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"Balkan Turkisms" and their lexical and grammatical features

Abstract

Turkish language has been one of the most important sources of enrichment of the vocabulary of the Balkans' languages, during 5 centuries of Ottoman congestion. All Balkan languages have given and taken from each other. The impacts on these languages have been merely of local character and were limited to border dialects. In contrast to these effects, Turkish borrowings are spread so uniformly in the Balkan languages, that a significant number of them can be defined as"Balkan Turkisms".

In this work, we aim to bring to readers attention a clear overview focusing on: Common fund of Balkan Turkisms and its lexical and grammatical characteristic.

Examples of the use of Turkish words in texts of different Balkan languages (Albanian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian, Bosnian, Greek, Romanian) can be traced to the early fifteenth century. The process of borrowing from Turkish culminated in the nineteenth century. For the Balkans, Turkish was the language of communication within the Ottoman Empire. Most of Turkish lexeme has not only been adapted to Balkan languages, but has also become a natural component of the general and regional language. The borrowed words were not only accepted by the spoken languages of the Balkans, but they also joined the literature, the language of religious teaching, that of administrative documents and other written texts. The natural result of contact between the various nations throughout history is the interaction between cultures and their languages. With the arrival of the Ottomans in the Balkans, it was established a new state system, a new culture, a new religion. These innovations brought a major change in the social, economic, educational and cultural life in the Balkans. This new culture prevailed for centuries. The religion and traditions brought by the Turkish, i.e., the lifestyle that came from them, were accepted by the majority of the Balkans' people.

The Turkish language status was completely different from the status of other Oriental languages, as Arabic and, Persian were limited in some areas of life, such as: religion, science and education, while Turkish took place in the daily routine as a language used in government institutions, trade and social life. Each Balkan language has a relatively large number of Turkisms in its lexical fund. For many years, these Turkisms have been subject of study for many scholars of any Balkan language taken separately. But, **they have been studied only with regard to their reports with Turkish and have never been studied as a common element of all Balkan languages**. This was the basic reason that led us to compile a Dictionary of Turkisms found in eight languages of the Balkans. For this reason:

- > First, we defined two objectives of the work:
- Identification of the common corpus of Balkan Turkisms, based on the most qualitative studies of the Balkanologist and Turkologist among the years.

- Identification of the common corpus of Balkan Turkisms, which is also present today in the explanatory dictionaries of the Balkan languages.
- Second, we determined the languages that we would study and which would become the subject of the Dictionary.

The objects of our study were **8 (eight) Balkan languages**: **Albanian** (including the Albanian of Kosovo and Macedonia), **Serbian** (including the Serbian of Montenegro), **Greek**, **Bulgarian**, **Romanian**, **Macedonian**, **Croatian and Bosnian**.

- Third, we collected and studied almost all the work and publications, that we managed to find, of the Balkan and non Balkan Turkologists and linguists, dealing with borrowings from Turkish. We noted that the studies in this field include a relatively long period of time, nearly a century.
- Fourth, we collected the last editions of the explanatory dictionaries of the eight languages, object of this study, to identify the number of Turkisms that exist today in the Balkan standard languages.
- Fifth, we gathered the Ottoman dictionaries, today's and early dictionaries of Turkish, as well as all Glossary published by Turkish Language Institute, TDK in Ankara.

During the study of all the materials we had gathered for the compilation of the Common Balkan Turkism Dictionary, we noted that there are many common features among them, which are presented as follows, classified in semantic features and grammatical features.

1. Common semantic features of Balkan Turkisms

After compiling the dictionary, we did a mathematical counting of Balkan Turkisms. According to this calculation, it results that:

- 3548 Turkisms are found in 8 (eight) studied languages (Albanian, Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Bulgarian, Romanian, Bosnian andCroatian).
- 3900 Turkisms are found in 7 (seven) studied languages (Albanian, Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, Bosnian andCroatian)
- 4113 Turkisms are found in 5 (five) studied languages (Albanian, Serbian, Macedonian, Bosnian andCroatian)
- 4500 Turkisms are found in (4 four) studied languages (Serbian, Macedonian, Bosnian and Croatian)
- 5800 Turkisms are found in 3 (three) studied languages (Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian)
- 8742 Turkisms are found in 2 (two) studied languages (Serbian, Bosnian)
- Languages that had nearly full compliance, both in use and in semantics and regarding issues using Turkish extensions, were Macedonian and Bulgarian.
- Regarding the semantic fields affected, we found much compliance among Albanian, Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian.
- When we studied the explanatory dictionaries of the Balkan languages, from all this Turkisms collected over

the years in various languages and their dialects, we noted that about **1764 Turkisms** still exist today in the **explanatory dictionaries** of all the languages that we studied.

From the collected material, we can do some classifications:

1) Semantic classification: semantic fields that include Turkisms are very diverse in all languages they have entered and it seems that a part of them has become a natural ingredient of these languages. In the dictionary we have compiled, the explanation of each borrowing in the Balkan languages is based not only in the general sense that they have received from Ottoman language, but are also given other meanings that they have acquired during use over time, which we found not in a single language, but as the case might be, in some of them. The picture in its entirety is surprising, since even in the case of secondary meanings and especially of figurative meanings there is a kind of consistency. Thus, the mentality of Balkan people has made them to be used almost equally in all languages, and even have nearly the same semantic developments. This suggests that a part of these subsequent semantic developments of the Balkan Turkisms, which are not found in the older and modern Turkish language, should have happened earlier, i.e. before the Second World War, when the movement of the population was free among the Balkan peoples. The pejorative meanings also align very well with each other. So the word "Anatolian", that in Ottoman and Turkish means "person originating from Anatolia" in all the Balkan languages, it is used with the pejorative meaning

"backward, old-minded person, etc". The pejorative meanings of the fundamental meanings of the Turkisms, especially belong to the denominations of the qualities of individuals. Here we also note a strong lexical synonymous of the borrowing in other words that also are Turkisms, for example: budalla-teveqel-teleshman-hardall-allçak/ hajvan-kaba-tutkun-derdimen-halldup-qytyk/

hall-siklet-zor-dert- qeder-zavall- telash-kusur/ maskara-edepsëz-rezil/ etj.

There are too many semantic fields that include these borrowings in Balkan languages. Herein we will mention some of them, those that contain the largest number of Turkisms borrowed:

- Names by occupation: ırgat, çifçi, kaymakam, vali, kalafat, memur, padişah, katip, seymen, vezir, sultan, celepçi, koçbaşı, mutasarif, paşa, raya, şatırsanatçi, bakkal, bekçi, dadı, hamal, arabacı, çörekçi, boyacı, davulcu, falcı, hafiye, hizmetçi, aşçı, bakırcı, berber, esnaf, hekim, kafeci, kılavuz, kazancı, kundracı, nalbant, kömürcü, sahlepçi, °air, °ekerci, tavanci, tenekeci, tüccar, cellat etc. (about 180 words)
- Military terminology: altılı, tabanca, mavzer, kama, çifte, mızrak, topuz, nagan, azot, kolan, gülle, nişan, kalkan, kundak, vezne, saçma, tüfek, şişane, patlak, pala, yatağan, kobure, ceverha, körfişek, dürbün, silah, harp, barut, mil, süngü, akıncı, başıbozuk, bölükbaşı, yeniçeri, nişancı, serasker, bayraktar, bölük, sipahi, süvari, asker,

binbaşı, çavuş, nizam, sancakbeyi, albay, bedel, serdar, sipahilik, tabor, tezkere, zaptiye, cephane, istihkam, kale, topçu, bayrak, düşman, köle, batarya etc. (about 560 words)

- Terminology of household furniture: batanye, çarçaf, çekmece, çomak, divan, döşek, fener, halı, hasır, yamuk, kandil, kılıf, kova, mangal, minder, oturak, pergel, kese, raf, sepet, sandık, sofra, susta, şilte, mangal, zincir, yatak, yorgan, çengel, demirocak, dolap, faraş, fitil, halka, havlu, yastık, kancı, koltuk, leğen, maşa, musandır, perde, post, kilim, saksı, sergen, seccade, sofrabezi, şandan, takatuka, levens, cibinlik, bardak, buçuk, çini, fincan, güğüm, havan, yamak, kavanoz, kuşhane, tencere, oklava, kepçe, bakraç, çanak, dibek, küp, haral, ibrik, kapak, kazan, lenger, matara, paçavra, rende, saç, şişe, tas, tencere, tiğan, tulumba, bıçak, sahan, tabaka, tava, tepsi, torba, cezve etc. (about 925words)
- Terminology of different foods and cooking: aşure, baklava, boza, borani, çay, çervişe, çorba, irmik, gevrek, gözleme, harç, yahni, yufka, kaşar, kahve, kapama, kavurma, limon tozu, lokma, mafiş, muhallebi, nişaşta, paça, pastırma, pide, keşkek, köfter, reçel, arapaşı, çörek, bulgur, börek, çamsakızı, çömlek, pilav, hoşaf, kıyma, lokum, kebap, tarhana, rakı, zerzevat, revani, maydanoz, fasulye, bostan, şeftali, zerdali, samsa, musakka, şeker, şerbet, taskebap, şekerpare, barbunya, nanecik, turşu, susam etc. (about 470 words)
- Terminology of clothing, textiles etc.: astar, atlas, beze, bohça, çul, çit, çizme, dimi, dolama, dülbent, fes, askı,

basma, biniş, çakçir, çember, çityan, çorap, don, ferace, fistan, gömlek, yaka, kaftan, kayış, kundura, mendil, mahram, muşama, paşmege, perçe, peştamal, potur, keleş, külah, dimi, toka, köstek, gerdan, elbise, canfes, uçkur, takiye, şalvar, şayak, yelek, kadife, kumaş, kaput, lastik, mintan, çanta, çadır, bilezik, cep, camadam, talagan, şami, şal etc. **(about 400 words)**

- Terminology on individual qualities: adaş, bekar, budala, dalavereci, dangalak, fukara, effendi, haydut, haldup, harbut, hor, yabancı, yetim, kabadayı, marifetçi, matuf, noksan, pezeveng, kel, kerata, kiracı, külacı, sarhoş, şakacı, şamatacı, şişman, azgan, çapraz, esmer, levent, kör, topal, azat, alçak, batakçı, dalkavuk, dilenci, aptal, firavun, hain, haberdar, hasetçi, yaran, kaçak, katil, kopuk, gurbetçi, muhacir, kelepirci, küfürcü, rezil, seyirci, tamahkar, vesveseli, cahil, gütürüm, inatçı, kaba, şerci, babacan, tuhaf, zulümkar, lafazan, meraklı, namuzkar etc. (about 200 words)
- Religious terminology: bayram, mevlud, bektaşi, hacı, şeyh, mühip, imam, tarikat, makam, vakıf, türbe, allah, günah, iftar, dua, hacilik, kuran, namaz, tespih, matem, süfür, taç, cennet, nevruz, ramazan, derviş, müftü, rufai, hoca, hafiz, molla, tekke, minaret, cami, din, hamaylı, abdest, günahkar, iman, lanet, sure, şeriat, cehennem, nikah, vaaz, cenet etc. (about 220 words)
- Construction Terminology: ahır, bahçe, baca, buhar, çardak, arkapı, bina, pınar, çatı, çeşme, dayan, doğrama, gerdek, hela, kamara, kanat, kat, kubbe, mazgal, musluk, ocak, parmak, pencere, köşe, kümes, kütük, saray, tavan,

döşeme, camlık, uluk, havuz, mazdar, lağım, kireç, şadırvan, perdah, sıva, avlu, basamak, bodrum, ocak, şömine, çatma, başlık, bohça, bölme, çerçeve, çıkma, direk, döşeme, hayat, hamam, yerevi, karabina, konak, mandal, mertek, oda, payanda, pervaz, kiler, köşk, künk, sap, saraylı, taban, cam, trapazan, çıkrık, horasan, hendek, mala, kerpiç, tuğla, kereste etc. (about 350 words)

Administrative Terminology: kaza, vilayet, nahiye, varoş, kasaba, şehir, mahalle, sancak, angarya, ferman, irat, paşalık, askeriye, hapishane, kanun, tapu, toprak, celep, aşar, öşür, devlet, haraç, mülk, timar, vergi, arzuhal, belediye, post, zarfetc. (about 480 words)

This classification, completed even with groups of words belonging to the agricultural, animal, marine, plant, zoo, music, handicrafts, jewelry, health, colors, atmospheric phenomena, games, education terminology, etc., has affected nearly all the studied languages. Of course, even in this case there are no small differences among languages. E.g. the languages of the nations that do not have seas have very limited borrowing of marine terminology. So, although the Serbian is the largest borrowing Balkan language, you almost find not any marine terminology.

A similar phenomenon is observed in the state of Islamic terminology in Albanian language dictionaries. It seems interesting that this terminology appears quite complete in the dictionaries of the nations of other religions, while in Albanian there are significant shortcomings. When compiling the vocabulary we encountered difficulty of the non uniform presentation of it in all the works of different Albanian authors, coming from different regions. Since the rise of the communist regime based on atheist ideology, there has been a particular allergy to the religious terminology in general, including the Islamic one. This was primarily reflected in the reduction in the maximum of Islamic terminology in Albanian dictionaries. Also, a part of Islamic terminology, which was well known by the Muslim Albanians, started to be substituted with synonymous words from Albanian, and therefore the real meaning was deformed. Today, 20 years after the breakdown of the communist regime, we note that the early Islamic terminology of approximately 220 words is rekindled and Islamic terms, as well as terminology of other religions, that apparently one day will re-enter the Albanian explanatory dictionaries, started to be used. Here we can mention: ahiret, ajet, Allah, arasat, azab, azrail, din, exhel, gjynah, hair, hallall, haram, hyri, iman, islam, jahudi, kader, kaur, kijamet, Kuran, melaige, Muhammed, mysliman, Pejgamber, qafir, qamet, qitap, syni, xhebrail, xhehenem, xhenet, aksham, amin, Bajram, Bismilah, dua, elham, ezan, hafiz, hatib, Hoxhe, ibadet, iqindi, Kurban, Mevlud, namaz, minare, namazgjah, Qabe, Ramazan, sabah, sadaka, saf, salat, sarek, sexhade, sofa, sure, syfyr, teqe, vaiz, vakt, vaz, xhami, xhemat, xhuma, iftar, zegat etj.

2. Common grammatical features of Balkan Turkisms

> Turkish Suffixes borrowed from Balkan languages

Turkish influences are not simply of lexical character. In all Balkan languages (Albanian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, etc.), they are also of grammatical character. Word suffixes, which were borrowed together with Turkish words, were isolated from words borrowed and started to become productive with non-Turkish roots. The most used suffixes in these languages are:

1. -li (-li/- lu/ -lü)

- 2. -ci (-ci/-cu/-cü/-çi/-çu/-çü)
- 3. -lik (-lik/-luk/-lük)
- 4. -sız/ siz/-suz/ -süz
- 5. -cık/ -cik/ -cuk/ -cük/ -çık/ -çik/ -çuk/ -çük
- 6. -ça/-çe
- 7. -kàr (-qar)

It should be emphasized that, despite their borrowing and using, the Balkan languages have not taken all the meanings that they express in Turkish. To make it more obvious, here are all the meanings that express these suffixes in Turkish:

<u>1. -li (-li/ -lu/ -lü)</u>

With this suffix in Turkish are formed denominative names and surnames that show:

•possession: gözlüklü (who has glasses), iki katli (with twofloors), şekerli (with sugar).

•quality (mainly qualitative adjectives from abstract names): namuslu (withself-respect), faydali (instrumental).

•belonging (resident of a country or its origin from a place, and usually added to the names of countries, cities, states, etc.: şehirli (citizen), köylü (peasant).

This suffix is introduced in the following languages:

Romanian: In this language it was introduced as **-liu/-lie**.

- Bulgarian: In Bulgarian it was introduced as -liya and defines a person who owns something, or a person belonging to a particular country.
- Serbian: In this language it defines a person who owns something, or a person belonging to a particular country. In Serbian it was introduced as-lija/-lije/li.
- Albanian: This adjectival Turkish suffix was introduced in Albanian as -li/-lli/-llie/-leshë/-lleshë.
- Bosnian: In this language it defines a person who owns something, or a person belonging to a particular country. In Bosnian it was introduced as -lija/-lije/li.
- Croatian: In this language it defines a person who owns something, or a person belonging to a particular country. In Croatian it was introduced as -lija/-lije/li.
- Greek: This adjectival Turkish suffix was introduced in the Greek language with the same function as -lı/–li/-lí/ -lís/-us/-lískus/ -kús/ -déas/ -lu/ -lú/ -lús/ -lúsa/-lin/ -lún/ -larás/-lídikos.
- Macedonian -li,-li,-lu,-lu: This adjectival Turkish suffix was introduced in the Macedonian language as -li/-liya/-liv/.

2.-Ci (-ci/-cu/-cü/-çi/-çu/-çü)

Names formed with this suffix indicate:

•Profession: dilci (linguist), gazeteci (journalist), tarihçi (historian).

•Ideological Orientation or slant on something: milliyetci (nationalist), solcu (leftist), yalanci (liar), şakaci (joker), etc.

•Nomen agentis: davaci (plaintiff), yolcu (traveler) etc.

This suffix was introduced in the following languages:

- Romanian: This suffix was introduced in Romanian as -giu/-ciu and denotes a person who produces or sells, a person exercising a profession.
- Bulgarian: This suffix of profession was introduced in Bulgarian as -ciya/-çiya and gives the sense of a person who produces or sells, a person exercising a profession.
- Serbian: This suffix was introduced in Serbian as -džija /-džije/-cija /čija/-ćija and gives the sense of a person who produces or sells, a person exercising a profession.
- Albanian: This suffix of Turkish origin (CORRECTED) was introduced in Albanian as xhi/- çi/.
- Bosnian: This suffix was introduced in Bosnian as -džija/džije/-cija /čija/-ćija and gives the sense of a person who produces or sells, a person exercising a profession.
- Croatian: This suffix was introduced in Croatianasdžija/džije/-cija /čija/-ćija and gives the sense of a person who produces or sells, a person exercising a profession.
- Greek: This suffix that names the professions, was introduced inGreek as ci/-ci/-cí/e/-cís/-cîs/-cu/-çi/-çi/ -çís/-çíre/-çídes/-çü/-is/-zis/-sís/-çánis/-kídes.
- Macedonian -li,-li,-lu,-lu: This suffix that names the professions, was introduced in Macedonian as -çi/ -ci/ -çiya/ -ciya.

3.-Lik (-lik/-luk/-lük)

With this suffix are formed names and surnames that show:

•Abstract nouns: kolaylık (ease), memurluk (bureaucracy), güzelik (beauty), dostluk (friendship) etc.

•tools, items: tuzluk (saline), gözlük (glasses), yağmurluk (raincoats, etc.).

•a place characterized by the the basic word: taşlık (a rocky site), ormanlık (forest site), kömürlük (coal cellar).

•activities and professions: öğretmenlik (teaching position), terzilik (tailoring) etc.

•period: günlük (daily), senelik (annual) etc.

•unit of measure, currency: yetmişlik bir kadin (a seventy year old woman) etc.

This suffix was introduced in the following languages:

- Romanian: This suffix was introduced in Romanianas -lâc/lic and serves to create concepts in this language.
- Bulgarian: This Turkish suffix which serves to form the names of the tools, places and professions is used in Bulgarian in the same form without incurring any kind of change.
- Serbian: This Turkish suffix is used only in the form -luk in Serbian.
- Albanian: This Turkish suffix is used in Albanian in the form -llëk/ -llak/ -llek/ -llëk/ -llaq/ -lluk.
- Bosnian: This Turkish suffix is used in Bosnian only in the form -luk.
- Croatian: ThisTurkish suffix is used in Croatian only in the form –luk.
- Greek: This suffix is used in Greek with the same meaning as in Turkish and comes in forms: -lık/ -lik/ -líki/ -líki/ -líki/ líke/ -líkin/ -lúh/ -líhi/ -léhi/ -luk/ -lúk/ -lűk/ -lukos/ -luka/-lúki/ -ník.

Macedonian: This suffix is used in Macedonian in the form -lak/ -lek/ -luk/ -lok/ -lik/.

4. -sız/-siz/-suz/-süz

This suffix was introduced in the following languages:

- Serbian: This privative suffix is used in Serbian only in the form -suz.
- Albanian: This privative suffix is used in Albanian in the form -sëz/.
- Bosnian: This privative suffix is used in Croatian only in theform -suz.
- Croatian: This privative suffix is used in Croatian only in the form -suz.
- Greek: This privative suffix is used in Greekwith the same meaning and form -sız/-sízis/ -sízikos/-siz/-síz/-ízis/ -çúze/suz.
- Macedonian: This privative suffix is used in Macedonian in the form -siz/-suz/-saz.
- **Romanian**: there is no such suffix.
- **Bulgarian**: there is no such suffix.

<u>5.-cık/ -cik/ -cuk/ -cük/ -çık/ -çik/ -çuk/ -çük</u>

This diminutive suffix was introduced in the following languages:

- Serbian: This diminutive suffix in Turkish, is used in Serbian in the form -šica, -čik.
- Bosnian: -cık/ -cik/ -cuk/ -cük/ -çık/ -çık/ -çuk/ -çük: This diminutive suffix in Turkish, is used in Bosnian in the form -šica, -čik.

- Croatian: This diminutive suffix in Turkish, is used in Croatian in the form -šica, -čik.
- **Greek**: there is no such suffix.
- > Macedonian: there is no such suffix.
- **Romanian**: there is no such suffix.
- **Bulgarian**: there is no such suffix.

<u>6. -ça/ -çe</u>

With this suffix are formed:

•Names that designate languages: arnavutça (Albanian), ingilizce (English) etc.

•Adjectives that show reduced quality: güzelce (relatively nice), tatlica (somewhat sweet) etc.

•Adjectives and adverbs that express a kind of equality or similarity comparison: dostça (as a friend, friendly), insanca (as man, courteously) etc.

• Used with pronouns and names it has the meaning "under"; "on the ...side": bence (in my opinion), hükümetçe (under power) etc.

All these suffixes have penetrated the Balkan languages by being adapted to their phonetic system and grammatical structure.

This suffix was introduced in the following languages:

- Albanian: This suffix is used in Albanian in the form -ça/-çe.
- Macedonian: This suffix is used in Macedonian in the form -ça/ -çe.
- **Romanian**: there is no such suffix.
- **Bulgarian**: there is no such suffix.
- Serbian: there is no such suffix.

- **Bosnian**: there is no such suffix.
- **Croatian**: there is no such suffix.
- **Greek**: there is no such suffix.

<u>7.-Kar (-qar)</u>

This suffix was introduced in the following languages:

- > Albanian: This suffix is used in the form -qar.
- This source Persian suffix is used in Greek in the form -kar/-kér/karis.
- > Macedonian: No such extension
- **Romanian**: No such extension.
- **Bulgarian**: No such extension.
- Serbian: No such extension.
- **Bosnian**: No such extension.
- **Croatian**: No such extension.

A part of languages, by putting after Turkish roots (names) their verbal suffixes have changed them into verbs. ("Turkce Verintiler", G. Karaagaç) E.g.:

All lexical units that were introduced from Turkish into Bulgarian, either root or compound word, either name or verb, can be changed into verbs by Bulgarian endings -disvam/tisvam/-isvam/.

- All lexical units that were introduced from Turkish into Serbian, either root or compound word, either name or verb, can be changed into verbs by Serbian endings -isati/-ovati/-ti.
- All lexical units that were introduced from Turkish into Bosnian, either root or compound word, either name or

verb, can be changed into verbs by Bosnian endings -isati/-ovati/-ti.

- All lexical units that were introduced from Turkish into Croatian, either root or compound word, either name or verb, can be changed into verbs by Croatian endings -isati/-ovati/-ti.
- All lexical units that were introduced into the Macedonian language either root or compound word, either name or verb, can be changed into verbs by Macedonian endings -iri, -disuva, -disa or form composite tenses with the auxiliary verbs faka, çini, stoi, pravi, klava, dava.

Conclusions

In this respect, it results that Turkisms have turned into an organic part of Balkan languages.

It would be of great interest if in framework of Balkan linguistics could be analysed also the phonetic, morphological and semantic changes of these borrowings in Balkan languages, as well as the stylistical nuances that may have been occurred in the course of years. Such study would lead to a accurate definition of joint Balkan phraseologisms, because it is evident that majority of them is composed of Turkish borrowings. "Balkan Turkisms" and their lexical and grammatical features

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