



The **Epitome** */i'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

Theme,
**THE POWER OF EXPRESSION",
"REFLECTIONS & REALITIES:**

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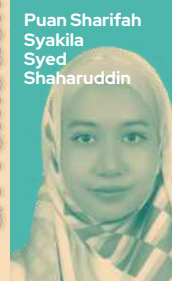


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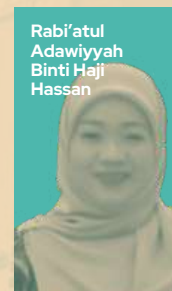
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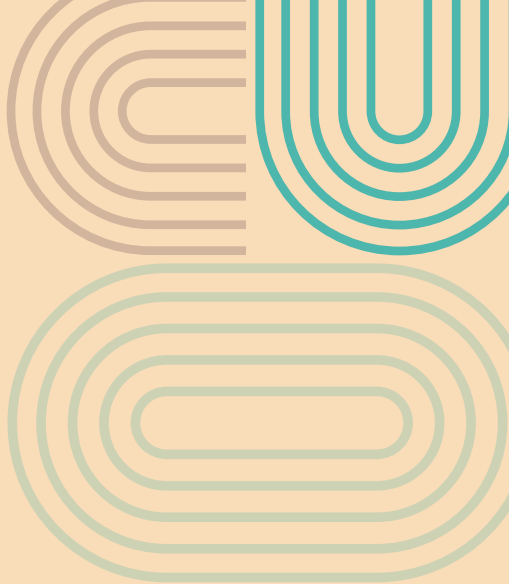
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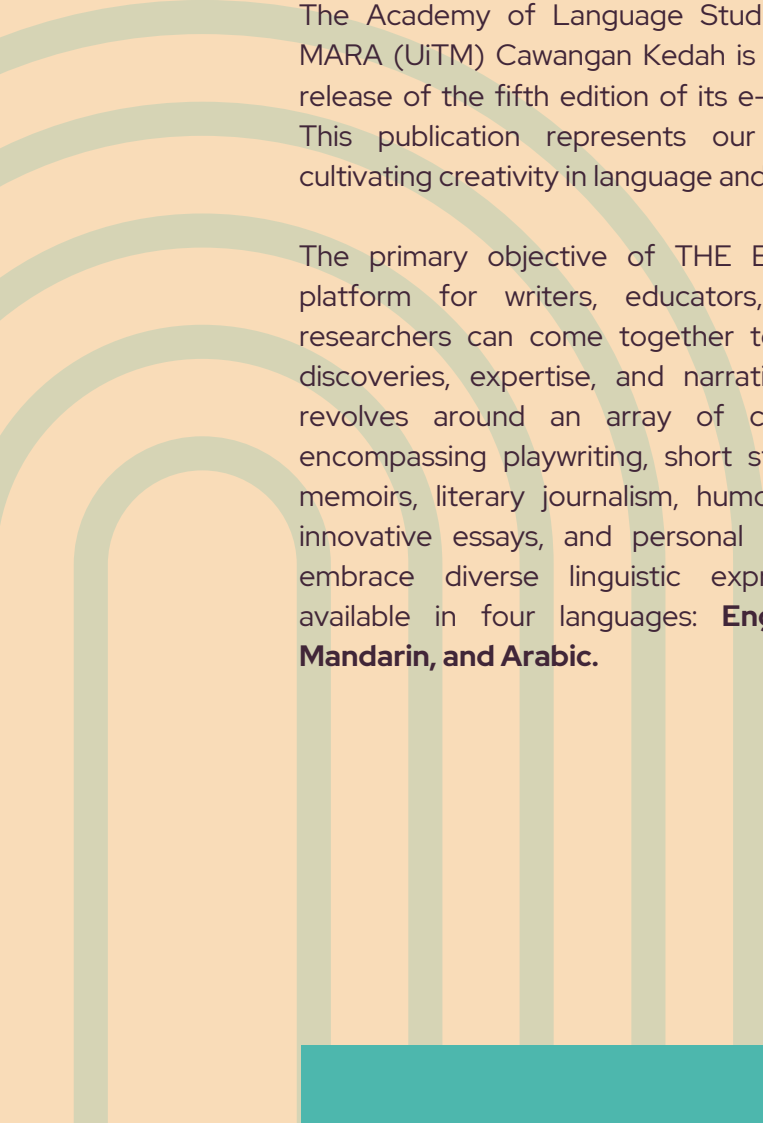
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Synopsis



The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the fifth 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
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB)
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to the 5th issue of Epitome. This time, we step into a world where reflections shape realities, and where the simple act of expression holds incredible power.

Our theme, "Reflections & Realities: The Power of Expression," captures the spirit of this collection. It reminds us that every creative work is more than just an arrangement of words – it is a mirror, a window, and a bridge. Within these pages, you will encounter a rich variety of voices, each offering a unique glimpse into personal journeys, dreams, questions, and truths. Together, they form a tapestry that reflects both the world as it is and the world as we imagine it could be.

At Epitome, we believe that creativity is not just about telling stories; it's about giving shape to experiences that might otherwise remain unspoken. Through story that stirs the heart, stories that spark new ideas, and essays that invite reflection, we celebrate the courage it takes to put thoughts into words and share them with others.

This issue is not just a showcase of talent – it is an invitation. An invitation to pause, to listen, and to engage with the many realities presented here. It asks us to look beyond the surface, to find meaning in unexpected places, and to recognize the universal threads that connect us all through the simple yet profound act of expression.

As you journey through this edition, we hope you find pieces that resonate with you, challenge your perspective, and awaken new ideas. May these reflections inspire you to embrace your own realities – and perhaps even to express them in your own way.

Thank you for allowing Epitome to be part of your reading experience. We are honoured to share these voices with you.

Happy reading!



Editor'snote

Presenting the fifth edition of THE EPITOME, a humble yet heartfelt collection of voices that reflect who we are, what we've experienced, and the truths we dare to express.

This publication's theme, "Reflections & Realities: The Power of Expression", embraces the essence of storytelling in all its forms—raw, whimsical, honest, and imaginative. Within these pages, our contributors navigate the labyrinth of identity, nostalgia, struggle, resilience, and creativity. Whether through memoirs, fiction, poetry, satire, or cultural musings, each piece represents a unique lens into the human condition, where language becomes both mirror and window—reflecting ourselves and revealing the world.

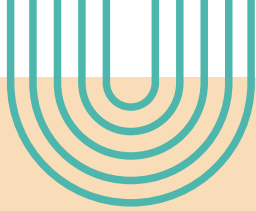
In a publication that welcomes expression in three languages—English, Bahasa Melayu, and Mandarin—we are reminded of the richness that lies in linguistic diversity. From humorous tales of online shopping to haunting narratives of secrets and self-discovery, from kampung chronicles to cross-cultural encounters, THE EPITOME offers a space for voices that often go unheard to finally be seen, read, and felt.

My deepest appreciation goes to the writers who have entrusted us with their stories, the editorial and design teams whose passion has brought this issue to life, and our readers who continuously support this platform as a space for creative and reflective exploration.

May this edition inspire you to reflect, to connect, and most of all—to express.

Warmly,
Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor
Chief Editor
THE EPITOME 2025





知多一点点 Know a little more

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在玛拉工艺大学的日子，不知不觉已经进入第四年。由于华语并非主科，因此每个学期我们都会遇到不同的学生。虽然与学生相处的时间并不长，但这并不妨碍我们在学习语文的同时，知多一点点中华文化的博大精深。

我的学生作为非华裔群体，对他们来说学习华语并非一件简单的任务，但绝对可以是一件有趣的事情。为了让学生更好体验学习的乐趣，我找出往年留下的红包封，带到课堂上。学生们看到红包十分兴奋，我猜想他们是误会我要给红包了。其实我只是没特地去买剪纸专用的红宣纸罢了。第一次我要学生挑战的字是“囍”字。学生对“喜”字并不陌生，他们知道“我爱你”，也会用“我喜欢你”。两个喜，双倍的欢喜，两个人的喜结连理，所以结婚的时候，便可以看到许多“囍”字剪纸。除了剪纸，我们也挑战了用红包封制作简易的灯笼。学生跟着举一反三，制作了兔子和鱼的造型。

此外，十二生肖对非华裔学生来说，也是十分有趣的知识。华裔家庭对望子成龙的美好祝愿，会体现在龙年特别多人生下龙年宝宝。比起龙的属性，学生更想知道自己的生肖属性。属羊的同学纳闷自己是不是等着被吃掉；属猴的同学，七嘴八舌地讨论自己为什么不会爬树。我说：羊是乖宝宝，可爱惹人疼。至于猴子应该是捣蛋鬼，喜欢爬上爬下，让大人伤脑筋。学生们哈哈大笑，想必是有人被说中了吧！

其实生肖的排法和属性来源于中国古代的天文历法和文化传统，具体与十二地支、天干地支纪年法以及自然现象相关。作为最基础的介绍，只要让学生知道如果他们知晓某人的生肖，便能推算出对方的年龄就可以了。于是，我那可爱的学生便问起了老师的生肖。

老师是不会那么容易上当的！学期结束前，恰巧便是华人农历新年。新的一年是蛇年，商场里将会摆上各种可爱的“蛇”形装饰，学生们也可以品尝象征“苦尽甘来”的年柑，或者试吃让人“年年高升”的年糕。如果有机会，再挑战有难度的剪窗花，肯定能沾一沾佳节的气氛与喜悦。





图1：学生用红包封制作简易的灯笼



图2：学生用红包封体验剪纸的乐趣。



图3：学生用心制作有关“十二生肖”与“十二时辰”的卡片。

Biodata of author(s)

Loh Siaw San is a lecturer, researcher, and writer. She holds a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language and Literature from the University of Malaya. Her research interests include teaching Mandarin as a foreign language, as well as Chinese culture and literature. Loh has authored several novels for children and young adults. Currently, she is actively involved in the teaching, study and development of teaching materials for third-language education.



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