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APB Kedah (e-magazine)

SPECIAL ISSUE EPITOME

Visit Kedah 2025

Theme:
"Visit Kedah 2025: Where Tradition Meets Innovation –
A Journey Through Culture, Nature, and Adventure"





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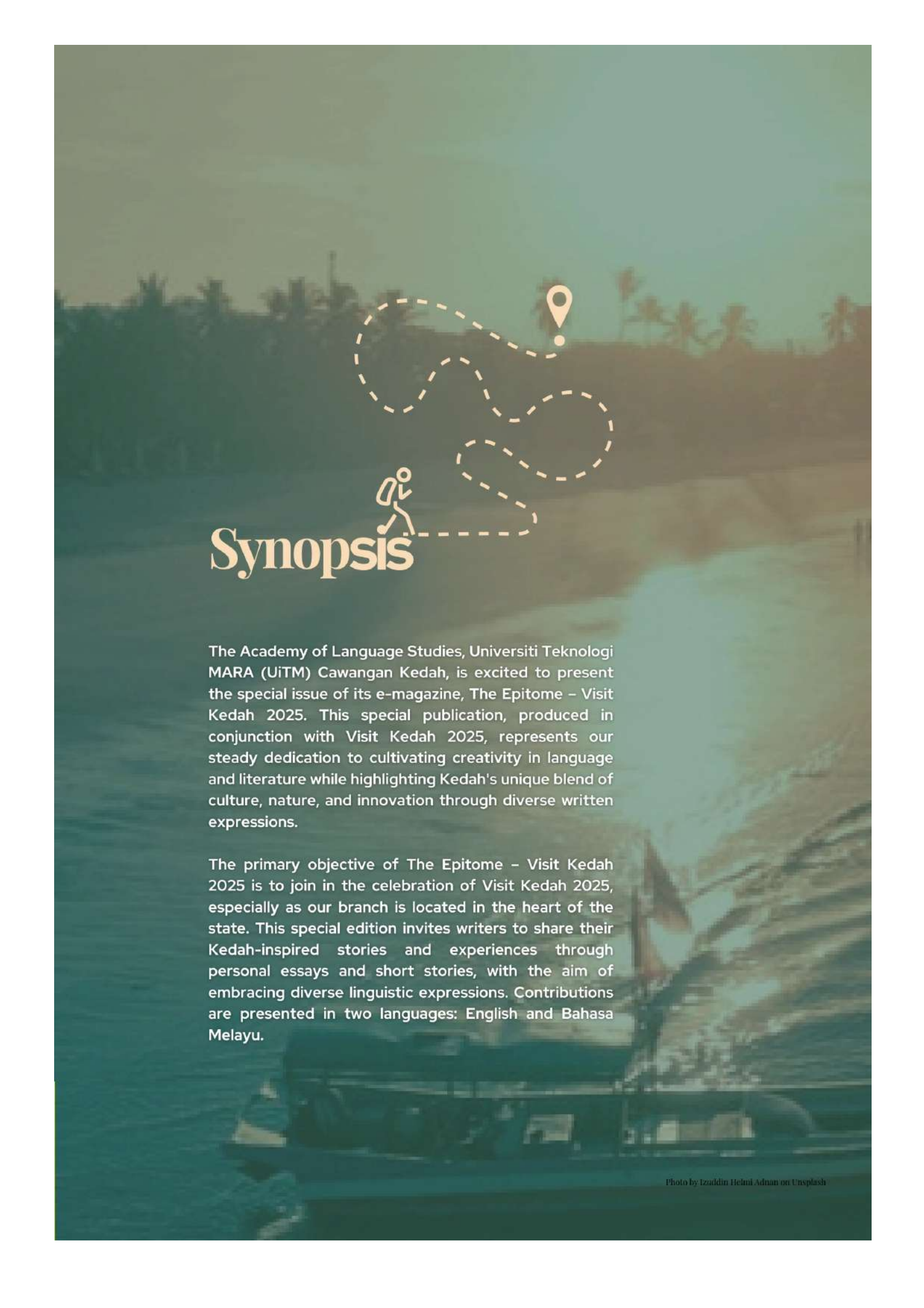
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Synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah, is excited to present the special issue of its e-magazine, The Epitome – Visit Kedah 2025. This special publication, produced in conjunction with Visit Kedah 2025, represents our steady dedication to cultivating creativity in language and literature while highlighting Kedah's unique blend of culture, nature, and innovation through diverse written expressions.

The primary objective of The Epitome – Visit Kedah 2025 is to join in the celebration of Visit Kedah 2025, especially as our branch is located in the heart of the state. This special edition invites writers to share their Kedah-inspired stories and experiences through personal essays and short stories, with the aim of embracing diverse linguistic expressions. Contributions are presented in two languages: English and Bahasa Melayu.

face

Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

Head of Faculty
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB)
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to this special edition of Epitome, where we embark on an exciting journey through the rich heritage, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture of Kedah – one of Malaysia's most beloved and fascinating states.

As we look ahead to Visit Kedah 2025, this issue invites you to explore the treasures that await in this beautiful destination. From the serene beauty of Langkawi's beaches to the historical charm of Alor Setar, Kedah offers something for every traveller. Whether you are an adventure seeker, a history enthusiast, or someone simply in search of tranquillity, Kedah has it all.

In the pages ahead, we delve into the many faces of Kedah, capturing the essence of its natural wonders, cultural landmarks, and unique experiences that define the state. Our stories, articles, and photographs will transport you to places where the past and present come together in perfect harmony – where lush green paddy fields stretch as far as the eye can see, and the rich flavours of local cuisine tantalize the senses.

Visit Kedah 2025 isn't just a campaign; it's an invitation to connect with the heart of Malaysia. It's an invitation to discover the unforgettable experiences that make Kedah a must-visit destination for travellers from around the world. In this edition, we hope to inspire you to plan your own journey to Kedah, whether it's to explore its breath-taking landscapes, immerse in its cultural heritage, or simply take in the warm hospitality of its people.

As you turn these pages, may you feel the spirit of Kedah calling to you – the call to discover, explore, and experience all that this incredible state has to offer.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting adventure. We hope to see you in Kedah in 2025!





Kedah, Where the Stories Unfold"

As the Chief Editor of Epitome, it gives me great pleasure to present this special edition in celebration of Visit Kedah Year 2025—an ode to a land where history, heritage, and heart live in every corner.

Nestled in the warm embrace of the northern Peninsula, Kedah is more than just Malaysia's rice bowl. It is a living canvas where time whispers through the ancient stones of Bujang Valley, dances across the rippling paddy fields, and echoes through the melodic drawl of the Kedahan dialect. Each tale we share in this issue draws its breath from Kedah's unique rhythm—where old meets new, tradition hugs the modern, and culture is not just remembered but lived.

From the misty peaks of Gunung Jerai, which once guided ancient mariners, to the shimmering flow of Sungai Merbok, where history quietly flows, Kedah's ecological richness is a story waiting to be told. Its mountains are guardians of myths; its rivers, keepers of memory. The lush rainforests, secret waterfalls, and wild orchids—all are pieces of a vibrant narrative woven by nature itself.

Yet, it is Kedah's people who breathe soul into this land. The warmth of pasar malam banter, the flavours of authentic laksa Kedah, the grace of traditional dance, and the way elders tell stories in that soft, endearing dialect—it all becomes poetry in motion. And in this special issue, we invite you to read, feel, and immerse yourself in the charm, wit, and wonder of Old Kedah and New Kedah alike.

Through creative fiction, heartfelt essays, and evocative poetry, Epitome brings together voices that sing of Kedah's mountains, rivers, food, language, and legacy. We hope this edition will not only inspire a visit but stir something deeper—a connection to the essence of a land that has long cradled Malaysia's earliest civilizations and continues to nurture its cultural heart.

Let the pages transport you to Kedah Darul Aman—a realm of peace, a sanctuary of stories.

Warmly,

Razanawati Nordin

Chief Editor
THE EPITOME 2025

Editor's note





Editor's Note



It is with great pleasure that I present to you this special issue of The Epitome in conjunction with Visit Kedah 2025. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Head of Department for initiating this wonderful idea. As a proud Kedahan working in Kedah, I instantly agreed to be part of this project, knowing how close it is to my heart.

Reading the personal essays and short stories submitted by our contributors has been a truly enjoyable experience. I found myself smiling, reminiscing, and even imagining familiar places through their words. What makes this issue even more exciting is that some contributors are not originally from Kedah, yet they have beautifully shared their own reflections and experiences related to this charming state. Their fresh perspectives reminded me of the beauty I sometimes take for granted, having been born and bred in Kedah.

To all our contributors: thank you for your creativity, your voice, and for allowing us to travel through your narratives. Your stories have added soul and colour to this edition, and I hope our readers enjoy the journey through Kedah just as much as I did.

With appreciation,

Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor

Chief Editor, The Epitome
A Proud Kedahan

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ARTS & CRAFTS



BALAI S





Gambar oleh Affarizainul

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Jikey..terasa begitu asing bunyinya pada telinga ketika itu. Tetapi itulah perkataan yang pernah kudengari daripada pengalaman ibuku dahulu. Ini merupakan sebuah anekdot mencoretkan pengalaman ibuku ketika beliau masih muda dan sisi hiburan dahulu. Kirakiranya ceritanya berbunyi begini; Semasa ibuku masih remaja, sekitar tahun 1960-an, tidak banyak sumber-sumber hiburan yang boleh didapati kecuali hiburan berbentuk kelompok seperti wayang pacak, wayang kulit ataupun Jikey. Kulihat ibuku sibuk menceritakan bagaimana beliau akan membawa bersama adik-adiknya sekiranya Jikey berlangsung di kampung kami. Buat makluman, kampung yang dibicarakan terletak di Ulu Melaka, Langkawi; sebuah pulau yang telah berjaya dibangunkan sebagai sebuah pusat pelancongan di utara tanah air.



Menurut Muhammad Izzat Md Isa, Jikey merupakan satu seni persembahan teater tradisional Melayu yang banyak dipersembahkan di Selatan Thailand dan sekitar wilayah Utara Malaysia. Seni persembahan ini menggabungkan muzik, nyanyian, tarian dan lakonan yang turut diselangi dengan dialog lucu.



Zaman dulu jauh berbeza dengan zaman kita sekarang yang penuh dengan pelbagai jenis hiburan, kiri dan kanan, daripada tontonan di kaca televisyen, radio, Internet sehingga ke Netflix. Dulunya hiburan cuma didapati melalui acara-acara yang diadakan oleh pihak Kementerian Penerangan dan Penyiaran (sekarang telah diwartakan sebagai Kementerian Komunikasi sejak 12 Disember 2023). Acara-acara itu seperti penganjuran wayang pacak, wayang kulit ataupun Jikey di kawasan-kawasan lapang seperti padang sekolah ataupun di dalam kampung.

Ibuku begitu seronok bercerita bagaimana pemain-pemain Jikey ini terdiri daripada kaum lelaki yang memainkan watak masing-masing. Mereka merupakan sekumpulan orang yang akan bermekap penuh dan memainkan watak tertentu seperti watak Tok Keling atau Benggali, Tok Nujum, pelawak, watak Cina atau Ah Seng, bapa, mahupun raja dan putera dan puteri. Kelainan Jikey yang dipersembahkan di Langkawi ketika itu adalah walaupun wataknya adalah wanita, kesemua pemainnya adalah lelaki.

Sekiranya acara Jikey diadakan di kampung kami, ibu akan membawa adik-adiknya yang masih kecil untuk menyaksikan acara tersebut. Watak-watak Jikey akan keluar seorang demi seorang memperkenalkan watak masing-masing. Menurut ibuku, persembahan Jikey adalah satu persembahan yang berwarna-warni dan lucu. Namun, pada satu kesempatan menonton Jikey, ibuku terpaksa pulang awal malam itu dan tidak dapat menyaksikan Jikey sehingga habis kerana adik lelakinya yang masih kecil ketika itu menangis kerana takutkan watak Tok Keling. Beliau terpaksa menggendong adiknya yang masih kecil itu lalu pulang ke rumah tanpa sempat menyaksikan kesudahan Jikey.

Ketika zaman itu juga, tidak ramai yang berkemampuan untuk membeli televisyen, yang mana hari ini hampir di setiap rumah mempunyai satu set televisyen atau lebih. Semasa itu, hanya Tok Penghulu sahaja di kampung itu yang memiliki televisyen. Maka, ramailah orang akan ke rumah Tok Penghulu untuk menonton televisyen terutama sekiranya terdapat tayangan filem-filem P. Ramlee. Di rumah ibuku sendiri, arwah Tokwan atau datukku dulu hanya mampu membeli radio sebagai sumber hiburan dan informasi seisi keluarga. Dulunya kerana radio dan televisyen lebih berbentuk sebagai barang mewah, memiliki radio atau televisyen memerlukan lesen khas dengan sedikit bayaran dikenakan.

Aku yakin bahawa tidaklah berbeza sangat pengalaman hidup pada zaman itu dengan apa yang dikongsikan daripada pengalaman ibuku. Namun, Jikey merupakan satu warisan bangsa yang khasnya banyak dimainkan di kawasan utara tanah air seperti Kedah dan Perlis. Jikey juga amat sinonim dengan Pulau Langkawi sehingga dinyatakan terdapat versi Jikey Langkawi dan terdapat dua Adiguru Jikey yang diangkat dari kalangan penduduk Langkawi iaitu Jusoh bin Chin dan Said Ibrahim. Pengiktirafan Adiguru Jikey ini telah diberikan oleh Jabatan Kebudayaan dan Kesenian Negara serta Akademi Seni, Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA). Itulah sedikit perkongsian yang aku titipkan daripada pengalaman ibuku semasa beliau remaja berkenaan Jikey, serta sumber-sumber hiburan zaman yang telah berlalu.



Gambar oleh Affarazul



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