



A Cohesion Study of President Prabowo Subianto's Speech at the Inauguration of the President and Vice President of Indonesia 2024-2029 in the MPR Building



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Abstract

This study aims to describe the cohesion aspect in President Prabowo Subianto's speech during his inauguration at the MPR RI building. This study uses discourse analysis to analyze Prabowo Subianto's speech. The discourse analysis in this study focuses on lexical and grammatical cohesion analysis. The method used in data collection is the listening method. Data are analyzed descriptively and qualitatively. In this speech, two types of cohesion are found, namely lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion. Lexical cohesion consists of repetition, antonyms, and synonyms, as well as common words (*saudara-saudara* "brothers and sisters"). Meanwhile, grammatical cohesion consists of references, substitutions, ellipses, and conjunctions. The use of these cohesion markers provides clear meaning to the content of the speech. In addition, these cohesion markers can make it easier for listeners to listen and follow the flow of thought of the speaker, namely, President Prabowo Subianto. In-depth analysis of other discourse markers, such as coherence, is also very necessary to support this study.

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1 Introduction

The role of language in communication is crucial. Any information conveyed requires language. Language, as a means of communication, is unique to humans. Language plays a significant role in everyday life. Through language, people can accomplish many things.

The world's need for Indonesians in communication has enabled it to experience significant development. Language is beginning to assume significant importance. The appearance of language is determined by the social situation and the context in which the language process takes place. This language can be used in both formal and informal settings. One example of formal language use is in state speeches, including the inauguration speeches of the president and vice president (Wang et al., 2006).

One particularly important speech is the presidential inauguration speech, such as President Prabowo Subianto's speech at his inauguration at the MPR RI building. This speech was a crucial one for the Indonesian people at the beginning of Prabowo Subianto's administration. The purpose of the speech was to convey to all Indonesians Prabowo Subianto's analysis and commitment to advancing the nation and addressing the various problems currently plaguing and threatening the nation's development. This speech is very important, especially for all Indonesians, as it marked the beginning of Prabowo Subianto's administration.

The speech was delivered on Sunday, October 20, 2024, at the MPR Building R1, Jakarta. The speech was quite lengthy and contained a significant message for all Indonesians. The style and choice of words were quite simple. Furthermore, this was the first speech delivered by President Prabowo Subianto. Therefore, the text of this speech is very interesting to analyze, especially within discourse analysis.

Alwi (1993) defines discourse as a series of linked sentences that form a harmonious meaning between the sentences. Meanwhile, Kridalaksana (2008) defines discourse as the most complete unit of language, and in the grammatical hierarchy, it is the highest or largest grammatical unit. Based on the medium of delivery, discourse is divided into two types: spoken discourse and written discourse. Oral discourse is a type of discourse delivered orally or directly using verbal language. In contrast, written discourse is a type of discourse delivered in writing. In this study, the author focuses the study on spoken discourse that already has a transcript/text.

As a form of discourse, speech language has certain characteristics and traits, particularly in presidential inauguration speeches, including in Indonesia. In Prabowo Subianto's speech, the use of language is crucial to achieving the desired message or goal. Prabowo Subianto employs various discourse devices and tools to create an engaging and engaging style. This ensures that the speech is truly acceptable to all parties as a manifestation of a shared vision and mission for advancing the Indonesian nation. Therefore, this study utilizes discourse analysis to analyze Prabowo Subianto's speech. The discourse analysis focuses on cohesion, both lexical and grammatical (Yang & Sun, 2012).

Theoretical Framework

This research is a discourse study. Therefore, theories and concepts about discourse are essential. The theories required for this research include the theory of cohesion, which will be briefly explained below. The theory of deixis is also needed to strengthen the implementation of the concept of reference in discourse studies. Purwo (1984) states that a word is said to be deictic if its referent shifts or changes depending on when and where it is uttered. Based on this view, deixis is a referent whose reference varies depending on the context of the sentence or the context outside the language. Gumperz (1982), in Cutting (2005), states that language is closely related to context. This context is a crucial linguistic feature, used to facilitate the understanding of the speaker's intent by the interlocutor.

Wijana (2008) defines deixis as a linguistic unit that has different referents. Wijana's opinion is similar to Purwo's. Nadar views deixis from a functional perspective. Nadar (2009) explains that words commonly referred to as deixis are words that function to indicate something. Therefore, the success of an interaction between a speaker and an interlocutor depends to some extent on the speaker's understanding of deixis.

Furthermore, Yule (1996) divides deixis into three parts: personal deixis (I, they, we, you, he, you, your, etc.), spatial deixis (here, there, there), and temporal deixis (now, tomorrow, a decade ago, then, yesterday, next month, next year, last week, etc.). Thus, the concept of deixis is similar to the concept of reference in discourse studies. The difference is that the reference in deixis can shift or change depending on the context, both within the sentence and outside the sentence.

The main theory in this research concerns cohesion, which is a key area of study in discourse analysis. Djajasudarma (1994) states that cohesion is the harmonious relationship between one element and another in a

discourse, while coherence is the unity of discourse, thus communicatively encompassing an idea. [Tarigan \(1987\)](#) in [Wijana & Muhammad \(2009\)](#) states that discourse is the most complete and highest linguistic unit, possessing high coherence and continuity, with a clear beginning and end.

[Eriyanto \(2001\)](#) states that discourse structure can be divided into three levels. First, the macrostructure, which is the global/general meaning of a text, is observable by examining the topic or theme emphasized in a news item. Second, the superstructure, which is the discourse structure related to the framework of a text, so that the text's parts are structured into a complete news item. Third, microstructure, namely the meaning of discourse that can be observed from small parts of a text, namely words, sentences, propositions, clauses, paraphrases, and images. This research focuses on the microstructure of discourse. One such microstructure is the aspect of cohesion ([Biria & Mohammadi, 2012](#)).

[Alwi et al. \(1993\)](#), state that cohesion is the interconnected relationship between propositions expressed explicitly by grammatical and semantic elements in the sentences that make up the discourse. [Sobur \(2001\)](#) explains that discourse is a series of utterances or speech acts that express something (a subject) presented in an orderly, systematic manner, in a coherent whole, formed by both segmental and non-segmental elements of language.

James Deese, in [Tarigan \(1987\)](#), explains that discourse is a set of interconnected propositions that produce a sense of unity or cohesion for the listener or reader. Cohesion, or cohesiveness, itself must emerge from the content of the discourse, but much of the sense of cohesion felt by the listener or reader must arise from the manner of expression, namely, the way the discourse is expressed.

There are many divisions of cohesion. However, in general, cohesion can be divided into two types: lexical and grammatical cohesion ([Cutting, 2005](#)). Grammatical cohesion consists of reference, substitution, conjunctions, and ellipsis. Lexical cohesion, on the other hand, consists of repetition, synonyms and antonyms, superordinates, and common words. Similarly, [Halliday & Hasan \(2014\)](#) distinguish two types of cohesion: grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion.

2 Materials and Methods

The method used in data collection was the listening method. This method is used because it involves listening to language use ([Mahsun, 2005](#)). The term "listening" here refers not only to spoken language but also to written language. The listening method has advanced techniques, consisting of three types: engaging conversational listening, non-engaging conversational listening, and recording ([Mahsun, 2005](#)). In this study, the researcher used non-engaging conversational listening and note-taking techniques because the researcher acted solely as an observer of the language use of the informants. The researcher was not involved in the events whose language was being studied.

The method used in discourse data analysis was qualitative description. [Moleong \(1989\)](#) explains that qualitative data consists of a collection of words, whose processing requires insight to understand the meaning of the collected data. Data analysis also includes three processes: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Miles and Huberman, as cited in [Sugiyono \(2011\)](#)).

3 Results and Discussions

In accordance with the background information, this study will analyze the cohesion in President Prabowo Subianto's speech during his inauguration at the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) building. Furthermore, this analysis chapter only presents data on each utterance that is the main topic.

In relation to discourse analysis, this brief study only examines cohesion and not coherence, although both are important aspects of discourse analysis. This is based on the limited space available for this study and the belief that cohesive discourse must also be coherent, and not vice versa. Two types of cohesion were found in this speech: lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion. For more details, see the description below.

3.1 Lexical Cohesion

There are three types of lexical cohesion in this speech: repetition, synonyms, and common words.

Repetition

Hanafi, F., Ana, H., Konisi, L. Y., Taembo, M., & Yunus, Y. (2025). A cohesion study of President Prabowo Subianto's speech at the inauguration of the president and vice president of Indonesia 2024-2029 in the MPR building. International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Culture, 11(6). 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.21744/ijllc.v11n6.2583>

The most frequently repeated word in this speech is "we." This is because both the speaker and the listener use the pronoun "we." The speech was addressed to all Indonesian people, including Prabowo Subianto, who delivered the speech. Furthermore, the election of the new president and vice president was the fruit or result of the Indonesian people's choices. This was evident in several sentences, such as "*Kita paham kita mengerti bahwa karunia yang diberikan oleh yang maha kuasa kepada kita sungguh sangat besar dan sungguh sangat beragam*" (We understand that the gifts bestowed upon us by the Almighty are truly immense and truly diverse). Similarly, in the sentences, "*Saya, **Prabowo Subianto** dan Saudara Gibran Rakabumingraka telah mengucapkan sumpah untuk mempertahankan undang-undang dasar kita*" (I, Prabowo Subianto, and Brother Gibran Rakabumingraka have taken an oath to uphold our constitution); and the sentence "...*membuat kita harus menghadapi masa depan dengan optimis tetapi kita pun harus berani untuk melihat hambatan tantangan rintangan ancaman dan kesulitan yang ada di hadapan kita*" (...makes us face the future with optimism, but we must also have the courage to face the obstacles, challenges, threats, and difficulties that lie ahead). Throughout the speech, the word "**kita**" (we) was repeated 220 times. The speaker wanted to emphasize that all Indonesians share the same values and a strong bond. This also served to prevent division and mutual undermining.

Similarly, the pronoun "kita" (we) was frequently repeated. This appeared in several sentences, such as "... *kami jalankan dengan sebaik-baiknya dengan penuh rasa tanggung jawab dan dengan semua kekuatan yang ada pada jiwa dan raga kami kami*"; "*kami akan mengutamakan kepentingan bangsa Indonesia, kepentingan rakyat Indonesia di atas segala kepentingan di atas segala golongan apalagi kepentingan pribadi kami*"; dan "*Kami siap melanjutkan estafet kepemimpinan*". (...we carry out this as best we can with a full sense of responsibility and with all the strength in our bodies and souls"; "We will prioritize the interests of the Indonesian nation, the interests of the Indonesian people, above all interests, especially our personal interests"; and "We are ready to continue the leadership baton."). This is because the pronoun "we" is a substitute for the president and vice president-elect, who, when the speech was read, were figures who had taken the oath.

The word "sungguh" (really) in the sentence "*Kita paham kita mengerti bahwa karunia yang diberikan oleh yang maha kuasa kepada kita sungguh sangat besar dan sungguh sangat beragam*" (We understand, we understand, that the gifts bestowed upon us by the Almighty are truly immense and truly diverse) is also repeated. This is used by the speaker to emphasize the vastness of the gifts bestowed upon the Indonesian people. Similarly, an example of repetition can be seen in the sentence "*Sejarah kita adalah sejarah dengan penuh kepahlawanan penuh pengorbanan penuh*" (Our history is a history full of heroism and sacrifice.) This sentence contains the repetition of the word *sejarah* (history). The speaker frequently uses repetition in his speech, as in another example sentence, "*Janganlah kita lupa waktu kita perang kemerdekaan kita tidak punya anggaran kita tidak punya APBN, pasukan kita tidak digaji*". (Let us not forget that during our war of independence, we had no budget, we had no state budget, our troops were not paid.) This sentence contains numerous repetitions, including the repetition of the words *kita* (we) and *tidak* (not). This emphasizes the audience and the meaning of the words *tidak* (not).

Similarly, the sentence "*Kita tidak mau mengganggu siapapun, kita tidak mau mengganggu bangsa lain, tapi kita juga tidak mengizinkan bangsa manapun mengganggu kita*" (We do not want to disturb anyone, we do not want to disturb other nations, but we also do not allow any nation to disturb us) also contains numerous repetitions, namely the word *mengganggu* (disturb). This is done deliberately to emphasize that disturbing others is a bad act and should be avoided. Another sentence that also contains repetition is *Siapa yang memberi makan kepada kita? yang beri makan adalah para petani di desa-desa, yang beri makan adalah para nelayan, yang beri makan adalah para pekerja...* (Who feeds us? The farmers in the villages feed us, the fishermen feed us, the workers feed us...). This sentence contains a phrase repeated four times, namely the phrase *yang beri makan* (who feeds us). This is done to emphasize to the listener that we, as Indonesians, should be grateful to the people who have fought for the independence and progress of the Indonesian nation.

The word *penuh* (full) is also repeated, as in the sentence "*Sejarah kita adalah sejarah dengan penuh kepahlawanan penuh pengorbanan penuh keberanian, tidak hanya pemimpin-pemimpin tapi keberanian rakyat kita menghadapi segala bahkan invasi-invasi dari bangsa lain sekalian*" (Our history is a history full of heroism, full of sacrifice, full of courage, not only of leaders but also of the courage of our people in facing everything, even invasions from other nations.) This is used by the speaker to emphasize that the struggle for Indonesian independence was undertaken with great sacrifice. In addition to the word *penuh* (full), another repeated word is the word *keberanian* (courage.) This is used by the speaker to emphasize that our freedom fighters fought fearlessly, willingly sacrificing their lives for the independence of the Indonesian nation.

The phrase *mari kita* (let us) is repeated, as in the sentences “*Marilah kita berani mawas diri, marilah kita berani menatap wajah kita sendiri, dan Mari kita berani memperbaiki diri kita sendiri, marilah kita berani mengoreksi diri kita sendiri*” (Let us dare to introspect, let us dare to look ourselves in the face, and "Let us dare to improve ourselves, let us dare to correct ourselves.) This sentence contains a phrase that is repeated four times, namely the phrase *mari kita* (let us). This is used by the speaker to invite all Indonesians to sincerely contribute to the nation's progress. In fact, the phrase *mari kita* (let us) is repeated 18 times in this speech.

Antonyms and Synonyms

In this speech, several words are found that are antonyms, such as the word *daratan* (land) and *lautan* (ocean) in the sentence *daratan dan lautan yang sangat besar* (...the very large land and ocean...). The use of these antonyms falls into the category of paired antonyms. The speaker uses this to emphasize the natural wealth of all regions of Indonesia, both on land and at sea.

An example of a synonym in this speech is the sentence *Kita paham kita mengerti bahwa kemerdekaan kita bukan hadiah* (We understand, we understand, that our independence was not a gift.) The word *mengerti* (understand) is synonymous with *paham* (understand.) This is used to emphasize that independence must be understood as the result of the Indonesian people's struggle, obtained through great effort, and not a gift from any party. Similarly, the speaker also stated in the previous sentence, *Kita paham kita mengerti bahwa karunia yang diberikan oleh yang maha kuasa kepada kita sungguh sangat besar...* (We understand, we understand, that the gift bestowed upon us by the Almighty is truly immense...).

Another example is the sentence *Saya selalu mengajak saudara-saudaraku sebangsa dan setanah air untuk menjadi bangsa yang berani bangsa yang tidak takut* (I always encourage my fellow countrymen and women to become a brave nation, a fearless nation.) The speaker uses two synonymous phrases: a brave nation and a fearless nation. In this speech, Prabowo Subianto frequently uses synonymous words. Another example is that homeland is synonymous with nation and also with state. This is found in several sentences, such as *sebangsa dan setanah air...*; “...*penyelewengan korupsi di negara kita*”; “...*Bung Karno telah memberi kita ideologi negara, Pancasila*”; and “*Kami siap melanjutkan estafet kepemimpinan, kita siap bekerja keras menuju Indonesia emas, menjadi bangsa yang kuat* (...one nation and one homeland...”; “...the corruption in our country”; “...*Bung Karno has given us the state ideology, Pancasila*”; and “We are ready to continue the leadership baton, we are ready to work hard towards a golden Indonesia, becoming a strong nation.” The words *bangsa*, *negara*, and *tanah air* (nation, state, and homeland) in these sentences have the same meaning, namely Indonesia or the Indonesian people. Similarly, the sentence *banyak tantangan, banyak kesulitan, banyak rintangan yang berasal dari diri kita sendiri* (...many challenges, many difficulties, many obstacles that come from ourselves) contains three words with similar meanings: obstacles, challenges, and difficulties.

General Words

This speech also contains words with general meanings, namely *saudara-saudara* (brothers and sisters,) which encompass all Indonesians, including children, the elderly, the upper class, the lower class, men, and women. In conclusion, the cohesiveness of the sentences in this speech can be characterized by the presence of repetition, antonyms, synonyms, and general words.

3.2 Grammatical Cohesion

There are four types of grammatical cohesion found in this speech: reference, conjunction, substitution, and ellipsis, which also contribute to the cohesiveness of the sentences. For more details, see the following explanation.

References

The references found in this speech consist of endophora and exophora. Endophora can take the form of anaphora and anaphora. This is evident in the following examples.

The pronoun *kita* (we) in the sentence *Saya Prabowo Subianto dan Saudara Gibran Rakabumingraka telah mengucapkan sumpah untuk mempertahankan undang-undang dasar kita...* (I, Prabowo Subianto, and Brother Gibran Rakabumingraka, have taken an oath to uphold our constitution...) refers to the Indonesian people. This is

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understood from the context of the sentence that the Indonesian people, as representatives of the Indonesian nation, have a constitution, namely the 1945 Constitution. The pronoun *kami* (we) in the sentence ...*kami* jalankan dengan sebaik-baiknya dengan penuh rasa tanggung jawab dan dengan semua kekuatan yang ada pada jiwa dan raga *kami* (...we carry out it as best we can with a full sense of responsibility and with all the strength in our bodies and souls) refers to Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabumingraka, as president and vice president. In other words, the phrase *Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabumingraka* acts as an antecedent for the pronoun *kami* (we). This is clarified by the previous sentence, which states that the two figures are taking an oath to serve the nation and state. Similarly, the pronoun *kami* (we) in the sentence *kami* akan mengutamakan kepentingan bangsa Indonesia, kepentingan rakyat Indonesia di atas segala kepentingan di atas segala golongan apalagi kepentingan pribadi *kami* (we will prioritize the interests of the Indonesian nation, the interests of the Indonesian people above all interests, especially our personal interests,) also refers to Prabowo Subianto and Gibran Rakabumingraka. This is clarified by the previous sentence, which states that the two figures are the president and vice president-elect and promise not to discriminate against their people, even though they were not the ones who voted for them in the presidential election.

The phrase *saudara-saudara* (brothers and sisters) in the sentence *saudara-saudara* sekalian (brothers and sisters) refers to all participants who attended the inauguration and speech of the president-elect, Prabowo Subianto. This is used when Prabowo Subianto addresses the audience inside the MPR building, where the speech took place, as well as the public outside the building who watched online. This is an exaphoric reference because it is outside the text. Similarly, the refrain *saudara-saudara* sekalian (brothers and sisters) in the sentence *Akhir kata, saya mohon doa restu saudara-saudara...* (Finally, I ask for your prayers and blessings...) also refers to all participants who attended in person and to all Indonesians who watched/listened to this speech online.

Ellipsis and Substitution

The phenomena of ellipsis and substitution are also found in this speech, as in *Janganlah kita lupa waktu kita perang kemerdekaan kita tidak punya anggaran kita tidak punya APBN, pasukan kita tidak digaji. Siapa yang memberi makan kepada kita? yang beri makan adalah para petani di desa-desa, yang beri makan adalah para nelayan, yang beri makan adalah para pekerja, terus-menerus* (Let us not forget that during our war of independence, we had no budget, no state budget, and our troops were not paid. Who fed us? "Those who feed are the farmers in the villages, those who feed are the fishermen, those who feed are the workers, continuously). This sentence contains several substitutions and ellipsis. The word *pasukan* (troops) is a substitute for the phrase *para pejuang yang memperjuangkan dan mempertahankan kemerdekaan Indonesia* (fighters who fought for and defended Indonesian independence). Similarly, the phrases *para petani*, *para nelayan*, and *para pekerja* are substitutes for *rakyat Indonesia* (Indonesian people.) After the repeated word *terus-menerus* (continuously,) several phrases are actually omitted, namely *rakyat Indonesia* (Indonesian people.)

The sentence ...*terlalu banyak anak-anak kita yang berangkat sekolah tidak makan pagi terlalu banyak anak-anak kita yang tidak punya pakaian*". The phrase *anak-anak kita* (our children) in this sentence refers to the children of the poor because of the previous information about the poor and people who have not yet benefited from independence.

Conjunctions

There are various forms of conjunctions found in this speech, namely conjunctions of addition (addition), contrast (opposition), causality, tempo, instrument, and conjunctions of enhancement. First, an example of a contrasting conjunction in this speech is *namun* (however). The conjunction *namun* (however) in this speech connects sentences, as in the sentence *Namun, di tengah segala karunia tersebut di tengah segala kelebihan yang miliki yang memang membuat kita harus menghadapi masa depan dengan optimis tetapi kita pun harus berani untuk melihat hambatan tantangan* (However, amidst all these gifts and all the advantages we possess, we must face the future with optimism, but we must also be brave enough to see the obstacles and challenges...). This sentence uses an appropriate conjunction, namely, to contrast the previous view or information, the gifts possessed by the Indonesian nation, with the challenges that the Indonesian nation must face.

The inter-sentence conjunctions are *karena itu* (therefore) or *oleh karena itu* (therefore), as in the sentence *Karena itu kita harus swasembada pada energi dan kita mampu untuk Swasembada energi* (Therefore, we must be self-sufficient in energy and we can be self-sufficient in energy). The conjunction *karena itu* (therefore) is an informal form of the conjunction *oleh karena itu* (therefore). This sentence uses the appropriate conjunction, namely

to express the causal meaning of the previous sentence. Another conjunction, *selain itu* (besides), can be seen in the sentence *Selain itu, menjamin melindungi mereka yang paling lemah untuk mencapai kesejahteraan* (In addition, we guarantee the protection of the weakest to achieve prosperity). This conjunction is used to reinforce the main idea stated in the previous sentence. Similarly, the word *and* (and) in the sentence ***Dan*** *kita pun siap untuk mengirim bantuan yang lebih banyak dan siap evakuasi mereka yang luka dan anak-anak yang trauma dan korban kita siapkan semua RS dan tentara dan nanti RS RS lain untuk membantu saudara2 kita yang menjadi korban perang yang tidak adil* (And we are ready to send more aid and are ready to evacuate the wounded, traumatized children, and victims. We are preparing all hospitals, soldiers, and later other hospitals to help our brothers and sisters who are victims of this unjust war) is also used to add to and reinforce the previous information.

Furthermore, the contrasting conjunction *tetapi* (but) appears only twice in this speech and functions either as a clause connector within a sentence or as a connector between two opposing sentences, as in the sentence *Tapi ini harus kita lakukan seluruh unsur pimpinan harus memberi* (But we must do this; all elements of leadership must contribute). The conjunction *tetapi* (but) is used by the speaker to contrast the previous information, which states that only some are taking part in preventing corruption. Therefore, the speaker uses the conjunction "but" to draw the listener's attention to the fact that corruption prevention must be carried out collectively by all elements of society, especially leaders from the highest to the lowest levels (Cani, 2024).

4 Conclusion

From the description, based on the analysis above, we can draw several conclusions regarding the linguistic discourse analysis of President Prabowo Subianto's speech at his inauguration at the MPR RI building. Two forms of cohesion were found in this speech: lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion. Lexical cohesion consists of repetition, antonyms, synonyms, and common words (*saudara-saudara* 'brothers and sisters'). Grammatical cohesion, on the other hand, consists of references, substitutions, ellipses, and conjunctions. The use of these cohesion markers provides clear meaning to the speech's content. Furthermore, these cohesion markers can facilitate the listener's attention and follow the speaker's train of thought, namely, President Prabowo Subianto. An in-depth analysis of other discourse markers, such as coherence, is also essential to support this study.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declared that they have no competing interests.

Statement of authorship

The authors have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The authors have approved the final article.

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