

## VALUE TEACHINGS IN SRI LANKAN TAMIL CHILDREN'S SONGS

A.Paunanthie<sup>1</sup> and J.Rasanayagam<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kopay Teachers' College, Jaffna

<sup>2</sup> Department of Education

University of Jaffna

nanthie@gmail.com, luxmy2001@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

Children's literature plays an important role in Tamil literary works. It is not easily definable the origin of Tamil children's literature, but it could be noticeable that they are related to folk songs in the form of lullaby and playful songs. When categorising the types of children's literature, children's songs, children's tale songs, children's tales, children's novels and children's drama are considered important. Children's literature has the history of centuries in Sri Lanka. Many poets involved in composing children's literature besides other genres. Even though, their songs consists many other subject matters, more emphasis is given to value teachings. They have the basic concept of teaching moral qualities such as virtue and discipline. It is expected that children's literature should be sung with the consideration of child psychology and their language because the researches on child psychology and child education is increased now a days. It is generally observable that value teachings are found in children's literature that is being sung on the basis of pets, relatives, nature and festivals. Many have song children's songs in the Tamil literary works which were published in many parts. It can be seen that children's song are included in Tamil language curriculum which is taught at present in schools.

It can be seen that in Sri Lankan children's songs the value teachings such as speaking the truth, respecting parents and elders, worshipping God, offering charity, protecting living beings and showing mercy are being taught. These songs have been sung with the hope to promote the foundation in the virtual thoughts. Also such songs are being liked by parents and teachers to teach their children. Although study has been made on Sri Lankan children's songs, the researchers focus was not on value education but, generally on children's songs. At this juncture, it is important to observe that how value education is being taught in Sri Lankan Tamil children's songs. This study is made to analyse the value education in Sri Lankan children's songs on the basis of descriptive and analysis method.

**Keywords:** Children's songs, Values, teachings

### INTRODUCTION

In the world of today, the concern for children plays a dominant role. The following proverbs show that the concern for children in Tamil society is an age- old one.

1. The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow.
2. What won't bend in five will not bend at fifty

Through such sayings the literalists have strengthen and mould the children. Then many people involved in composing children's songs. We can list the following literalists namely Navaliyoor Somasundra Pulavar, Vithuvan K. Venthanar, Pandit K.Veerakaththi, Pandit K.Sachithanathan, Ampai, Adalirai, Subhair, Sarana Kyoom. Children's songs have been published in sets and parts. It is known that "Tamil Palapothini" which was published in the year 1918 by S.Vaiththiyanathar is considered as the first publication in children literature. But the "Pillaipaddu" with the features of children was published in the year 1938 by K.S.Arunanthi is considered as the first one. (Yogarasa, 2011)

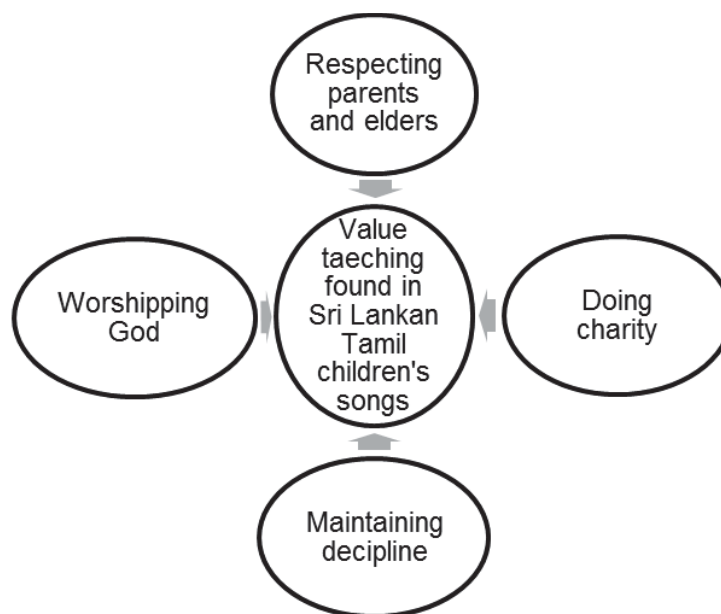
K.S.Arunanthi stated that one of the important aims of children's songs should be "teachings values", in his introduction on "Pillaipaddu". So, it is important to do a study on this.

When considering the themes of children's songs which were published in Sri Lanka were generally related to pets, family members, relatives, natural beauty, toys, games, festivals and humour. It is noticeable that when singing such songs, the values are being taught unconsciously in many places of the children's songs.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This Research study is conducted on descriptive and analysis method to analyse the value teaching in accordance with the aims and objectives of Sri Lankan Tamil children's songs. The descriptive method is conducted on the basis to identify the values which are generally being taught through the children's songs. In analysis method, the information that is perceived from descriptions are organized, assembled and discussed.

The concept of themes in children's songs can be understood by the following conceptual map.



### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This is an important part of the survey. It is observed children's songs are being sung with modes, accompanied by actions. It is noticeable that virtue teaching is included in it. It cannot be denied that parents, teachers and other elders are keen in bringing up children as good and respectable citizens.

The poets who compose these children's songs satisfy the expectation of others in teaching values by their production to a certain extent. They believe that when the children learn these songs by modes, tunes and actions, the virtues are deeply imprinted in their minds.

In addition, children are also being taught values by singing the things they likes such as their favourites, pets, elders and God. Also values are taught by believing that maintaining values will provide many good things.

- Respecting parents and elders.
- Obeying the God.
- Showing love to all living beings.
- Living together without enmity.
- Helping the poor and needy.
- Being disciplined.
- Speaking truth.
- Doing things with care.

The above morals are taught in the Tamil children's songs.

### CONCLUSION

The Sri Lankan children's Tamil songs have an age - old history. In Tamil society discipline, values and charity are taught as important subjects and given prominence. Particularly Tamil literary works give priority to charity. On this aspect, the charitable matters are given priority in children's songs. When teaching children it could be identified that the subject matters related to values were given prominence from ancient Education system. The literary works, such as 'Aaththisoodi' and 'Konraiventhan' are included in primary curriculum. At this background "Odi vilaiyadu papa" which was composed by Bharathy teaches values to the children.

K.S.Arunanthi who involved in complying the Sri Lankan Tamil children's songs emphasized the children's songs should contain values. Apart from this, it could be seen that their songs without values. The following poets Navaliyoor Somasundara Pulavar, Vithvan K.Venthanar, Pandit K.Veerakaththi, Aadalirai, Poet Ambi, Pandit K.Sachithananthan ect... composed children's songs with values. Value Education can be taught through Education.

In that sense the value teaching is included in children's songs that are prescribed in the curriculum of pre-schools and schools. On the whole, it is crystal clear that value teaching is included in the Sri Lankan Tamil children's songs.

### REFERENCES

- ஆடலிறை. (2005). *குழந்தைப் பாடல்கள்*. யாழ்ப்பாணம்: யாழ் இலக்கிய வட்டம்.
- கைலாசபதி, க. (2001). தமிழில் குழந்தை இலக்கியம். *இலக்கியச் சிந்தனைகள்*. ப.51-55. கொழும்பு: குமரன் புத்தக இல்லம்.
- கைலாசபதி, க. (2002). தமிழில் குழந்தைக் கவிதைகள். *நவீன இலக்கியத்தின் அடிப்படைகள்*. ப.41-60. கொழும்பு: குமரன் புத்தக இல்லம்.
- சந்திரமதி, வே. (2011). சிறுவர் இலக்கியங்களின் இன்றைய போக்கு. *சர்வதேச தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர் மாநாட்டு கட்டுரைக்கோவை*. ப.202-204.
- செந்திநாதன், க. (தொகுப்பாசிரியர்) (1979). *ஈழத்துக் குழந்தைப் பாடல்கள்*. யாழ்ப்பாணம்: அமரர் வயிரவப்பிள்ளை கந்தையா குடும்பத்தினர்.
- துரைசிங்கம், த. ஈழத்தில் சிறுவர் இலக்கியம் - ஒரு நோக்கு. *சர்வதேச தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர் மாநாட்டு கட்டுரைக்கோவை*. ப.252-265.
- யோகராசா, செ. (2011). தமிழில் சிறுவர் இலக்கியம்: தோற்றமும் ஈழமும். *சர்வதேச தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர் மாநாட்டு சிறப்பு மலர்*. ப.9-11.
- வீரகத்தி, க. (1971). *தங்கக் கடையல்*. கொழும்பு: எம்.டி.குணசேனா அன்ட் கம்பனி லிமிடெட்.
- ஜெயலட்சுமி, இ. (2004). *சமுதாயக் கல்வி*. தஞ்சாவூர்: மகாவீரர் அச்சகம்.
- ஹஸன், எம்.எச்.எம். (2006). *முன்பள்ளிக் கல்வி கலைத்திட்டமும் வழிகாட்டலும்*. கொழும்பு: இஸ்லாமிக் புக் ஹவுஸ்.