ABSTRACT

The concept of heartlanders as a category of people in Singapore, is something many are familiar with especially in recent years. Heartlanders in Singapore film, because of its sheer recurrence, are not foreign either. With an understanding of the socio-political background of heartlanders in the Singaporean context, this paper will first attempt to locate the heartlanders via analysis of the film text, and thereafter place them in two distinct narratives with the aim of understanding its functions in the respective narratives.

Following which the paper will take upon itself to study in detail the representations of heartlanders by examining their obvious traits, self-perception, perspectives and attitudes towards certain dominant issues raised in the films, and lastly the manner in which they conduct their relationships, all of which as what is being portrayed in the films.

The final chapter will establish the heartlanders in Singapore films as a heterogeneous and volatile group that will warrant even more diversified portrayals in future local films as film-makers react to the ever-changing Singapore society.