



# COMMUNICATIVE DIGNITY: A Checklist



by Francisco Gomes de Matos

Associação Brasil América, Recife, Brazil | Founding member of the WORLD DIGNITY UNIVERSITY

DIGNITY is conveyed by actions, especially INTERactions, so here is a Checklist focused on the COMMUNICATIVE dimension of DIGNITY. In this age of increasing interest in / research on Phraseological studies, a plea is made for linguists, communication scholars, psychologists, language educators, lexicographers to probe the phraseologies of Dignity in as many languages as possible. As language users, we resort to and create phraseologies of many kinds, for multipurposes. A systematic, computerized treatment of DIGNITY-promoting phraseologies across cultures would greatly enhance our vision of WORLD DIGNITY.

A Checklist (for you to add to, reflect on, apply, etc) of some Key-questions:

*In an interaction (friendly chat, discussion, debate, etc), do you know how to...*

1. express your opinion / view respectfully?  
How? How do you introduce your ideas?
2. disagree respectfully? How? What dignifying expressions do you use?
3. refer to your interlocutor's opinion / view positively? (as a "contribution", for instance?)
4. harmonize apparently conflicting views?  
How?
5. tend to overuse "I", "me", "my" instead of cooperatively / empathically prioritizing "you and me", "you", "your", "our", "let's"...
6. apologize when you unintentionally say something that might hurt your listener's feelings? How?
7. acknowledge an infelicitous, inappropriate, inaccurate idea of yours by saying things like "Sorry. I admit I'm wrong .... or I apologize for .... or, still, Let me correct what I hastily said about..." "
8. propose alternate interpretations / solutions (to a problem, for instance), rather than to impose them? How do you do that? What do you typically say in a situation like that? Do you usually achieve the intended conciliatory effect?
9. deal with controversial issues constructively, positively, optimistically, rather than negatively, pessimistically? How convincing do you usually sound?
10. optimize your communicative dignity? What strategies do you use which reflect your belief in / acceptance of Human Rights and Peace?
11. communicate for the good of all involved in the interaction? Do you apply communicative peace in your formulation of issues, problems and solutions thereof?
12. observe and learn from communicators' effectiveness as DIGNIFIERS? How?



Dedicated to the WORLD DIGNITY UNIVERSITY  
on its launch at the UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, NORWAY

June 24th, 2011