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Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

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

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Email address: razanawati@uitm.edu.my
Contact No: 044562421

Copy Editor: Ms. Rafidah Binti Amat
& Mr. Muhammad Shyazzwan Ibrahim Brian

Graphic Designer: Mr. Mohd Hamidi Adha Mohd Amin



APB KEDAH : THE EPITOME

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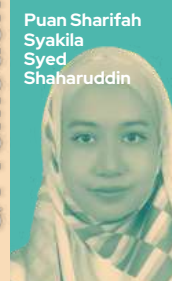


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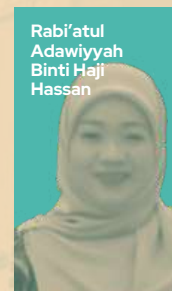
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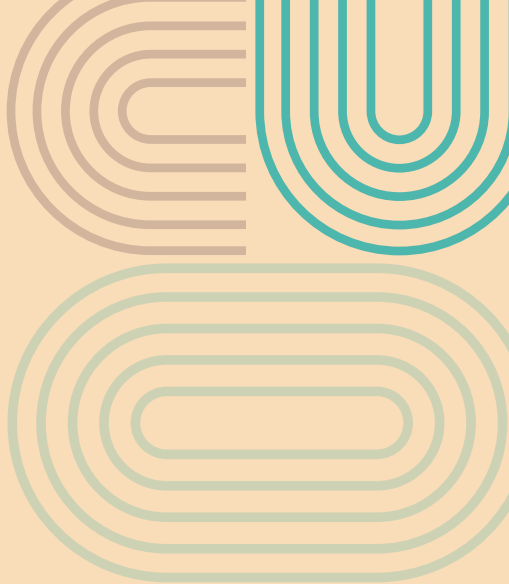
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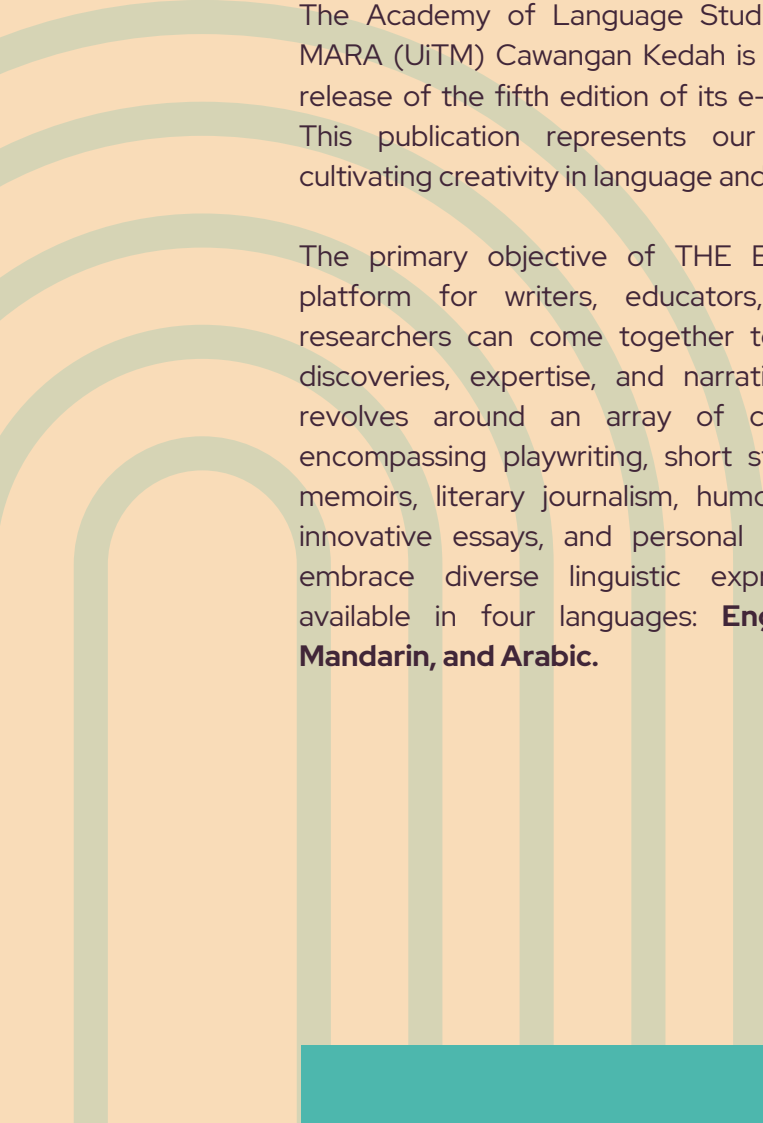
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Synopsis



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!



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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



Mak Kata 'Jimat' Lapi Borong Shopee

Abd Rahman Jamaan

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, Universiti
Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Johor,
Kampus Segamat, Johor, Malaysia
abdra564@uitm.edu.my

"Jimat itu penting," kata ibu saya setiap kali kami berbincang tentang perbelanjaan rumah. Pesannya selalu diiringi dengan petikan klasik, "Sikit-sikit, lama-lama jadi bukit." Namun, siapa sangka di sebalik nasihat berjimat itu, ibu saya adalah pembeli tegar di Shopee.

Segalanya bermula pada suatu pagi yang cerah ketika ibu sedang duduk di ruang tamu dengan telefon di tangan. Saya menyangka dia sedang membaca berita atau berzikir melalui aplikasi. Namun ternyata, dia sedang memeriksa "wishlist" di Shopee. "Mak buat apa?" tanya saya sambil menyuap nasi lemak.

"Cari barang dapur," jawabnya selamba. "Mak jumpa satu set sudu garpu, cantik betul. Ada bunga-bunga di pemegangnya." Saya mengangguk tanpa syak wasangka. "Oh, baguslah kalau murah." "Memang murah," kata ibu dengan mata bersinar. "Cuma RM39.99. Ada diskaun 70%!"

Namun, kebingungan mula timbul apabila beberapa hari kemudian, abang kurier mula datang hampir setiap hari. "Mak, barang apa lagi yang sampai ni?" tanya saya sambil mengangkat kotak besar yang entah apa isinya. "Oh, itu rak kasut," jawab ibu santai. "Mak beli sebab kasut kita berselerak. Jimat tahu beli dalam talian ni, murah pula."

Tapi itu baru permulaan. Seiring minggu berlalu, ruang tamu kami perlahan-lahan berubah menjadi gudang logistik. Kotak besar, kecil, tinggi, rendah – semuanya bertimbun. Ada yang mengandungi bekas makanan, bantal leher, set periuk, hingga pelekat dinding berbentuk kucing.

"Mak, bukankah mak kata nak jimat?" tanya saya suatu hari sambil cuba membuka jalan melalui timbunan kotak. "Memang jimatlah," jawab ibu dengan nada penuh keyakinan. "Kalau beli dekat kedai, mesti lagi mahal. Tengok ni, mak dapat bekas makanan ni cuma RM2!" "Tapi mak beli 20 bekas," balas saya sambil mengangkat satu bekas plastik berwarna biru. "Itu sebab ada promosi 'beli lebih, jimat lebih'," katanya bangga.

Keadaan menjadi semakin serius apabila suatu hari abang kurier datang membawa barang sebesar mesin basuh. "Puan, ini barang besar ya. Nak letak mana?" tanyanya, hampir kehabisan nafas.

Ibu melambai dari dapur. "Letak saja dekat sini, depan TV." Saya mengintip ke dalam kotak besar itu. Rupa-rupanya, ia sebuah kerusi urut yang katanya "portable". "Mak, kita dah ada sofa. Nak buat apa dengan kerusi urut ni?" "Kadang-kadang mak lenguh-lenguh badan," katanya. "Lagipun, mak guna kupon diskaun. Jadi murah sangat!"





Namun, momen kemuncak berlaku ketika ibu memutuskan untuk membeli barang "unik" yang dia rasa sangat penting. Suatu petang, saya pulang ke rumah dan mendapati dua ekor ayam plastik besar berdiri di tengah ruang tamu. Ayam itu berbentuk seperti ayam hidup tetapi bersaiz gergasi.

"Mak, apa ni?" tanya saya terpinga-pinga. "Hiasan taman," jawab ibu dengan senyuman puas. "Mak tengok orang jual dekat Facebook mahal, tapi mak jumpa dekat Shopee cuma RM19.99 satu. Jimat tahu!" "Tapi kita tak ada taman, mak," kata saya sambil mengangkat satu ayam plastik untuk mencari makna tersembunyi di sebalik pembelian itu.

Biodata of author(s)

Abd Rahman Jamaan is a senior lecturer at UiTM Johor Segamat campus. He is a dedicated scholar and writer with an interest in the Arabic language and education. He holds a master's degree in modern language studies from the University of Malaya and a bachelor's degree from Al-Bayt University in Jordan. He enjoys producing teaching and educational texts in an engaging teaching style. Abd Rahman is the author of several student teaching methods. He writes ebooks for general teaching and offers an online learning platform to the public. He is currently active in both publishing research articles in the subject of education and teaching Arabic.

Ibu hanya menjongketkan bahu. "Tak apa, nanti kita buat taman kecil dekat balkoni."

Minggu berikutnya, situasi bertambah pelik apabila sebuah kotak misteri tiba. Kali ini, ibu sendiri nampak keliru. "Mak lupa mak pesan apa," katanya sambil membuka kotak itu dengan penuh keterujaan. Isinya? Satu set pisau dapur berbentuk samurai. "Mak tak masak sangat pun," tegur saya. "Tapi nampak menarik," jawabnya selamba. "Lagipun, ada diskaun."

Saya dan adik-beradik lain mula membuat teori bahawa ibu sebenarnya sedang menjalani fasa "membeli demi kepuasan jiwa". Kami cuba membantah, tetapi setiap kali kami membuka mulut, ibu akan mengeluarkan hujah kuat tentang "keperluan" dan "penjimatan".

"Mak, apa gunanya mak beli lampu disko ni?" tanya saya ketika lampu berkelip pelbagai warna menyinari ruang tamu. "Kadang-kadang kita nak hiburan," jawab ibu dengan wajah serius. "Lagipun, kan murah. Cuma RM15."

Satu hari, saya memutuskan untuk menyiasat akaun Shopee ibu. Ternyata, dia adalah pengguna tegar yang sudah mencapai tahap "Super Buyer". Dia juga mempunyai lebih 300 item dalam "wishlist". Ketika saya bertanya, ibu hanya ketawa kecil. "Mak tak beli semua," katanya. "Mak cuma suka tengok-tengok."

Namun, kotak-kotak yang terus bertambah berkata sebaliknya. Akhirnya, kami sepakat untuk membuat intervensi. Satu malam, kami duduk bersama ibu di ruang tamu, dikelilingi oleh hasil "penjimatan" beliau.

"Mak, kita kena bincang," kata abang sulung saya. "Rumah kita dah macam gudang." "Mak, cuba tengok sekeliling," tambah adik saya yang paling kecil. "Apa sebenarnya keperluan semua ni?"

Ibu memandang sekeliling, seolah-olah baru menyedari jumlah barang yang sudah menyesakkan rumah. "Alah, tak banyak pun," katanya perlahan. "Mak, ayam plastik tu pandang saya setiap malam," kata saya sambil menunjuk ke arah "hiasan taman" yang kini menjadi penghuni tetap sudut ruang tamu.

Ibu akhirnya mengalah. Dia berjanji untuk mengurangkan pembelian dan hanya membeli barang yang benar-benar perlu. Tapi, seperti kata pepatah, tabiat lama sukar diubah. Seminggu selepas itu, saya ternampak notifikasi di telefon ibu. "Shopee: Tahniah! Anda telah memenangi baucar RM10."

“

Ibu tersenyum lebar. "Rezeki jangan ditolak," katanya. Dan begitulah, walaupun ibu berusaha "berjimat", semangatnya sebagai pemburu tawaran tak pernah padam. Kini, kami hanya mampu ketawa setiap kali abang kurier datang membawa kotak baru. Hidup bersama ibu memang penuh warna-warni dan kotak Shopee!

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