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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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OPENING DOORS TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING BY FOSTERING STUDENTS' INTEREST

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It is often said that all intellectual work relies on interest, so does the learning environment for students. In today's globalised society, the ability to communicate effectively in English is becoming increasingly important. Because of this, it is essential to foster students' interest in learning English to prepare them for a better learning experience.

The first important factor in English learning is how a teacher motivates students to learn and develop their own learning initiative. What we see these days is during an English lesson, most students just decide to be silent and listen throughout an English lecture. They seldom ever respond to queries from the teacher in English or raise their hands freely, and some even nod off.

It seems that they are attaching little importance to their English lesson especially if the class implements a traditional teacher-method approach which actually reduces students' interests in English. Even while it may cause students to progressively lose interest in studying English, this type of forced-feeding method is bad for their growth.

There are ways for teachers to cultivate interest among students in the classroom but bear in mind that these ways may not work wonderfully to all teachers or students, but they seem pretty applicable. One of the ways to promote interest in learning English is by making the classes fun and interactive. This can be done by engaging students in activities like debates or mock trials, as well as giving them opportunities to use the language through presentations and conversations. Using examples from everyday life is also a great way to demonstrate how the language is used in everyday conversations. These activities expose the students to different aspects of the language and allow them to experience its power in action. Other than that, utilising technology and multimedia is another action that teachers can do in boosting an excitement to learn the language in the

classroom. In today's era, technology and classroom activities could not be avoided, which can be excellent tools for ESL learners, for example by supplementing class materials with videos, audio recordings, and interactive software to expand the learning environment.

Dr. Janice Lo Yueh Yea, a senior lecturer from Faculty of Education, Universiti Malaya (UM) recently voiced out her opinion that there are many people restrain the importance of encouraging students' wonder and intellectual curiosity which those could stimulate their imagination and open their eyes to see other possibilities in English learning.

It is so unfortunate for academicians regardless of where we teach, to forget about how the students' "first love" could be the key point for them to instil their interest in English, especially those who have inferiority to use the language in class and daily conversations.

Students might find it challenging to spur in English learning without interest as it is a crucial and practical component in learning. To help the students learn English effectively in the shortest amount of time, all teachers must make every effort to arouse their students' interest in the subject.

Therefore, teachers should completely utilise and sustain students' interest to help them engage in active learning and become the real language warriors. Only when they are happy to learn and interested in learning, can they improve and begin to form positive feelings about learning the language and become more motivated to master it.



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