or lose; what matters most is that you do not humiliate yourself in front of an audience. Let us do our best to entertain them."* We ended the night with a simple script-reading session.

Fifth of January 2023, Drama Festival. Although it was not me doing the play on stage, the fact that these students were under my care— I feel accountable for every ounce of action they did. The hall was filled with people, including notable ones. For the first three plays, I was relaxed and was not haunted by anxiety. But when my students were on stage, I was freaking out. This is the moment—the fruit of our practice and all our sacrifices; I hope they will not humiliate themselves and enjoy the thrill. Once they started the play, I was blown away by their almost flawless performance in my eyes. THEY OUTDID THEMSELVES! I could not contain my happiness. Once the play was over, I ran on stage, united with my students. I looked at them like a proud mother. It was a treasurable night; indeed, the cheering and applauding still echoed intensely in my head. Alhamdulillah, we got second place for the play, and to my surprise, one of our cast was awarded BEST ACTOR! These students are forever a champion in my eyes! Thank you, "The Chosen One" AM1101G, for being a part of my early journey in UiTM Raub, Pahang! Till we meet again!





UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

eISSN 3009-0075



9 773009 007004