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Synopsis

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

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform for 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 the fourth issue of Epitome, where creativity and imagination shine brightly. Within these pages, you will discover a rich tapestry of voices and visions—each piece a celebration of the limitless potential of words.

This issue of Epitome is more than a mere publication; it is a tribute to the art of storytelling in all its forms. Whether you are captivated by evocative poetry, enthralled by engaging short stories, or intrigued by insightful essays, we aim to present something that resonates with every reader.

We are passionate about the transformative power of literature, and we hope that this collection will inspire, challenge, and delight you. As you explore these pages, may you uncover new perspectives and experiences that enrich your own creative journey.

Thank you for embarking on this literary adventure with us.

Happy reading!



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Editor InChief

Dear gentle readers,

Let me welcome you to our fourth edition of e-magazine, where we explore the beauty of life's journey. Our theme, "Capturing Life Lessons and Moments," encourages you to pause, reflect, and celebrate the wisdom that arises from everyday experiences.

Life is a mosaic of moments, each with the potential to teach us something profound, inspire change, or remind us of the surrounding beauty. Within these pages, we have unfolded stories, reflections, and insights that illuminate the lessons woven into the fabric of our lives. From the quiet wisdom found in fleeting moments to the power of life-changing events, this edition pays tribute to the learning that occurs beyond the classroom, in the heart of our daily lives.

Our contributors have poured their hearts into capturing these moments, sharing personal stories that resonate with authenticity and depth. You will find essays exploring the significance of small acts of kindness, articles reflecting on the lessons learned from adversity, and creative pieces celebrating the joy found in simple leisure. Each piece serves as a reminder that life's greatest lessons often emerge from the most unexpected places.

As you flip through this edition, we hope you find inspiration in the shared stories and perhaps discover a mirror to your own experiences. May these pages encourage you to appreciate the moments that shape you, learn from the challenges that test you, and embrace the wisdom that life offers at every step of your journey.

Thank you for joining us in exploring life's lessons and moments. We invite you to take your time, savour each piece, and maybe even gain a new perspective on the experiences that have shaped your own life.

Happy reading! Warm regards,

Razanawati Nordin Editor-in-Chief THE EPITOME

忆北京留学之行篇 Studying in Beijing: Memories of travel

朱锦芳 Choo Kim Fong

UiTM Johor Branch Segamat Campus



记忆中对北京的认知是中国的首都,对这座城市加深印象的是2008年成功举办的夏季奥运会。在开幕式上,见识了以蓬勃大气的表演方式传达一直以来颇为熟悉的中国历史、文化意象和精神面貌。从而,心向往之。原以为会在出社会以后才能到北京,但在就读本科大二的时候,获得了到北京参与一个月培训的机会,幸运地提前实现了一个人生小目标。

抵达北京以后,身处异国他乡的直观感觉是不适应,并不是体感上的不适,而是公共景观中全是中文书写既视感所带来的微小冲击。之后自省这微小冲击的由来,可能源于脑袋中无时无刻都在准备切换的语言系统,乍然停止切换工作的缘故。

初到北京,犹如进入课本的内容般,游览故宫博物院、居庸关长城、明十三陵、颐和园等景区,真实体验着以前所阅读的笔墨。相较于其他同学每天课后积极打卡的出游活动,在跟随两周游玩了鸟巢、央视大楼和南锣鼓巷等较现代化发展的景点以后,决定不再跟随。实在太累了!相信每个去过中国的游客都深刻体会到一点,那就是"大"。当时对中国景点的"大"还没有具体的概念。一次培训单位组织去天坛公园游览时,导游和带队老师都不断提醒切勿走丢,要时刻注意团旗等等事项。我并不以为然,心想"不就是个公园吗"。显然,既定的公园概念限制了我的眼界,那可是能同时容纳上数千人入内的公园!单是从入口到地标性建筑天坛,其中穿越过的外围绿化区域,直线距离就长达数公里。

还有一次经历,同时挑战了我 对"大"和"近"的既定概念。那是浏览完故宫 后,想着从长安街直行到王府井,出发前还 特地向当地人确认方向和距离,毕竟有了天 坛的"教训"。第一位指路大叔信誓旦旦地 说"很近",但在走了十分钟以后(我对"近"的 概念是十分钟以内的距离),街景还是故宫的 高墙时,不禁心生疑忧。于是,又赶紧向路 人确认方向,那人也很随意地说"很近,快到 了"。结果,接着走了约半小时后才抵达王府 井。

当然,中国地广物博,各色地貌和风土人情不尽相同。培训班结束以后,对探索其他地域的兴趣更甚。成功申请到北京念硕、博期间和前、后的时间,我将足迹留在过上海、苏州、杭州、天津、哈尔滨和长春,也曾到青海省的南宁和循化进行调研工作,领略了南北文化的差异。要说个人在留学期间最喜欢的活动就是挖掘各个公园背后的故事。中国的著名建筑附近几乎都会开发成人民日常的锻炼场所,而不是将之"束之高阁"。历史在生活中,生活在历史中,是北京的生活写照。





