

# **The Modern English Terminology Used by the Poet Vanavil K. Ravi in ‘The Ballad of the Warrior Girl Kuyili’**

**Dr. Chigicherla Thirupal Reddy**

Academic Consultant, Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, Sri Venkateswara University,  
College of Arts, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

## **Abstract**

Ballad of the Warrior Girl Kuyili is a book by Vanavil Kalyanaraman Ravi. The book is composed of 136 poems explaining the story of Kuyili, the warrior girl who fought against the British army in the ‘Udayal Regiment’ headed by Velu Naachair, the Queen of Sivaganga of Tamil Nadu. Finally, the brave Warrior Girl Kuyili turned into a human bomb and defeated the British Army. According to the author’s acknowledgement, this has happened before 1843.

**Keywords:** Ballad, Kuyili, Vanavil Kalyanaraman Ravi, Udayal Regiment, Velu Naachair, British Army, Human Bomb, Freedom.

## **1. Introduction**

Vanavil Kalyanaraman Ravi is a senior Advocate of the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court of India. He has written hundreds of Tamil and English poems, classified as a blend of traditional and modern.

Kuyili is a poor, courageous village girl near Sivaganga of Tamil Nadu. She joined the ‘Udayal Women's Regiment’ headed by Velu Naachair, the Queen of Sivaganga of Tamil Nadu who fought for freedom against the British army before 1843. Finally, the brave Warrior Girl Kuyili turned into a human bomb and sacrificed herself for freedom.

‘The Ballad of the Warrior Girl Kuyili’ is a 96-page book of 136 poems divided into 15 Contos. While narrating the story of the warrior girl Kuyili in English, the author uses some modern English terminology to show his peculiarity.

The present paper is limited to the peculiar modern English terminology used by Vanavil K. Ravi in ‘The Ballad of the Warrior Girl Kuyili’. The numbers in the brackets indicate the page number – Conto number – Poem number respectively.

Abodes	(30-3-23)	the place where someone lives
Adorning	(60-10-91)	Decorating or making something attractive
Ambience	(70-13-113)	mood associated with a particular place, person, or thing

Amity	(63-10-99)	peaceful, friendly relations between people or countries
Anklet	(49-7-70)	a piece of jewellery worn around the top of your foot
Anvil	(62-10-99)	a heavy iron block on which metal is shaped
Appeased	(50-7-71)	to give a country what it wants to avoid war
Arsenal	(62-10-97)	a collection of weapons such as guns and explosives
Attire	(26-2-16)	clothes, especially of a particular or formal type
Avenge	(57-9-86)	to punish somebody for hurting you, your family, etc.
Awe	(71-13-115)	feelings of respect and either fear or admiration
Baffled	(41-6-51)	confused, complicated
Ballad	(19-1-1)	a long poem that tells a story
Bards	(77-15-128)	a person who writes poems; a poet
Barged	(41-6-50)	to enter a place or join a group of people rudely
Beacon	(80-15-134)	a light on a hill, tower, near the coast, which is used as a signal
Belle	(42-6-53)	a popular and attractive girl or woman
Beseech	(81-15-136)	to ask somebody for something in a worried way because you need it very much
Bonjour	(57-9-84)	‘good morning’ in French
Brook	(22-1-7)	a small flow of water
Brutality	(37-4-40)	very cruel and violent behaviour
Budge	(48-7-67)	to change or make somebody change a firm opinion
Bullied	(31-3-27)	to use your strength or power to hurt or frighten somebody weaker or to make him/her do something
Chalked out	(62-10-98)	to outline or sketch a plan or scheme
Chieftains	(31-3-27)	the head or leader of a tribe
Clad	(26-2-16)	wearing a particular type of clothing
Colonel	(58-9-87)	an officer of a high level in the army
Colonial	(35-4-36)	a country that controls another country
Commotion	(26-2-15)	a sudden, short period of noise or excited movement
Complied	(76-14-126)	to obey an order or request
Condemned	(49-7-71)	to say strongly that you think somebody/something is bad
Contemplation	(70-13-114)	the act of thinking about spiritual things
Consensus	(67-11-108)	agreement among a group of people
Conto	(22-1-7)	story or tale
Conviction	(51-8-73)	a firm opinion or belief
Couch	(68-12-110)	a long seat, often with a back and arms, for sitting or lying on
Culmination	(77-15-128)	the final stage of something you've been working
Dawn	(54-8-78)	the early morning, when light first appears in the sky
Disrupted	(41-6-50)	to prevent something, especially a system, process, or event, from continuing as usual or as expected
Dizzy	(28-2-20)	feeling faint, woozy, weak, or wobbly
Dearth	(62-10-98)	an insufficient quantity or number of something

Deceptive	(74-14-121)	to make somebody believe something untrue
Defied	(31-3-26)	to refuse to obey somebody/something
Demeanour	(46-7-63)	the way a person behaves toward other people
Dispelled	(65-11-102)	to make a feeling or a belief, disappear
Disrupted	(75-14-123)	to stop something happening as or when it should
Distract	(74-14-121)	to take somebody's attention away from something
Doha	(38-5-43)	"couplet" or "stanza"
Douse	(78-15-131)	to stop a fire from burning by pouring liquid over it
Drenched	(23-1-11)	to make somebody/something completely wet
Dusk	(54-8-78)	the time before night when it is not yet dark
Earnestness	(63-10-99)	sincere and intense conviction
Ecstasy	(22-1-7)	a feeling or state of great happiness
Elated	(41-6-51)	very happy and excited
Embarrassed	(43-6-55)	feeling uncomfortable or shy because of something silly you have done
Ember	(70-13-113)	a piece of wood or coal that is not burning, but is still red and hot after a fire has died
Empathy	(55-8-82)	ability to understand and share another person's feelings
Enchanted	(27-2-17)	filled with wonder and delight
Epilogue	(80-15-134)	a short piece that is added at the end of a book, play, etc.
Epitome	(80-15-134)	a perfect example of something
Etched	(80-15-135)	to cut a picture into a smooth surface, especially on metal or glass, using acid or a sharp instrument
Evoked	(55-8-82)	to produce a memory, feeling, etc. in somebody
Exclaimed	(68-12-111)	to cry out or speak in strong or sudden emotion
Exile	(57-9-84)	the state of being forced to live outside your own country
Fanfare	(60-10-91)	a short loud piece of music that is used for introducing somebody important, for example, a king or queen
Fatal	(66-11-104)	causing or ending in death
Fiesta	(60-10-91)	a religious festival
Flouting	(75-14-123)	to refuse to obey or accept something
Fortifies	(62-10-99)	to make a place stronger and ready for an attack
Frailty	(68-12-111)	weakness of a person's body or character
Garrison	(74-14-121)	a group of soldiers who are living in and guarding a building
Glimmering	(29-3-22)	shines with a weak light or a light that is not continuous
Hailing	(41-6-50)	to proclaim that somebody is very good or very special
Heeded	(34-3-34)	to pay attention to advice, a warning, etc.
Hermitage	(35-4-35)	a place away from society where a hermit lives
Immersed	(51-8-72)	to involve yourself completely in something
Immortal	(65-11-101)	living or lasting for ever
Impeccable	(32-3-29)	without any mistakes or faults; perfect

Interlude	(25-1-14)	a period between two events or activities
Intervened	(61-10-95)	to interrupt somebody who is speaking to say something
Intuition	(72-13-117)	feeling that makes you believe that something is true without explaining why
Lad	(43-6-56)	an informal term for a boy or young man
Lass	(78-15-131)	a girl or young woman
Lingered	(39-5-47)	stay somewhere or do something for longer than usual
Lofty dream	(72-13-118)	a very ambitious or high-reaching dream
Majestic	(70-13-113)	powerful, or causing great admiration and respect
Malevolence	(80-15-134)	a nasty, wicked, evil quality
Martyr	(35-4-35)	a person who is killed because of what he/she believes
Mast	(79-15-133)	a tall wooden or metal pole for a flag
Melancholy	(19-1-1)	a feeling of sadness that lasts for a long time
Mere Whim	(67-11-107)	a sudden wish or idea that cannot be reasonably explained
Meticulously	(47-7-63)	with great care and attention,
Metaphor	(71-13-114)	a comparison between two unrelated things
Mortal	(80-15-134)	that cannot live forever and must die
Nabbed	(57-9-85)	to arrest somebody who is doing something wrong
Obeisance	(37-4-42)	respect for and willingness to obey somebody
Odds	(44-6-59)	the probability that one thing happens rather than another
Ostensibly	(62-10-96)	something appears to be one thing, but is something else
Pantry	(59-9-89)	a small room where food is kept
Pell-mell	(76-14-125)	in a confused, rushed, or disorderly manner
Penny	(72-13-118)	a coin worth 1/100th of a dollar; a cent
Percussion	(22-1-7)	musical instruments played by hitting them with your hand or an object such as a stick.
Perforce	(76-14-126)	used to express necessity
Perplexed	(26-2-15)	not understanding something; confused
Persistent	(67-11-107)	determined to continue doing something even though people say that you are wrong
Pervaded	(73-14-119)	to become spread throughout all parts
Pillage	(35-4-36)	the act of looting or plundering especially in war
Pious man	(32-3-29)	is deeply religious and demonstrates strong devotion to his faith
Pondered	(44-6-60)	to think about something carefully or for a long time
Predominant	(61-10-93)	having superior strength, influence, or authority
Prefatory	(21-1-6)	serving as an introduction
Pretense	(43-6-55)	an action that makes people believe something untrue
Prologue	(19-1-1)	a piece of writing that introduces a play, poem
Qualms	(56-8-82)	a feeling sense that something you're doing is wrong
Quandary	(51-8-72)	a difficult situation
Quenched	(35-4-35)	to satisfy your feeling of thirst by drinking a liquid
Quipped	(72-13-118)	to make a funny and clever remark

Rage	(35-4-35)	a feeling of violent anger that is difficult to control
Ransack	(35-4-36)	to search through and steal in a forceful and damaging way
Rattle	(64-11-100)	to make somebody suddenly become worried
Redeemed	(79-15-133)	to prevent something from being completely bad
Refrained	(57-9-85)	to avoid doing or stop yourself from doing something
Regiment	(36-4-37)	a group of soldiers commanded by a particular officer
Reluctant	(58-9-87)	not wanting to do something because you are not sure it is the right thing to do
Retinue	(32-3-30)	group of people who travel with an important person to provide help and support
Repentance	(50-7-71)	the fact of showing that you are very sorry for something bad you have done in the past, and wish that you had not done it
Reverberated	(47-7-64)	to be repeated several times
Reverie	(47-7-63)	a state of being lost in your thoughts, almost like dreaming
Reverence	(37-4-42)	a feeling of great respect
Rift	(58-9-87)	a serious disagreement that separates two people who have been friends and stop their friendship continuing
Ritual	(75-14-123)	a set of actions performed regularly as part of a religious ceremony
Routed	(59-9-89)	to defeat somebody completely
Rustic	(61-10-96)	simple and often rough in appearance
Seldom	(66-11-105)	not often; rarely
Sheen	(30-3-23)	a bright or shining condition
Shrill	(27-2-18)	has a loud and high sound that is painful to listen to
Shroud	(78-15-131)	a cloth that is put round a dead body before it is buried
Slain	(37-4-42)	to kill violently; to murder
Soaring	(79-15-133)	to rise very quickly to a high level
Sobbing	(55-8-80)	to speak while you are crying
Startled	(43-6-57)	surprised and slightly frightened
Strife	(63-10-99)	trouble or fighting between people or groups
Stunned	(77-15-127)	very shocked or surprised
Swarm	(75-14-124)	a large group of bees, moving around together
Swift	(58-9-87)	happening without delay; quick
Swoon	(42-6-52)	to lose consciousness
Tenor	(58-9-87)	a fairly high singing voice for a man
Tranches	(74-14-122)	a portion of something, especially money
Transcended	(72-13-117)	to go further than the usual limits of something
Transient	(80-15-134)	lasting or continuing for a short period
Trepidation	(64-11-101)	a feeling of anxiety that something unpleasant may happen
Thrust	(48-7-67)	to push somebody/something suddenly or violently
'twas	(30-3-23)	used as a contraction of "it was"
Uncanny	(56-8-82)	very strange; that you cannot easily explain

Unflinching	(38-5-44)	not showing any weakness and remaining determined, even in a very difficult or dangerous situation
Unison	(22-1-7)	simultaneous performance of an action or speech
Unleashed	(36-4-40)	to suddenly let a strong force, emotion, etc.
Unwavering	(48-7-68)	continuing strongly and steadily, not changing
Valour	(27-2-19)	great courage and lack of fear, especially in war
Vengeance	(33-3-32)	the act of punishing or harming somebody in return for something bad he/she has done to you, or the family
Vicinity	(68-12-111)	the area near or surrounding a particular place
Vigour	(47-7-64)	strength, energy, or enthusiasm
Vowed	(34-3-34)	to promise solemnly
Warehouse	(62-10-97)	a building where large quantities of goods are stored
Wink	(78-15-130)	to close and open one eye very quickly, usually as a signal to somebody
Wrapped	(75-14-124)	to cover something with paper, cloth, or other material
Wreak	(33-3-32)	to cause great damage or harm to somebody/something
Wretched	(76-14-125)	very unhappy

## Conclusion:

The bilingual poet Vanavil Kalyanaraman Ravi used rare, peculiar modern English terminology mostly relating to nature, character, and war conceptually while explaining the life history of Kuyili, the warrior Girl in the Ballad. He requested the people to speak of the glory of women and to let peace prevail on this earth. He finally stated that this ballad never ends, but let us put an end to wars.

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