



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

Mastering a New Language with a Smile: The Role of Humorous Errors

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As an Italian language lecturer at Universiti Teknologi Mara, I believe that one must be prepared to make mistakes when attempting to learn a new language. Through these errors, one can improve and attain a higher level of proficiency. Pedagogical and linguistic studies have demonstrated that the more mistakes we make while practicing a new language, our knowledge and skills improve. There is no need to feel shy or apprehensive when speaking a foreign language; any time we utter something incorrect, humorous, or even meaningless, it is not a problem. Experts in that language will gladly provide corrections, making it a valuable way to enhance our language abilities.

When I first began working at Universiti Teknologi Mara, I felt the need to learn “Bahasa Melayu” (Malaysia’s official language), not only out of personal interest but also to foster closer relationships with Malaysian students, locals, and assimilate their cultural norms. After just three weeks of attending classes, I felt a sense of pride because I was able to utter simple words in the Malay language.

I vividly remember one evening during dinner with friends and colleagues when I asked them to test my proficiency in my newfound language. The first question posed was about the weather in Malaysia, and my response was as follows: “Ya saya suka cuaca di Malaysia, kerana tidak ada salji “ (Yes, I love the weather in Malaysia because it does not snow).

Subsequently, my friend inquired about what I liked most about Malaysian culture, and I replied: “Paling suka bila saya kaki bogel dalam rumah” (I love walking barefoot inside the house). Upon delivering my response, the entire table erupted in laughter for more than fifteen minutes. It was then that I realized I had either misspoken or made a humorous remark.

Although I was pleased to bring joy to everyone (laughter is a healthy exercise that keeps us youthful and in good spirits), I asked why everyone was laughing. My friends’ response was somewhat embarrassing for me because I unintentionally conveyed something I did not intend to. On that occasion, I merely translated directly from English to Malay. In my mind, I selected the words “feet” and “naked” and combined them. I was confident that saying “kaki bogel” meant bare feet, but in reality, my automatic translation expressed something different. Through this mistake, I learned something new.

I consistently encourage students attending my Italian language classes to be spontaneous and practice their newly acquired language without fear of making mistakes during conversation. When I inquire about their favorite aspects of Italian cuisine, many respond with “pizza”, an internationally recognized term. Of course, 95% of the time, we refer to the food when we say pizza. In Italian, however, the term “pizza” has a second meaning beyond food - it can also mean “a slap in the face”.

When I jest with my students and ask them if they would like a “pizza” from me, if they respond affirmatively, I approach them playfully and inquire: “Do you really want a pizza from me? Are you certain?” When they realize that my use of the word “pizza” does not pertain to the delectable dish, their response promptly changes to “No thanks, I do not want a pizza from you!” Sometimes, directly translating from one language to another or overlooking the different meanings of certain words can undoubtedly be amusing.



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