

LITERARY FICTION AND POETRY
BY F.A.M.E APB

Words in Action I

A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE



ACADEMY OF LANGUAGE STUDIES
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
SABAH BRANCH, KOTA KINABALU CAMPUS

WORDS IN ACTION I

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Foreword

Words in Action can have multiple interpretations. This book illustrates the diversity of ways to look at things, highlighting the significance of considering different perspectives to better understand our reality. Using words creatively to tell a story is akin to using our creative lens to see the world. Read how the authors of this book are flexing their creative muscles and putting their words into action!

A Purrfect Holiday in Kuching

Zain Malique's in the house! This sketch is about a former UiTM student from Sarawak entertaining his former lecturer and Zain Malique, a guest from Turkey who had just arrived in Kuching. This sketch brings about the importance of having a sound background knowledge about one's country so as to enable us to easily promote our country as a prime tourism spot to foreigners.

A Literature Review Roadmap

Writing a literature review can be a daunting task. In this motivational piece, the poet assures us that persistence, patience, and an inquisitive mind, will undoubtedly get you to the light at the end of the tunnel. Struggling with writing an academic paper? Here's to you!

A Mother's Heart

A mother's heart is selfless. Her sacrifices and unwavering love for her children are mysterious and incomparable.

Echoes of A Father's Love

A father's love is a gentle breeze that causes ripples of comfort to spread across a child's life. His words, like a warm blanket, carry weight and soothe the heart.

Exploring The Cultural Charms of Medan, Indonesia: From Pulau Tuba to Kesawan Square

Nestled in the heart of North Sumatra, Medan offers a vibrant blend of cultures, traditions, and experiences that capture the essence of Indonesian life. From the serene escape of Pulau Tuba's pristine beaches and lush landscapes to the bustling energy of Pasar Hindu's market stalls and the historical charm of Kesawan Square, Medan promises an enriching journey through its rich tapestry of sights and sounds. Embark on this adventure tale written by two authors and let Medan's natural beauty captivate your interest.

Exploring The Natural Wonders of Bandung

An exposition on how Bandung is emblematic of “Words in Action”, the author beautifully captures the various ways in which people use language to make their world a better place; not just for themselves, but for others in mind.

Gurindam Kasihkan Guru

Guru, dalam pandangan puisi ini, diibaratkan sebagai bintang yang menerangi, intan permata yang tiadaandingannya, dan insan budiman yang memberi tauladan sepanjang zaman. Melalui bait-bait puisi ini, kita diajak untuk merenung dan menghargai betapa besar jasa dan pengorbanan guru. Puisi ini menjadi cerminan betapa istimewanya peranan guru dalam kehidupan kita, dan menjadi pengingat akan betapa pentingnya kita menghargai dan menghormati jasa mereka.

Haiku

Words are powerful; true words, even more so. When unshackled and given free rein, Truth spurs the will to act.

Happy Retirement Associate Professor Jasman Jaafar

This poem is a unifying voice from the Academy of Language Studies department, Kota Kinabalu. It resonates with those who have worked with Associate Professor Jasman Jaafar. Indeed, his humility, kindness and dedication are exemplary.

I'm on My Way to RISE

This poem serves as a personal vow to achieve one's ambition. The friends we make on our journeys are valuable, but for those with opposing views, we should count ourselves lucky because they offer great value as well: perspective. The only real thing stopping us, is the self.

If Choices are Given

The poet invites readers to ponder on our response to suffering in life. In summary, she makes a case for how “pain is inevitable, misery is optional”.

Impromptu Getaway

When in good company, the mundane and dreadful become sources of humour and laughter; the persona prescribes an antidote for a case of the funk: an impromptu getaway.

Literature Blossoms in The Stock Market

The sheer amount of information required to invest well in the stock market deters many. Yet, many at the same time relish this same wealth of information. In this modern world, navigating the waters of the stock market requires the indomitable spirit of the adventurers and explorers of renown.

Love is Blind

Love is a two-faced coin: on one side, admiration, respect, and attractiveness are printed on it. On the other, there is only disdain, disappointment, and pain. These make up Love, and when we are looking at one side, we are blind to the other. So, is that coin worth keeping?

Madah Indah Penguat Jiwa

Karya ini hadir sebagai sebuah madah yang diharapkan dapat menjadi sumber inspirasi dan kekuatan kepada setiap pembaca. Melalui kata-kata yang penuh hikmah ini, kita diajak untuk melihat setiap ujian sebagai batu loncatan menuju kebangkitan diri. Setiap kesedihan, setiap kegagalan, bukanlah akhir dari segalanya, melainkan sebuah permulaan baru yang membawa kita lebih dekat kepada potensi sebenar kita. Selamat membaca dan semoga setiap bait madah ini dapat memberikan pencerahan dan kekuatan dalam perjalanan hidup anda.

Mandiri

Kepada mereka yang merindui halaman kampung, puisi ini menjadi peringatan bahawa di mana jua kita pergi, kita boleh menambahkan dan memperkayakan pengalaman kita dalam kehidupan, meskipun menemui dugaan di tempat persinggahan.

Manusia Malang

Dalam setiap perjalanan hidup, kita sering kali menemui saat-saat yang penuh dengan keraguan dan kegelapan. Puisi ini mengingatkan kita bahawa setiap kesulitan bukanlah sebuah kesalahan, tetapi merupakan sebahagian dari kisah tabah dan kekuatan yang terbit melalui ribuan rintangan. Semoga puisi ini menjadi sumber inspirasi dan kekuatan bagi setiap pembaca yang sedang menghadapi cabaran dalam hidup mereka. Biarlah setiap bait puisi ini menjadi penghibur dan pendorong untuk terus berdiri teguh.

My Mother Said

In a world where the path often seems masked by shadows and uncertainties, the wisdom imparted by a mother can be a beacon of light. These heartfelt verses capture the essence of enduring hope and resilience, echoing timeless advice on navigating life's trials with

courage and perseverance. As you delve into these words, may you find solace and strength in the enduring spirit of maternal guidance, reminding you that every challenge faced is a step towards growth and triumph.

Pantun: Pelajar Cemerlang, Adab Terbilang

Bagaikan bunga mawar yang harum menyegar jiwa, pantun ini mengajak kita untuk menghargai kepentingan adab dan akhlak dalam proses menuntut ilmu. Setiap bait pantun ini menyiratkan bahawa kejayaan sebenar bukan hanya terletak pada pencapaian akademik, tetapi juga pada budi pekerti dan akhlak yang baik. Penulis ini menekankan bahawa pentingnya menjaga adab dan akhlak dalam setiap langkah kita, serta memberi semangat kepada semua pelajar untuk terus menuntut ilmu dengan penuh keihlasan dan kehormatan.

Penjaga Kebenaran: Ayat Fitnah

Karya ini menyoroti sebuah realiti penting yang sering kali kita hadapi dalam kehidupan sehari-hari—bahawa kata-kata bukan hanya alat untuk berkomunikasi, tetapi juga senjata yang dapat membina atau meruntuhkan. Karya ini menyeru kita untuk berpegang pada prinsip kebenaran dan berhati-hati dalam setiap ucapan dan tulisan, agar kita tidak menjadi agen penyebar fitnah yang merosakkan keharmonian masyarakat.

Puisi Rindu Seorang Anak untuk Ayah

Puisi ini adalah sebuah penghormatan yang mendalam kepada seorang ayah, yang walaupun jasadnya telah tiada, namun kasih sayangnya tetap hidup dan mengisi ruang di dalam hati. Karya ini adalah sebuah refleksi indah tentang bagaimana seorang ayah, melalui kasih sayangnya yang tulus dan pengorbanan yang ikhlas, meninggalkan warisan yang tak ternilai. Selamat membaca, dan semoga puisi ini membawa ketenangan dan kehangatan di dalam hati setiap pembaca, terutama bagi mereka yang pernah merasakan kehilangan yang sama.

Rise and Shine

Wake up. It's another day to move closer to your dreams! This motivating poem reminds us that it's the little extra bit of effort each day that adds up and turns into success later on, and that while we journey onwards and upwards, our feet must at the same time be firmly planted on the ground.

Sports Day is Bake Day!

This playful and heartfelt poem captures the essence of a teacher's enduring spirit on sports day, where the heat and chaos are met with dedication and love. It celebrates the paradox of the outer struggle and inner joy that comes with guiding and cheering on students.

Tactless Diction

Words are like a two-edged sword. One can be tactful or tactless in using words. Once spoken, words are irretrievable.

To Be or Not to Be – Campus Love

This short story is about a group of female students studying at a higher institution. During their study discussions, Qistina develops a close relationship with a male classmate named Khairul. Her close friends in class urge her to reveal her interest in Khairul. Qistina gets into a dilemma because she does not want to ruin her healthy group discussion relationship with Khairul. Should she confess to Khairul that she likes him?

The Cheer Leader

This poem gently explores the power of words in teaching, emphasising the importance of kindness and encouragement. It reminds us that while truth can be sharp, it's through love and understanding that real learning and growth occur. A thoughtful reflection on leading with compassion.

The Grievs of Others – Beautiful at A Distance

This poignant text illustrates the profound journey of pain and growth through the lens of the potter's craft. Each stage of suffering and transformation echoes the quiet resilience of creation, reminding us that beneath the surface of every challenge lies the potential for profound beauty. As you read, may you appreciate the intricate process that turns struggle into artistry, both in life and in the verses themselves.

The Ladders Behind the Success

This poem is a heartfelt tribute to the many people who contribute to our success. It emphasises that achievement is not a solitary journey but one supported by the love, guidance, and sacrifices of family, friends, and mentors. A beautiful reminder to acknowledge and appreciate those who uplift us.

The Musical Drama of Life

In the grand theatre of existence, where ambition and artistry intertwine, this piece captures the intense dedication required to chase one's dreams. It eloquently portrays the relentless pursuit of perfection, highlighting the sacrifices and struggles inherent in the quest for excellence. As the music crescendos and the demands intensify, this text reveals the often-overlooked cost of ambition, urging us to reflect on the balance between passion and well-

being. May these verses resonate with those navigating their own dramatic performances, reminding us that harmony in life sometimes requires tuning both our dreams and our hearts.

The Power of Perseverance

The power of perseverance is the advice given to students to take action in every facet of life, from dreams to challenges.

The Whispering Wind

In the heart of Kampung Aman, amidst serene hills and flowing rivers, unfolds a tale of inner discovery and profound transformation. *The Whispering Wind* introduces us to Safiyyah, a young girl whose life is forever altered by the wisdom of an unexpected mentor. As Safiyyah navigates her struggles, the guidance of Pak Amin, a hermit with a hidden past, reveals the strength she holds within. This poignant narrative weaves together themes of self-discovery, family reconciliation, and the transformative power of words. Through Safiyyah's journey, we are reminded that true strength often lies within, waiting to be uncovered by the whispers of the wind and the echoes of our own hearts.

Unseen Heroes of The Classroom

In the quiet moments before dawn, as the world stirs to life, a dedicated group embarks on a journey often unseen but profoundly impactful. *Unseen Heroes of the Classroom* pays tribute to the educators whose silent sacrifices and unwavering commitment shape futures and ignite passions. This eloquent piece highlights the daily heroism of teachers who, through their boundless patience and nurturing spirit, transform uncertainty into understanding and dreams into reality. As you read these verses, may you reflect on the profound influence of those who guide with love and wisdom, and may their quiet, relentless dedication inspire us all to honour and support the invaluable work of teaching.

Word of Wisdom

In this autobiographical short story, Dr. Othman shares insightful examples of how words can be used to uplift and encourage. University students, especially those enrolled into academically rigorous and intensive programmes like a Bachelor's in Pharmacy often find themselves developing tunnel-vision-like focus, which can lead to the perception that one is a failure if one did not graduate with the intended degree. Dr. Othman assures that that is not the case at all. We should not be setting up boundaries and limitations for ourselves when pursuing academic and professional goals.

Who We Are Today

“Who We Are Today” is part of a cherished collection of heartfelt wishes the authors have written to their parents since childhood. These messages, shared on birthdays, anniversaries, Mother's and Father's Days, and other special occasions, reflect the deep love and gratitude they feel for their parents.

Editorial Board

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About The Authors

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Aisyah Noor Maisarah is a first year student in Diploma in English for Professional Communication. She is starting her new experience in creative writing.

Alice Wong Su Chu

Alice Wong is a senior lecturer at MARA University of Technology, Sabah Campus. She graduated from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and lives in Kota Kinabalu with her husband and two children. Growing up, she was always fascinated with creating arts and crafts and writing stories. A romantic at heart, she loves yoga, journaling, sunsets, sweet things and hanging out with her family and friends.

Amizura Hanadi Mohd Radzi

Amizura Hanadi Mohd. Radzi is a poetry and creative writing enthusiast. She joined Universiti Teknologi MARA, Arau Campus Perlis in July 2008. She held a position as a lecturer until 2016. Her current post is a senior lecturer starting from 2017. Her poems are published in Eksentrika.com since 2021 and she is also a co-author of several books namely *Two Strangers and Other Poems* (2011) as well as *The Little Hiccups Stories: Of Triumph Over Everyday Challenges* (2024).

Andrialis Abdul Rahman

Andrialis Abdul Rahman currently lecturing at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Department of Creative Photomedia. A lifetime lecturer of photography, she is drawn in by the enjoyment and through a passion for experimenting in alternative techniques in photography: mastering the art of pre- visualization and concepts of composition, direction and light quality. With aspirations of professional photography, specializing in art photography.

Anida Ismail

Anida Ismail is a lecturer at the Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Penang Branch, Permatang Pauh Campus.

Aries Henry Joseph

Aries Henry Joseph is a senior lecturer with 20 years of English teaching experience in the classroom. She formerly attended University Putra Malaysia and University Malaysia Sabah, respectively. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and reading Modern British Literature, in addition to her newfound hobby of writing poetry. Her

primary and most recent interests are in teaching and learning innovation, learning styles, communication strategies, and English literature.

Audrey Koh

Audrey Koh wears many hats – a dedicated teacher, a self-proclaimed grammar guru, a blogger with 8.5 million hits and counting, and a published author of ESL-related books. Amongst all these, she is also a poet aching to be heard. Koh is honoured & grateful to be selected and included in a compilation of creative work. She hopes her candid reflections as a teacher will come across through her poems and bring smiles to all "crusty old *cikgus*." Her mantra is, "Keep fighting the good fight!"

Bok Check Meng

Bok is a senior lecturer at MARA University of Technology, Melaka Campus. He has been in the industry for 14 years. His favourite field is Chinese literature. When he has free time, he likes watching movies and enjoys eating scrumptious food.

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Cyndra Robert Budull is a lecturer at the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation Universiti Teknologi MARA, Sarawak Branch, Samarahan Campus.

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Edwina Ivy Anthonius is a lecturer from the Academy of Language Studies at MARA University of Technology, Sabah Campus. She obtained her B.ED TESL and M.ED TESL from MARA University of Technology, Shah Alam Campus. Previously, she served as an educator in the Academy of Language Studies, Shah Alam Campus before starting her journey as a lecturer majoring in the English language in UiTM Sabah. Edwina Ivy is an old soul who enjoys little things in life; sunsets, poetry, music, yoga, writing, and, just spending time with her husband and daughter. Her areas of interest include the incorporation of technology in the teaching and learning of English, English literature and pedagogy.

Emma Marini Abd Rahim

Emma Marini Abd Rahim and Mia Emily Abd Rahim are twin sisters, and both serve as ESL lecturers at the Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Terengganu, Dungun Campus. They share the same interests and do almost everything together.

Fahmi Samsudin

Fahmi bin Samsudin is an academic staff member of UiTM Cawangan Melaka. He enjoys travelling, discovering new things, and sharing his adventures with others. Fahmi has a good view and continually sees kindness in all situations, making him an encouraging and thoughtful person.

Fauziana Bt Fauzi @ Mat Rawi

Fauziana Bt Fauzi is a senior lecturer at the Centre of Economics and Finance Studies, Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Puncak Alam Selangor. She has almost 15 years of teaching and research experience. She has served in UiTM since 2009. From 2009 - 2015 she worked in UiTM Kelantan. Currently, she works in UiTM Puncak Alam. She teaches many Economic subjects at the Degree, Diploma, and Fundamental levels. Among the subjects are Monetary Theory and Policy, Monetary Economics, Economics, Managerial Economics, Statistical Methods, Microeconomics, Malaysian Economics, and many more including Finance and Insurance subjects. Besides teaching, she is also interested in doing research. She researches various issues and topics including Education, Monetary Economics, International Economics, Labour Economics, and many more. Currently, she is interested in creative works. She writes poems and articles to be published in magazines and ebooks. In her free time, she loves to read books, especially motivation, bibliography, and history books. She also loves camping and picnicking with neighbours and family members. She believes that hard work, honesty, and responsibility are among the values that a lecturer must have. Hard work will always lead everybody to success and there are always lights at the end of the tunnels.

Ferial Farook

Ferial Farook is a lecturer at the Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Penang Branch, Permatang Pauh Campus.

Iz 'an Rosmani

Iz'an Rosmani is a dedicated lecturer at UiTM Kelantan with a passion for travel and photography. He believes in the power of exploration and creativity as keys to personal growth, and is constantly seeking new perspectives through his lens. His philosophy in life is to embrace every journey as an opportunity to learn and grow.

Judy Ng Miang Koon

Judy Ng Miang Koon completed her PhD studies in General and Applied Linguistics at The University

of Waikato, Hamilton. Currently, she is guiding postgraduate students on research methodology, critical thinking, research skills, and academic writing in Hebei University, China which is partnering with the University of Central Lancashire (UC-Lan), England. Before this position, she taught English for Academic Purposes/English for Special Purposes, and General English courses and provided academic support in Malaysia, New Zealand, and China. She enjoys conducting qualitative and action education research to find solutions to improve teaching and learning in the area of assessment and feedback. She has contributed two chapters in three edited books, and a few journals and presented papers in conferences both in Malaysia and New Zealand.

Juritah Misman

Madam Juritah is a senior lecturer in APB Alor Gajah Melaka campus. She teaches English proficiency courses for Diploma programmes. She is also interested to motivate her students to express their thoughts through creative writing.

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Mia Emily Abd Rahim and Emma Marini Abd Rahim are twin sisters, and both serve as ESL lecturers at the Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Terengganu, Dungun Campus. They share the same interests and do almost everything together.

Mohamad Firdaus Ahmad

Mohamad Firdaus bin Ahmad holds a PhD in Sports Management from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). Currently, he serves as a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation, UiTM Seremban Campus. In 2022, he was honored with the UKM Outstanding Thesis Award for his exceptional doctoral research.

Mohd Ab Malek bin Md Shah

Mohd Ab Malek bin Md Shah is a senior lecturer at the Department of Law, UiTM Cawangan Melaka, Kampus Alor Gajah. His interests include reading legal commentaries and comics, as well as composing poems. His philosophy in life: In his life, he can choose one colour, embrace the colourful, or live colourless. Everything depends on his attitude. To him, a blissful life can be defined by three words: faith, love, and hope.

Mohd Izani Othman

Mohd Izani Othman is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang Kampus Bertam. He has a passion for creative writing and language. Guided by his life philosophy to always strive for the best, he continually seeks excellence in both his professional and personal endeavours.

Muhamad Hafiz Hassan

Muhamad Hafiz Bin Hassan is a graphic design lecturer at Kolej Pengajian Seni Kreatif, UiTM Cawangan Sarawak. His interests include motivational education and writing, with a philosophy focused on thinking positively and striving towards success. His work aims to inspire and elevate others through creativity and positive thinking, fostering growth and resilience.

Musramaini Mustapha

Senior lecturer Musramaini Mustapha works at the UiTM Pahang Faculty of Business Management. She also serves as an auditor at the Pahang campus of UiTM as well. She is pursuing a doctorate in digital supply chain studies and has previously worked on a defamation-based innovation project.

Natasha Zuhaimi

Natasha Zuhaimi is a lecturer from the Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Cawangan Pahang, Kampus Raub.

Noraini Rahim

Noraini Rahim is a Senior Lecturer from the Faculty of Hotel & Tourism Management, in the Department of Hotel Management at UiTM Cawangan Pulau Pinang. She is passionate about traveling, reading, and cooking, pursuits that enrich her personal life and greatly influence her teaching. Her extensive experience and knowledge in these areas are frequently shared with her students, providing practical insights and inspiration. Her life philosophy centers on continuous learning and embracing new experiences, believing that every journey adds to her understanding of the world.

Nur Fatimah Aisyah binti Shahril

Nur Fatimah Aisyah Shahril is an Arabic language lecturer teaching at MARA University of Technology (UiTM), Sabah Campus. She graduated from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) with a Master of Arts in Arabic Linguistic Studies and a bachelor's degree in Arabic Language and Literature with a minor in Teaching Arabic as

Second Language. She has been teaching Arabic since 2018 and has interests in linguistics, educational technology and computer & multimedia in foreign language studies.

Nur Syazwani Zulaikha Safwan

Nur Syazwani Zulaikha Safwan is currently lecturing at UiTM Seremban Campus. She combines her expertise in sports management with a strong commitment to driving progress and excellence in sports management education. Passionate about mentoring and empowering others, she firmly believes that perseverance and continuous learning are the foundations of success.

Hjh. Nurnazirah bt Jamadin

Hjh Nurnazirah bt Jamadin, a dedicated educator in the Faculty of Business & Management at UiTM Sarawak, brings 17 years of experience to her role. She is passionate about reading, traveling, and baking. she enriches her students' learning experience with her diverse interests. She believes in embracing every challenge as an opportunity to grow, learn, and inspire others.

Nurul Aina Johari

Nurul Aina Johari is a lecturer at the Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies, UiTM Cawangan Sabah, Kampus Kota Kinabalu.

Octavia Willibrord

Octavia Willibrord is a dedicated Senior Lecturer at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sabah, with 27 years of experience in academia. She is committed to educating and nurturing the next generation of thinkers and leaders. Octavia's philosophy in life, "Take One Day at a Time," guides her in balancing her professional commitments with her personal life.

Sazirah binti Jaafar

Sazirah Jaafar is currently an English lecturer at the Academy of Language Studies of the MARA University of Technology, Sabah Campus. She received her undergraduate degree and her Master's degree from the University of Technology MARA - Shah Alam. Sazirah is part of the team that created an award winning CD-based learning game at the annual International Exhibition Invention, Innovation and Design Exposition (IIDEX) and Language Invention, Innovation and Design (LIID) in 2017 and 2018. Her areas of interest include Linguistics, Instructional Design, and Second Language Acquisition.

Siti Dalina Binti Tumiran @ Kamal Nasser

Siti Dalina binti Tumiran @ Kamal Nasser is a senior lecturer at UiTM Machang, Kelantan, in the Faculty of Accountancy. She enjoys reading, writing, and watching movies. She believes in always giving her best and holds the philosophy: do not say it cannot be done; instead, strive to find a way to make it happen.

Siti Nur Fatimah binti Md Aminnullah

Currently, Siti Nur Fatimah binti Md Aminnullah is an Arabic lecturer with comprehensive experience and skills, who lectures at UiTM Cawangan Sabah. She graduated from UiTM Shah Alam with a bachelor's degree (2017) and obtained her master's at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia majoring in Arabic Education (2019). With 5 years of experience teaching Arabic, Fatimah is a very passionate lecturer who devotes her life to quality teaching and continues to create stunning learning spaces for students. She is thrilled to be part of UiTM's line of educators. She desires to learn much about third language education systems and how to implement technology into classrooms. Fatimah is especially interested in learning about innovations in third language education.

Siti Rohimi Mohamed Apandi

Siti Rohimi Mohamed Apandi is a lecturer at the Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Penang Branch, Permatang Pauh Campus.

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Suria Fadhilah Md Pauzi is a senior law lecturer at UiTM Pahang. She also serves as the legal advisor for UiTM Pahang and the Student Affairs Division. She holds a Master of Law from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and a Bachelor of Law (Hons.) from the International Islamic University of Malaysia. Her research primarily focuses on private law.

Zainab Hj Mohd Zain

Madam Zainab is a senior lecturer in APB Alor Gajah Melaka campus. She teaches English proficiency courses for Diploma programmes. She is also interested to motivate her students to express their thoughts through creative writing.

POEMS

A LITERATURE REVIEW ROADMAP

Alice Wong
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
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Does writing the LR sound daunting to you?
It's an arduous feat, most would agree,
But all you need is a simple how-to,
To turn your confusion into clarity,

Now let us unpack what an LR is,
Sandwiched between the intro and method,
It's a section that holds analyses,
of relevant work on a topic selected,

It has a different type of storytelling,
Scholarly crafted through wit and zest,
It foreshadows where your research is going,
It sets the scene and provides context,

Begin by sourcing journal articles,
Identify the themes, debates and gaps,
Do they fit your academic puzzle?
If you say 'yes', then annotate the text,

Once you're equipped with rich information,
It's time to write a fool-proof outline,
Prepare a blueprint for your writing direction,
A good structure makes your LR shine,

Start with a broad and general statement,
Nothing specific but something intriguing,
Justify why your topic's important,
What's the novelty? Is it groundbreaking?

Next is to write a complete overview,
of relevant literature and seminal studies,
Show what is known and what is new,
Present the gaps and grounded theories,

A good review has strong arguments,
A combo of premises and conclusions,
Unveil your claim in a thesis statement,
Validate it with evidence and reasons,

Don't limit yourself to descriptive writing,
Don't simply reveal what has been done,
In-depth review means analytical writing,
With coherent syntheses rolled into one,

What seems demanding is in fact viable,
This simple roadmap should ease your plight,
Wear a thinking cap and be critical,
With drilling and practice, you'll get it right.

A MOTHER'S HEART

Noraini Rahim

*Fakulti Hotel dan Pengurusan Pelancongan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Pulau Pinang*

In the quiet of the morning,
Before the world awakes,
She moves with gentle purpose,
With every step she takes.

Her hands, though worn and weathered,
Hold love's eternal light,
They've soothed a thousand heartaches,
And tucked us in at night.

Her voice, a soft embrace,
In lullabies and lore,
It carries dreams and comforts,
And opens every door.

Her eyes, they see beyond
The surface of our fears,
They shine with pride and wisdom,
And catch our falling tears.

Her strength, a hidden river,
That flows with steady grace,
Through storms and darkest shadows,
It finds a sacred place.

For in her heart lies courage,
In her soul, pure gold,
A mother's love is boundless,
A story yet untold.

So here's to all her whispers,
The words she didn't say,
The love she gave in silence,
That guides us every day.

Thank you, dearest mother,
For all that you impart,
Your love, our endless anchor,
The whispers of your heart.

CONGRATULATIONS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JASMAN JAAFAR

Aries Henry Joseph
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sabah

Congratulations, Associate Professor Jasman Jaafar,
On reaching the end of your academic star.
Thirty-five years of service, a remarkable feat,
Your dedication and passion are truly elite.
As a mentor, you've guided with care,
Nurturing minds, always willing to share.
Your humility and kindness, a shining example,
Leaving an impact that's truly ample.
Approachable and sensible, you've been a friend,
A support system on which we could depend.
Respected by all, your wisdom is profound,
Leaving footprints of inspiration all around.
Now it's time for a well-deserved rest,
To enjoy the fruits of your labour, the best.
May your retirement be filled with joy and delight,
As you embark on this new chapter, so bright.
Associate Professor Jasman Jaafar, we salute you,
Thank you for your dedication and all that you do.
Thank you for your service, your legacy grand,
Wishing you happiness in this retirement land.

ECHOES OF A FATHER'S LOVE

Nurnazirah binti Jamadin
*Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sarawak*

In the stillness of the night, stars gleam,
A father's love, like a silent stream,
Flows unending, deep and strong,
In every word, in every song.

Through whispered tales and stories old,
Of heroes' brave and hearts of gold,
His words are actions, guiding light,
A beacon shining through the night.

With every lesson, every phrase,
He moulds our lives in countless ways,
Through gentle whispers, firm commands,
He builds our world with loving hands.

In quiet moments, wisdom shared,
In laughter, joy, and times we've dared,
His love is spoken loud and clear,
A steady force that draws us near.

When trials come, and shadows fall,
His voice becomes a sturdy wall,
With words of courage, hope, and grace,
He lifts us to a safer place.

His actions mirror what he says,
In every task, in all he seeks,
A father's love, both strong and true,
In words and deeds, he guides us through.

So, let us honour, let us praise,
The man who's shaped our nights and days,
Through words in action, love displayed,
A father's gift, our hearts conveyed.

GURINDAM KASIHKAN GURU (BAHAGIAN I)

Mohd Ab Malek bin Md Shah
*Fakulti Undang-undang,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Melaka*

Guru ibarat bintang nan terang,
Menyuluh jalan tika seorang

Guru seperti intan permata,
Mahal harganya tiada tara.

Guru persis insan Budiman,
Buat tauladan junjungan berzaman.

Guru bagaikan hiasan alam,
Mekarnya sinar menerang kelam.

Guru umpama khalifah pilihan,
Matang fikiran elok tindakan.

GURINDAM KASIHKAN GURU (BAHAGIAN II)

Guru laksana Gedung ilmu,
Menunjuk ajar tiada jemu.

Guru sepantun kiriman Tuhan,
Kata menyantun titipan harapan.

Guru adalah pewaris anbia,
Galas Amanah tugas mulia.

Guru mithali tamsilan peribadi,
Semerbak mewangi lestari abadi.

Guru sebanding anugerah terbilang,
Wibawa berganding megah terjulang

HAIKU

Iz 'an Bin Rosmani
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Kelantan*

On tongues, they dance free,
Echoing truth, they decree.
Actions sparked, destiny.

I'M ON MY WAY TO RISE

Ferial Farook, Anida Ismail, Noraini Rahim, Siti Rohimi Mohamed Apandi
*Fakulti Hotel dan Pengurusan Pelancongan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Pulau Pinang*

My dreams are too big sometimes it scares me,
Will I quit, will I give up?
Not as long as I have air in my lungs
I pledge to make it happen - with blood, sweat & tears

It might not make sense to some
It might seem crazy for others
It's not their dream so it might not make sense
I promise one day they'll finally understand

You can achieve whatever you set your mind to achieve
There's always hope
Take your fears, limiting beliefs, self-sabotage & self-doubt out of the equation

I'm grateful for the support
I'm thankful for the judgements
Both are reasons for me to keep going
Purpose for me to stay true to my dreams

For I believe when the time comes
We'll together celebrate my winnings!

IF CHOICES ARE GIVEN

Natasha Zuhaimi
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Pahang*

If choices are given
To be happy or to be sad,
To be strong or to be weak,
To be healthy or to be sick,
To live in peace or to be in conflict,
To stay alive... or to die?
If choices are given,
People will choose life over death,
People will choose good over evil.
Cries and shouts are strange to be heard,
Chuckles and laughter are music to the ears.
Now tell me...
If choices are given,
Will misery be chosen?

IMPROMPTU GETAWAY

Octavia Willibrord, Alice Wong Su Chu
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sabah*

It's impromptu and unplanned,
Like two lovers,
A place was chosen beforehand,
Somewhere lively, nothing bland,

Zero items in the agenda?
They dined and unwind to their hearts' content,
They talked about work and personal dilemma,
They listened to each other's rant,

The menu came; they made their orders,
Ribena longan and orange juice,
Nasi goreng and banana fritters,
All the comfort food to beat the blues,

Inspiration hit in the midst of chatting,
They crafted a poem to highlight the moment,
Cracking their heads in the rustic setting,
They were both in their best element,

And so that's how this poem was made,
From a carefree date to a blithe poetry,
Both were pleased with the role they played,
In crafting a simple and random story.

LITERATURE BLOSSOMS IN THE STOCK MARKET

Bok Check Meng
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Melaka

Wandering in the garden of literature,
Word in action ignites the light of wisdom.
MACD is rising, the Bollinger Bands are opening,
KDJ dances, RSI smells potential.

The road to college is as changeable as the stock market.
The moving averages are staggered, and the leading direction is gradually becoming clear.
Opportunities are hidden in the ocean of knowledge,
Move forward bravely, the sea of learning is endless.

Thoughts fluctuate like the market,
Catalyzed by the word in action, creativity erupts like a spring.
The courage to face difficulties without fear,
Witness the talent flying in the palace of literature.

No matter the challenge, faith is as firm as mountains and rivers,
Wisdom in action shines like literary genius.
MACD, Bollinger Bands, KDJ and RSI,
Leading creation, the flower of literature becomes more gorgeous.

LOVE IS BLIND

Cyndra Robert Budull
*Fakulti Sains Sukan dan Rekreasi,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sarawak*

I've loved you from the first moment
My feelings can't be translated
I would become a writer
and describe you in my favourite book

Love is blind
Which I could never explain
If I could explain these feelings of pain
To disappear or to remain

The cloud is now complained
So then it brings the rains
If I never saw you again
I wish I could smile again

To me, you're the sun
Brightening the day
To me, you're the rain
My eyes tear all day

I speak to the sky, staring at the sun
Your face crosses my mind
I don't search for answers anymore
Deep inside I know this is just another lesson

Arousal increased; anxiety attacked
My hamstring hurts
But remember you're worth it
Like the krebs cycle used to generate energy
Even when you're not fully understood

MADAH INDAH PENGUAT JIWA

Mohamad Firdaus Ahmad, Nur Syazwani Zulaikha Safwan, Muhamad Hafiz Hassan
*Fakulti Sains Sukan dan Rekreasi, Kolej Pengajian Seni Kreatif,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Negeri Sembilan & Sarawak*

Hidup ini pastinya terdapat cabaran dan ujian yang melanda diri. Adakalanya kita seakan-akan tidak mampu bernafas untuk menghadapinya, bahkan terus berduka dengan merasakan tiadanya keadilan untuk diri. Sebenarnya, kita sebagai manusia yang hidup dimuka bumi ini perlu percaya bahawa setiap yang berlaku pasti ada hikmah yang telah ditentukan oleh yang maha Esa. Oleh itu, perlu untuk kita berpegang dengan madah indah yang boleh menjadikan diri sentiasa kuat berhadapan dengan episod duka.

“Ujian yang berlaku terhadap diri adalah untuk menjadikan diri menjadi lebih kuat berbanding sebelumnya”

“Kadangkala kita berasa cukup kecewa terhadap sesuatu perkara, tapi percayalah perkara yang berlaku itu sebenarnya adalah yang terbaik untuk diri sendiri”

“Selalu percaya bahawa sesuatu yang indah akan terjadi setelah menghadapi kesedihan diri”

“Tidak semua orang sama macam diri kita dan diri kita tidak sama seperti orang lain. Jadilah diri yang sentiasa berpijak atas kaki sendiri”

“Bila kita rasa gagal terhadap sesuatu perkara, jangan mudah mengalah dan terus bangkit melangkah ke hadapan”

“Jatuh bangun dalam hidup ini akan ada insan yang sentiasa berada dibelakang untuk menyokong dan mendoakan. Mereka adalah keluarga kita”

MANDIRI

Siti Nur Fatimah Md Aminnullah, Nur Fatimah Aisyah Shahril
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sabah*

Dua tiga kucing berlari,
Mana nak sama si kucing belang,
Dua tiga tempat ku pergi,
Mana nak sama di Sabah tersayang.

Jauh perjalanan luas pemandangan,
Hijrah ke negeri orang tambah pengalaman,
Gundah dan gembira berbau perasaan,
Hidup yang baru ingin dimulakan.

Kecil tapak tangan nyiru kami tadahkan,
Tempatnya indah orangnya aman,
Orangnya beramal penuh keikhlasan,
Sekecil-kecil bantuan, dibantu penuh ketulusan.

Ada batang cendawan tumbuh,
Kian hari menjalin hubungan yang utuh,
Adat difahami lagi dikukuh,
Perbezaan yang ku temukan indah sungguh.

Ada batang mati, adalah cendawan tumbuh,
Rezeki diperolehi, ku usaha sungguh-sungguh,
Jauh dari negeri sendiri tidak ku rapuh,
Mandirilah diri jangan kau jatuh.

MANUSIA MALANG

Andrialis Abdul Rahman
*Kolej Pengajian Seni Kreatif,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Puncak Alam*

Disaat langkah kelam datang dalam sembunyi,
Aku menapaki hidup dengan perlahan,
Dalam remang hati yang penuh tanya,
Aku mencari arti di balik setiap persoalan.

Dalam sunyi, aku menggali makna,
Dalam hina, aku mencari cinta,
Di hamparan reruntuhan masa lalu,
Aku menemukan benih jawapan.

Aku bukanlah pilihan kesalahan,
Melainkan kisah tabah di antara ribuan rintangan,
Dalam redup, cahaya menyinari jalan,
Dan pada akhirnya, aku berdiri teguh.

Manusia malang, aku adalah manusia yang beruntung,
Kerana di dalam kehancuran, aku menemukan kekuatan,
Dan di hujung kegelapan, aku menemui sinar mentari,
Menyapa dengan penuh kehangatan yang menyenangkan.

MY MOTHER SAID

Nurul Aina Johari
*Fakulti Sains Pentadbiran dan Pengajian Polisi,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sabah*

My mother said:

Life is a tough journey, in the cascade of light,
Through dark and doubt, with all your might.
Still hold on tight, don't lose your sight,
Keep your grip on hope.

My mother said:

When skies are gray and troubles loom,
And dreams seem distant in the gloom,
Remember this: in every trial you cope,
Lies your strength, the bearer of the name.

My Mother said:

So take each step, one at a time,
I'll wait for you at the end.

PANTUN: PELAJAR CEMERLANG, ADAB TERBILANG

Nurnazirah Bt. Jamadin
*Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sarawak*

Bunga mawar di tepi taman,
Harumnya semerbak menyegar jiwa,
Pelajar cemerlang berakhlak sopan,
Ilmu ditimba, adab dijaga.

Burung berkicau nyaring dan pekal,
Menyanyi riang di dahan kelapa,
Tingkah laku baik jadi bekal,
Menjadi contoh setiap masa.

Melati putih mekar gemilang,
Indah berseri di tepi pagar,
Tinggi adab pelajar cemerlang,
Hormati guru, rakan, dan keluarga.

Pelita bersinar di dalam taman,
Cahaya terang pemandu arah,
Akhlik mulia jadi pedoman,
Masa depan gemilang penuh barakah.

Pohon rendang di batu lias,
Tempat berteduh si anak nelayan,
Pelajar mulia tutur berhias,
Budi pekerti menjadi teladan.

Buah mangga jatuh ke hujung,
Manis rasanya dimakan bersama,
Ilmu di dada, adab di junjung,
Ke mana pergi dihormati semua.

Anak itik berenang ke tepi,
Di tepi tasik riang gembira,
Pelajar cemerlang rendah hati,
Berakhlak mulia sentiasa terpelihara.

PENJAGA KEBENARAN: AYAT FITNAH

Musramaini Mustapha, Suria Fadhillah Md Pauzi
*Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Pahang*

Di alam di mana kata-kata memegang berat dan kebenaran adalah mahkota,
Kebohongan mengintai seperti bayang-bayang, bersedia untuk menarik kita ke bawah,
Fitnah, bisikan lidah dan serata tulisan di alam maya,
Racun yang menyemai perselisihan dan salah faham di mana keharmonian pernah wujud.

Di mahkamah keadilan, definisinya jelas,
Mencemarkan nama baik, didorong oleh kerakusan untuk menjahanamkan orang lain,
Pernyataan palsu, diucapkan atau ditulis dengan dakwat mahupun alam maya misalnya,
Bilah yang bertujuan untuk melukai, memalukan dan merosakkan reputasi ke lantai
paling bawah.

Dengan pena yang bergetar, menaip pada platform atau lidah yang lalai,
Kerosakan dilakukan, kemudaratan dilemparkan.
Namun, di tengah kekacauan, seseorang mesti memahami,
Berat perkataan, kuasa kata adalah di tangan kita.

Kerana dalam kebebasan, terdapat seni hidup bertamadun yang harus difahami serta
dihormati,
Untuk bercakap benar dengan berani, namun dengan hati yang terjaga,
Untuk undang-undang dalam fitnah, kekuatan peguam kepada setiap hak yang benar,
Untuk melindungi orang yang tidak bersalah, dalam menyatakan kebenaran.

Kerana reputasi, sekali tercalar, sukar untuk ditebus semula,
Noda pada jiwa, bayangan pada nama.
Jadi marilah kita berhati-hati, dalam ucapan dan tulisan,
Untuk menegakkan kehormatan, dan menjaga kebenaran.

Dalam bidang kata-kata, biarkan integriti memerintah,
Kerana dalam fitnah, akan ada kesedihan dan kesakitan.
Marilah kita membina jambatan dengan kebenaran sebagai panduan kita,
Dan dalam cahaya keadilan, biarkan kebatilan mereda

PUISI RINDU SEORANG ANAK UNTUK AYAH

Nurnazirah Bt. Jamadin
*Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sarawak*

Di bawah langit senja yang kelabu,
Tersimpan rindu dalam kalbu,
Kenangan bersama ayah tercinta,
Abadi dalam jiwa, tak pernah pudar.

Kata-katamu ayah, lembut dan tegas,
Menjadi panduan, menenangkan resah,
Setiap nasihat penuh hikmah,
Menjaga langkah, membina arah.

Dalam sepi malam, aku termenung,
Mengimbas wajahmu yang penuh tenang,
Suara lembutmu memanggil pulang,
Mengajarkan kasih dalam diam.

Duhai Ayah, kasihmu tiada ganti,
Walau jasadmu telah pergi,
Cintamu kekal abadi,
Menjadi cahaya di lorong sunyi.

Di setiap helaan nafas,
Terselit doa penuh tulus,
Meningati pengorbananmu yang ikhlas,
Membesarkan dengan penuh kasih tak terbalas.

Setiap kata yang kau titipkan,
Menjadi semangat dalam kehidupan,
Menguatkan hati saat kesulitan,
Menjadi pelita di jalan kegelapan.

Ayah, kau tetap di sini, didalam hati
Dalam kenangan, dalam mimpi,
Walau raga tak lagi di sisi,
Kasih sayangmu abadi selamanya.

Dalam setiap langkah yang kuambil,
Teringat pesanmu yang tak pernah silap,
Mengajarkan cinta, kejujuran, dan tabah,
Akan ku ingat pesan mu sampai bila-bila
Itulah warisan paling berharga.
Ayahku yang lelah, selamat berehat di alam abadi.
23.09.1956 - 04.08.2002

RISE AND SHINE

Siti Nur Fatimah Md Aminnullah, Sazirah Jaafar, Edwina Ivy Anthonius
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sabah*

You are in a space of learning bright and wide,
Where ambitions and goals are deep inside,
You start the journey with steps so small,
To reach the goal beyond the hall.

Every lesson you learn, every book you read,
You plant the flower to grow a seed,
You are still young with a curious mind,
Follow your heart and the future you will find.

As you and your friends walk the road ahead,
Let courage guide each step that you tread,
Enjoy all the moments and just go ahead,
Cherish rise and fall just don't be dread.

On this journey, purity and truth you will find,
Face each lesson with faith in your mind,
Dreams and successes are yours to seek,
Strength will rise even from the weak.

You are the light, you are the star,
Always fly high and keep aiming far,
No matter how hard the challenges are,
Embrace it all just be who you are.

SPORT DAY IS BAKE DAY!

Audrey Koh
Sek. Men. Keb. Majakir, Papar, Sabah

Every year
for as long as I can remember
I set myself out
in the green, green field
to bake and brown
the skin on my pristine face
crusty as a baguette
yet pillowy inside.
Voice hoarse
from shouting at kids
screaming at them
and getting them to
impossibly
stand in a straight line
but crooked it must
to keep my blood boiling
in the heat of the day
and day drags on to days
until one hot afternoon
the trophies are handed out
the hampers are
launched in the air
and fists pump away
and hip-hip hoorays
signal the end
of the long, hot, tiring days.

Yet we wouldn't trade in
this torturous tradition
no matter how many layers
of skin dies a painful death
how much lotion
we slapped on for protection
because
it keeps us young inside...
Our blood runs in time

with the fastest sprinter
even if our flesh
betrays us,
Our hearts race with the
relay runners
even if our bodies are really just jelly,
Our eyes fly across the distance
with every javelin throw
even if our arms
have lost their spring.

And so we roast and burn
and moan and groan
about how baked we are
but like good crusty bread
our insides are soft
for the love of
the sacrifices of your average crusty, burnt but happy teacher.

TACTLESS DICTION

Amizura Hanadi Mohd Radzi
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Perlis

Words in the physical form
seem so harmless.
Existing in so many letters,
English, Greek, Latin, Arabic, Hangul...
But with intended meanings,
they can do the unimaginable.
Inflicting pain mercilessly,
like an unsheathed sword,
stabbing, slicing, jabbing,
echoing in one's head relentlessly,
turning immortal by...
tattooing themselves on one's soul.
Like a magic trick,
once spoken,
it is a definite done deal.
No apologies can ever undo it.
Flower bouquets, gifts, and phone calls,
can never unsaid what has been uttered.
Only regret remains, and...
a glimmer of hope of being forgiven.

THE CHEER LEADER

Audrey Koh
Sek. Men. Keb. Majakir, Papar, Sabah

They say that the truth hurts.
That words slice and
It cuts too deeply.

We teachers,
We're frank to a point
Razor sharp
Keep them on their toes.
But in all my years
Drowning in forlorn eyes
Of kids looking up to us searching
For some sign of acceptance
For that precious lil nod,
Have I realised
That everything
Can be said
Another way.

You're stupid! Bodohnya kau!
That's not right. Here, let me show you.
What an idiot! Dunggu betul!
You didn't get the correct answer this time.
How about you do it this way instead?
You're so lazy! Pemasas!
Maybe if you started, the rest would be easy.
You're hopeless! Tiada guna punya budak!
I've failed before too,
You just need to unlearn and relearn.
Come on, you can do it.
Just try.
One more time.
Please.

Words,
They cut, oh, so deeply.
I've learnt

That love leads the way.
Cos when you care,
Hearts are open to learning.
Minds grasp to understand
All the 'A's and glowing results
Pale in the light of trying
To be better today than yesterday
To strive harder tomorrow
Than today.
So let's cheer them on,
Be a leader by example.
Be kinder with our tongue.
Pepper it with gratitude.
For the salt of life
May already be too hard to swallow.
Sugarcoat, the bitter pill, just a lil
Care enough,
Love enough,
To say it a different way.
A better way.

THE GRIEFS OF OTHERS – BEAUTIFUL AT A DISTANCE

Judy Ng Miang Koon
Hebei University

Like a mold of clay on the potter's wheel,
dizzy from the spinning of the wheel,
then, the pressures from the potter's hand,
like cold air entering the lungs by force,
causing distortion,
as the clay sat in a daze.

Sensational, stinging cut from the potter's knife,
began scarring its body with pretty tattoos,
The torture isn't over yet,
it is now sitting in an extremely hot oven
The clay is weeping
“When will the pain cease?”

After the clay was smeared,
with pungent, assorted, colorful acrylic paint,
its grief ended,
no longer a repulsive clay.
It is now a beautiful vase.

Likewise, the grief of a poem,
it looks beautiful at a distance,
often its grief is also overlooked.

THE LADDERS BEHIND THE SUCCESS

Fauziana Bt Fauzi @ Mat Rawi
*Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Puncak Alam*

SUCCESS...

A word reflects pain and tears.
Impossible to achieve without strong ladders behind.
That support me during the hardest moments of my life.
Parents, siblings, relatives, friends, husbands ...
teachers and lecturers...
The angels of my life.
Sacrificing time and money,
Praying, giving advice ...
Elements that determine who I am today.
Its a blessing to have a foresighted parent.
Who understands the importance of education and religion.
Which shields me from the transgressions,
Boosting my pride and dignity,
Enable me to be part of an educated society,
at the workplace and neighbourhood.
May Allah bless them with heaven.
Siblings,
Thanks for always being by my side.
At the toughest moments of my life...
Husband,
Thanks for always being my other half.
Acknowledge my challenges in trying to be your ideal wife.
And to all my friends and people around me,
I appreciate your kindness and wonderful opinions.

THE MUSICAL DRAMA OF LIFE

Lindey E. Apoloni
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sabah*

The spotlight captivates the eyes.
The quest for gold and title is your paradise.
Since your dream is igniting your heart,
Dancing to every beat has to be by heart.

When the music goes crescendo,
Your steps have to allegro
Your feet are starting to bleed.
Yet the drama has to proceed.

Every action has to be precise.
Singing and dancing at the same time.
You genuinely focus on your mission.
Making hardcore sacrifices that cause division.

The rhythm and melodies are no longer pleasing.
Friends and family are all sighing.
You wonder if the music is out of tune.
Then you discern this musical drama is taking your life out of tune.

THE POWER OF PERSEVERANCE

Nurnazirah Bt. Jamadin
*Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sarawak*

In the quiet dawn of morning's light,
When dreams feel distant, hopes take flight,
Remember, students, words hold power,
To guide you through each daunting hour.

With every challenge, every strife,
Words can breathe new life into life,
They whisper softly, "Don't give in,"
A beacon where success begins.

When shadows loom and doubts prevail,
When effort seems to no avail,
Let words of courage, bold and true,
Ignite the strength that lies in you.

For action springs from thoughts and speech,
A lesson words have long to teach,
That perseverance, steady, firm,
Transforms each setback and helps you learn.

So, when the path seems rough and steep,
And trials cause your heart to weep,
Recall these words: persist, endure,
For victory is won by the sure.

In every book and spoken phrase,
In songs of old and modern days,
The truth remains clear and profound,
In words, the seed of strength is found.

So arm yourself with language bright,
With words that turn the dark to light,
Let "I can do it" be your cry,
And soar with wings to touch the sky.

For words in action, hearts inspire,
They fan the flames of inner fire,
Dear students, heed this guiding plea,
In every word, find liberty.

Never falter, never bend,
Let words of hope be your best friend,
For in your journey, near and far,
Words in action are your star.

UNSEEN HEROES OF THE CLASSROOM

Nurnazirah Bt. Jamadin
*Fakulti Pengurusan Perniagaan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Sarawak*

In the quiet dawn, the day begins,
A teacher's journey, where hope springs,
Through halls of learning, wisdom shared,
With every word, a life prepared.

Beneath the flickering classroom light,
A lantern shines, both day and night,
Through sacrifice and tireless fight,
A teacher's love, a guiding sight.

Each lesson planned, each word conveyed,
With patience, heart, and dreams arrayed,
They shape the minds with gentle hand,
To help young souls to understand.

Through trials faced and battles won,
Their mission clear, their work not done,
With passion deep and steadfast grace,
They forge the future, leave a trace.

For every question, every doubt,
They find a way to lead them out,
Through paths unknown, they guide the way,
Till knowledge blooms in bright array.

Their words in action, pure and strong,
They teach the right, they mend the wrong,
With every student, every class,
They plant the seeds that grow to last.

Oh, noble teacher, warrior wise,
In your pursuit, the future lies,
Through sacrifice and fervent plea,
You shape the world, set minds free.

So let us honour, let us praise,
The ones who light our darkest days,
For in their words, their deeds, their care,
We find the strength to dream, to dare.

Their words in action, hearts they guide,
A legacy of love untold,
With every lesson, every trial,
They walk the extra, unseen mile.

WHO WE ARE TODAY

Emma Marini Abd Rahim, Mia Emily Abd Rahim
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Terengganu*

When we had no knowledge of what life was all about,
We learnt from two people
Who sacrificed theirs for their children
Our Mak, our Papa

When we had no concern about commitment
We observed two people
Who shared hardships and responsibilities for their children
Our Mak, our Papa

When we had no idea of joy or sorrow,
We heard laughter, and we heard the cries of two people.
Our Mak, our Papa

When we had no worries about financial securities
We saw two people
Who worked days and nights to provide for their children
Our Mak, our Papa

When we had no understanding of the relationship
We watched two people
Whose patience and tolerance go way beyond what words can describe
Our Mak, our Papa

SHORT STORY

THE WHISPERING WIND

Siti Dalina binti Tumiran @ Kamal Nasser
*Fakulti Perakaunan,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Kelantan*

The Beginning of Change

In the peaceful village of Kampung Aman, surrounded by beautiful hills and peaceful rivers, lived a young girl named Safiyyah. She was known for her beautiful face and curious mind, but as time passed, the challenges of life began to weigh down on her. The village, with its charming scenery, presented Safiyyah with various challenges that often overwhelmed her in the midst of her daily struggles.

An Unexpected Mentor

One day, while exploring the dense forest that bordered her village, Safiyyah came across an old man sitting by a river, whispering to the wind. Curious, she cautiously approached him. The man, with a gentle smile and insightful eyes, introduced himself as Pak Amin, a hermit who had embraced the peacefulness of the forest to seek inner peace and enlightenment.

Pak Amin sensed the immense joy in Safiyyah's heart and shared with her a simple yet profound mantra: "The strength you seek is within you." Sceptical but hopeful, Safiyyah started to make regular visits to Pak Amin. Every visit filled her with a sense of joy and wonder, as she absorbed the stories, teachings, and words of encouragement that gradually shifted her perspective on life.

Hidden Truths Unveiled

Safiyyah's confidence increased as time went on. She demonstrated exceptional proficiency in her academic pursuits, gave help to her family, and initiated a modest communal initiative aimed at aiding fellow youth residing in her area. The words of Pak Amin had really created amazing effects.

One evening, while Safiyyah was getting ready to go visit Pak Amin, she unintentionally listened to a discussion between her parents. Surprisingly, she uncovered that Pak Amin was not only a wise hermit but also her biological grandfather, who had been separated from the family for an extended period of time as a result of a forgotten conflict. The parents had concealed this information in order to shield her from the painful history.

Safiyyah, driven by a strong need for understanding, confronted both her parents and Pak Amin. The revelation brought tears, yet also fostered deeper understanding and an

opportunity for reconciliation. Safiyyah's life was not only transformed but also a broken family was healed by the power of words.

The Winds of Transformation

Safiyyah stood by the river, which was the very place where she had initially met Pak Amin. she whispered to the wind, sensing the lingering echo of his wisdom and the newfound strength within herself. The phrase "The strength you seek is within you" pushed her towards a journey of self-exploration and healing, demonstrating that words possess the ability to transform lives in unforeseen manners.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE: CAMPUS LOVE

Aisyah Noor Maisarah Azhar, Juritah Misman, Zainab Hj Mohd Zain
*Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Melaka*

Qistina arrived at the Alor Gajah campus to begin her new chapter of studying for a diploma in English programme. She was excited to begin her campus life. It seemed that she was walking on air, living her dream—just like one of those teenage movies about campus life. So that night, she decided to make friends with her new roommate, Syirah. Surprisingly, both of them hit off well. They had so much in common. They both felt privileged to share a room at Sabariah Hostel.

The next morning, Qistina and Syirah prepared to attend their first classes. They studied in different courses. Therefore, that morning, they set out on their journeys to attend their first classes for the semester. Qistina arrived at her class feeling anxious about whether she would be liked by her new classmates. Fortunately, when she entered her classroom, she was pleasantly surprised to see them smiling at her. Qistina, in turn, smiled back at them and sat beside a girl wearing headphones. It turned out to be her dorm neighbour, Alisa. Not long after that, their lecturer entered the classroom and introduced herself. She then asked the students to do the same. Once everyone had finished introducing themselves to the class, they started their first class for the semester.

Fast forward: it was lunchtime. The students hurried to Café Sabby. By that time, there were already quite a lot of people at the café. Qistina, Alisa, and their new friend, Wani, decided to eat there since they did not know much about the place. After they finished their food, they went back for their next class in the afternoon session. Once they finished their last class for that day, they decided to hang out together for a while at a nearby café. So, they went to Richiamo Café, near the campus sports arena. Once tired, they went back to their dormitories to get some rest.

The next day, as usual, they attended another day of packed classes. Their lecturer instructed them to form pairs for their upcoming assignments in their literature class. Here, the lecturer said she would decide who would be paired with whom. Initially, everyone was annoyed. This was because they wanted to find their partners. However, the lecturer was quite strict about this. Alas, the students had no choice but to follow the directives given by the teacher. Every student was assigned a partner. Once done, the lecturer continued to explain the details of her assignments. Afterwards, Qistina and her new partner, Khairul, made plans to go to the library to continue with their pair's work discussions. Following that, they continued to meet at the library for ongoing discussions.

After their classes, Qistina and Khairul continued to hang out together for chats and study discussions. This continued for quite some time. Meanwhile, Alisa and Wani began to suspect that Qistina and Khairul were involved in something they were unaware of. Feeling curious, Alisa and Wani went to look for Qistina in her room to ask her about it.

Knock! Knock! They went inside Qistina's room for a chat. Feeling excited, Alisa quickly asked what was going on between Qistina and Khairul. Qistina was shocked to be asked such a direct question. She instantly blushed and stuttered when answering the questions. Seeing her reddish face, Alisa and Wani started to make some jokes about the topic.

Wani then asked if Qistina would ever confess to Khairul about her feelings. However, Qistina was worried about whether or not she should declare her feelings to Khairul. This was because she had never really thought about confessing. She was worried that her confession could end up ruining the friendship that they had right now. Wani and Alisa urged Qistina to give it a try because it might work out better. But even then, Qistina was still anxious, because if Khairul rejected her, it would make it awkward for the two of them to be in the same classes or group discussions later on.

Oh dear! Qistina was confused about what she should do. Should she keep her feelings to herself or should she confess to Khairul?

WORD OF WISDOM

Mohd Izani Othman
*Fakulti Farmasi,
Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Pulau Pinang*

Dr. Othman entered and stood at the front of the lecture hall, watching his students as they entered the hall. Today, marked his 15th year of service as a lecturer at the faculty. Year after year, he had encountered countless keen students, each with dreams of progressing from their diploma to a Bachelor of Pharmacy. Likewise, he sensed a familiar tension in the air – a blend of hope and anxiety.

"Assalamualaikum and good day, my dear students," he began uttering his words. "Today, before we begin the lesson, I want to share a few inspiring stories that I hope will inspire you in life and your future undertakings."

The hall went quiet as the students leaned in, curious. Dr. Othman always liked to motivate his students, and his stories always left an impact on them.

"Since I've started my career as a lecturer" he started, "I've seen many students wish to continue their studies into the Bachelor of Pharmacy program. In reality, some made it, but not all succeeded due to the set academic criteria. I've always encouraged my students to put in their best efforts. But I want to remind all of you—if you don't make it to the Bachelor in Pharmacy, it's not the end of your journey."

He paused, letting his words sink in. "Let me share some examples. Years ago, there was a student named Budi. He was determined, dedicated, and hardworking, but despite his efforts, he didn't meet the criteria for the Bachelor in Pharmacy programme. He narrowly missed it. I remember calling him to my office and telling him, 'Budi, it's not the end of the road – it's just the beginning. You have the capability and determination to achieve great things in life. Keep pushing forward – keep reaching for the stars.'"

Down the memory lane, Dr. Othman saw Budi's determined face. "Budi took my words to heart. He pursued a degree in Biochemistry, and then a Master's in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Today, he holds a PhD from a reputable university in Australia and is making significant contributions to nanodrug research. He may not have become a pharmacist, but he found his path and excelled."

The students were silent – captivated by the story.

"Then there's Wana," Dr. Othman continued. "She, too, faced setbacks, extended her study and couldn't get into the Bachelor in Pharmacy programme. After a long one-on-one conversation, I told her, 'Wana, this obstacle doesn't define your future. Your perseverance and passion will lead you to success in many other ways.' She went on to study Chemistry and eventually earned a Master's in the same discipline. Today, she's working as a product researcher for a drug company."

Dr. Othman's eyes swept across the room. "You all have this power within you. Whether you achieve your initial goals or not, your journey doesn't end with a single stumbling block. Your words to yourselves and others carry immense weight. Use them to motivate, to inspire, and to keep moving forward."

On the very day, he concluded his lecture with a smile, feeling the weight of his message settle over the students. As they left the hall, he noticed a few lingering, their expressions thoughtful. One by one, they approached him with their own stories, questions, and dreams. Dr. Othman knew his words had sparked something powerful—a realisation that the most significant impacts often come from the simplest acts of communication. He felt a renewed sense of purpose, ready to continue his journey of guiding and inspiring the next generation of students in the coming years.

TRAVEL

A PURRFECT HOLIDAY IN KUCHING

Juritah Misman, NurFitri Syazwan Jamel

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,

Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Sarawak, Ingenious Language Center, Kuching

Fitri was at the airport with his former UiTM English lecturer, Miss Jue who had just arrived at the Kuching Airport half an hour earlier. Accidentally, Fitri had to attend to a tourist from Turkey. An international singer, Zain Malique had decided to visit Fitri's hometown, Kuching. Fitri was assigned to be his tour guide for that day. Fitri was very excited about it. He himself was a big fan of Zain Malique. His mind was busy thinking about the places he had planned to take Zain to. After waiting for about 30 minutes at the arrival gate, Zain finally arrived.

(At the airport)

Fitri: (*Holding a placard*) Hello, there!

Zain Malique: Hello sir, are you the tourist guide?

Fitri: Oh yes, I am! My name is Fitri and you are Zain Malique, right? Welcome to Malaysia. For your information, you are now in Kuching, Sarawak!

Zain Malique: Kuching? What a nice name. Alhamdulillah. I'm excited to be here for a holiday. Can't wait to tour the city! Wow!

Fitri: Anyway, Zain. Let me introduce to you my former lecturer from UiTM Melaka here. This is Miss Jue. She had just arrived in Kuching half an hour ago. She will tag along with us for a while. Is that okay with you, Mr Zain Malique?

Miss Jue: Hi there Mr Zain. I'm honoured to meet you. My students and I like your songs you know! Could I join you for a while, as a fan you know! It's a once in a lifetime opportunity! Mr. Zain, I hope you don't mind. AND yeah... I used your songs a few times in my English classroom to teach about moral values! You know what! Both of you would be inspirational to my students in Melaka. A talented artist and an inspirational student! Awesome guys!

Zain Malique: Sure madam. Alhamdulillah. Madam. Let's go Fitri.

Fitri: Alhamdulillah. Zain and Miss Jue. Come, let's go to our van.

(**Inside the van**)

Zain Malique: Hmm... Nice view and nice people here. What is so special about Kuching, Fitri?

Fitri: Zain, we are now heading to the famous Sarawak Cultural Village. I promise you it will be an experience you will never forget.

Zain Malique: Really? I can't wait to get there.

Miss Jue: Yup. Me too Fitri. I hope to capture many pictures to show off to my family and friends. Hahaha. Oops!

Fitri: It's a long way, Zain. I suggest that you take a brief nap. I believe you are tired having gone through an 11-hour flight, right? Don't worry. I will wake you up once we are there. Yeah! You too, Miss Jue!

(At the Iban House, Sarawak Cultural Village)

Issac: Selamat Datai Rah Sarawak!

Miss Jue: Hi there! Thank you.

Zain Malique: Oh! What's the meaning of that, Fitri?

Fitri: It means Welcome to Sarawak.

Zain Malique: Oh I see. What is he?

Fitri: He is an Iban.

Zain Malique: The language is very unique. I love the way he spoke just now.

Isaac: Nemu jakuk Iban nuan?

Fitri: Hahaha! Oh! Now he is asking you whether you know some words in Iban.

Zain Malique: Hahaha! Of course a big NO NO It's my first time here.

Miss Jue: Me, too Zain. It's my first time here to this village.

Fitri: Alright. Zain and Miss Jue. Let's go! Let us visit the Melanau House now.

(At Melanau House, Sarawak Cultural Village)

Ardan: Selamat Tapak kat Kuching, Sarawak.

Zain Malique: Okay. What is that supposed to mean?

Fitri: It means Welcome to Kuching, Sarawak.

Zain Malique: Awesome man! hehehe! Do you know the Melanau language, Fitri?

Miss Jue: Teach us some words Fitri. Selamat Tapak kat Kuching. I feel so welcome now!

Fitri: Yup. Zain. Miss Jue. In fact, I know some expressions, Hahaha! I am a patriotic Sarawakian. I love Kuching! You can find lots of people from different ethnicities here. It's fun here.

Ardan: (Offering some 'Tebaloi') Ngak Keman ka?

Fitri: Ngak Keman means have you eaten?

Zain Malique: Oh, I haven't eaten anything since this morning. I only ate in the plane earlier.

Fitri: (Picking a piece of the 'Tebaloi' offered) I think you should try this Tebaloi. It's really good! Here try some Zain. Miss Jue, you too. Bismillah.

Miss Jue: Yummy! Thank you. Let me try. Bismillah. Awesome! Let's take some pictures. I MUST update this picture with my students, family and friends. A brilliant senior and famous artist in the house! Hahaha! Let's do some selfies. Cheese!

Zain Malique: Okay. (Tasting the 'Tebaloi') Oh my, you are right. This thing here is really good. I am going to buy all of them.

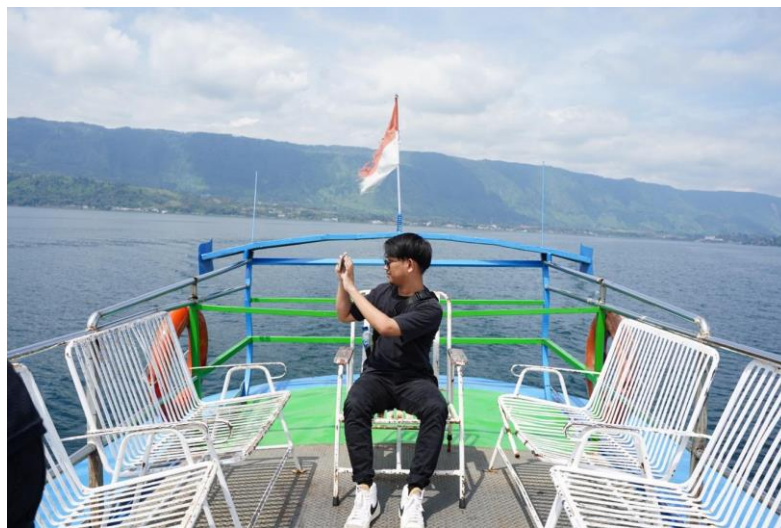
Fitri: Alright. Go ahead! Don't forget to get some for me! Hahaha!

EXPLORING THE CULTURAL CHARMS OF MEDAN, INDONESIA: FROM PULAU TUBA TO KESAWAN SQUARE

Muhammad Fikri Md Yazid, Fahmi Samsudin
*Kolej Pengajian Seni Kreatif,
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The bustling city of Medan, located in the vibrant tapestry of North Sumatra, Indonesia, is a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and gastronomic delights. It is nestled in the middle of the bustling city. A complex tapestry of experiences that capture the spirit of Indonesian culture can be found in Medan. These experiences range from the peaceful shores of Pulau Tuba to the frenetic markets of Pasar Hindu and Kesawan Square.

There is a calm retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city that can be found on Pulau Tuba, a tranquil island paradise located just off the coast of Medan. Pulau Tuba is a paradise of natural beauty that can be reached from the mainland through a short boat ride. It consists of untouched beaches, crystal clear waterways, and thick tropical forests just waiting to be discovered. Relaxing on the sandy coastlines, snorkelling among the vibrant coral reefs, or hiking through the island's verdant interior are all activities that visitors can enjoy during their time on the island. The island of Pulau Tuba is the ideal location for people who are interested in nature and the outdoors because it provides chances for activities such as birdwatching, kayaking, and fishing for those who are looking for an exciting adventure.



The best view of Pulau Tuba is from the ferry we rode, showcasing the beauty and scenery of the mountain with the calming effect of nice weather, turning the experience into great memories. Photo by Muhammad Fikri Md Yazid (2024)

Pulau Tomok is yet another undiscovered treasure waiting to be found, and it is located not far from Pulau Tuba. While Pulau Tomok is steeped in history and culture, it is also home to a lovely village that gives the impression that time has stopped. Walking through the tiny lanes that are dotted with traditional wooden houses embellished with beautiful carvings and brilliant colours is an experience visitors can enjoy. The ancient stone sarcophagi, also known as "batu gantung," are one of the most notable attractions on Pulau Tomok. These sarcophagi date back more than 500 years and are a tribute to the island's rich cultural legacy. The experience of exploring Pulau Tomok is comparable to going back in time since it provides a look into a way of life that has not altered over the course of several centuries.



The best part upon arriving here, was the local businesses promoting their originally local products, with some of them crafting their own items. With prices as low as 10,000 rupiah or RM 3.00 for a small set of handmade cutleries, it was a good bargain. Photo by Muhammad Fikri Md Yazid (2024)

When travellers return to the mainland, they have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the lively atmosphere of Pasar Hindu, one of the oldest and most representative markets in Medan. Pasar Hindu, situated in the middle of the city, has stalls that are brimming with fresh food, spices, textiles, and handicrafts. It is a wonderful experience for the senses. While taking in the sights, sounds, and smells of this bustling market, tourists have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of traditional Indonesian snacks and street cuisine. These include savoury sate skewers as well as sweet kueh cakes. Pasar Hindu is not only a place to shop and dine, but it is also a cultural hub where locals congregate to socialise, share stories, and celebrate the rich diversity of their ancestry at the same time.



Another local attraction, Pasar Hindu, is famous for its markets selling food and groceries. A tip when visiting here: please speak in their language and you will get a good bargain. Photo by Muhammad Fikri Md Yazid (2024)

A trip to Medan would not be complete without taking a stroll through Kesawan Square, considered to be the city's principal historical centre. Kesawan Square is a monument to Medan's eclectic background, with influences from Malay, Chinese, Indian, and Dutch cultures obvious at every turn. It is surrounded by buildings that date back to the colonial era and lively shops. The 'Tjong A Fie Mansion' is a magnificent example of Chinese-Dutch architecture, and visitors have the opportunity to admire its magnificence. Additionally, they may browse the colourful stalls of Pasar Raya, one of the oldest markets in Medan. In addition, Kesawan Square is home to a wide variety of street vendors that serve traditional snacks and beverages, making it the ideal location to enjoy the flavours of Medan while taking in the bustling atmosphere of this dynamic region.

In conclusion, Medan provides tourists with a diverse array of experiences that highlight the range of cultural traditions and the natural splendour that can be found in North Sumatra. Medan is a city that captivates the mind and leaves a lasting impression on all who visit it. From the peaceful shores of Pulau Tuba to the ancient elegance of Kesawan Square, Medan is a city that truly has something to offer everyone. There is something for everyone to enjoy in Medan, whether it is strolling through historic villages, trying out the local cuisine in lively markets, or simply taking in the sights and sounds of the city. With that in mind, gather your belongings, set out on an adventure of exploration, and let yourself to be enchanted by the city of Medan.



Medan is probably an average place to visit, but if you really appreciate the little things here, they actually offer more than that. I would love to repeat the visit again, but next time probably for food hunting, as Medan is famous for its local cuisine. Photo by Muhammad Fikri Md Yazid (2024)

EXPLORING THE NATURAL WONDERS OF BANDUNG

Fahmi Samsudin
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Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan, Melaka*

Indonesia as a whole and the picturesque city of Bandung in particular are rich with resonance for the "Words in Action" topic. Bandung, a city in Indonesia, is well-known for its beautiful scenery, diverse cultural offerings, and exciting culinary scene. It is a prime example of how words, whether communicated verbally, in writing, or via art, shape and reflect the character of the city and its inhabitants.

Your jaw will drop the moment you set foot in Bandung because of the breathtaking scenery. Situated in the verdant, undulating hills of West Java, the city commands respect and wonder from onlookers as the majestic volcanic highlands provide a breathtaking background. Here, words are more than just descriptions; they're calls to action, exploration, and conservation. Bandung is a city with a strong environmental movement, with many green activities organised by the local community. These are promoted through captivating narratives in social media campaigns, encouraging both locals and tourists to preserve the natural beauty of their environment. A rallying cry that promotes collective action, the popular phrase "Lestarikan alam kita" (Preserve our nature) is visible on banners and heard in discussions.



The street people of Bandung clean up their surroundings as it is their responsibility to make sure the city is clean and comfortable. Some of them sleep around the streets because of their homeless status, but that does not prevent them from maintaining an acceptable standard of cleanliness.

The streets, houses, and markets of Bandung are the best places to see the local culture in action. A sign to the lively community life here is the fast exchange of words. You can get traditional fabrics and local delicacies in the Pasar Baru Bandung, one of the oldest markets in the city. The merchants shout out their fares and haggle with consumers in a vibrant, musical exchange that highlights the dynamic character of the city. Every encounter at this market adds threads of Bandung's history and the hospitality of its people to the tapestry of this cultural centre, which is much more than just a location to do business.

In Bandung, food also serves as a medium for the expression of ideas. A phenomenon that breathes life into the city, the annual Bandung Food Festival is much more than just an event. From the memorable festival slogans that draw in millions to the anecdotes shared by the chefs about the food they make, words are vital. A sampling of regional specialties is available at each booth, along with anecdotes about the dish's history and the chef's cultural background. As an example, the cherished Nasi Timbel, a rice meal wrapped in a banana leaf, is accompanied by stories about traditional cooking techniques that have been handed down through the years. Eating is elevated from a passive act of consumption to an active engagement in the preservation of culture when words inform, captivate, and unite.



'Alpokat' or avocado is one of the popular items here in Bandung, where they originally process the avocados which are taken from the local farm into various consumables, such as beverages, ice cream and desserts.

The landscapes of Bandung tell stories both told by nature and by the people who live there. Many people who enjoy hiking and being outside flock to the Dago Pakar area because of the stunning view it offers of the city framed by lush woodlands. In order to bring attention to the critical need to preserve these breathtaking natural areas, many tourists frequently post photos and videos of their experiences here on social media. By raising environmental

awareness and promoting eco-friendly tourism practices, these positions do more than just sit on the sidelines.



Here, 'jajanan' or snacks are also famous among locals. This business has been around for many years, helping local businesses especially single mothers in everyday earnings.

Purchases range between 5000 and 30,000 rupiah, which is around RM 1.50 and RM 10.00. You can get varieties of snacks here.

When it comes to travel, words in Bandung may teach you a lot and make you feel inspired. Using vivid imagery and detailed descriptions, travel guides, brochures, and blogs not only entice readers to visit, but also educate them on the significance of protecting local cultures and the environment. An important part of the stories told by local tour operators is the importance of being respectful of local traditions, wearing clothes that fit, and reducing one's impact on the environment. These statements serve as both a warning and a guide, moulding the expectations and actions of tourists.

And the people of Bandung are the very definition of actions speaking louder than words. They are dedicated to promoting the values of their city through storytelling, art, activism, and hosting. The people of Bandung showcase the incredible power of language to bring people together, from muralists who paint cultural and historical histories onto the streets to environmental activists who rally the community around conservation causes through digital and oral advocacy.

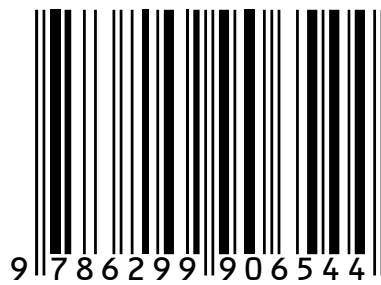


Street performances are usually available where there are traffic lights. These include singing, acting, and even acrobatics to attract road users while waiting at the traffic lights. Generally, these people live on the streets, but somehow they can still smile and enjoy their work every day.

Finally, Bandung is a city where words are alive and active, not just sitting on a shelf. The city's cuisine, travel experiences, scenery, and cultural customs are reflected in and impacted by every word spoken or written. Bandung is a wonderful example of how words have the power to inspire community involvement, environmental consciousness, and cultural preservation. Words are always performing an active role in this city, influencing, describing, and praising the rich life that resides here.

Words in Action I A Journey through Life

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Universiti Teknologi Mara, Sabah
(online)



Words in Action I

A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE

LITERARY FICTION AND POETRY
BY F.A.M.E APB

Discover the world through *Words in Action I*, a unique collection that blends poetry, short stories, and travel blog entries. This book invites readers to journey through a kaleidoscope of emotions, landscapes, and experiences. Each poem offers a glimpse into the heart, while the short stories immerse you in vivid moments of life. The travel blogs, meanwhile, take you on adventures across new places, capturing the essence of exploration and discovery.

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