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# I-RoLE 2023

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

**EMBRACING CHANGE:  
EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE  
OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC,  
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**13 - 14 MARCH 2023**

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**Table of Contents**

No.	Title	Page Number
1.	Galaxy Tense A+: The Effectiveness of English Tenses Board Game Among Tertiary Students	6
2.	Graphic Design Website: Exploring Market Needs for Services	14
3.	Beyond What Eye Saw	21
4.	Creative Writing: Through Her Eyes - Tales of The Heart	28
5.	Let's Play Phonetic Charades	34
6.	A Visual Novel Game on Social Anxiety	40
7.	Skin Care with Fisha: New Media Content Creation for Basic Skincare Education	48
8.	e-Book of Poem Collections	55
9.	Toodles: Flashcards for Children	61
10.	Digital Flashcards (Tenses)	68
11.	Investigating Students' Concerns on The Development of Masterly!	74
12.	Googly Eyes: A Game to Improve English Usage Among Teenagers	80
13.	Providing Subtitles for Malaysian YouTuber	86
14.	Read and Play: Improving Adolescent's Reading Skills Through Video Games	91
15.	Thoughts by Her Soul Bookmark	99
16.	The Comedy of Errors Simplified: "Egeon's 18Th Reasons Why"	105
17.	Oliver Green: Improving Homonyms Understanding Through Comics	112
18.	PWSP: Phonetic Word Search Puzzle Book	117
19.	Floriography	121
20.	A Preliminary Study on The Young Adult's Perception of Learning English Using the Website: Swifties Read	126
21.	A Place for Poets: An Online Poetry Recitation Series	133
22.	Say It Right with Ya	140
23.	Don't Touch My No-No Square	150
24.	Templatify: An E-Book Collection of Ecards Templates	158
25.	Short Story: Disease Takes Happiness Away	164
26.	Dusted Lines: A Compilation of Self-Written Poems	170
27.	'What's Your Philosophy?' An Edutaining Card Game	177
28.	Be Cool, Not Cruel	185
29.	Grammar Made Fun with TikTok	192
30.	Interactive Journaling as A Mental Health Coping Strategy for Youths	201
31.	Learned – Spoken: Manglish	212
32.	Lost in the Labyrinth of My Mind	218
33.	Translation of Abqorie's Fardhu Ain Module for Smart Tahfiz & Transit Abqorie	225
34.	Poetry for Us: Expressing Feelings Through Creative Writing	231
35.	Lyacomms' Proofreading and Editing Service	238



No.	Title	Page Number
36.	The Effectiveness Of ‘Master the Verbs’ Instagram Flashcards Among Year Six Low Proficiency Level Students	244
37.	My Malay Fables	252
38.	Talking Story: eBooks to Improve Reading Comprehension Skills	259
39.	Exploring Creative Writing as A Tool to Enhance Mental Health	272
40.	Movie Moo	281
41.	English Pitstop	288
42.	Upin Ipin Reding Kit	294
43.	Seventy-Two Beats a Second	301
44.	Knowing Kristang	308
45.	Creatorslation: The Role of Technology in Translation Service	313
46.	Travel Guide as a Medium to Improve English Comprehensiveness	319
47.	Posterlance	328
48.	Crossfunetics	336
49.	The Effectiveness of Board Games to Promote Student Attention and Enjoyment in English Subject	342
50.	The Use of e-Books and Social Media in Introducing Malaysian Folklores Among Children	352
51.	Creepypodcast YouTube Channel	357
52.	Mastermind’: English Board Game	363
53.	한국어 In Melayu!	369
54.	Triple P with Sang Kancil: Pronunciation, Phonetics, and Playbook	376
55.	"So, She Reads" Book Blog	383
56.	Abbyfication: A Grammar-Based Word Game	389
57.	Klick! A Content Writing Service	396
58.	The Love Levanter Podcast	403
59.	Let’s Talk Feelings Podcast	409
60.	Grafixmoon: Poster Designing Service	415
61.	The Circle of Life	422
62.	Hops the Dwarf	430
63.	Malay Corner: Learning Malay Through Discord	435
64.	Movie: This and That	441
65.	Phone the Phonetics: Phonetic Flashcards	449
66.	And What If?	455
67.	Interrupted: Life in A Podcast	458
68.	@Phoneticisfun	463
69.	Culinary and Creative Writing: When Two Worlds Collide	468
70.	Talk in Senses	473
71.	Piano Pleasure Course	480
72.	Step by Step: A Motivational Instagram Account	486
73.	Figurative Language! An Educational Autobiography	492
74.	Of Power, Devotion and Betrayal: A Collection of Malaysian Princesses’ Folklores	499
75.	Tell Me, How’s Everything? An Anthology of Poems to Increase the Understanding of Figurative Language	505



No.	Title	Page Number
76.	Oh, Lendu Youth	513
77.	Living the Hard Life	520
78.	Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall, Who Is the Best of Us All?	528
79.	Beyond the Crowded Space: The Use of Podcast in Improving Psychological Well-Being	535
80.	Samdil: Same Music, Different Language	541
81.	Bejalai: A YouTube Journey	547
82.	Mind Your Language	552
83.	Pop Music Podcast: A Bop or A Flop?	560
84.	Exploring The English Language Teachers' Beliefs And Practices In Implementing CEFR-Aligned Formative Assessment In Malaysian Primary Schools	570
85.	Pencapaian Ucapan Bayi Sejak Lahir Hingga Dua Belas Bulan	575
86.	Mengkaji Makna Bahasa Lukisan Kanak - Kanak Muda Usia 0-3 Tahun	585
87.	Penelitian Terhadap Kesiapan, Motivasi Dan Faktor Persekitaran Murid Bukan Penutur Natif Terhadap Pembelajaran Dan Pemudahcaraan Karangan Respon Terbuka Di Sekolah Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur	599
88.	Pengaruh Bahasa Ibunda Dalam Kalangan Murid Bukan Melayu Tahun 5 Semasa Menulis Karangan: Satu Kajian Kes	610
89.	Meningkatkan Penguasaan Penulisan Karangan Naratif Murid Tahun 6 Menggunakan Kit Ikan Karang	619
90.	Pengaruh Dialek Kedah Terhadap Fonetik Dan Leksikal Kata Soal Pelajar Pispmp: Satu Kajian Kes	633
91.	Tahap Pengetahuan Guru Pelatih Mempengaruhi Kekekapan Pelaksanaan Kemahiran Berfikir Aras Tinggi (Kbat) Dalam Pengajaran Dan Pembelajaran Subjek Bahasa Melayu	643

# THE COMEDY OF ERRORS SIMPLIFIED: 'EGEON'S 18th REASONS WHY'

Nurul Atikah Binti Mohamad Akmal Paramswhren<sup>1</sup>, \*Chong Oi Leng<sup>2</sup>

1, 2Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Melaka

1nurulatikahakmalp@gmail.com

2oileng@uitm.edu.my

\*Corresponding author

## ABSTRACT:

Published in 1594, The Comedy of Errors is one of William Shakespeare's early plays. Recounting the tale of two sets of identical twins who have unexpectedly split apart following an incident. This is one of his shortest and most bizarre comedies, with a large portion of the humour coming from slapstick and puns. This project attempts to produce a fresh approach to reading and comprehending great literature. Additionally, The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why, an educational e-book innovation, is proposed as part of this project as a means of encouraging general audiences, particularly non-readers and second language learners, to acquire and become familiar with numerous literary classics. As the title implies, this project will take classics that are today referred to as "too long didn't read" (TLDR) and transform them into something more exciting and more straightforward for everyone to enjoy. The study's conclusions showed that including the modern English language and comical arts in literature, learning generated favourable responses from the intended audience and helped spark their interest in the subject.

Keywords: Shakespeare, Simplify, Literature, E-book, The Comedy of Errors

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Literature serves as a link between the local and the culture of the books and is studied as a topic in schools. Students studying English are exposed to classic literature as part of their curriculum, which is crucial for their language development as well as their comprehension of and ability to communicate in other cultures. The new wave of media has helped to elevate a newfound enthusiasm for literature by supporting its aesthetic perspective. In the research of Han et al. (2022), the emergence of this has piqued students' interest in reading and learning literature on a deeper level because it will be able to demonstrate and support the development of their capacity to comprehend their thoughts, feelings, and perceptions and relate those to themselves, the people around them, and life. With so many classics employing specific terms, such as compassion and pity for unhappy and sorrowful characters, while also denouncing and criticizing bad habits and vices, students will be able to perceive reality in accordance with the rule of beauty and the things that they studied (Han et al., 2022). 91.4% of respondents to the study agreed that the literature is difficult to understand. This is comparable to how most books currently available on the market are regarded as "boring" because they primarily promote textual learning strategies and scarcely assist visual ones. From personal experience, many literature teachers likewise appear to struggle with engaging and involving their students in the material. Our goal in this paper is to outline the creation of an e-book that can make literature more accessible while also making it enjoyable and engaging.



## **Problem Statement**

The author of this project discovered that many literary works tended to solely emphasize the textual parts, which she found to be less engaging and easily exhausting to read and grasp. One of the problems with classical literature is that many people today demand simplified content that can provide them with the information they need right away rather than making them go through a number of pages, which frequently leaves readers even more confused with the storyline. Long sentences and a lack of captivating visuals can wear readers out and make reading monotonous, which will ruin the reading experience. It is simple for many people to give up and stop reading the books they are reading when they are having trouble comprehending and learning it. This leads to breakdowns and exhaustion from their lack of interest and involvement in the book. The writing style, historical contexts, narrative structures, and symbolism in classics make them challenging to read. To increase comprehension, people must read an annotated copy and look up a book's historical era. To fully understand the idea, they also have to read reviews and watch any movie related to the topic (Why Are Classics So Hard To Read? (& What To Do About It), Nowak, 2022). By assisting them in reducing the narratives and producing imaginative graphics that will be enjoyable to read, "Simplifying Literature" hopes to remedy the issue.

## **Project Objective / Purpose**

The goal of this study is to simplify literature in order to increase its readability and accessibility to a wider audience. As we all know by now, reading classical literature may be challenging for the general public, especially for those with no prior understanding of the language, making it impossible to comprehend and enjoy many original copies. Making the experience unpleasant for them will result in the demise of many great writings, including Shakespeare's writings. These books will be easier to read if the language and content are simplified. It is certain that there is a need to make an e-book like this, given the recent increase in interest in e-books. This demonstrates how new technology may be incorporated as a benefit to make teaching more participatory and simpler while also appealing to a larger group of students and even the general public. Hence, to address this need, the author came up with the idea for an electronic book called *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why*, which will enable readers to resolve the issues such as explained.

## **Entrepreneurial Opportunities**

The intended audience for this project is people who wish to read books without having to go through the tiresome process of reading hundreds of pages of the original copy but who also want to read through the contents without immediately quitting the book. This will completely change how readers can access literary content. Apart from that, there are other opportunities for this project because it would be a significant innovation in the market for interactive educational books.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

One of many questions asked was: Why is the purpose of learning literature? One of many questions asked was: Why is the purpose of learning literature? Well, the history of literature is the only answer. For instance, it is a fact that Nero's advisor Seneca, before committing suicide in AD 65, wrote tragedies that had a profound effect on English and French drama in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Wiseman, 2015). Here we can see how



impactful a literary work can be in a timeline. Literature is one of humanity's greatest inventions, and it has produced many more exquisite works before, during, and after the Renaissance period. This is so because a large number of everlasting and well-written classic literary works have earned a classic status for pioneering the development of a literary subgenre at the time.

Classical literary works have the power to transport readers back in time and depict a distinct period of history. It is not only a gateway to the past but also suggestive of our present and the future. Within every time period lies different people, and within them, different stages in our ever-growing culture (Austin, 2022). Each individual was a product of their own time. As a species, we evolve every day, and without that timestamp that literature gives us, we would know nothing about the past, making each literary work more beautiful as time goes on. Literature allows a person to step back in time and learn about life from the ones who walked before us (Austin, 2022). We are able to gather a better understanding of culture and have a greater appreciation of them, as the Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana observed that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Recounting tales that can still resonate with many people today also enables the readers to acquire insight into the universe of human experiences. Literature has the power to evoke many people an experience that will keep them hooked and lead them to a deeper understanding of it in general.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The goal of *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why* is to write a book that will be able to summarize numerous outstanding literary works for a larger audience. As a result, many more people will be able to enjoy reading a variety of classics without needing a deep understanding of literature, which is essential because reading classical literature can be more challenging than reading modern books. When considered in context, the words and imagery utilized differ greatly from those of modern times. A questionnaire was distributed before the author began constructing the project to help choose the key elements to focus on in the book. The Results and Discussion portion of this paper contains a discussion of the findings. The flowchart below was used to create the e-book and the general procedure used.



Figure 1: *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why* flowchart.

The e-book is made ergonomically for all e-book formats and devices while enhancing the users' reading experience. Figure 2 displays the layout of the book's front cover, copyright cover, back cover, and some of its contents.



Figure 2: The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why front cover, copyright cover, back cover, and some of its contents.

The survey questionnaire was made available through Google Form to individuals interested in interacting with it. Respondents were requested to share their knowledge of literature and other associated topics and their thoughts on them. To collect all the information from individuals who responded to the questionnaire, a total of eight questions were asked. As soon as the form was disseminated, the author got every response needed. The following questions made up the questionnaire.

Are you interested in classical literature?

Do you find classical literature hard to understand?

Assuming you have learned about literature through school and university, did you enjoy it?

Have you heard/seen any one of these names before?

Do you find literature accessible for everyone, regardless of your age and educational background?

Would you be interested to read simplified literature classics? (Written in simple English and condensed into a short story format)

Would you be interested in an e-book version of any classical literature simplification?

Would you like the books to have graphics/drawings?

Some of the customers and individuals of the public who were interested in this endeavour were among the respondents in The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why; there are 35 total respondents. Before distributing the questionnaire, the author made it clear that everything would be collected and used only to offer necessary data for the project's findings. It is also crucial to remember that all information obtained was kept private and protected while being answered. This statement is provided to build responders' trust.



## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The goal of this initiative is to promote literature by demystifying the text's ideas and the author's original use of language. In order to gather evidence of the public's grasp of the concept behind this project, it is crucial to comprehend their opinions on this specific topic and learn about them using the provided questionnaire.

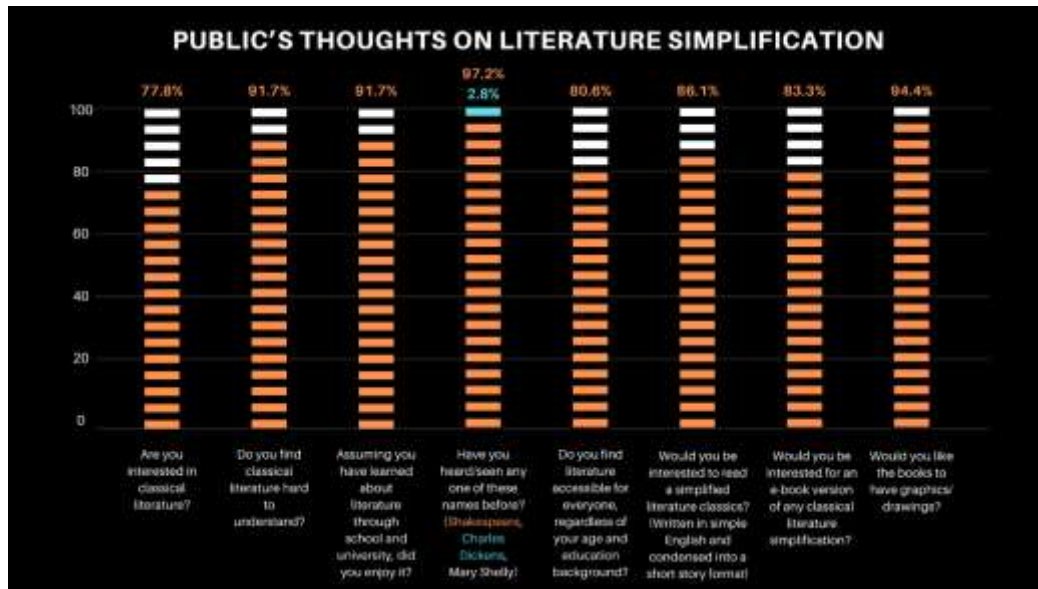


Figure 3: Bar chart on the public's thoughts on literature simplification

These charts demonstrate that many people are interested in literature but need help comprehending it. As a result, many people needed a simple starting point, such as a book like *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why*, which simplifies literature for those who want to delve into the world of classical literature gradually. After reviewing the questionnaire's responses, I was more certain than ever that I should write the e-book and make it a reality for my respondents who are interested.

Then, the author sent out a feedback form a few days after the e-book was purchased to have a better understanding of what the buyers thought of the book. There were 13 people who responded to the survey.

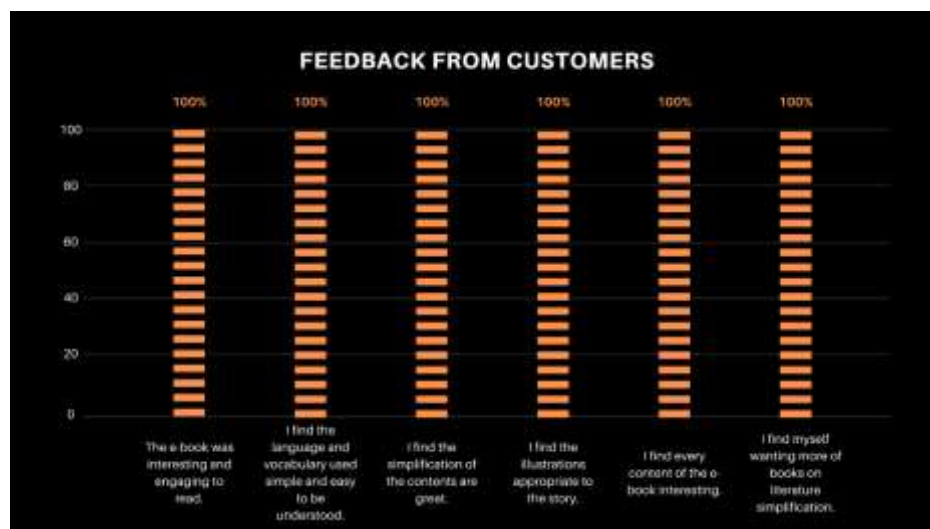


Figure 4: Bar chart on customer feedback.



According to the feedback form results, every component of the book—including the language and vocabulary used, the simplification of the contents, and the illustrations—is approved by every respondent. This project's goal was achieved since the respondents expressed a need for more publications like this one to be released.

## 5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the readers were interested in buying this e-book because it was unique in simplifying the chosen literature, *The Comedy of Errors*, a play written by the great William Shakespeare. The author thinks that the readers and others interested in this project will benefit significantly. Given that this kind of book is new to the market, the author sets a reasonable price for the book to allay the concerns of potential buyers. The author's goal is for this book to rank among the top picks available. It is also crucial to note that the intention to make literature more approachable in order to appeal to a broader audience can be effectively carried out by using strategies like making it into an e-book and adding entertaining illustrations to make it more interesting and unique for readers, particularly those who are unfamiliar with literature and books such as this one.

In light of this, this study shows that *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why* can assist many people in appreciating literature and inspiring them to read more simplified classics while still appreciating the original material. The author hopes that *The Comedy of Errors Simplified: Egeon's 18th Reasons Why's* unique and exceptional qualities will make it a book that readers will always enjoy and remember.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Last but not least, I want to congratulate myself and pat myself on the back for persevering through the most challenging times and continuing to work on this project despite my inability to see any progress. Thank you; you did well.

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