Dissertation title: Nexus between Reconciliation and Security in Post-War Sri Lanka:
An Evaluation on the Implication of the Report of Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission

Remark: The summary of the dissertation should be written on A4-size pages and should not exceed 4,000 Japanese characters. When written in English, it should not exceed 1,500 words.
Summary of the Dissertation

The central thesis of this dissertation is to draw a new framework to the connection between security and reconciliation on the current progress of implementing the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) in six key structural issues that are contesting in Sri Lanka, political solution, militarization, resettlement and land return issues, rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants, abduction, arbitrary arrest and disappearances, and war crimes and accountability, after the cessation of the protracted civil war between the Sri Lankan Government Forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The issues and the recommendations were selected on the basis of security as structural measures and have psychological impacts thus it relates for bringing genuine reconciliation.

Reconciliation in this study is understood as a way for transforming conflict, and structural approach of reconciliation is viewed as a measure that can facilitate psychological change and thereby can contribute to constructing a framework for stable peace. This is true in the Sri Lankan case because structural measures needed on the ground will undoubtedly facilitate psychological change between the ethnic groups due to the following couple of reasons: major causes and effects for the prolonged conflict and civil war that are highly related to the structural elements and they flared up negative attitudes among the different ethnic groups; and the issues that are obstructing the ongoing reconciliation process identified as more structural in nature significantly associated with security, some are left over after the protracted war.

Due to the link between structure and security, this research strongly emphasizes that neglected feeling of insecurity caused by structural and psychological means will face more hardships and challenges in promoting reconciliation in post-conflict as well as post-war situations. In order to prove this argument, this study
puts the LLRC and its Final Report as the subject of analysis because of the following two reasons: firstly, the LLRC had the hope that providing structural measures to address the existing conditions, that are need to be transformed, is the way to promote reconciliation in Sri Lanka; and, secondly, the current post-war reconciliation process being undertaken on the ground is based on the proposals made by the LLRC in its Final Report.

In light of the above understanding, the fundamental question arises regarding the implementable deficits of the recommendations made by the LLRC for genuine reconciliation, and at the same time, it is not used a great deal on the ground. Significantly, it is still found nervousness about promoting reconciliation, and clearly the holding process is not adequately supported or understood, by both the Sinhalese and the Tamil ethnic communities on the ground.

The research assessed the Report of the LLRC into the selected six key structural issues, mentioned in the beginning, and the progress of implementing the recommendation being taken place on the ground so far, the reality found from the study shows that the sense of security of two major ethnic communities, the Sinhalese and the Tamils, encompasses with structural and psychological means, fully differs thereby, it became as the hindering factor to promote true reconciliation process on the ground. The study found fault on the LLRC since it was not paid sufficient attention on security, on the part of two major ethnic groups, in its focus of analysis as well as in the recommendations related with the issues selected.

In conclusion, this dissertation demonstrates that the LLRC’s approach to reconciliation was meager due to its insufficient and inefficient attention paid on the sense of security that relates to the two major ethnic groups with whom reconciliation is expected in post-war Sri Lanka. Due to this prime shortfall, the progress of
implementations, in accordance with the LLRC recommendations, are being questioned and activities are being obstructed. It is also an indication that the LLRC had not sufficiently understood the different sense of security needs of both the ethnic groups from different levels that selected in this study as state, community, and individuals, and its dimensions that is interchangeably contrast within a certain issue and its level of operation. In order to achieve a true reconciliation, that is an essential need on the ground after having three decade of conflict and protracted civil war, these contested security aspects that embodied in the existing structural issues should be thoroughly identified with its security nuances. It is clear in fact that in any reconciliation practices for the countries, whether they have experiences of prolonged conflict or protracted civil war, security-reconciliation nexus should be understood in a fully manner then the efforts will get smooth implementation on the ground.