



AN INITIATIVE TOWARD LEGAL ONTOLOGY: ANALYSIS ON MARRIAGE REGISTRATION ORDINANCE

Raveendra Kumara 1* and Prasad M. Jayaweera 2

1 Sri Lanka Law Collage, Sri Lanka

2 Department of Computer Science University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

raveendra.pre@gmail.com

In Greek, *Ont* stands for “existence” or for “being”. Hence, Ontology could be defined as philosophical field of study on existence of the world. i.e. systematically studying on existence of things around us. Aristotle dealt with this subject in his *Metaphysics* and defined Ontology as the science of “being qua being,” i.e., the study of attributes that belong to phenomenal world. Although ontology rooted on to philosophical basis, it has numerous adaptations and applications in variety of fields. Information Technology and its solution developments are such areas, where ontology foundations can deliver promising solutions. But, our investigations into local legal sector revealed very many deficiencies mainly due to incapability of traditional manual legislative procedures in coping with ever increasing demands on legal services. However several other sectors such as trading, financial have shown tremendous service improvements with the IT solution adoptions. In order to manage inherited complexity in legal sector and thereby to streamline and to achieve process improvements without any doubt development of complete and sound legal ontology is primary with utmost impotence. In this paper, completed analysis has been reported on relief and remedies on divorce under the Marriage Registration Ordinance (No. 19) of 1907 for relief and remedies on divorce subject area under purview of district courts in local court system that has been used as the basis for the development of the proposed Legal Ontology in this research work. Proposed Legal ontology founded on tri-folded intuition; actor, activity and document. Firstly, proposed legal ontology consists of identified of all concerned stakeholder inclusive of legal service personnel, service recipients, and all other peripheral participants and their higher level conceptual categorizations. Secondly, all possible activities that these stakeholders could perform within legal service collaboration pre, during and post hearing stages. Finally, the proposed legal ontology attempts in framing and formalized all judicial documents in this specific selected areas of application. Development of such legal ontology for legal service sector could deliver wider range of benefits not only for IT technology solution developer, but also for the parties mastering this particular discipline as well as aforementioned entire stakeholder spectrum could also be benefitted with resulting process improvements. Among these shared knowledge, traceability between different layers of concern at designing and different stages at operations are major!

Keywords: *legal ontology, relief and remedies, Marriage Registration Ordinance (No. 19) of 1907, legislative procedures, divorce*