

**Novels used in this study**

Karthigesu, Re. (1981). *va:nattu ve:lihaL*. Chennai: Thirumahal Nilayam.

Karthigesu, Re. (1993). *te:Tiyirukkum taruNangaL*. Penang, Malaysia: Ganesh Printing Working Sdn. Bhd.

Karthigesu, Re. (1998). *antima ka:lam*. Batu Caves, Selangor: Muhil Enterprises.

Karthigesu, Re. (2005). *su:ta:TTam a:Tum ka:lam*. Penang Malaysia: Muhil Enterprises.

A few lines about the writer:

Rengasamy Karthigesu graduated in Tamil Studies in 1968 ( with First Class Honours) from the University of Malaya. In 1977 with Asia Scholarship he finished his Masters in Journalism in the University of Columbia in New York. Then in 1991 with Commonwealth Universities' scholarship finished his Ph. D in Mass Communication from the Leicester University in England.

Dr. Re. Karthigesu began his career as a broadcaster with Radio Television Malaysia. In 1975 he switched his career to become an academician and joined the Department of Communication, at the Science University of Malaysia in Penang. He has also served in the School of Communication as Deputy Dean and the Chairman of Radio Television and Film departments. He retired as a professor in 1994.

Re. Karthigesu started writing creative articles in 1952 in Tamil Murasu (Tamil Daily). He is a well known Tamil creative writer in Malaysia. He has written five novels [the four novels mentioned above and '*ka:talina:l alla*' (1999)]. He has written short stories , essays and poems in Tamil.

His anthology of short stories are as follows:

- i) *Putiya toTakkangaL* (1974)
- ii) *manasukkuL* (1995) ( won Lily Tevasigamani Book Prize (1995)
- iii) *Innoru taTavai* (2001)
- iv) *u:si ilai maram* (2004) (won Sri Manikavasaham Book Prize (2004)

His essays are compiled as *vimarsana muham* (2004).

### Characters in Re. Karthigesu's Novels

Karthigesu's four novels based on social themes are used in this study. In these novels the Tamil characters representing the middle and lower classes (based on the social strata implied in the novels ) who lived in Malaysia are created by the author. The characters who appear in these novels are listed below:

#### 1. va:nattu ve:lihaL (1981)

No.	Characters	Social Hierarchy	Male (M) / Female(F)	Education
1.	Datuk Gunasegaran	Upper class, Businessman	Male	Lawyer
2.	Manikam	Lower class, Gunasekaran's gardener	Male	No information
3.	Durai	Lower class. Gunasekaran's driver	Male	No information
4.	Dr. Sundaram	Middle Upper class	Male	Tertiary
5.	Kamalam	Upper class, Datuk Gunasekaran's wife	Female	No information
6.	Velammal	Lower class, estate labourer, Gunasekaran's mother	Female	No information
7.	Karuppanan	Lower class, estate labourer, Gunasekaran's father	Male	No information
8.	Vellaisamy	Lower class, teacher	Male	No information
9.	Indra	Lower class, Gunasekaran's friend	Female	Primary education
10.	Abraham	Middle class, clerk in the estate	Male	No information
11.	Raani	Middle class. Gunasekaran's secretary	Female	No information
12.	Aananthan	Upperclass, gunasekaran, son	Male	Tertiary
13.	Kannaia	Lower class, lorry driver	Male	No information
14.	Viswalingam	Middle Upper class, Contractor, Kamalam's father	Male	No information
15.	Annapoorni	Middle Upper class, Visvalingam's wife	Female	No information
16.	Chinese Teacher	Middle class	Male	No information
17.	Ropper	Upper class, Headmaster	Male	No information
18.	Tunku Abdul Rahman	Upper class, Visvalingam's friend	Male	Lawyer
19.	Major	Middle class	Male	No information
20.	Sambanthan	Upper class, politician	Male	Tertiary

## 2. te:Tiyirukkum taruNangaL

No.	Characters	Social Hierarchy	Male (M) / Female(F)	Education
1.	Suriyamoorti (Suriya)	Middle class	Male	Tertiary
2.	Nooryati	Middleclass, Air stewardess,	Female	No information
3.	Poongody	Middle class, Suria's friend	Fermale	Tertiary
4.	Chantiran	Middle class, Suria's brother	Male	No information
5.	Prof. Hamilton	Upperclass, Suria's supervisor	Male	Tertiary
6.	Samynathan	Middle class, Suria's father, postman	Male	No information
7.	Sinnaiah	Middle class, Suria's uncle	Male	No information
8.	Sivagamy	Middle class, Suria's sister	Female	Secondary education
9.	Kanthatasamy	Upper class, Samynathan's friend, Lawyer	Male	tertiary
10.	Dr. Liew	Upper class	Male	Tertiary
11.	Krishnan	Middle class, Suria's friend	Male	Tertiary
12.	Paarvathy	Middle class, Suria's step mother	Female	No information
13.	Policemen	Middleclass	Males	No information
14.	Elizebeth	Middle class, Doctor, Krishnan's friend	Female	tertiary
15.	Chellammah	Lower class, estate labourer , Suria's mother	Female	No information
16.	Karuppiah	Lower class, contract worker	Male	No education
17.	Muthusamy	Middle class, barber	Male	No Information
18.	Arunasalam	Middleclass, money lender	Male	No infortmation
19.	Selvanayakam	Middleclass, Poongkody's father, Insurance Company Divisional sales officer	Male	No information
20.	Sivagurunathan	Middleclass, Kanthatasamy's friend, Retired Immigration officer	Male	No information
21.	Benny	Upper class, Krishnan's friend, estate manager	Male	No information
22.	Maniam	Middleclass, estate clerk	Male	No information
23.	Meoh Kim	Upper class, Benny's wife	Female	No information

### 3. antima ka:lam

No.	Characters	Social Hierarchy	Male / Female	Education
1.	Sundaram	Middle Class, retired teacher	Male	Tertiary
2.	Janaki	Middle class ,Sundaram's wife	Female	Secondary
3.	Radha	Middle Upper Class Sundaram's daughter and Sivamani's wife, Bank officer	Female	Tertiary
4.	Sivamani	Middle upper class Ratha's husband, Executive in a computer company	Male	Tertiary
5.	Annapoorni	Middle class ,Sundaram's sister, teacher, spinsiter	Female	Teacher training
6.	Sundaram's aunty	Middle class , Sundaram's father's sister, mentally disturbed person	Female	No information
7.	Perem	Ratha & Sivamani's son, Sundaram's grandson	Male	Nursery
8.	Rama Krishnan	Middle class , Sundaram's family friend	Male	No information
9.	Narayanan	Middle class,Sundaram's schoolmate, Janaki's brother	Male	Senior Cambridge
10.	Ramachandran	Middle class, Sundaram's friend, teacher	Male	Tertiary
11.	Dr. Tan	Middle Upper class, medical doctor	Male	Tertiary
12.	Dr. Sahabudin	Middle Upperclass, medical doctor	Male	Tertiary
13.	Dr. Ramli	Middle Upper class, Specialist, Sundaram's student	Male	tertiary
14.	Talib	Middle Upper class, Headmaster	Male	tertiary
15.	Datuk Yusuf	Middle Upper class,	Male	No information
16.	Dr. Lim	Middle Upper class, medical doctor	Male	tertiary
17.	Deputy Director of Eduction	Middle Upper class,	Male	Tertiary
18.	Mother Meggy	Middle class, Matron	Female	No information
19.	Mokthar	Middle class	Male	No information
20.	Vasanth	Middle class, Sundaram's son	Male	Tertiary
21.	Jimmy	Sundaram's pet	Dog	-

#### 4. su:ta:TTam a:Tum ka:lam

No.	Characters	Social Hierarchy	Male (M) / Female(F)	Education
1.	Kathiresan	Middle class, pursuing higher education, lecturer in USM	Male	Ph.D.
2.	Barathi	Middle class, divorcee, Kathiresan's ex girlfriend,	Female	No informationm
3.	Arunasalam	Middle class, Assistant Registrar	Male	Tertiary
4.	Ramli Ibrahim	Upper Middle class, Dean	Male	Tertiary
5.	Sahul Hamid	Middle class, Assistant Registrar	Male	Tertiary
6.	Dr. Nordin	Middle class, lecturer	Male	Tertiary
7.	Prof. Robert Lim	Upper Middle class, Lecturer	Male	Tertiary
8.	Murugesan	Middle class, teacher	male	No information
9.	Savithiri	Murugesan's wife, Middle class, teacher	female	No information
10.	Arumugam	Labourer, Kathiresan's father	Male	No information
11.	Saratha	Kathiresan's mother,	Female	No information
12.	Ramarajan	Middle class, Inspector	Male	No information
13.	Headmaster	Middle class	Male	No information
14.	Khalid Ahmad	Midle clas, Welfare Officer	Male	No information
15.	Grandmother	Labourer, Arumugam's mother	Female	No information
16.	Aunty	Labourer, Kathiresan's aunty	Female	No Information
17.	Malarkkodi	Middle class, teacher	Female	Tertiary
18.	Somasundaram	Caretaker of a welfare home	Male	No information
19.	Valayapathy and Silambarasan	Murgesan's sons	Male	Degree in Computer Science