



The **Epitome** */I'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Cawangan Kedah

*We are back!
Welcoming the epitome of artistic ideas &
astonishing writers!*

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SYNOPSIS

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the second edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication exemplifies our steady dedication to fostering creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform where writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing Playwriting, Short stories, Songs, Speeches, Memoirs, Literary Journalism, Humour writing, Lyric essays, Innovative essays, and Personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.

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Every day is learning curves...

Dear Readers,

We are back! We are thrilled to present a collection of articles that we believe capture the essence of the writers. Our team has worked diligently to curate content that we hope will both engage and resonate with you.

In these pages, you will find a diverse range of perspectives on life, from joy to sorrow. We hope these pieces inspire reflection and spark meaningful conversations.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to our talented contributors for their time and expertise. Their dedication is what makes the second issue of Epitome possible.

As always, we value your feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you for being a part of our Epitome community.

Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin
Editor-in-Chief,
The Epitome

EDITOR'S NOTE

My DRP Journey

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Wow. Just wow. Where do I start...Okay. I started my PhD journey in 2017. I felt rejuvenated, fresh, awakened and all motivated. I don't really know why I wanted a PhD and how this whole 'thing' worked. In my mind, all I knew was I wanted to start my journey early. I was single but that wasn't really the reason at that point of time, but I considered that a reason too. To me, I pictured this journey as new knowledge like any other educational journeys, plus it's all in English.

I thought in my head, how hard could it be? I love writing so I guess I would be fine. Well, let's just say, that was not the case, at all. Honestly, I think half of my work isn't really my work. If it weren't for my supervisors, I wouldn't even know half of what I know now. It was definitely challenging. The things I thought I knew, well, I didn't know much about.

I learned a lot and I learned them the hard way. I felt overwhelmed with the amount of knowledge that was coming my way and I felt, did I grasp everything or was I able to grasp what I was supposed to? The thought of giving up was evident, every single day but I don't know, deep down that little voice inside of me refused to give in. I told myself, just push, push and push harder and further. If everyone else can do it, why can't I?

The fact that I am blessed with two amazing supervisors is just something that I cannot simply surpass. I think I am where I am because Allah wants me to be here and face whatever challenges that I am built to face, with the guidance of these two remarkable human beings by my side. I am not going to miss this chance and call it quits. That's all I know.

So, I went on and on, asking all the stupid questions and yet getting incredible responses from my supervisors, without fail. They stood by my side, they still do and like a child, I was never left to solve everything on my own. I would consider them, this journey and my challenges as a privilege, a blessing in disguise, a rizq, indeed. With that in mind, now that I have a clearer realisation of my journey, I wanted to hold on as long as I could and I am always ready for a new challenge, even if it is going to make me cry, stressed out all the time, with all those sleepless nights, I still want to make this journey count, I still want to see where this journey will take me. It was in December 2019 that I finally decided to go for my DRP. At that point, I wasn't actually 100 % ready, but I wanted to get it over with. My supervisors were a little bit reluctant at first because they knew my proposal wasn't really ready. They knew I was not ready. They knew it would only backfire.

As expected, I was criticized terribly, and I had to redo my DRP. I wanted to cry so much but I held my head high and accepted all the criticisms and suggestions, wholeheartedly. All my best friends were there by my side. They took a day off just to be there for me on one of my important days. My colleagues were there too supporting me all the way. I consider myself more than lucky to be surrounded by wonderful human beings who believe in me and in my journey. Alhamdulillah.

However, as I continued to work on my corrections for my upcoming DRP which was scheduled in 2020, I did feel a little bit quivered by my first experience and that feeling did affect my writing and made me question myself if I was doing the right thing, if I would succeed in the next phase, was my topic okay, all kinds of negative thoughts. Nevertheless, I proceeded with my second DRP and again, I failed. This was my turning point, so I decided to change my topic altogether. No more corpus linguistics and I focused on applied linguistics. However, this phase of my journey was not an immediate one. I decided to understand more on what I wanted to study, and I knew this would take more time. I also found it difficult to focus on my PhD as I was too focused on my work and other commitments.

I did not want to allow myself to come up with all sorts of excuses, but I realised I was getting a little bit tired. Hence, a hiatus. This hiatus took me almost 4 years and in August 2022 I decided to proceed with my third DRP. I hope that this will be my last straw. I had to make it happen. To my surprise, I was a little bit disappointed when the day came for my third DRP, my faculty simply said that they forgot about the date of my DRP. Again, my best friends were there with me, accompanied me for my so-called DRP. It didn't happen though. It was postponed to September of 2022.

The good thing was, this time around, I had my research design flowchart included in my proposal. That was the good thing about my postponement. If I were to proceed with my DRP in August, I wouldn't have apprehended the mistake that I had done. Alhamdulillah. For my third DRP, the only good news was I didn't have to present again. Thank God. But I had to do a lot of corrections and I had to resubmit my proposal. I had to resubmit my proposal twice before the faculty decided that it was time for me to go to the next stage of my PhD journey. February of 2023, I am now working on my REC forms, and I am also planning to go for my study leave soon. For this and more, Alhamdulillah.



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