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eLingua

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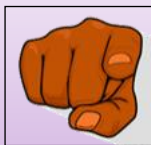
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We need your contribution,



1. if you've attended or presented at any workshops / conferences etc
2. if you've updates regarding Third languages (Mandarin / French / Japanese/German/Arabic)
3. if you've updates on the English Language Club
4. if you've contributions from your students (in any language)
5. if you've your own personal contribution



... from the Editorial Team

Hi everyone. Here we are again with another issue of eLingua, albeit a slightly delayed one. Times have been hard for all of us, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic that has affected every nook and corner of our globe. For educators like us, it has been a very challenging period in terms of carrying out our professional duties while at the same time acclimatizing ourselves to the new norms. Still, I take this opportunity to SALUTE and CONGRATULATE each and every one of you for being as productive as always and contributing to our publication. For this issue, I am proud to say that there has been a record number of contribution to the lecturers' section. KUDOS to all of you. Remember to take some time off your busy marking schedule and enjoy the contents of this issue. Last but not least, 'SELAMAT HARI RAYA AIDUL ADHA' to all our Muslim friends in the department.



UiTM 2025 Strategic Plan – Forging Ahead

By Liaw Shun Chone

On February 6, 2020, UiTM embarked on an ambitious 5-year strategic plan to place itself as an international renowned university and churn out marketable graduates by 2025.

The launch of the event was aired live to all 26 UiTM campuses. For UiTM Penang staff, they were all gathered at Dewan Besar as early as 2 pm. At first, the event started with a short address by UiTM vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Azraai Kassim. After that, the university's board of directors chairman, Datuk Seri Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir began to outline the measures and roles of the university at the launch of UiTM 2025 Strategic Plan.

Among the highlights of the university plans are –

- The need to prop up students' diversified skills and global exposures so that they gain employability in the digital aid technological era
- Intention to collaborate with more start-up companies and networking through alumni
- Preparedness of students to be more versatile and marketable by undergoing Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVet) programmes.



Events ... (Conferences, Meetings, Trainings & Workshops)

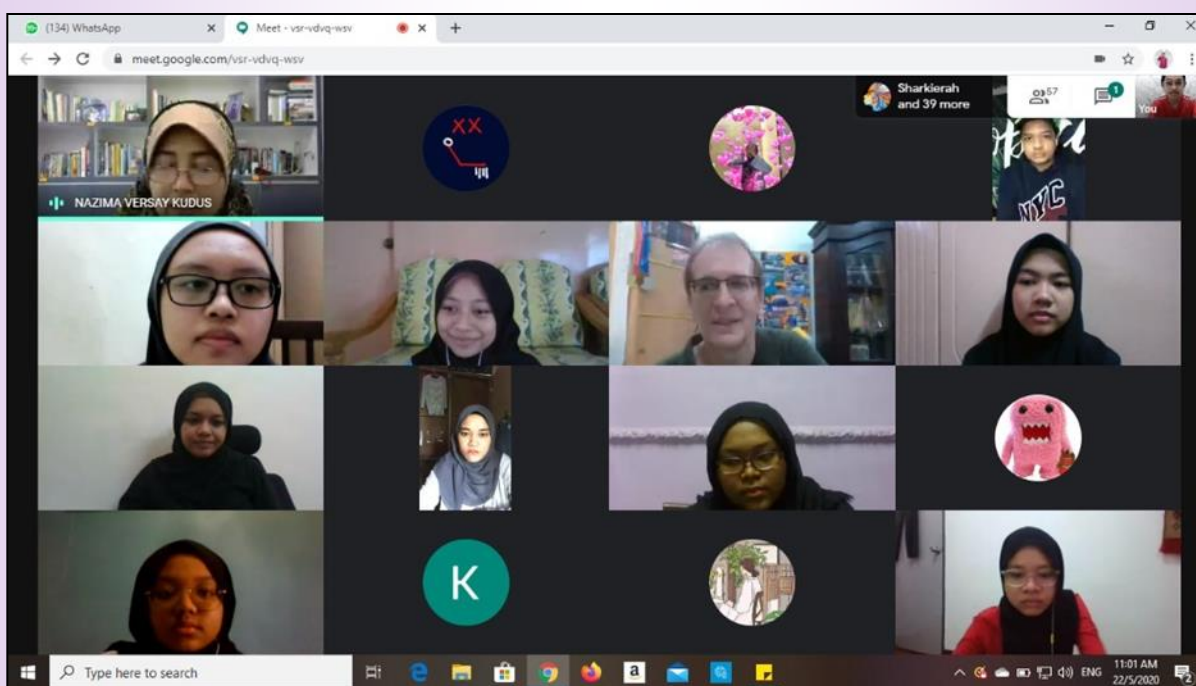
A Chance to Meet the Author Online

By Nazima Versay Kudus

On 22nd of May 2020, Robert Raymer, an American writer who is now based in Kuching was invited via Google Meet to discuss his short story entitled "Neighbours" from the anthology *Lovers and Strangers Revisited* with a group of students from Integrated Language Skills II (ELC151) code, Universiti Teknologi MARA Bertam campus. The sixty students were from the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The discussion began when the students and Raymer first talked about the neighborhood in the story, how it was not typical for most Malaysians. The question-and-answer session lasted one hour and among the questions asked by the students were "Was the story real?" "Did it really take place?" The writer briefly talked about his neighbour committing suicide and his personal involvement in that incident. Other questions include about writing in general, how to overcome writing block, what books would the writer recommend, what project he is working on now, and even how to be a good neighbour during Covid-19 MCO (Malaysian movement control order).

When the hour was up, we said our goodbyes. Hopefully the students have come away with a deeper appreciation for the story and for the opportunity to pose questions to the author.



A screenshot of the Google Meet event with Mr. Raymer

Everyday words and phrases that have racist connotations

<p><u>In real estate</u> Master bedrooms/bathrooms: A master bedroom typically refers to the largest bedroom in the house, often accompanied by a private bathroom.</p>	<p><u>In computer technology</u> Master/slave: Tech engineers use these terms to describe components of software and hardware in which one process or device controls another.</p>	<p><u>In everyday speech</u> Lynch mob: The racist roots of the phrase are hidden in plain sight. Though it's evolved into an umbrella term for an "unjust attack," lynch mobs originated as hordes of people, most always White, who'd torture and kill Black people -- often by hanging them -- as a form of vigilante justice.</p>	<p><u>In sports</u> The Masters Tournament: It's one of the four major tournaments on the PGA tour and is usually called simply, "the Masters."</p>
<p><u>In the arts</u> Peanut gallery: The phrase typically refers to the cheapest seats in a theater, and is informally used to describe critics or hecklers.</p>	<p><u>In law</u> Grandfathered in: This legal term broadly refers to the "grandfather clause" adopted by seven Southern states during the Reconstruction Era.</p>	<p>For more information, visit the link below: https://edition.cnn.com/2020/07/06/us/racism-words-phrases-slavery-trnd/index.html</p>	

Events ... (Conferences, Meetings, Trainings & Workshops)

Academy of Language Studies Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Pulau Pinang Invited as Guest Lecturers For a One Week Event in Tanjungpura University, Pontianak, Indonesia (UNTAN)

By Farina Nozakiah Tazijan

Two senior lecturers from the Academy of Language Studies (ALS) UiTM CPP have been invited by Universitas Tanjungpura (UNTAN) to deliver a public speech, seminar and lecture for their post graduate students. Dr Rofiza Aboo Bakar and Madam Farina Tazijan delivered lectures on Second Language Acquisition, Teaching Methodologies and Teaching innovations from 27 February to 29 February 2020 to an audience consisting of teachers pursuing their postgraduate studies.

On 1st March 2020, UNTAN hosted a public lecture for Dr. Rofiza Aboo Bakar and Madam Farina Tazijan on the topic of 'Teaching and Learning English : A Malaysian Perspective'. Participants were post graduate students, lecturers and alumni of UNTAN.

On the 2nd March 2020, Universitas Muhammadiyah, Sekolah Tinggi Manajemen Informatika dan Komputer Pontianak and Politeknik Aasiyah collaborated to host a one day Seminar. Dr Rofiza Aboo Bakar and Madam Farina Tazijan were invited to deliver lectures on the topic on "Embracing the 21st Century Teaching and Learning Skills". The audience comprised of students, teachers and lecturers of the three institutions with various fields such as nursing, economy, languages, information technology and medical sciences.

This second visit by Academy of Language Studies UiTM CPP to UNTAN is also part of the activities planned within the MOU signed between UiTM CPP and UNTAN in 2017. Several research collaborations were also discussed during this visit. New opportunities of signing MOU were also been proposed for future networking and collaborations.



A Special Write-up about Our New Rector

Profesor Dr. Salmiah Kasolang: Antara Pentadbir dan Pemacu Semangat

oleh Dr. Rofiza Aboo Bakar

UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang adalah kampus yang dinobatkan sebagai kampus Sains dan Teknologi. Pusat-pusat pengajiannya rata-ratanya terdiri daripada jurusan kejuruteraan, sains kesihatan dan farmasi selain daripada perhotelan. Di awal penubuhannya pada 1996, ia diterajui oleh seorang Provos dari Pusat Pengajian Kejuruteraan Mekanikal, Profesor Madya Ir. Abdullah Suhaimi Mohamed. Selepas itu, nama Provos ditukar kepada Pengarah Kampus dan kini ianya menjadi Rektor. Hari berganti hari, bulan berganti bulan dan tahun berganti tahun. Begitu jugalah pentadbir utama kampus ini yang silih berganti dan kesemuanya terdiri daripada kaum Adam. Namun pada tahun keramat 2020, pada ketika kampus ini memasuki usia matang 24 tahun, UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang buat pertama kalinya menerima seorang Rektor wanita, Yg. Bbhg Profesor Dr. Salmiah Kasolang, juga dari Pusat Pengajian Kejuruteraan Mekanikal.

Saya bagaimanapun tidak mahu berbicara tentang latarbelakang pendidikan beliau, keserjanaan beliau ataupun sebagainya kerana ianya mudah didapati daripada dada-dada internet mahupun media massa lain. Saya lebih gemar berkongsi tentang pesanan beliau yang saya amati menerusi peluang singkat bersamanya dalam empat pertemuan berbeza sepanjang Mei sehingga Jun 2020 sama ada di dalam mesyuarat formal mahupun pertemuan santai. Saya umpamakan beliau sebagai pemacu semangat. Berikut ialah empat pesanan utama beliau:



Yg Bbhg Profesor Dr. Salmiah Kasolang: Rektor Wanita pertama UiTM CPP

Mulakan sesuatu aktiviti dengan ucapan syukur

Pesanan ini diulangi oleh beliau dalam kesemua pertemuan yang dipengeruskannya. Setiap pekerjaan yang kita perolehi, kesihatan yang kita ada malah segala-galanya yang kita perolehi pada hari ini adalah rezeki yang diberikan oleh Tuhan jua. Maka, sudah wajarlah setiap pekerjaan dimulakan dengan ucapan 'Alhamdulillah'.

Menyampaikan ilmu kepada para pelajar dengan penyentuhan qalbu

Beliau juga mengingatkan bahawa pendidikan bukan semata-mata pensyarah membina kognitif pelajar. Namun, tidak kurang pentingnya ialah para pensyarah mepedulikan kesejahteraan pelajar dengan nasihat dan menimbulkan minat belajar. Tidak dinafikan sebahagian pelajar kita lemah tetapi janganlah dipinggirkan mereka ini. Pasti ada jalan untuk membantu mereka. Beliau menasihati agar kaedah penyampaian ilmu secara penyentuhan qalbu dikaji dan didalami oleh para pensyarah. Saya andaikan kaedah ini dengan 'emotional intelligence' yang dianjurkan oleh Goleman.

Membudayakan kecemerlangan

Beliau menasihati agar kita menjadi insan yang boleh membawa kebaikan kepada orang lain. Tidak salah menjadi orang biasa tetapi cemerlang dalam pelbagai bidang. "Be a champion and a trend setter," katanya. Maka, setiap pensyarah harus mempunyai gerakerja yang terancang dan bekerja sebagai satu pasukan.

Bertenaga dan bersemangat

Beliau sudah menginjak ke usia awal 50an tetapi amat aktif bukan sahaja dari segi penyelidikan namun dalam pelbagai aktiviti lain. Oleh kerana itu, beliau menasihati agar para staf kelolaannya turut aktif, bertenaga dan bersemangat. Saya teringat nasihat pakar-pakar lain bahawa jika kita bersemangat, perkara yang sukar boleh menjadi mudah.

Itulah empat nasihatnya yang boleh saya kongsi dengan para pembaca budiman dalam keluaran kali ini. Mudah-mudahan ianya dapat membawa manfaat kepada semua.



LEADERSHIP IS NOT A
POSITION OR A TITLE,
IT IS ACTION AND
EXAMPLE



Special Column 'A Tribute to Puan Sabariah Binti Muhamad'

By Liaw Shun Chone

By the time this interview is published in July 2020 e-Lingua issue, you would have retired. Nevertheless, your thoughts and comments will long linger in this issue after your retirement. We are so glad that you have agreed to share with us your plans and we shall treasure all your sharing.

To many of us here at APB, Pn Sabariah Binti Muhamad is an unassuming lady who likes to assist others when we have problems. She does not like to brag about her credentials or knowledge but quietly helps others without expecting others to reciprocate in kind. Always the 'behind the scene' staff member who shuns publicity, she has contributed immensely and selflessly to this department. Even when she was the department coordinator, I personally witnessed how she shouldered the department work single-handedly when she could have easily used her position to delegate the various tasks and responsibilities onto others to carry them out. This speaks volumes of her character and commitment.



Hari akhir di
UiTM CPP
17 Mac 2020

1. Pn Sabariah, could you kindly provide a little bit details of yourself. Maybe a bit of your biodata, your involvement before working at UiTM, and also your work philosophy.

Saya dilahirkan pada 10 April 1962 dan berasal dari Melaka. Memperolehi Ijazah Kejuruteraan (Sains Komputer) daripada Universiti Yamanashi, Jepun (1988) dan Ijazah Sarjana Pengajian Bahasa Moden, UM (2007). Sebelum bekerja di UiTM, pernah bekerja sebagai QC Engineer di Mitsui High-Tec (M) Sdn. Bhd. yang terletak di Shah Alam (1988 -1990).

Saya selalu mengingatkan diri dengan kata-kata ini :

“ jika tidak dapat apa yang kita suka, sukalah apa yang kita dapat ” kerana rezeki yang ditentukan Allah kepada setiap hambaNya tidak sama.

2. And now a bit of your workplace at UiTM. How long have you worked here? How was working life at this campus?

Memulakan kerjaya di UiTM pada 1 Jan 1991 dibawah Program Dasar Pandang Ke Timur (DPT), INTEC (Pusat Pengajian Persediaan -PPP ketika itu)sebagai pensyarah kontrak Bahasa Jepun sebelum diserap ke jawatan pensyarah tetap (Pusat Bahasa) pada Jan 2001. Pertengahan Dis 2006 saya mula bertugas di APB, UiTM CPP. Keseluruhannya telah berkhidmat selama lebih kurang 29 tahun 3 bulan sehingga tarikh persaraan wajib pada 10 April yang lalu.

Saya seronok bekerja di sini kerana UiTM CPP bagi saya mempunyai persekitaran kampus yang amat strategik dengan pelbagai kemudahan yang disediakan tahun demi tahun. Pergerakan ulang-alik ke kuliah amat mudah dan perjumpaan bersama pelajar juga lebih senang diatur. Selain itu urusan ke mana-mana pejabat adalah sangat mudah kerana kebanyakannya terletak berdekatan di bawah satu bumbung.

3. What were your memorable moments at UiTM campus? Another specific incident/s that you will forever remember the event/s for the rest of your life?

Saya bukannya dari latar belakang pendidikan, namun saya rasa amat bertuah kerana sejak dari hari pertama mengajar lagi telah berpeluang bekerja dan mengajar bersama penutur natif (pensyarah Jepun) semasa di Program DPT dahulu. Mereka sentiasa memberi tunjuk ajar dalam pengajaran dan lebih menyeronokkan lagi komunikasi harian kami sepenuhnya dalam bahasa Jepun seolah-olah bila sampai di pejabat saya rasa macam berada di Jepun.

Selain itu memikul tanggungjawab sebagai seorang ketua bukanlah idaman saya, namun kepercayaan yang diberi bagi menajui APB suatu ketika dulu merupakan satu pengalaman yang berharga walaupun sedar kemampuan diri amat kurang. Terima kasih kepada semua warga APB yang sering membantu dan memberi sepenuh kerjasama.

4. Have you made any plans after retirement? Perhaps pursuing other academic pursuits? Maybe visit other countries or reskilling options to use up the free time during post-retirement.

Setakat ini belum ada sebarang perancangan yang spesifik selepas persaraan. Seperti orang lain juga tumpuan utama nanti semestinya kepada keluarga dan berharap agar sentiasa sihat untuk membuat sesuatu yang tidak dapat dilakukan semasa sedang bekerja.

5. What do you think and hope UiTM to be in five years? What about wishes for our own department – APB?

Sejajar dengan pelan perancangan strategik 2025 yang sedang dilaksanakan kini, InsyaAllah UiTM bakal menjadi sebuah

continued on the next page ...

universiti yang hebat dengan pencapaian terbaik oleh para akademik dan pelajar-pelajarnya hingga diperingkat antarabangsa. APB, UiTM CPP juga tidak lama lagi bakal melahirkan lebih ramai para doktoratnya dan diharapkan mereka dapat menerajui APB ke tahap yang lebih tinggi setanding dengan jabatan dan fakulti-fakulti lain hendaknya. Apatah lagi nilai 'keantarabangsaan' itu memang telah sedia wujud di APB, kalau terus di gilap akan terpancar sinarnya.

6. One last question Pn Sabariah. Any advice, hope, comments or suggestions for the improvement of our own department. You may also want to offer your thanks and appreciation to them.

Walau di mana pun kita bekerja, semangat kekeluargaan amat penting dan perlu dikekalkan, sedia menerima teguran dan saling bekerjasama serta hormat menghormati bakal melahirkan sebuah organisasi kerja yang harmoni dan sayang menyayangi. Semaoga keharmonian yang terjalin akan terus berkekalan di APB.

Dikesempatan ini saya ingin mengucapkan jutaan terima kasih kepada semua rakan sekerja di APB kerana telah banyak memberikan kerjasama, sokongan dan galakan sepanjang 13 tahun di sini. Sempat bekerja bersama dibawah Kordinator/KPP iaitu Dr. Rushita, Puan Nazima, Cik Rosmaliza dan terakhirnya Dr. Rofiza, terima kasih atas toleransi, kepercayaan dan keprihatinan yang telah diberikan. Saya umpama kakak sulong di APB, rasa sayang menyayangi, hormat menghormati yang ditunjukkan amat menyentuh hati ini dan sangat dihargai. Terlalu sayu sekali bila terpaksa meninggalkan kampus ini dan APB khususnya, apatah lagi tanpa kita duga ianya terjadi dalam musim PKP Covid19. Perpisahan berlaku tiba-tiba, lebih awal dari sepatutnya namun memori indah bersama kalian akan sentiasa mekar disanubari.

#TerimaKasihUiTM

#kitajagakita

#kekalselamat

#sayounara

Thank you once again Pn Sabariah. I'm sure all the APB staff members would miss you a lot for the time spent with us and the help rendered. We seek forgiveness if ever we, witlessly or willfully, caused pain or acted wrongly against you. We would also wish you 'A Happy Retirement', and may you enjoy long-lasting fruitful days ahead. I wish I could end with a befitting 'Pantun' or an appropriate Japanese farewell parting phrase, but I couldn't. So, I just end with 'Thank you Sensei'.



Kenangan bertugas di Mitsui High-Tec



Majlis meraikan graduasi bersama rakan-rakan dibawah penyeliaan Prof. Yoshizawa Sensei



Majlis persaraan setelah sekian lama berbakti kepada UiTM



← Puan Sabariah disamping keluarga tercinta



'Getting to know you more'

Featuring ... *Ts. Dr. Mohd Rozaiman Bin Aziz*



*In this section, we will get 'upclose and personal' with colleagues from our campus...
(Interview conducted by Mr. Liaw Shun Chone, LSC for short)*

*In each issue of past e-Lingua bulletins, we have consistently invited and interviewed one personality from either our own APB department or from the campus top management staff. In this issue, we are fortunate enough to have with us **Ts Dr Mohd Rozaiman Bin Aziz** who agreed to this interview. Ts Dr Mohd Rozaiman Bin Aziz helms the position as Deputy Rector of Students' Affairs, UiTM Penang Branch effectively on the 1st June 2018. Here, in this short interview with him, he gladly shares with APBians the lighter side of himself, his enthusiasm, insights, passion and advice.*



LSC: Dr Mohd Rozaiman, for a start, could you tell us briefly about yourself. Thanks.

RA: I am the eldest in my family. I have two brothers and one sister. I have been married for the past 18 years old. My wife is a teacher at a secondary school. We're gifted with 4 daughters. My two children are in secondary school and one in a primary school. The youngest is 4 years old.

LSC: Name three persons you idolise

RA: They are my late parents and my youngest sister. Well, my late dad was an army officer and my late mom was a kindergarten teacher. They did not earn much but were determined to provide education for all my siblings. Thus, all of them graduated from the university. My youngest sister did a great job in taking care of my late parents. My late dad had cancer and my late mom had diabetes which caused her blindness. Both were also bed-ridden. My sister took care of them at the same time. If I were in her shoes, I might not be as devoted and caring as her. My parents should be proud of her filial devotion.

LSC: What makes you laugh the most?

RA: I enjoy reading comic books, watching cartoon and comedy shows. Anything that is funny and makes me laugh. Even though I am 43 this year, I still watch cartoons. It provides me with positive vibes.

LSC: What is/are your favourite vacation/ tourist spots you have been?

RA: My favourite tourist spot is UK. I have been to London, Southampton and Birmingham. Looking forward to be there again.

LSC: When was your proudest moment?

RA: My proudest moment was when my wife became pregnant and delivered my daughters. I was with her in the labour room when she delivered.

LSC: How is it like being a risk taker?

RA: As a leader, I need to take risk and be responsible for the consequences. It is not always a good feeling, but a good leader takes risks. There are people who depend on my decision. However, before I make any decision, I will weigh the pros and cons and have a thorough discussion with my staff.

LSC: What motivates you to work hard?

RA: I am not from a rich family. So, whenever I want something, I need to get it on my own. I need to work hard to get results when I was in the university because as the eldest, I need set a positive example to my siblings. This attitude still resides in me.

LSC: Do you like or dislike surprises? Why or why not?

RA: I dislike surprises, seriously...hahaha. It is because I was trained by my late father to plan everything before I took any action. He was in the army as I have mentioned to you before. Furthermore, as an engineer by profession, yeah, we are taught to plan as well. As for now, I am a territorial army. In army, we are trained to plan our action. From the plan formed, I can remove the unwanted result.

LSC: What do you intend to do in future now that you have successfully obtained your doctorate degree and associate professorship academic title?

RA: In the nearest time, I will apply for promotion to be an Associate Prof. Afterwards, I will go for the post as a Professional Engineer, Jr. At the same time, I will go for Officer in the Territorial Army. Perhaps, after 10 years of achieving all of my aspirations, I will attempt for full professorship, insyaAllah.

LSC: Do share with APB staff your struggles (if any) while doing your PhD studies and how you finally managed to triumph against all odds.

RA: PhD is a marathon. It is packed with good and sad stories. Don't compare your journey with others. Keep fighting, no matter what. When I was doing my PhD, my 3rd daughter was almost admitted into an ICU ward due to contact with a dangerous virus. She was about 2 years old at that time. My late mom became blind due to her diabetes and my late dad had prostate cancer. Imagine how I handled all these challenges (I dislike

labelling it as a problem) during my studies? The pressure was real. What I did was I took a break with my supervisor's consent. I took care of my parents first. Once everything got better, I came back with great determination. Since both my late parents had critical illnesses, I needed to go back to my hometown frequently. Again, when I went back, I came with higher motivation. I did not give up. When you are faced with any obstacle, it is fine to take a break. In the war (yeahhh PhD is a war...it is you against yourself ☹), it is a good strategy to take one step behind, but then you move forward two steps.

LSC: What is your highest award achievement?

RA: My highest achievement is my PhD.

LSC: What is your favourite quote?

RA: There is a Japanese proverb saying that when you fall seven times, get up the eighth time. For me, this is significant because it differentiates one between a person who is either weak or strong. If you are strong, you will get up after facing any obstacle. But if you choose to be weak, you will do nothing about your problem and then start to blame others.



My PhD Graduation



My lovely daughters



My better-half



Prof. Emeritus Norman Jones, well known researcher in impact mechanics

from
Dr. Rozaiman's
album



At the Tower Bridge



At the Colosseum, Rome



At Nami Island, Korea

LINK-IT: a Board Game for Mastering English Linkers

by Dr. Mah Boon Yih



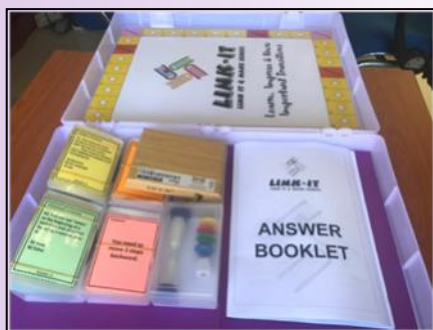
Linkers are not easy to master. Their usages require comprehension of how ideas are linked meaningfully together. Additionally, most English references emphasis more on grammar rules rather than individual words' usages like linkers. Therefore, a physical board game namely Learn, Improve & Know Important Transitions or *LINK-IT* is invented by an Innovative and Creative Team of Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Penang Branch, which is led by Dr Mah Boon Yih with his team

members including Nur Afiqah Ab. Latif, Noraziah Mohd Amin, Che Nooryohana Zulkifli, Raja Rosila Raja Berahim, Melati Desa, and Noor Azli Affendy Lee.



LINK-IT aims to increase exposure to English and promote accuracy in grammar use, especially linkers. Its objective is to strengthen the knowledge of English linkers by triggering the learners' multiple intelligences through game-based learning approach. The design of the game includes a game board, a dice, four-player tokens, four different sets of game cards, a card deck, a sand timer and a play guide. Two types of questions covered in *LINK-*

IT are multiple-choice and true-false questions. The cards are distinguished based on their functions and colours: question cards are in yellow while enhancement cards are in green; pink cards are punishment cards while orange cards are opportunity cards.



LINK-IT is a physical board game that focuses explicitly on learning English linkers in six common categories: showing a sequence, adding information, showing a contrast, showing cause and effect, showing similarity, and illustrating. Its design is suitable for school and university students or even general English language learners who are English literate. This game is also suitable for learners of different backgrounds without the needs of any specific technical knowledge or skills of playing this game. The knowledge gained from playing this game is rele-

vant and useful to the English learners across time.

LINK-IT is fun to play throughout the "journey" to the finish box. There are "opportunity", "punishment" and "enhancement" cards that can make their "journey" less predictable. When the player provides a correct answer to the question in the yellow card, the player can roll the dice in the next round. If a wrong answer is provided, the player needs to answer another question for enhancement in the green card. If an incorrect answer is given again, the player cannot roll the dice in the next round. Therefore, the winner is determined if the player can proceed to the "Finish" box the earliest. Conversely, the player who gets to the "Finish" box the slowest is the loser.

Besides, *LINK-IT* contains visual aids in the forms of colourful board and cards. Cards in different colours based on their categories help players to pick the cards while playing the game easily. The printing materials used for the game board, together with the cards, are water-resistant. The chosen font types and font sizes are readable and eye-soothing. The colours used are also suitable and exciting for young learners. For the players to understand easily before playing, an instruction booklet and an answer booklet are provided with simple instructions and rules to follow.

Furthermore, *LINK-IT* is mobile, portable, and easy to carry. Since it is made of light and inexpensive materials, *LINK-IT* is a cost-effective game to be developed and affordable to be owned for most people. The production of the game does not require a considerable amount of money, which can result in *LINK-IT* to having more commercialisation potential and the broader market for expanding its users. It can be quickly commercialised as it is a helpful instructional tool for educational and personal recreational purposes.



Based on a quasi-experimental study, the employment of *LINK-IT* to teach English linkers has proven to be more effective as compared to the conventional lecturing method. Students love to play this physical board game developed to help them learn English linkers with playful and educational elements. The knowledge gained from playing this game is also proven relevant and useful to the English learners of different backgrounds. On 18 April 2020, *LINK-IT* won a Silver

Award in International Invention and Innovative Competition (InIIC), Series 1/2020, which is also the first virtual version of InIIC due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

UiTM Webitors won their first Medal in the InIIC Series 1/2020

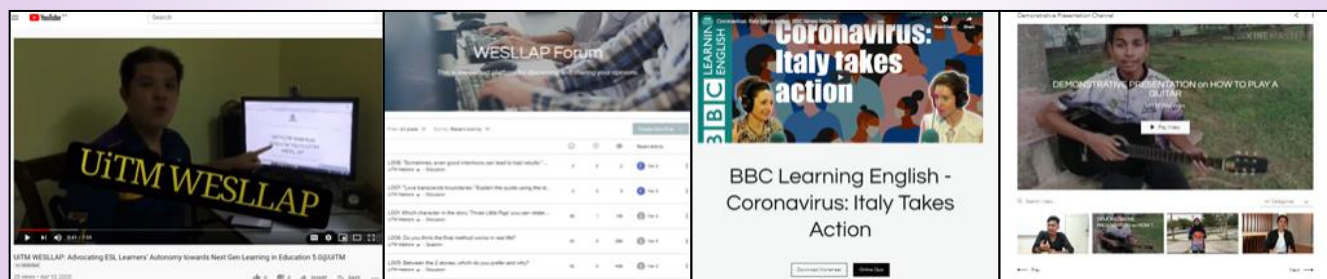
by Noor Azli Affendy Lee



The UiTM Webitors team from the Academy of Language Studies (APB), Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Pulau Pinang (UiTM CPP) has managed to win a Silver Award in the recent International Invention & Innovative Competition (InIIC Series 1/2020) on 18 April 2020. With the theme 'Changing Lives in Brilliant Ways', the competition sought innovative, cost-effective and practical solutions to accessibility-related barriers in the community and invited all professionals and students to use their creativity, working individually or in teams with industry, government and community partners, to identify an accessibility-related issue, and create an innovative and unique solution to it. With the combination efforts made by 4 UiTM CPP APB English lecturers (Mr. Noor Azli bin Affendy Lee, Dr. Mah Boon Yih, Pn. Suzana Ab. Rahim and Ms. Marni Jamil), the UiTM Webitors managed to enter their own innovation called the UiTM Webitors' English for Second Language Learners' Autonomy Platform (UiTM WESLLAP) under the Professional – Social Sciences category (A1). The website for English language learning is created in response to the induction of UiTM into the Education 5.0 era and this creation helps to push the department of Academy of Language Studies forward in championing Education 5.0 that focuses on

open online learning and linked websites with innovative delivery. The novelty of UiTM WESLLAP is it serves as a singular hub, freely accessible and easy to navigate for students and anyone else who wants to improve their English skills in Malaysia and UiTM, specifically.

Due to the recent Movement Control Order (MCO) in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic spread in Malaysia which started on 18 March 2020, the InIIC Series 1/2020 competition was held virtually in which competitors had to upload their video presentation on YouTube and submit the YouTube video link and virtual poster to the competition committee and juries for the judging process. The judging criteria was based on product novelty, benefits to users and society, commercialisation value, publication, award and intellectual property. The UiTM Webitors team managed to design and develop the UiTM WESLLAP and taught UiTM semester one diploma students from three different classes on learning how to use the website throughout the first 3 weeks of the current semester (March 2020 to June 2020) before the MCO was announced and implemented. A survey on the users' perceptions in using the innovation was conducted and its results were included in the competition video and poster as well as a full paper for a chapter in the InIIC Series 1/2020 eBook titled 'Changing Lives in Brilliant Ways (Series 1)' that will be published at the end of April 2020.



The video presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRAi60B4WqY>

The website can be accessed at <https://esllanguageskills.wixsite.com/uitmcpp-wesllap> or using the QR code provided.



Baba & Nyonya in Penang



The Peranakan Chinese, who are also known as Baba Nyonya in Penang (formerly known as Tanjung Penaga) are said to have come from mixed marriages with the locals. The Peranakan Chinese community also originated from the Chinese community who migrated from southern China to Malaya and later resided in straits states such as Penang, Malacca and Singapore (which was part of Malaya before the separation of Singapore from Malaysia). The Baba Nyonya community is said to have originated from a marriage of traders from China with local women and also daughters from these marriages with male travellers from China. Therefore, no wonder this community was named, “Peranakan” which is derived from the Malay word “child”. The term, “Straits Chinese” can mean “the descendants of the Chinese people with another race” or “the Chinese who were born in Malaya”. The term, “Baba” refers to the men in this community, while “Nyonya” is used to refer to the women. The word, “Baba” can also be referred to a man who is head of the family. The Baba Nyonya culture adopted many Malay and English cultures in terms of language, food, customs, clothing, tools used and many others.

Unlike the people in Melaka who were first associated with the Baba Nyonya community as early as 1511 after the Portuguese conquest of Malacca, the Baba Nyonya Penang, most speak Hokkien and have a stronger influence from China. This language is so unique as it is a mixture of this language and Malay. The existence of the Chinese Peranakan in terms of linguistic aspect had helped enriching the vocabulary of the Malay language with words which originated from Hokkien like the words, “loteng”, “teko” and “tauhu”. The Baba Nyonya people are also very fluent in Malay. Although being fluent in Malay and practice some of Malay culture, in terms of ideology and spirituality, the Baba Nyonya still practice their ancestral and hereditary beliefs and cultures of the Chinese. The traditional Baba Nyonya community also believed in the power of handlers and healers in the treatment of diseases such as measles by obtaining antidote from the referred shaman. In addition, they also believed in the existence of spirits and ghosts that can interfere with their lives. If a baby cried constantly and was having trouble to sleep, the baby was believed to have been disturbed by some evil spirit and efforts to revive the baby’s spirit should be made with the help of a shaman. Pregnant mothers also were advised not to violate some taboos such as it was not advisable for pregnant ladies to go out in the evening.

Because the process of assimilation that occurs between the Baba Nyonya and local Malay residents, Malay culture had been absorbed into the daily activities of the Baba Nyonya including in the aspects of dressing. One of the noticeable combinations of the Chinese and Malay culture is the “kebaya” matched with a “batik sarong”, which is traditionally a Malay long flowing piece of fabric that is typically wrapped around the waist. The short “kebaya” worn by the women of the Baba Nyonya usually feature embroidery and floral motifs. As usually styled by the Malay, the Peranakan ladies also style their “kebaya” dress with a few brooches that have a touch of classic design and some “cucuk sanggul” or hairpins pierced into their hair buns. To complement their looks, handmade beaded shoes will be worn. The stitching of tiny beads to the shoes requires careful attention in order to get the pattern one desires, and this process can take months to complete. The delicate and artistic hand-made beaded shoes can be seen in the beauty of the flower motif and many others which is often the inspiration of the wearer herself.

The food of the Chinese Peranakan is heavily influenced by the surrounding communities and these communities’ dishes are adapted to the preparation of the Chinese Peranakan’s daily meals. Assimilation into the local cultures can be seen in terms of the ingredients used in their dishes such as spices, shrimp paste, chillies, coconut and many others where the dishes basically have the culinary elements of the Malay, Indians and Siamese. Among the dishes that contribute to the Baba Nyonya’s identity are “asam laksa”, “ayam ponteh”, “kuih bakul”, “kuih koci”, “kuih kapit” dan “kuih lapis”. Baba Nyonya people eat food with hands like the Malays and they also love the curry dishes such as “masak lemak” and “asam pedas” with the side of “sambal belacan” (shrimp paste). They also enjoy eating fresh leaves such as “jering”, “petai”, “pegaga”, “jantung pisang” and “pucuk ubi”. It is not surprising that Peranakan wom-

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Baba & Nyonya in Penang



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en love chewing betel leaves (“sireh leaves”) while relaxing in their leisure time and every woman usually has her own “sireh box” which is often given as a wedding gift. The Baba Madam people used to enjoy their free time by playing a card game called, “chi-ki” which was made up of 60 cards brought from China. Leisure time was also traditionally spent with listening to Malay songs like “Dondang Sayang” or the music that had elements of “pantun” or “keroncong”.

Information about the Peranakan Chinese people can be found in some museums and other places of visit, especially the old mansions that the people once inhabited, which some have now become tourist attractions. A Peranakan mansion in Penang is located on Church Street, Georgetown, Penang, which was formerly owned by Captain Chung Keng Kwee, and this mansion showcases a Baba Nyonya family’s personal collection of antiques. This mansion that was built in the late 19th century was once the home of a wealthy entrepreneur, Chung Keng Kwee with his family members. There are also museums that have the displays and exhibitions of the life of the Baba Nyonya community such as the Penang State Museum and the One East Museum.

The young generation of the present day has little regard for the unique culture of Baba Nyonya and the practices performed in the past are mostly historical treasure trapped in the museums only. Therefore, every person who has the blood of Baba Nyonya should be proud of their own culture and maintain it so that their identity is not lost in the prevalent modernity of human life today. Also, the whole nation needs to support the existence of the Baba Nyonya community by embracing this culture by improving their knowledge about this community either through reading about these people or watching Baba Nyonya drama series or movies such as “The Little Nyonya” or “The Ghost Bride” and so on. Malaysian citizens should welcome racial integration for the sake of national unity and harmony in Malaysia.





Image & lifestyle

Curated by **Che Nooryohana Zulkifli**

Declutter to feel better!

Do you agree that the way people organise or arrange their things tells a lot about their personalities? One thing for sure, when we get to share our space with a hoarder or someone who fails to manage their space well, it can eventually arouse some bitter feelings.

I guess everybody can just concur to this - having too many things piled up (at home, in the office, in the car or even in our handbags) are sores to our eyes. Somehow, clutter doesn't build up overnight. It takes months and even years before you realise that it is one of the biggest reasons that slows you and your daily routines down!

So here, I am going to give you some tips on how to declutter your space for you to achieve peace of mind.

Firstly, place your stuff according to its own family. Books shouldn't go together with your clothes! Get covered boxes to put in your stuff accordingly. It becomes handier and of course, dust-free!

Next, analyse your stuff every 6 months! If you haven't used a possession longer than 6 months, obviously you no longer need it.

You should also think of what to do with your unwanted stuff. If they are still usable and in good condition, you can either auction or donate it but if it is too soiled like clothes or books - always opt for recycling it. H&M Clothing Store is currently offering a service to recycle all sorts of our textile materials and in return, they will let us have a discount card to shop at their store! Double happiness, right?

Another effective tip, never procrastinate your sorting activities. Once you have got yourself a new pair of shoes, immediately run through your entire collection to check if there is any that you would like to take off your list. That should work for your other possessions too!

Lastly, try to use up wall spaces rather than dumping everything you have on the floor. You can always get DIY ledge shelves to arrange your items like picture frames, cute cactus vases or even your pen holders!

Remember, failing to organise your stuff is paving the way to eventually failing to organise your life. Till next time, folks!



"It's interesting to see that people had so much clutter even thousands of years ago. The only way to get rid of it all was to bury it, and then some archaeologist went and dug it all up."

– Karl Pilkington, [An Idiot Abroad: The Travel Diaries of Karl Pilkington](#)

Home Garden

‘Have it YOUR way!’



Curated by Wan Noorli Razali

“And it is He who sends down rain from the sky, and we produce thereby the growth of all things. We produce from it greenery from which we produce grains arranged in layers. And from the palm trees – of its emerging fruit are clusters hanging low. And [we produce] gardens of grapevines and olives and pomegranates, similar yet varied. Look at [each of] its fruit when it yields and [at] its ripening. Indeed in that are signs for a people who believe.” (Qur’an, 6:99)

The holy book, Al-Quran has mentioned many names of plants and trees like olives, pomegranates, figs and date palms. It shows how important they are in this world, for Allah s.w.t has created them for the benefit of human being, never aimlessly.

Every single person on earth loves plants and trees though not many enjoy planting them. Thus, this article is written to share the experiences and tips when dealing with plants and trees. Before we proceed discussing about them in the next edition, I feel that we should discuss the much more vital and foundational aspects to consider when planting. We start with the reason why we plant.

In our life, there isn't a moment of sanity when we do something without purpose. We eat to survive, to enjoy our food or to please the cook. Whatever we do, we know the reason why. Same goes with planting and gardening. Why do we do so? Is it because we want to ensure that we plant our own food that are free from harmful pesticides? Or is it because we wish to have a home environment that is soothing and refreshing? What ever the reason is, we should never do it because others do or because it is the current trend since the movement control order. Knowing why we plant ensures the continuous motivation and effort in looking after them.

Secondly, we must plant what we love. Do not grow a plant just because at a moment, we thought it looks good. We should love and enjoy them. We want them to feed our needs and are therapeutic to us. Our home is where we live with our loved ones, it is where our heart is. Thus, it should also be surrounded by plants that we like. To me, I love roses so much, and it also reminded me of my little sister. She loved its fragrance so much. It is true that fragrant flowers whose aroma filled the air can help relieve stress. In addition, flowers invite good pollinators like the bees. I also plant vegetables that my family love such as, spinach, cucumbers and tomatoes. We also include a must-have ingredient for the Malay cuisine like lemongrass, turmeric, ginger, curry as well as pandan leaves. Planting what we need, and love will make us care for them better than when we don't.

Now that we know what we wish to have in our garden, where can we plant these trees and plants? The answer to this depends on the space that we have. With more space, we can plant them in raised beds like what I did at home. We can also opt for pots or containers arranged vertically should we have a more limited space. Should we plant them near or in distance from one another? The answer to that falls back on what is the purpose of our garden. Personally, I love my garden to look more natural, without much thought of the landscape, which is why it is disorganised. My aim is also to plant as much as possible so that I can reduce on purchasing from the market. Thus, I plant them closely. Plants are very flexible; they can grow and still produce even if they have to fight for space.

Having said that, our fourth important aspect of gardening is to realize that trees and plants are living creatures. We tend to overlook their needs more often than we do to our pets simply because they cannot complain or express their dissatisfaction.

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Imagine if they can complain, I am sure that there are so many injustices voiced. Well, it does not mean that we should prepare a house or cage for them like what we do to our cat. However, we have to be fair. For example, if our trees are planted on the ground, they can independently seek for water and nutrition through root extensions. However, if we put them in the pots, this ability is restricted. Thus, we are guilty if we do not provide them sufficient water and nutrients. Apart from that, plants can fall sick too, infected with diseases. Thus, we need to ensure we treat them when they fall ill. Trees and plants too, require medical care.

Finally, we should have realized that all we can do as human is to put as much effort as possible to plant and grow these plants and trees. We can be responsible by providing them the basic care that they need. But we can never decide on their life and death. Only God has the say. This is similar to their ability to produce, the amount and quality of the production. This is all *rezeki*, decided by the Almighty God.

Thus, stay positive. Do not grumble when you see the flowers wilt and fall down onto the ground from a fruit tree, leaving the branches filled only with leaves. Just ask yourself, maybe some part of the nutrients is missing. After a few trials and all effort done, leave it to Allah s.w.t and pray that the tree is allowed to bear its fruits. Even if there is only a single fruit on a big tree, be content and grateful, as something is always better than nothing. When you pluck that single fruit, and you can see that a portion of it is taken away by insects, never curse and despair, because that day, you are given by God a portion of the fruit, not the whole. You are asked to share it with the insects. For God has prepared a better gift from the sharing in the After Life.

Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "There is none amongst the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift for him." In my jungle, I have shared them mostly with the insects, birds and squirrels. I enjoy seeing them flying and running in my small garden. Come and go as they please. The condition makes me feel more alive. We can also share the harvest with our neighbours when we have extra.

My dearest readers and gardeners, there is no one right way of planting. Just make sure you enjoy planting what you need and love. Remember, your garden is for YOU and your family. Therefore, have it your way!



The right side of my home garden



The left side garden when I'm facing my house



The front part of my garden beside my porch



Lecturer's Contribution #1



Perayaan Hantu (Hungry Ghost Festival)

Ditulis oleh Ong Sheau Fen

Bagi masyarakat Malaysia, *Halloween* adalah perayaan hantu yang bukan asing kepada kita semua. Akan tetapi, adakah anda tahu, masyarakat Cina juga ada sambut perayaan hantu? Berlainan dengan *Halloween* yang disambut pada bulan Oktober, Perayaan Hantu orang Cina disambut pada hari ke-15 bulan 7 dalam kalendar Cina. Hari ke-15 bulan 7 adalah hari hantu dan bulan ke-7 secara amnya dianggap sebagai bulan hantu. Pada tahun ini, hari ke-15 bulan 7 dalam kalendar Cina jatuh pada 2 September.

Kegiatan yang dijalankan dalam Bulan Hantu

Dalam bulan hantu, Penganut agama Buddha dan Tao percaya syurga, neraka dan fana dibuka dan nenek moyang serta orang kesayangan yang meninggal dipercayai keluar menziarahi keturunan mereka. Ciri-ciri terpenting dalam bulan hantu adalah penyembahan nenek moyang, yang mana ketaatan para keturunan disambung beri kepada nenek moyang walaupun selepas kematian mereka. Para keturunan menyediakan persembahan makanan secara ritual, pembakaran wang neraka kepada roh-roh nenek moyang yang menziarah, iaitu melayan orang yang meninggal seolah-olah mereka masih hidup. Penganut Buddha dan Tao juga menjalankan upacara amal untuk membebaskan penderitaan orang yang meninggal kerana mereka percaya roh-roh yang keluar dari neraka dan roh-roh yang berayau dengan bebas dalam dunia ini menderita dengan kelaparan, sesat mencari jalan dan sebagainya.

Perayaan Hantu di Malaysia

Perayaan Hantu di Malaysia dimodenkan dengan persembahan opera Cina, pertunjukan patung kayu dan nyayi di atas pentas yang didirikan dikawasan tokong Cina daripada dana sumbangan para penduduk. Selain itu, colok-colok besar naga juga dicucuk untuk tujuan penyembahan.



Foto untuk persembahan opera Cina di tokong Cina, Bukit Mertajam pada tahun lalu. Perkataan Cina yang dipaparkan dengan lampu LED di dalam kanan foto adalah sarikata cerita opera. Persembahan tradisional kini menjadi semakin menarik dengan bantuan teknologi.

continued on the next page ...

Lecturer's Contribution #2

Emoticon as a communicator

By Noor Laili Mohd Yusof

Do you know that emoticon is a coined word? It originated from the words "emotion icon" as a pictorial representation of a facial expression using countless characters. Besides expressing a person's feelings or mood, emoticon can also be manipulated as a tool for a time-saving method of communication especially for virtual engagement.

Are you a frequent user of emoticons? There are numerous ready-made emoticons available in the market particularly align with the development of technology especially with the innovation of sophisticated gadgets. They were initially used on text messages in the late 1990s by utilizing text punctuation and evolve significantly in virtual communication when some devices and applications have provided schematic pictures that portray explicit emotions through facial gestures. William (2017) also agrees that emoticons have played a significant role in communication through technology and offer another range of "tone" and feeling through texting in the midst of text-based cyber communication.



Can emoticons communicate human feelings? Can emoticons help in conveying messages better than texts? Is the utilisation of emoticons creates more personal messages? Receivers' interpretation of the messages might differ based on surroundings, educational background and culture especially when they are not being accompanied by texts. Researchers had discovered that emoticons can help to increase the "intensity" of its intended meaning when used in association with a written message (Derks et al, 2007). Consequently, emoticons do not stand alone. They can be manipulated to reinforce and reduce ambiguity of a message's meaning but the display of image-based depictions of faces can be misleading too especially in expressing complex ideas. Sarcasm, for instance, can be taken literally by the receivers and the intended meaning will be dissolve with unpredictable consequences. Therefore, graphical depictions cannot be simply used to signify emotions. They need to be embedded with words as a communicator.



Colok besar naga

Pantang Larang dalam Bulan Hantu

Orang Cina tidak membuka kedai yang baru pada bulan hantu kerana takut membawa sial kepada perniagaan. Perkahwinan tidak diadakan pada bulan ini kerana takut mendapat isteri atau suami hantu. Orang ramai juga dinasihatkan tidak mendekati kawasan kolam, air terjun, dan laut kerana risau diri akan menjadi pengganti kepada hantu air. Sesetengah daripada mereka juga tidak melancong kerana takut ditimpa kemalangan dalam perjalanan.

Kesimpulan

Walaupun ada kepercayaan tradisional dan pantang larangnya untuk perayaan hantu, namun untuk percaya atau tidak, ia bergantung kepada seseorang individu. Yang penting perayaan ini memberi kita peluang untuk mengenang orang tersayang yang meninggal. Perayaan hantu disambut dengan meriah setiap tahun di tokong Cina di Bukit Mertajam dan ia telah menjadi acara tahunan sejak tahun 1965 dan tentu saja, sambutan tradisional ini juga tidak dapat dipisahkan dari promosi makanan enak, mengambil gambar dan penganjuran aktiviti untuk menarik pelancong. Ini secara tidak langsung telah meningkatkan pendapatan penduduk tempatan. Walau bagaimanapun, dalam masa wabak covid-19 masih berleluasa, Perayaan Hantu tahun ini adalah disambut secara minimum dan ringkas.

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Lecturer's Contribution #3

Penggunaan Nombor-nombor dalam Pembentukan Kata Masa Bahasa Mandarin

Oleh Lim Soo Giap

0 = líng
1 = yī
2 = èr
3 = sān
4 = sì
5 = wǔ
6 = liù
7 = qī
8 = bā
9 = jiǔ

10 = shí
100 = yībǎi
1000 = yīqiān
10,000 = yīwàn
1,000, 000 = yībǎiwàn



Angka 1 hingga 6 digunakan utk menamakan Hari Isnin hingga Hari Sabtu.

Ahad = xīngqīrì / xīngqītiān
Isnin = xīngqīyī
Selasa = xīngqīèr
Rabu = xīngqīsān
Khamis = xīngqīsì
Jumaat = xīngqīwǔ
Sabtu = xīngqīliù



Nián-tahun

èrlíngèrlíngnián = tahun 2020
Jinnián = tahun ini
Míngnián = tahun depan
Qùnián = tahun lepas

zǎoshang (pagi), xiàwǔ (petang), wǎnshang (malam)

Jintiān zǎoshang = pagi ini
Jintiān xiàwǔ = petang ini
Jintiān wǎnshang = malam ini

Míngtiān zǎoshang = pagi esok
Míngtiān xiàwǔ = petang esok
Míngtiān wǎnshang = malam esok

zuótiān zǎoshang = pagi semalam
zuótiān xiàwǔ = petang semalam
zuótiān wǎnshang = malam semalam

Yuè-bulan

Bulan 1 = yīyuè
Bulan 2 = èryuè
Bulan 3 = sānyuè
Bulan 4 = sìyuè
Bulan 5 = wǔyuè
Bulan 6 = liùyuè
Bulan 7 = qīyuè
Bulan 8 = bāyuè
Bulan 9 = jiǔyuè
Bulan 10 = shíyuè
Bulan 11 = shíyīyuè
Bulan 12 = shíèryuè

Zhège yuè = bulan ini
xiàge yuè = bulan depan
shàngge yuè = bulan lepas

Tiān-hari

Jintiān = hari ini
míngtiān = hari besok
zuótiān = semalam



Lecturer's Contribution #4

ACHEH: 15 TAHUN SELEPAS TSUNAMI KRISMAS

By Dr. Rofiza Aboo Bakar

Dunia dilanda dengan pelbagai ujian seperti gempa bumi, banjir besar, ribut taufan termasuklah wabak seperti Selesema Sepanyol, MERS-CoV dan yang terbaru pastinya COVID19. Namun penulis terpanggil untuk menulis tentang Aceh dan Tsunami Krismas memandangkan ianya memberikan suatu kenangan abadi yang tidak mungkin terlupakan kerana ianya berlaku betul-betul pada tarikh perkahwinan penulis.

Tanggal 26 Disember, 2019 genaplah lima belas tahun berlakunya peristiwa gempa bumi dahsyat dan tsunami yang melanda empat belas negara: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Somalia, Maldives, Myanmar, Tanzania, Seychelles, Bangladesh, Yaman, Afrika Selatan, Kenya termasuk Malaysia. Aceh yang terletak di wilayah paling barat di negara Indonesia dan paling hujung di utara pulau Sumatera adalah kawasan pertama dan amat teruk dilanda tsunami yang berlaku akibat gempa bumi Sumatera-Andaman yang dikenali sebagai gegaran tujahan mega dalam Lautan Hindi berskala Richter 9.1 sehingga 9.3.

Dianggarkan di Aceh sahaja, lebih daripada 167 000 rakyatnya telah terkorban manakala 500 000 yang lain telah kehilangan tempat tinggal. Secara keseluruhannya, tsunami pada 2004 yang mendapat jolokan pelbagai nama seperti Tsunami Krismas, Tsunami Lautan Hindi 2004, Tsunami Asia Selatandan Tsunami Indonesia telah mengorbankan kira-kira 230 000 sehingga 280 000 jiwa yang berada berhampiran dengan kawasan pantai dan sekitarnya dengan gelombangnya yang mencecah 30 meter tinggi dan 7 kilometer menyusur ke atas darat dengan kelajuan 360 kilometer sejam. Sudah pasti, mangsa yang terselamat berasakan kepedihan yang mendalam akibat kehilangan sama ada anak, suami, isteri, ibu, ayah mahupun jiran tetangga. Namun, seiring masa yang terus berputar tanpa henti, kehidupan yang dianugerahkan Tuhan mesti diteruskan.

Penulis memilih berada di bumi Aceh pada tarikh genapnya lima belas tahun sesudah Tsunami Krismas 2004 berlaku. Mengembara dengan motosikal, penulis sempat menemuramah beberapa mangsa yang terselamat daripada tragedi ini serta meninjau aktiviti-aktiviti harian penduduk-penduduk lain bagi meneruskan kelangsungan hidup. Tetapi untuk e-Lingua ini, penulis memfokuskan kepada Ibu Daryati sahaja.

Ibu Daryati

Ibu Daryati bekerja menjual minuman dan makanan di puncak Gunung Geurutee yang berada di wilayah barat Tanah Rencong, Aceh Jaya, Aceh. Untuk sampai ke sini, penulis terpaksa melalui jalan berliku dengan cerun yang tajam dengan bukit-bukau yang menjulang tinggi di sebelah kiri serta jurang yang di bawahnya laut nan membiru di sebelah kanan. Perjalanan untuk sampai ke puncak ini memakan masa kira-kira dua jam dengan motosikal dari Banda Aceh serta perlu melewati dua lagi gunung iaitu Gunung Paro dan Gunung Kulu. Sepanjang-panjang perjalanan, dapat disaksikan penanda 'Jalur Evakuasi' iaitu jalan khas yang dibina untuk mengarahkan penduduk ke kawasan berkumpul yang selamat sekiranya berlaku gempa bumi atau tsunami.

Sebaik sahaja penulis memberhentikan motosikal dan meletaknya di tepi warung milik Ibu Daryati, beliau berteriak, "Piyuk, piyuk!" memanggil agar penulis masuk ke warungnya. Mungkin itu teriakan yang bermakna "Silakan" di dalam Bahasa Melayu. Teh panas dipesan beserta mee Aceh yang berkuah pedas bercili padi dan dipecahkan telur sebagai penambah selera. Lokasi warungnya betul-betul mengadap tiga pulau: Pulau Keluang, Pulau Suden dan Pulau Kemiga. Pemandangan dari atas kedai begitu mempesonakan dengan air laut biru-hijau yang jernih bersempadan dengan Lautan Hindi serta pasir pantai yang putih bersih ditambah dengan bayu segar meniup wajah.

Ibu Daryati, wanita berusia awal 60-an, amat sibuk memanggil-panggil pelanggan tetapi masih meluangkan masa melayani beberapa



Penulis bermotosikal ke puncak Gunung Geurutee. Perjalanan memakan masa dua jam dari Banda Aceh dengan liku-liku berbukit-bukau di kiri dan jurang di kanan

soalan penulis tentang pengalamannya tentang tsunami. Menurutnya, Pulau Kemiga dahulunya sebelum Tsunami Krismas 2004 bersambung dengan Pulau Suden. Kenderaan seperti kereta dan motosikal boleh melalui jalan yang menyambungkan kedua-dua pulau itu. Namun, setelah terjadinya tsunami, kedua-dua pulau itu terpisah. Beliau menunjukkan gambar fotokopi usang yang dilekatkan di dinding warungnya yang menggambarkan fenomena tersebut.

Dianggarkan kira-kira 25 buah keluarga yang mendiami Pulau Suden terkorban di dalam musibah itu. Beliau beserta suaminya terselamat kerana keluar dari rumah mereka sejak awal pagi dan berada di puncak Gunung Geurutee untuk bersiap-siap membuka warung. "Hari itu hari Minggu, saya udah keluar awal kerna bersiap-siap mahu jualan. Ya kan... hari itu hari Minggu, cuti. Orang kampung masih ramai yang ada di rumah, tidak keluar ke mana-mana," ujarnya sambil mengenang kembali apa yang berlaku. "Pagi itu kiranya pukul delapan, ada bunyi kuat, air laut beberapa menit kemudiannya langsung menghantam rumah-rumah. Orang kampung, hewan semuanya mati. Tidak ada lagi yang tinggal di Pulau Suden selepas itu. Hanya jadi tempat persinggahan nelayan. Di Pulau Keluang itu ada gua walet." Walet adalah kelawar di dalam Bahasa Melayu. Khabarnya, gua kelawar di situ sudah berusia ratusan tahun.

Ujarnya lagi, lapan keluarga terdekatnya meninggal dunia akibat tsunami itu namun enggan menjelaskan siapa mereka. Mungkin beliau terlalu sedih mengenangkan tragedi itu. Diajak bergambar, beliau dan suaminya tidak menolak. Ditanya apakah pengharapannya selepas ini, beliau berharap tidak berlaku lagi tsunami selepas ini dan agar pemiagannya yang menyelamatkan dirinya dan suaminya di atas puncak Gunung Geurutee pada hari kejadian Tsunami Indonesia 2004 itu boleh terus berjalan demi kelangsungan hidup mereka.

26 Disember ditabalkan sebagai hari cuti bagi membolehkan rakyat setempat bersolat, berdoa dan mendengar tazkirah di merata-rata masjid. Di ingatan mangsa-mangsa yang terselamat, tidak mungkin terlupakan mangsa-mangsa yang pergi yang merupakan anak, isteri, suami, ibu, bapa, rakan atau kenalan. Namun kesedihan makin termampir seiring perjalanan masa. Hidup ini mesti diteruskan, dan diteruskan dengan penuh rasa kesyukuran. Wallahu'alam.

Lecturer's Contribution #5

Superstar Libra Cruise: Pelayaran Mewah ala Titanic

By Noraziah Mohd Amin



Ketika melangkah masuk ke dalam perut *Superstar Libra Cruise*, mata saya terpegun melihat dekorasi kapal yang dihias indah seolah-olah berada di dalam sebuah hotel lima bintang. Kedatangan kami disambut dengan alunan gemersik muzik berelemen romantik yang lembut menjamah halwa telinga oleh *Gorne Brothers Trio*. Saya juga terpegun melihat kekacakan dan keanggunan staf-staf di dalam *cruise* ini terutamanya yang berasal daripada Filipina. Ada yang berwajah seperti Jericho Rosales dan tak kurang juga yang mirip hero Malaya, Aron Aziz. Oh! Kalau lama-lama di dalam kapal ini, boleh jatuh cinta saya! Sememangnya staf-staf di dalam kapal ini berasal daripada pelbagai negara seperti Malaysia, India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar dan lain-lain lagi dan ini boleh dilihat pada gambar bendera yang tersemat di uniform mereka. Mungkin kewujudan staf yang datang dari pelbagai negara dapat membantu masalah komunikasi jika terdapat penumpang dari luar negara. Sebelum melangkah masuk ke dalam kapal ini, saya dan adik terlebih dahulu perlu melepasi check point di Pelabuhan Swettenham Pier, Pulau Pinang di mana pemeriksaan pasport dan tiket akan dilsayakan selain sesi bergambar dengan penyambut tetamu kapal yang berpakaian cantik. 15 minit sebelum kapal berlayar pada pukul 5.00 petang, para penumpang diwajibkan untuk menghadiri *safety drill* di stesen yang telah ditetapkan sepertimana yang dinyatakan dalam *International and Maritime Law*.

Setelah meninjau-ninjau seketika di ruang lobi, saya terus menuju ke bilik atau kabin penginapan saya bersama adik perempuan saya selama empat hari tiga malam di dalam kapal ini. Sangkaan saya bilik yang bakal kami inapi adalah seluas ruang stor penyimpanan barang nyata meleset. Bilik *Ocean View* kami di tingkat enam cukup selesa dan tidaklah terlalu kecil. *Superstar Libra* menawarkan pelbagai jenis bilik di dek kapal berbeza seperti *Inside Starteroom*, *Oceanview Starteroom with Window*, *Deluxe Oceanview Starteroom*, *Oceanview Starteroom with Porthole*, *Oceanview Stateroom with Window* dan *Deluxe Oceanview Starteroom*. Bagi mereka yang tidak biasa menaiki kapal laut, alunan ombak yang membuatkan kapal sedikit terumbang-ambing boleh memeningkan kepala dan oleh itu mereka dinasihatkan untuk bersiap sedia dengan bekalan ubat tahan pening.

Setelah berbaring-bering seketika di dalam bilik, saya dan adik segera mengisi perut dengan *welcoming snack* di restoran *Four Seasons* di tingkat empat. Sekali lagi sangkaan saya meleset apabila *snack* yang saya fikir hanya sekadar keropok dan kekacang sebenarnya adalah sajian lengkap minuman petang bercorak *buffet* seperti hidangan kuih-muih, bihun goreng, dan pelbagai jenis *pastry* seperti kek dan roti. Tepat jam enam petang di hari yang sama, para penumpang disambut meriah dengan *welcoming party* yang diberi nama, *Oktoberfest Sail Away Party* di tingkat sembilan berdekatan kawasan kolam renang. Kami dihiburkan dengan nyanyian dan tarian oleh *Clique Sound Show Band* dan *4 Celsius Band*. Belumpun sempat makanan tadi 'dikeluarkan', kali ini kami disajikan lagi dengan pelbagai jenis hidangan *buffet* yang enak seperti *barbecue* udang, ikan, daging, ayam, kambing dan sosej, buah-buahan segar serta makanan-makanan berat seperti spageti, nasi, dan lain-lain lagi. Apa yang boleh saya simpulkan, percutian menaiki *cruise* ini memang mengenyangkan! Nasib baik saya bukan jenis yang suka berdiet, jadi malam itu saya

sememangnya tidur lena dengan perut yang kembung kekenyangan.

Pihak pengurusan mempraktikkan sistem transaksi tanpa wang tunai dengan penggunaan kad akses kecuali di kedai-kedai tertentu dalam kapal. Penggunaan kad akses sepanjang di dalam kapal ini benar-benar menyenangkan urusan pembelian barangan dan perkhidmatan yang disediakan. Antara barangan yang dapat dibeli di dalam kapal ini adalah cenderamata, barangan kosmetik dan minyak wangi di kedai *duty free* serta makanan dan minuman yang tidak tersenarai di dalam pakej. Manakala, perkhidmatan yang dapat dibeli adalah persembahan hiburan seperti drama komedi berjudul "*LOL*" *Laugh Out Loud* dan *Nikita*, serta *tour* di Phuket, Krabi atau *tour* ke kawasan pengemudian *cruise* (*Bridge Tour*) dan ruangan penyediaan makanan di atas kapal (*Galley Tour*). Persembahan *Nikita* hanyalah untuk penumpang berusia 18 tahun ke atas kerana ia merupakan *adult show* yang memaparkan tarian sensual gadis-gadis seksi. Untuk persembahan ini, maaf, saya tidak berminat untuk melihat 'aset' yang saya sendiri miliki! Buat yang merancang untuk makan di dua restoran pada satu-satu slot makan, kad akses yang disediakan telah menghadkan hanya satu restoran sahaja yang dapat dipilih, jadi percubaan anda untuk makan dua kali tidak akan berjaya ye!

Pelayaran dengan *Superstar Libra Cruise* bukan sekadar pelayaran kosong dengan hanya menatap lautan luas terbentang sepanjang masa kerana pihak pengurusan kapal telah menyediakan pelbagai aktiviti untuk disertai oleh para penumpang seawal jam 8.00 pagi sehinggalah jam 3.00 pagi seperti pertunjukan magik, persembahan tarian dan nyantian serta pelbagai kelas seperti kelas seni mempertahankan diri, kelas memasak dan kelas pembuatan kraftangan di samping tayangan filem. Bersempena dengan sambutan *Oktoberfest*, pihak pengurusan kapal telah menyediakan kelas pembuatan topi Jerman. Perlu diingatkan bahawa tidak semua aktiviti dan kemudahan yang disediakan oleh pihak pengurusan kapal adalah percuma kerana ada sesetengahnya perlu dibayar. Antara kemudahan yang disediakan adalah *Fitness Center*, kolam renang, pusat kesihatan, salon kecantikan, perpustakaan, trek jogging dan pusat karaoke. Saya langsung tidak terasa bosan di sini kerana setiap massaya dimanfaatkan dengan sebaiknya dengan aktiviti-aktiviti yang saya sertai. Paling menghiburkan ialah persembahan magik oleh seorang lelaki Eropah berperut buncit bernama Zee Deneck yang sangat melucukan kerana persembahannya yang santai dan berunsur komedi membuatkan ketawa tidak kering gusi. Perkhidmatan wifi juga ada disediakan untuk dibeli tetapi kelajuan internet adalah diklasifikasikan sebagai untuk kegunaan "Light Surfing" sahaja.

Lawatan kami ke Phuket dan Krabi juga berjalan lancar dan tanpa masalah kerana pihak *cruise* telah terlebih dahulu membantu kami merancang lawatan kami di sana dengan menawarkan pelbagai pakej *tour* seperti pakej *Shopping Spree*, *Island Sight Seeing*, *Kayaking Adventure*, *Relaxing*, *Island Show Extravaganza*, *Elephant Riding*, *Snorkeling* dan lain-lain lagi pada harga berpatutan. Ini dapat menjimatkan masa penumpang daripada tercari-cari pakej lawatan setibanya di destinasi-destinasi yang ditujui. Pengalaman berpindah ke bot kecil daripada *cruise* untuk ke pantai Krabi membuatkan saya teringat babak menyelamatkan penumpang-penumpang kapal Titanic yang hampir

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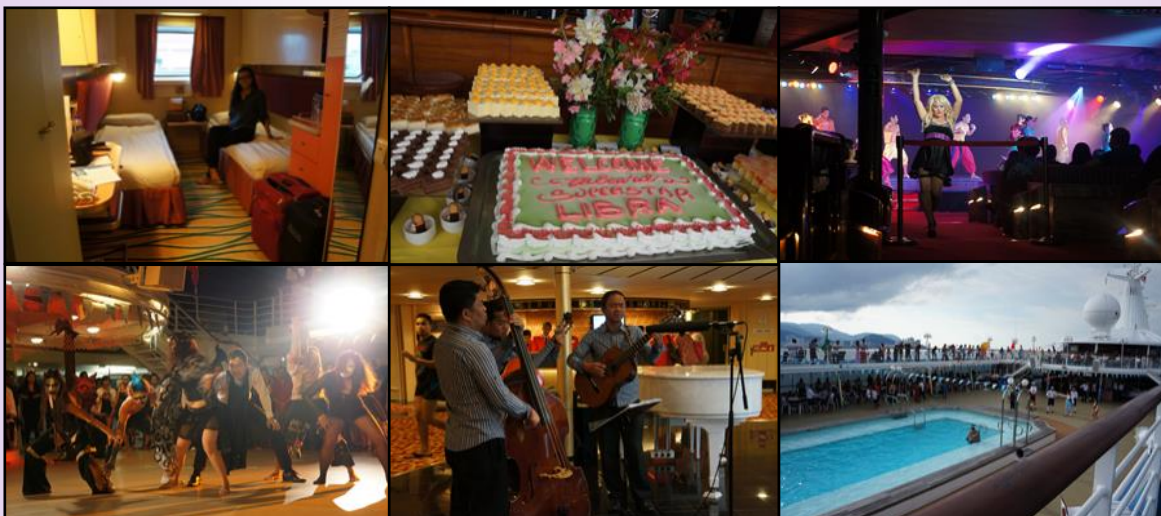
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tenggelam di dalam filem Titanic. Gemar sungguh saya ini berimajinasi! Penumpang telah dipindah ke bot kecil yang akan membawa mereka ke pesisir pantai Phuket dan Krabi secara berperingkat-peringkat mengikut jadual yang telah ditetapkan. Tempoh masa yang diberikan kepada para penumpang untuk menikmati destinasi-destinasi yang disinggahi iaitu Phuket dan Krabi adalah sangat terhad dan kami agak terkejar-kejar ketika melawati tempat-tempat menarik di sana kerana kami tidak mahu terlepas masa *boat pick up* untuk kembali ke *cruise*. Jadi, para penumpang harus bijak mengatur masa ketika melawat Phuket dan Krabi dan sememangnya mereka tidak mungkin dapat menikmati sepenuhnya kedua-dua tempat ini jika diberikan jumlah masa antara 5-12 jam sahaja sebelum kapal berlayar semula menuju destinasi seterusnya.

Malam terakhir pelayaran kami dengan *cruise*, kami diraikan lagi dengan acara *Gala Dinner* penuh formal dan tertib. Untuk menyertai *Gala Dinner* ini, para penumpang perlu membuat tempahan di restoran yang dipilih kerana tempat adalah terhad dan tertakluk kepada konsep yang cepat, dia dapat. Terdapat dua pilihan restoran untuk *Gala Dinner* tersebut iaitu *Four Seasons* dan *Ocean Palace* yang mana setiap satunya menawarkan dua sesi *Gala Dinner* iaitu pada pukul 6.45 petang dan 9.00 malam. Saya memilih *Four Seasons* yang merupakan sebuah restoran makanan barat untuk *Gala Dinner* tersebut. Turut serta dalam majlis ini adalah kapten kapal, Peder Nilsson (warga Sweden) di samping krew kapal yang lain. Ini adalah acara makan malam paling eksklusif pernah saya alami. Dengan kerusi ditarik dan dipersilakan duduk oleh pelayan, serta diletakkan napkin di atas riba, saya terasa seperti puteri raja! Di majlis itu, saya terasa seperti Rose di dalam filem Titanic apabila menyarungkan gaun serba hitam. Saya sedikit terkilan bila mengenangkan, "Jack" tiada di sisi saya kala itu. Alangkah baha-

giannya jika ada *Prince Charming* seperti Leonardo DiCaprio Bersama saya menjamah makan malam serba enak di situ. Makan malam kali ini agak berbeza dengan hari-hari sebelumnya bukan hanya kerana penumpang disyaratkan memakai pakaian formal dan digalakkan berdandan, tetapi juga kerana kami dikejutkan dengan tarian tanpa disangka-sangka daripada pelayan-pelayan di restoran tu yang begitu menghiburkan. Bersempena dengan bulan Oktober yang merupakan bulan sambutan *Halloween*, kami diraikan dengan *Viva De Libra Farewell Party* yang bertemakan *Halloween* di tingkat sembilan dengan jua-dah yang pelbagai jenis dan persembahan daripada "hantu-hantu" yang pandai menari. Sempat saya bergambar dengan satu "lembaga" hodoh untuk kenangan.

Sebelum keluar daripada perut kapal, kami perlu melepasi urusan *check out* yang melibatkan pembayaran *outstanding bil* (ini boleh dilsayakan juga sehari sebelum *check out*) pengambilan semula *passport* yang disimpan oleh pihak pengurusan kapal atau beg yang besar yang memerlukan bantuan krew kapal untuk dibawa turun daripada kabin yang iinapi. Semua urusan ini dilsayakan dengan sistem nombor giliran yang sangat sistematik dan teratur serta berjalan lancar tanpa masalah. Pengalaman bercuti ke Phuket dan Krabi menaiki *Superstar Libra Cruise* akan sentiasa terpahat di minda kerana inilah kali pertama saya menaiki kapal mewah penuh layanan mesra serta pengendalian yang sistematik. Bagi saya percutian dengan kapal ini adalah percutian yang cukup menghiburkan serta mengenyangkan dan pastinya membuatkan sesiapa yang tidak berdiet boleh bertambah berat badan. Sememangnya berat badan saya telah naik dua kilo! Pengalaman yang dilalui di sepanjang pelayaran dengan kapal ini akan sentiasa menggamit memori indah buat saya.



Lecturer's Contribution #6

This Solace is All We Need

(written in the first week of MCO)

by Che Nooryohana Zulkifli



*It is the solace.
The silence we have been missing.*

The years have passed us by.

*The countless sheets of papers we have written on,
long gone faces we can hardly recall,
the wails of machines that we have jabbed again and again,
for what now?*

*What really matters now?
The scores we've pinned on our boards of glory or the moolah we've made?*

*This solace is all we need.
Looking up and looking back, all we need now is for Him to answer us.
We implore Him to just look at us now and please, listen.
So weak we are now.*

*Where were we when He opened up His arms?
Did we ever give Him the love that He deserves?*

*Perhaps we've abandoned Him far too long,
and even if He ever ignores us now, don't you think it's fair?*

*We love this world way too much,
This the perfect time for us to sit, to finally realise that the destination is never here.*

*This solace is all we need.
For Him to reach for us again.*

*Call upon Me; I will respond to you.
(Al-Ghafir: 60)*

March 22nd, 2020.



Lecturer's Contribution #7



We are One for this Battle

by Noraziah Mohd Amin

*Covid-19 came like a storm
Ravishing lives of any form
Young and old collapsed in suffocation
Triggering a strong emotion
Of the loved ones who couldn't even say "goodbye"
Or shed more tears as they were already dry
After seeing the suffering of those in pain
After all their hopes were just in vain
Covid-19 finally stopped the heartbeat line
How much the virus was cruel and unkind.*

*Malaysians will not surrender to the evil virus
A little devil notorious for being contagious
The battle lines have been drawn
It's a fight to win before many lives are gone
As long as we are united as one nation
With the same mission
We are one for this battle
Our hearts will not be fragile or brittle
"One for all! All for one!" is our mantra
It is not a propaganda
The impossible will become possible
The unbelievable will become believable
If we are tied to each other in the name of unity
The spirit is stronger than our own body immunity!*

*One for all! All for one!
It's not the job of the front liners but everyone
Every effort will make a difference
With great discipline and patience
The new norms to embrace
A new challenge to face
To obey the orders of the leaders
The MCO, social distancing, masks and sanitizers
Being screened and quarantined are critical
Everyone is responsible for a miracle
And when Covid-19 cases are zero
Each one of us will be a hero!*

*One for all! All for one!
We will see light as bright as the sun
At the end of the tunnel
After all our struggle
After all our effort
We can sit in comfort
When Covid-19 is no longer our trouble
Then we know we have won the battle!*



Lecturer's Contribution #8

Malaysia and Covid-19

by Noraziah Mohd Amin

*Covid-19 came without a warning
Early 2020 had only a disaster to bring
A global pandemic that caused a panic
This merciless killer isn't just an epidemic
Many have been sent to early grave
Those who couldn't be saved
With no last words to hear
No loved ones to see near
They're gone forever...*

*Before more lives were claimed
and the start of a blame game
Malaysia didn't sit down with nothing to aim
The saying, "Kita pasti menang!" or "We will win!"
Was planted in the brain
A growing hope for the pain
of witnessing again and again
The last breath of a human being
A stem of wishes branching
in the hearts of Malaysians
For we could win with discipline and patience
In the state of medical turbulence
Sparked by an evil virus so contagious
For we know MCO is something serious
And the words have a message for us:
"Kita jaga kita" or "We protect ourselves"
are not just any words left to die themselves
They are alive in our mind
And we hope for a good sign.*

*We can break the virus chain
Doing the impossible is the victory to gain
"Malaysia boleh!" and yes! We can!
As long as we join hands
And leave our differences far behind.*

