



The
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Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

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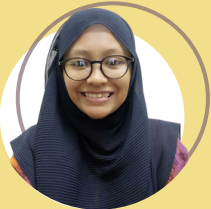


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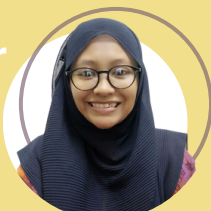
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synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the third 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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Preface



Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

Head of Faculty
Academy of Language Studies
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to Epitome, the 3rd Issue – a collection of thoughts, reflections, and stories that encapsulate the essence of an academic's journey. As the pages unfold, you will embark on a thoughtful exploration of the human experience, woven through the threads of joy, sorrow, and everything in between.

In designing this compilation, our intention is to offer readers a mirror to their own experiences, inviting moments of reflection and connection. Epitome is not just a creative publication; it is an invitation to pause, reflect, and find quality in the shared tapestry of our existence.

Through these pages, the reader may encounter familiar landscapes of the heart and perhaps discover a transformed perspective on the beauty and complexity of academic life. Each piece within Epitome is a humble contribution to the ongoing dialogue of what it means to be human.

I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been a part of this journey – especially to all the contributors and the esteemed Epitome Editorial Team. Your involvement and presence surely added depth and meaning to this publication.

May Epitome serve as a companion, provoking thought and sparking moments of connection and collaboration.

Thank you for embarking on this literary voyage with us.

Editor-In-Chief



Creativity is intelligence having fun

Dear Epitome Community,

We are back for the third issue and enthusiastic to share with all of you the collection of creative writings crafted by dedicated and imaginative writers. In this third issue, we present a variety of articles ranging from playwriting to lyric essays, each offering a unique tone and style of writing. Thanks to all the creative and talented writers, we hope these pieces can inspire you in various ways.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all the inspiring writers for their valuable contributions and unwavering support. Many of these names are familiar to us, as some have been submitting their work since our first volume. Additionally, we would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated committee and reviewers for their time and expertise.

Thank you for being a part of our Epitome community.

Till the next volume,

Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor
Editor-in-Chief,
The Epitome

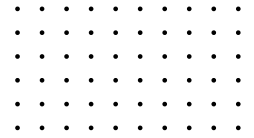
Journey of a Dreamer

Dr Azura Binti Abdul Rahman

Department of Business Management, UiTM Seri Iskandar, Perak.

Introduction:

The year 1977 marked not only my birth but the beginning of a journey that would weave through the tapestry of a very big family, where I was one among eleven siblings. From the bustling household of my upbringing to the corridors of the banking industry, and eventually to the hallowed halls of academia, this is the story of my life.



Chapter 1: A Childhood Amidst Chaos

My childhood was spent in a family filled with laughter, chaos, and the presence of eleven siblings. We faced financial hardships. The early years of my life were a lesson in understanding and shared experiences. The challenges encountered in our large family strengthened resilience and deepened appreciation for relationships that withstand the test of time. My parents, as sources of enduring love and resilience, instilled in their children the values of loyalty, compassion, and the importance of standing together in both good times and challenges. Despite differences in personalities and interests, each sibling shared a profound connection that transcended inevitable differences of opinion. Because of this, I paved the way for my siblings to pursue higher education. I believe that one day, I too will continue my education to higher levels.

Chapter 2: Early Entrance into the Banking World

At the age of 19, I stepped into the dynamic world of banking, embarking on a career that would span over 16 years. Working in the banking industry has shaped my life into a colorful narrative. It was a whirlwind of experiences—from learning the intricacies of finance to navigating the corporate ladder. The experience as a bank officer has provided me with a wealth of experiences. I have held nearly all positions within the bank. Each role, each challenge, became a stepping stone in my professional growth.



With my officemate



My degree's convocation



My Master's convocation

Chapter 3: Balancing Work and Academia

The pursuit of knowledge never waned, even amid the demanding schedules of the banking sector. Against all odds, I managed to pursue and complete both a bachelor's and a master's degree. The academic realm became a sanctuary where I could cultivate my intellectual curiosity while juggling the responsibilities of a demanding career.

Chapter 4: Building a Family

In parallel with my constructed career and academic pursuits, I was blessed with a husband and child to complete the story of my life. A supportive partner and the laughter of a child added depth and meaning to the chapters of my existence.

Chapter 5: The Decision to Pursue a Ph.D.

Amidst a successful banking career, a pivotal moment arrived—an opportunity to embark on a Ph.D. journey presented itself. Choosing to follow the path of academic exploration, I bid farewell to the banking industry to delve into the world of research and contribute to the evolving landscape of education. The PhD journey is not an easy one. There are ups and downs. Achieving a Ph.D. demands a prolonged dedication, responsibility, commitment, and perseverance, financial position which makes it a difficult task for me. After overcoming various obstacles and challenges, I successfully passed the viva and graduated. Never thought of wearing a bonnet in my life.



Chapter 6: Transition to Academia

Equipped with the highest academic qualification, I transitioned into the realm of education, becoming a lecturer. The lecture class turned into my platform, and sharing knowledge with all students makes me proud. By sharing insights from both the corporate and academic spheres, my objective was to motivate the upcoming generation of intellects.



With some of my students

Chapter 7: Personal Milestones

Milestones are what make your life up, where you take a minute and say, "Wow I actually did this." Life is God's greatest blessing. From the challenges that tested my resilience to the joys that enriched my journey, each story contributes to a narrative that reflects the uniqueness of my life. Looking ahead, I embark on the next chapter with gratitude for the past, anticipation for the future, and an enduring commitment to continued self-discovery and growth.

Conclusion

As I reflect on the pages of this autobiography, I see a narrative presented with the diversity of family, career, and education stories. From the chaos of a large family to the structured world of banking and the intellectual world of academia, each phase has shaped the person I am today. The journey continues, and with each passing day, I remain open to the lessons yet to unfold. The End.

The End.



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