



The
Epitome
/i'pitəmi/

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

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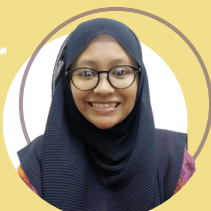
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synopsis

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.

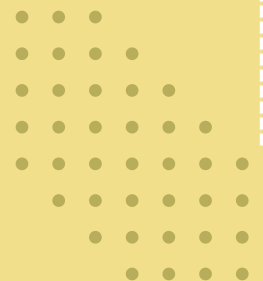




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Preface



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



My Round Hat Dream

Sharina Saad

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch Campus.

In the end, Allah's destiny is always good, even though sometimes tears are needed to accept it because this journey is only about two things, boundless patience, and sincerity without ifs...

That evening, I sipped coffee under the shady trees in my backyard while contemplating. My life has been full of ups and downs, and the journey has been truly long and exhausting. Are all the bitter and sweet experiences, the trials and tribulations, worth it for me? Why did I choose not to give up, unlike my friends? I observed them, carrying bags to the Quranic classes at the mosque and Andalusia Mosque, happily going here and there with their partners and friends. Meanwhile, I was still immersed in articles and books that I needed to read repeatedly to gain a little understanding. "Mama Topi Bulat," that's what they called me—my children, close friends, and neighbors who knew me for my fervent spirit. The name Mama Topi Bulat became synonymous with me, and that title was always there with me. Behind my simple appearance, a big dream was hidden – to obtain a PhD, an academic achievement often desired but only pursued by those with unwavering determination and iron will.

I began my academic journey with strong determination. Despite sacrificing time and money, I never stopped learning. My husband always ensured that my needs were met by paying tuition fees and buying books. Every night, after completing household chores, I would sit at the study table upstairs with reference materials in front of me. Fortunately, my children cooperated and never burdened me with problems that would disturb my concentration. I am grateful for the strong support system I was blessed with, which helped nurture my spirit during the challenges I faced throughout my journey with the round hat.

However, life's trials often lead to ups and downs, and I experienced this in my journey. There was a time when I had to be hospitalized, forcing me to temporarily suspend my academic work. Although physically tired, my spirit never wavered. At night, I would slowly wake up and continue reading and writing.

One night, when I felt exhausted and almost gave up, my daughter Alia sat beside me. With eyes full of admiration, Alia said, "Mama, I know this is difficult, but I believe you can get through it. Mama's dream is our dream too." With a smile, I replied, "Thank you, my child. Mama is doing this for you and our family. Can you help Mama face every obstacle together?" I hugged my daughter tightly, praying in my heart that my success would inspire them too.

Time continued to pass, and I continued to pursue my round-hat dream. One morning, the thesis supervisor's feedback finally arrived. Joy, nervousness, and hope mingled. The time had come for me to face the viva voce session. Without hesitation, I immediately contacted my husband. "Darling, we have overcome so many obstacles together. Mama can do it. We believe in you." I was truly touched by my husband's words, and with renewed spirit, I overcame every obstacle in my way. Finally, on a blessed Friday, I proudly earned that PhD degree.

My success is not only mine but also my family's, and it serves as inspiration for others pursuing the same dream. Mama Topi Bulat has become a source of inspiration for those who have felt despair. The dialogues and stories of my struggles provide hope for the younger generation to pursue their dreams. Mama Topi Bulat not only earned her PhD but also won the hearts and spirits of her community. It's a story of ups and downs, determination, and courage in pursuing a dream, now becoming a part of the small history of my life.

The End.



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