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STYLISTIC FUNCTIONS AND SPHERES OF USAGE OF ABBREVIATIONS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: This scientific article examines the formation, linguistic characteristics, stylistic functions, and spheres of usage of abbreviations in English and Uzbek from a comparative linguistic perspective. The study focuses on the lexical-semantic, structural, and functional characteristics of abbreviations, emphasizing their role in linguistic economy, concise information transmission, and communicative efficiency. Particular attention is given to acronyms, initialisms, graphic abbreviations, and lexical shortenings, as well as their distinctive features and patterns of usage in official, scientific, journalistic, literary, and colloquial discourse. Furthermore, the article investigates the emergence of new forms of abbreviation resulting from the development of digital communication, social media, and internet-based interaction, considering their influence on linguistic norms and speech culture. The research explores the stylistic and pragmatic functions of abbreviations, including their ability to express formality, informality, professional identity, emotional attitudes, and group affiliation in different communicative contexts. Through comparative analysis, the study identifies similarities and differences between English and Uzbek abbreviations in terms of their formation, stylistic distribution, and communicative purposes. The article presents theoretical conclusions regarding the functional significance of abbreviations in contemporary language development and their role in shaping modern communicative practices.

Keywords: abbreviations, English language, Uzbek language, comparative linguistics, stylistics, acronyms, initialisms, graphic abbreviations, lexical shortenings, functional styles, linguistic economy, communicative efficiency, pragmatics, digital communication, internet discourse, linguistic norms.

INGLIZ VA ÖZBEK TILLARIDA QISQARTMALARNING STILISTIK FUNKSIYALARI VA QO‘LLANIŞ DOIRASI

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Annotatsiya: Mazkur ilmiy maqolada ingliz va özbek tillarida qisqartmalarning şakllanişi, lingvistik xususiyatlari, stilistik funksiyalari hamda turli kommunikativ vaziyatlarda qo‘llaniş doirasi qiyosiy-lingvistik nuqtayi nazardan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda qisqartmalarning leksik-semantik, strukturaviy va funksional xususiyatlari, ularning nutqiy tejamkorlikni ta’minlaş, axborotni ixçam ifodalaş va kommunikativ samaradorlikni oşirişdagi örni yoritiladi. Şuningdek, ingliz va özbek

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tillarida akronimlar, initsial qisqartmalar, grafik qisqartmalar va leksik qisqartmalarning öziga xos jihatlari, ularning rasmiy-idoraviy, ilmiy, publitsistik, badiiy hamda sö zlaşuv uslublarida qo‘llaniş xususiyatlari örganiladi. Maqolada raqamli kommunikatsiya, ijtimoiy tarmoqlar va internet muloqotining rivojlanişi natijasida qisqartmalarning yangi şakllari paydo bölişi, ularning til me’yorlari va nutq madaniyatiga ta’siri muhokama qilinadi. Qiyosiy tahlil asosida har ikki tilda qisqartmalarning umumiy va farqli xususiyatlari aniqlanib, ularning stilistik imkoniyatlari, pragmatik vazifalari va zamonaviy til taraqqiyotidagi ahamiyati yuzasidan ilmiy-nazariy xulosalar ilgari suriladi.

Kalit sözlar: qisqartmalar, ingliz tili, özbek tili, qiyosiy tilşunoslik, stilistika, akronimlar, initsial qisqartmalar, grafik qisqartmalar, leksik qisqartmalar, funksional uslublar, nutqiy tejamkorlik, kommunikativ samaradorlik, pragmatika, raqamli kommunikatsiya, internet diskursi, til me’yorlari.

СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИЕ ФУНКЦИИ И СФЕРЫ УПОТРЕБЛЕНИЯ СОКРАЩЕНИЙ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ И УЗБЕКСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

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Аннотация: В данной научной статье рассматриваются особенности образования, лингвистические характеристики, стилистические функции и сферы употребления сокращений в английском и узбекском языках с позиций сравнительного языкознания. Основное внимание уделяется лексико-семантическим, структурным и функциональным особенностям сокращённых единиц, их роли в реализации принципа языковой экономии, обеспечении краткости передачи информации и повышении эффективности коммуникации. В исследовании анализируются акронимы, инициальные, графические и лексические сокращения, их отличительные признаки и особенности функционирования в официально-деловом, научном, публицистическом, художественном и разговорном стилях речи. Кроме того, рассматривается возникновение новых форм сокращений под влиянием развития цифровой коммуникации, социальных сетей и интернет-общения, а также их воздействие на языковые нормы и культуру речи. Особое внимание уделяется стилистическим и прагматическим функциям сокращений, включая выражение официальности, неформальности, профессиональной принадлежности, эмоционального отношения и групповой идентичности в различных коммуникативных ситуациях. На основе сравнительного анализа выявляются общие и отличительные особенности сокращений в английском и узбекском языках с точки зрения их словообразовательной структуры, стилистического распределения и коммуникативного назначения. В статье формулируются научно-теоретические выводы о функциональной значимости сокращений в развитии современного языка и их роли в формировании новых коммуникативных практик.

Ключевые слова: сокращения, английский язык, узбекский язык, сравнительное языкознание, стилистика, акронимы, инициальные сокращения, графические сокращения,

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лексические сокращения, функциональные стили, языковая экономия, коммуникативная эффективность, прагматика, цифровая коммуникация, интернет-дискурс, языковые нормы.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a dynamic system that continuously develops in response to social, cultural, technological, and communicative changes. One of the most noticeable tendencies in contemporary linguistic development is the increasing use of abbreviated linguistic units in different forms of communication. Abbreviations have become an integral part of modern English and Uzbek, functioning as effective instruments for reducing linguistic complexity, accelerating information exchange, and adapting communication to the requirements of various social and professional contexts. Their widespread use in scientific publications, official documents, mass media, digital communication, and everyday speech demonstrates their growing importance in contemporary linguistic systems. The phenomenon of abbreviation is closely connected with the principle of linguistic economy, which refers to the tendency of language users to communicate information through relatively concise linguistic structures while maintaining sufficient semantic clarity. In modern communication, where information is frequently exchanged through digital platforms and time-sensitive interactions, abbreviated expressions provide an effective means of transmitting complex concepts in compact forms. However, the functions of abbreviations are not limited to linguistic economy. They also perform stylistic, pragmatic, sociolinguistic, and discourse-related functions that influence the interpretation of messages and the relationship between communication participants. English is characterized by a highly productive system of abbreviation formation, including acronyms, initialisms, clippings, contractions, and graphic abbreviations. Examples such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), UN (United Nations), ASAP (as soon as possible), and LOL (laughing out loud) illustrate the diversity of abbreviated forms used in institutional, professional, and informal communication. These linguistic units differ not only in their structural characteristics but also in their stylistic implications and communicative purposes. Similarly, Uzbek demonstrates an active use of abbreviations in administrative, educational, scientific, political, and technological discourse. Examples such as BMT (Birlashgan Millatlar Tashkiloti), OTM (oliy ta'lim muassasasi), OAV (ommaviy axborot vositalari), IIV (Ichki ishlar vazirligi), and AQSH (Amerika Qo'shma Shtatlari) reflect the role of abbreviations in institutional communication. The development of digital communication has also contributed to the appearance and increasing circulation of shortened expressions in informal Uzbek discourse, particularly among younger language users. Although English and Uzbek belong to different language families and possess distinct grammatical and lexical systems, both languages demonstrate similar tendencies toward abbreviation as a means of linguistic economy. Nevertheless, their abbreviation systems differ in terms of word formation, orthographic conventions, pronunciation patterns, borrowing processes, and stylistic distribution. English abbreviations frequently emerge through lexical innovation and digital communication practices, whereas Uzbek abbreviation formation is strongly influenced by institutional terminology, language standardization, and the adaptation of international lexical units. From a stylistic perspective, abbreviations may indicate formality, professional identity, social affiliation, emotional attitudes, or communicative informality. In scientific discourse, they contribute to terminological precision and textual conciseness. In official communication, they facilitate standardized reference to institutions and administrative structures. In

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journalistic discourse, abbreviations can enhance informational density and headline compactness. In digital communication, they frequently express conversational spontaneity, familiarity, and group membership.

The relevance of the present study is determined by the increasing importance of abbreviations in multilingual communication and the necessity of examining their stylistic functions through comparative linguistic analysis. Despite the extensive use of shortened linguistic forms, their interpretation often depends on contextual knowledge, cultural conventions, and communicative competence. Consequently, understanding the functional characteristics of abbreviations is essential for translation studies, language teaching, intercultural communication, and discourse analysis. The primary aim of this research is to investigate the stylistic functions and spheres of usage of abbreviations in English and Uzbek, identify their structural and functional similarities and differences, and determine their communicative significance in different discourse environments. The study employs descriptive, comparative, structural-semantic, and functional-stylistic approaches to examine selected examples of abbreviated linguistic units. The theoretical significance of the research lies in its contribution to comparative stylistics, lexical morphology, and discourse studies. Its practical significance is associated with the possibility of applying the findings in foreign language teaching, translation practice, lexicography, academic writing, and professional communication.

Linguistic nature and structural classification of abbreviations

Abbreviation represents a word-formation and textual compression process through which a linguistic expression is reduced while preserving its essential semantic content. In linguistic research, abbreviations are generally examined in relation to lexical morphology, phonology, orthography, semantics, and stylistics. The diversity of abbreviated forms demonstrates that abbreviation is not a uniform linguistic phenomenon but rather a complex system involving several mechanisms of linguistic reduction. In English, abbreviations can be classified into several major categories according to their structural characteristics and pronunciation patterns. Initialisms are formed from the initial letters of multiword expressions and are generally pronounced as sequences of individual letters. Examples include BBC, USA, FBI, and CEO. These forms are particularly common in institutional, professional, and administrative communication. Acronyms are formed from initial letters or components of expressions but are pronounced as independent lexical units. Examples include NASA, NATO, and UNESCO. Acronyms frequently undergo lexicalization, becoming recognizable words that may function independently of their original expanded forms. Clippings involve the reduction of a longer word while preserving its essential lexical meaning. English examples include lab from laboratory, exam from examination, ad from advertisement, and flu from influenza. These forms often demonstrate a relatively informal or neutral stylistic character depending on the communicative context.

Contractions involve the omission of certain sounds or letters within a word or grammatical construction. Examples include don't, isn't, I'm, and we've. Such forms are characteristic of conversational English and may also appear in informal written discourse. Graphic abbreviations are shortened written forms that are conventionally associated with longer spoken expressions. Examples include Dr., Mr., Prof., etc., and e.g.. Their primary function is to reduce textual length while maintaining conventional written standards. Uzbek also possesses several types of abbreviations, particularly initial-letter abbreviations, syllabic shortenings, and conventional graphic forms. Examples such as BMT, OTM, OAV, and IIV illustrate the productivity of initial-letter abbreviation in

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Uzbek institutional discourse. However, the structural classification of Uzbek abbreviations should consider the language's specific orthographic and phonological characteristics. For instance, the pronunciation and grammatical adaptation of abbreviations may differ depending on whether the shortened unit is formed from native Uzbek terminology or borrowed from another language.

Structural classification of abbreviations in English and uzbek

Type	English examples	Uzbek examples	Main characteristics
Initialisms	BBC, FBI, CEO	BMT, OTM, OAV	Formed from initial letters
Acronyms	NASA, NATO, UNESCO	NATO, UNESCO (borrowed forms)	Pronounced as lexical units
Clippings	lab, exam, ad	foto, avto (shortened borrowed forms)	Reduction of longer lexical units
Contractions	don't, I'm, we've	Direct structural equivalents are limited	Omission of elements within expressions
Graphic abbreviations	Dr., Prof., etc.	y., b., sh.k.	Conventional written shortenings

Source: Author's comparative classification based on the structural characteristics of English and Uzbek abbreviations.

The comparative analysis indicates that initial-letter abbreviations are productive in both languages, whereas contractions and lexical clippings demonstrate different degrees of grammatical integration and stylistic conventionalization. These differences can be explained by the distinct morphological structures, orthographic traditions, and historical development of English and Uzbek.

Stylistic functions of abbreviations in different types of discourse

The stylistic functions of abbreviations depend on the communicative environment, the relationship between participants, the purpose of the message, and the conventions of a particular discourse community. Although abbreviations primarily contribute to linguistic economy, their stylistic significance extends beyond textual shortening. One of their major functions is the creation of formal and institutional stylistic effects. In official documents, abbreviations provide standardized references to organizations, governmental institutions, and administrative structures. For example, English abbreviations such as UN, WHO, and EU frequently appear in diplomatic and political communication. Uzbek equivalents and institution-specific forms, including BMT, JSST, and OAV, perform similar functions in official and public discourse. Another important function is terminological compression. Scientific and technical texts often contain complex multiword expressions that are repeatedly used throughout a document. Abbreviations enable authors to avoid unnecessary repetition and improve textual coherence. For example, AI (artificial intelligence), ICT (information and communication technology), and DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) are widely used in English scientific discourse. Uzbek scientific texts similarly employ AKT (axborot-kommunikatsiya texnologiyalari), SI (sun'iy intellekt), and other specialized abbreviations. Abbreviations also perform an informality-marking function, particularly in conversational and digital communication. English expressions such as LOL, BRB (be right back), BTW (by the way), and IDK (I don't know) are associated with informal communication and may convey conversational spontaneity, familiarity, or emotional attitudes. In Uzbek digital communication, informal shortening practices can be observed in personal messaging, although their forms are less standardized and vary across speakers and platforms. For instance, shortened written forms such as salom becoming slm or rahmat becoming rhm may

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occur in informal messages. These examples represent nonstandard digital writing practices rather than established literary abbreviations. A further stylistic function is the expression of professional and social identity. Specialized abbreviations can indicate membership in a particular professional community. Medical professionals, engineers, educators, and information technology specialists frequently use abbreviated terminology that may be unfamiliar to individuals outside their fields. Consequently, abbreviations can simultaneously facilitate communication within a specialized community and create comprehension difficulties for external audiences.

Comparative analysis of abbreviations in functional styles

Functional stylistics examines how linguistic resources are selected and organized according to communicative purposes. From this perspective, the distribution of abbreviations across different functional styles reveals their contextual and pragmatic characteristics. In scientific discourse, abbreviations contribute to precision, terminological consistency, and textual economy. However, excessive use may reduce readability, particularly when specialized terms are introduced without explanations. In official and administrative discourse, abbreviations are commonly employed to designate institutions, governmental agencies, legal structures, and organizational units. Their usage is generally regulated by established conventions. In journalistic discourse, abbreviations serve to increase informational density and facilitate concise presentation. News headlines frequently use internationally recognized abbreviations because they allow complex institutional references to be expressed within limited textual space. In literary discourse, abbreviations may contribute to characterization, realism, or stylistic contrast. Their use in fictional dialogue can reflect the educational background, professional identity, social environment, or communicative habits of particular characters. In colloquial and digital discourse, abbreviations frequently demonstrate expressive and interpersonal functions. They may indicate familiarity, humor, emotional reactions, or group identity.

Stylistic functions of abbreviations in English and uzbek

Functional style	English examples	Uzbek examples	Stylistic function
Scientific	AI, DNA, ICT	SI, AKT, OTM	Terminological precision and economy
Official-administrative	UN, EU, WHO	BMT, IIV, JSST	Standardization and institutional reference
Journalistic	BBC, CNN, UN	OAV, BMT, AQSH	Informational density
Literary	Dr., Mr., Prof.	dr., prof.	Characterization and contextual reference
Informal digital communication	LOL, BRB, BTW	slm, rhm (nonstandard)	Informality and interpersonal expression

Source: Author's comparative analysis of selected abbreviation examples.

The data presented in Table 2 illustrate the relationship between abbreviation types and their stylistic environments. Nevertheless, the same abbreviation may perform different functions depending on context. For example, an institutional abbreviation can appear in both official documents and informal conversations without necessarily retaining the same stylistic effect.

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Pragmatic functions of abbreviations in contemporary communication

The pragmatic interpretation of abbreviations depends on the relationship between linguistic form, communicative intention, and contextual meaning. An abbreviation may communicate more than its literal expanded expression because it can also signal the speaker's attitude, familiarity with the topic, or membership in a particular social group. One important pragmatic function is the establishment of shared knowledge. When speakers use specialized abbreviations, they often assume that the recipient possesses sufficient background information to interpret them correctly. This assumption facilitates communication within professional communities but may create misunderstandings in broader public discourse. Another pragmatic function involves interpersonal closeness. Informal abbreviations in digital communication may reduce perceived social distance and contribute to a conversational tone. Expressions such as BTW and LOL are not merely shortened linguistic forms; they can also organize discourse, soften statements, or indicate emotional reactions. Abbreviations may also function as markers of authority and institutional legitimacy. In official communication, standardized shortened names of governmental bodies and international organizations contribute to the conventional style of administrative texts. However, the pragmatic effectiveness of abbreviations is closely connected with audience awareness. A shortened form that is understandable to specialists may be confusing to general readers. Therefore, successful abbreviation usage requires consideration of communicative context, audience expectations, and the degree of terminological familiarity.

Abbreviations in digital communication and social media

The expansion of digital communication has significantly influenced abbreviation practices in contemporary English and Uzbek. Social media platforms, instant messaging applications, online forums, and digital communities encourage rapid information exchange and frequently promote shortened linguistic expressions. English digital communication demonstrates a relatively extensive system of conventionalized abbreviations, including LOL, OMG (oh my God), FYI (for your information), IMO (in my opinion), and TBH (to be honest). These expressions can function as discourse markers, emotional indicators, and tools for managing interpersonal interaction. Uzbek digital communication exhibits a more heterogeneous pattern. Users may employ Uzbek-based shortenings, international abbreviations, English expressions, and mixed-language constructions. This phenomenon reflects the influence of multilingual digital environments and the interaction between local linguistic practices and global communication trends. The use of abbreviations in social media can be associated with several communicative factors, including the desire for rapid message production, informal interaction, technological habits, and participation in specific online communities. Nevertheless, digital abbreviations can create challenges for linguistic standardization and formal writing competence. Learners who frequently use nonstandard shortened forms may require additional guidance in distinguishing informal digital conventions from the requirements of academic and professional communication. The linguistic consequences of digital abbreviation practices should not be interpreted exclusively as negative or positive. Their significance depends on the communicative environment, the user's linguistic competence, and the appropriateness of particular forms within specific contexts.

Translation and intercultural challenges of english and uzbek abbreviations

The translation of abbreviations represents an important problem in comparative linguistics and translation studies. Abbreviated expressions may have direct equivalents in another language, require semantic expansion, or remain unchanged as internationally recognized linguistic units. For example,

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the English abbreviation UN corresponds to Uzbek BMT, while WHO corresponds to JSST. In such cases, translation involves replacing the source-language abbreviation with an established target-language equivalent. Other abbreviations, particularly those associated with specialized terminology or culturally specific institutions, may require explanatory translation. The translator must determine whether the intended audience is familiar with the abbreviated form and whether the abbreviation has an accepted equivalent in the target language. Internationally recognized acronyms such as UNESCO and NATO are frequently retained in translated texts, although their pronunciation and orthographic representation may vary.

Translation strategies for English and uzbek abbreviations

English abbreviation	Uzbek equivalent	Translation strategy
UN	BMT	Established equivalent
WHO	JSST	Established equivalent
USA	AQSH	Established equivalent
ICT	AKT	Terminological equivalent
AI	SI	Terminological equivalent
UNESCO	UNESCO	Retention of international acronym
NATO	NATO	Retention of international acronym
CEO	Bosh ijrochi direktor	Descriptive translation

Source: Author's comparative examples of abbreviation translation strategies.

The examples demonstrate that abbreviation translation requires both linguistic knowledge and contextual interpretation. Literal translation of abbreviated forms may produce inaccurate or unnatural results when established target-language equivalents already exist. Moreover, translators must consider the stylistic characteristics of the original text. An informal abbreviation used in conversational English may require a natural colloquial expression in Uzbek rather than a mechanically shortened equivalent. Therefore, the translation of abbreviations should be based on semantic accuracy, stylistic equivalence, communicative appropriateness, and the linguistic conventions of the target language.

Methodological implications for teaching english and uzbek abbreviations

The comparative study of abbreviations has practical implications for foreign language education, translation training, and the development of communicative competence. In English language teaching, abbreviations should be introduced not only as vocabulary items but also as linguistic forms associated with particular communicative contexts. Students need to understand the difference between formal institutional abbreviations, specialized terminology, and informal digital expressions. A context-based teaching approach may involve authentic texts, professional documents, news articles, online discussions, and digital messages. Learners can analyze how abbreviations function in different genres and identify their stylistic implications. Comparative exercises involving English and Uzbek abbreviations can also develop translation competence. Students may be asked to identify established equivalents, explain unfamiliar shortened expressions, and determine whether an abbreviation should

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be translated, expanded, or retained. The integration of digital resources into abbreviation instruction can further support vocabulary development and intercultural awareness. Online corpora, digital dictionaries, authentic media texts, and interactive exercises provide opportunities to examine abbreviations in actual language use. Particular attention should be given to the distinction between standard and nonstandard forms. While informal digital abbreviations may be appropriate in personal communication, their use in academic writing, official correspondence, and professional documentation should be evaluated according to relevant stylistic conventions. From a methodological perspective, abbreviation instruction should combine structural analysis, semantic interpretation, contextual evaluation, and practical communication activities. Such an approach can help learners develop not only linguistic knowledge but also the ability to select appropriate expressions according to communicative circumstances.

CONCLUSION

The comparative analysis of abbreviations in English and Uzbek demonstrates that shortened linguistic forms constitute an important component of contemporary communication and perform a wide range of structural, semantic, stylistic, and pragmatic functions. Although linguistic economy remains one of the principal motivations for abbreviation formation, their communicative significance extends to the expression of formality, professional identity, social affiliation, emotional attitudes, and discourse organization. The study identifies several similarities between English and Uzbek abbreviation systems, particularly in the use of initial-letter abbreviations within scientific, official, administrative, and journalistic discourse. At the same time, differences can be observed in their structural productivity, orthographic conventions, lexical adaptation, and distribution across informal communicative environments. English demonstrates extensive use of acronyms, initialisms, clippings, contractions, and digital abbreviations, while Uzbek exhibits particularly productive abbreviation practices in institutional terminology and the adaptation of international expressions. These distinctions reflect the different morphological structures, historical development, and sociolinguistic conditions of the two languages. The analysis further indicates that the stylistic value of an abbreviation depends on its communicative context rather than its structural characteristics alone. The same shortened form may function as a neutral terminological designation in one context and as a marker of professional identity or informal interaction in another. Digital communication has introduced additional dimensions to abbreviation usage, encouraging the development of nonstandard shortened forms and multilingual linguistic practices. These tendencies highlight the need for further investigation into the relationship between abbreviation, digital discourse, language norms, and sociolinguistic identity. From a practical perspective, the findings emphasize the importance of contextual interpretation in translation and language teaching. Effective communication requires awareness of the semantic meaning, stylistic appropriateness, and cultural implications of abbreviated expressions. Therefore, abbreviation instruction should be integrated into the development of linguistic, communicative, and intercultural competencies. In conclusion, abbreviations in English and Uzbek should be regarded not merely as mechanisms of linguistic shortening but as multifunctional units that reflect broader processes of language development and social communication. Further empirical research based on representative linguistic corpora, authentic digital discourse, and comparative frequency analysis would provide a more comprehensive understanding of their stylistic distribution and communicative functions in contemporary English and Uzbek.

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