

The Poetics Of Mind Figurative Thought Language And Understanding

The Poetics Of Mind Figurative Thought Language And Understanding the poetics of mind figurative thought language and understanding explores the intricate ways in which human cognition, language, and metaphorical expression intertwine to shape our perception of reality. This field delves into how metaphors, symbols, and poetic devices serve as vital tools for conveying complex thoughts, emotions, and abstract concepts. By examining the poetics of mind, we gain insights into the mechanisms behind creative thinking, linguistic innovation, and the profound connection between language and consciousness. Understanding these dynamics enhances our appreciation of literature, communication, and the fundamental nature of human understanding. --- Introduction to the Poetics of Mind and Figurative Thought The relationship between cognition and language is a cornerstone of human experience. Our minds are inherently metaphorical, constantly mapping familiar concepts onto new or abstract ideas. This process, known as figurative thought, allows us to articulate and comprehend complex phenomena that might otherwise remain elusive. Poetry and other literary forms leverage this figurative thinking to evoke vivid imagery and emotional resonance. The poetics of mind examines how these techniques influence our perception and understanding, bridging the gap between abstract thought and sensory experience. -- - Understanding Figurative Thought: The Cognitive Foundation What Is Figurative Thought? Figurative thought involves using metaphor, analogy, symbolism, and other rhetorical devices to represent ideas. Instead of literal descriptions, it employs indirect or symbolic language to deepen meaning. The Cognitive Basis of Figurative Thinking Research suggests that our brains are wired to think metaphorically. Key points include: - Conceptual Metaphor Theory: Proposed by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, this theory posits that our understanding of abstract concepts (such as time, emotion, morality) is grounded in concrete experiences. - Embodiment: Our bodily experiences shape the metaphors we develop, such as associating warmth with affection. - Neural Overlap: Brain imaging reveals that similar neural regions activate during both physical sensations and 2 their metaphorical counterparts, supporting the idea of embodied cognition. - -- The Role of Poetics in Shaping Thought and Understanding Poetry as a Vehicle for Cognitive and Emotional Expression Poetry employs figurative language to: - Evoke sensory experiences - Convey complex emotional states - Challenge conventional perceptions Through poetic devices like metaphor, simile, and allegory, poets craft layers of meaning that invite multiple interpretations and deepen reader engagement. The Impact of Poetics on Cognitive Processes Poetic language influences: - Memory: Vivid imagery enhances recall. - Perception: Poetic metaphors can alter how we interpret reality. - Emotional Response: Poetics evoke empathy and emotional resonance, shaping our worldview. --- Key Elements of Poetics and Figurative Language Metaphor and Simile - Metaphor: Implies a direct comparison (e.g., "Time is a thief"). - Simile: Uses "like" or "as" to compare (e.g., "Bright as the sun"). Symbolism Symbols represent ideas or qualities beyond their literal sense (e.g., a dove representing peace). Allegory A narrative in which characters and events symbolize broader concepts (e.g., George Orwell's Animal Farm). Imagery and Sensory Language Descriptions that appeal to the senses, creating vivid mental pictures and enhancing emotional impact. --- Poetics, Language, and the Construction of Meaning Language as a Poetic Tool Language is inherently poetic when used creatively. Poets manipulate syntax, sound, and rhythm to

influence perception. 3 Semantic Shifts and Ambiguity Poetry often employs ambiguity and multiple layers of meaning, encouraging readers to interpret and re-interpret. The Power of Sound and Rhythm Phonetic devices like alliteration, assonance, and consonance contribute to the musicality of poetic language, reinforcing meaning and emotional tone. --- The Relationship Between Mind, Language, and Understanding How Figurative Thought Shapes Perception Our conceptual frameworks are deeply rooted in metaphorical structures. For example: - Viewing arguments as battles ("defend your position") - Understanding emotions as weather ("storm of anger") Language as a Reflection of Thought Language not only expresses thought but also shapes it. The structure and vocabulary of our language influence our worldview, a concept known as linguistic relativity. Understanding Through Poetics Poetic language facilitates a form of embodied understanding, where abstract ideas are made tangible through sensory-rich metaphors. --- Applications of Poetics of Mind in Various Fields Literature and Creative Writing - Enhances expressive depth - Encourages innovative use of language - Fosters emotional engagement Psychology and Cognitive Science - Studies how metaphor shapes thought - Explores therapeutic uses of poetic language - Investigates the neural basis of figurative thinking Communication and Education - Uses poetic devices to clarify complex ideas - Improves retention and understanding - Facilitates cross-cultural understanding through shared symbolism --- 4 Challenges and Future Directions Limitations in Current Understanding While significant progress has been made, challenges remain: - Fully mapping neural correlates of poetic thought - Understanding cultural variations in metaphor use - Developing effective methods to incorporate poetics into education and therapy Emerging Trends and Research - Interdisciplinary studies combining neuroscience, linguistics, and literary theory - Digital humanities exploring new poetic forms - AI-driven analysis of poetic language and metaphor --- Conclusion: Embracing the Poetics of Mind The poetics of mind, figurative thought, language, and understanding reveal the profound ways in which human cognition is rooted in metaphorical and poetic expression. Recognizing these connections enriches our appreciation of literature, enhances communication, and broadens our understanding of consciousness. As research continues to uncover the neural and cognitive foundations of poetic thought, we deepen our insight into the human condition—seeing the world not just through literal lenses but through the vibrant, layered poetics that shape our perception and understanding. Embracing this poetics fosters creativity, empathy, and a richer engagement with the world around us. Question Answer How does figurative language influence our understanding of complex mental processes? Figurative language, such as metaphors and analogies, helps us conceptualize abstract mental processes by mapping them onto familiar, concrete experiences, thereby enhancing comprehension and cognitive engagement. In what ways do poetic expressions shape the way we interpret the mind and consciousness? Poetic expressions employ vivid imagery and symbolic language that evoke emotional and intuitive insights, allowing us to explore the nuances of consciousness and mental states beyond literal descriptions. What role does the poetics of mind play in developing theories of cognition and understanding? The poetics of mind provides a framework for expressing and exploring cognitive phenomena through creative, metaphorical language, fostering new perspectives and deeper insights into how we think and understand. 5 How does language serve as a figurative tool in bridging scientific and philosophical views of the mind? Language acts as a figurative bridge by using metaphors and poetic devices that translate complex scientific and philosophical concepts into accessible, evocative imagery, facilitating interdisciplinary dialogue and comprehension. Can the study of poetic and figurative thought enhance artificial intelligence's ability to understand human cognition? Yes, integrating poetic and figurative language patterns into AI can improve its capacity to interpret human emotions, nuances, and abstract concepts, leading to more sophisticated and empathetic machine understanding. What is the significance of understanding the poetics

of mind in creative and therapeutic contexts? Understanding the poetics of mind enriches creative expression and therapeutic practices by allowing individuals to articulate and explore inner experiences through metaphorical and poetic language, fostering healing and self-awareness. The poetics of mind figurative thought language and understanding The poetics of mind, figurative thought, language, and understanding is a captivating domain that bridges the realms of psychology, linguistics, philosophy, and literary theory. It explores how human cognition relies not only on literal information but also on rich, metaphorical, and poetic structures that shape our perception of reality, influence our thoughts, and communicate complex ideas. This intersection illuminates how our minds craft meaning, how language acts as a poetic canvas, and how understanding emerges from intricate patterns of figurative thought. In this article, we delve into the depths of this fascinating landscape, unpacking the ways in which poetic structures underpin our mental processes and how they foster deeper comprehension. --- The Foundations of Poetics in the Mind The Role of Poetics in Human Cognition Poetics traditionally refers to the study of poetic principles, but its relevance extends far beyond poetry itself. It encompasses the underlying structures that make language expressive, evocative, and meaningful. When applied to the mind, poetics becomes a lens through which we understand how humans construct mental representations, interpret experiences, and communicate complex ideas. Humans are inherently poetic thinkers; our minds are wired to recognize patterns, evoke imagery, and generate metaphors. These processes are not mere stylistic devices but fundamental to cognition. For instance, when we say, "He has a heart of gold," we rely on metaphorical poetics to communicate qualities of kindness that transcend literal descriptions. The Cognitive Basis for Poetic Thought Research in cognitive science reveals that poetic thought is deeply embedded in neural processes. The brain's right hemisphere, often associated with imagery and metaphor, collaborates with the left hemisphere, which handles linguistic and analytical tasks. This collaboration underpins our ability to generate and interpret poetic language. Key cognitive functions involved include: - Pattern Recognition: Identifying similarities and analogies. - Imagery Generation: Creating mental pictures that evoke emotions and understanding. - Metaphor Processing: Mapping The Poetics Of Mind Figurative Thought Language And Understanding 6 concepts from one domain to another, facilitating comprehension of abstract ideas. - Emotional Resonance: Engaging affective responses that deepen understanding. These functions show that poetics is not a superficial embellishment but a core component of how the mind makes sense of the world. --- The Power of Figurative Thought in Language Understanding Figurative Language Figurative language employs devices like metaphors, similes, personifications, and allegories to convey meanings beyond literal definitions. This language form enriches communication, enabling us to express nuanced emotions, complex ideas, and abstract concepts. Some common types include: - Metaphor: Direct comparison (e.g., "Time is a thief"). - Simile: Comparison using "like" or "as" (e.g., "Her smile was like sunshine"). - Personification: Attributing human qualities to non-human entities (e.g., "The wind whispered secrets"). - Allegory: Extended metaphor representing broader themes (e.g., Orwell's "Animal Farm"). How Figurative Language Shapes Thought The use of figurative language is a window into the poetics of the mind. It reveals how humans process abstract concepts by anchoring them in familiar, concrete experiences. For example, conceptualizing time as a "thief" allows us to understand its fleeting nature by framing it as something that can stealthily take away moments. Research suggests that engaging with figurative language activates specific neural pathways associated with sensory-motor and emotional processing. This activation indicates that understanding metaphors involves simulating the experiences they evoke, making abstract ideas tangible. The Cognitive Benefits of Figurative Thought Employing figurative language enhances cognitive functions by: - Facilitating Recall: Imagery and metaphors create memorable associations. - Encouraging Creativity: Generating new metaphors fosters innovative thinking. -

Deepening Understanding: Connecting new ideas to existing schemas promotes comprehension. - Building Emotional Connections: Poetic language resonates on an affective level, making messages more impactful. Thus, figurative thought is not merely ornamental but instrumental in shaping how the mind interprets and responds to the world. --- Poetics and the Construction of Meaning The Poetic Structure of Knowledge Our understanding of complex concepts often relies on poetic structures that organize information into meaningful patterns. This includes the use of narrative, symbolism, and metaphorical frameworks that provide coherence to abstract ideas. For example, spiritual or philosophical systems frequently employ poetic language and symbols to encapsulate profound truths. Think of religious parables, mythologies, or philosophical allegories—these are poetic devices that communicate layered meanings designed to resonate deeply within human consciousness. The Role of Narrative and Myth in Understanding Narratives and myths serve as poetic scaffolds that help individuals and cultures interpret their experiences. They function as cognitive tools that: - Simplify Complexity: Breaking down intricate ideas into storylines. - Create Shared Meaning: Fostering communal understanding through shared symbols. - Encourage Moral Reflection: Embedding ethical lessons in compelling stories. - Evoke Emotional The Poetics Of Mind Figurative Thought Language And Understanding 7 Engagement: Connecting listeners or readers through evocative storytelling. By weaving meaning through poetic storytelling, humans can grasp concepts that are otherwise difficult to articulate explicitly. The Interplay of Language and Understanding Language, especially when poetic, acts as a vessel for transmitting shared insights. Its poetic qualities—rhythm, metaphor, imagery—engage our neural circuits in ways that literal language alone cannot. This engagement deepens comprehension and fosters empathy, enabling us to see the world through others' perspectives. --- The Neuroscience of Poetic Thought and Understanding Brain Networks Involved Advances in neuroimaging have identified key brain regions involved in processing poetic and figurative language: - Right Hemisphere: Responsible for metaphor, imagery, and emotional tone. - Broca's and Wernicke's Areas: Central to language production and comprehension. - Temporal Lobes: Involved in the processing of metaphoric meaning. - Prefrontal Cortex: Engaged in higher- order abstraction and integration of ideas. The dynamic interaction among these regions facilitates the poetic structuring of thought and the nuanced understanding that arises from it. Neural Correlates of Metaphor and Poetics Studies show that understanding metaphors activates not only language centers but also sensory-motor areas, suggesting that comprehending poetic imagery involves simulating experiences in the mind. For example, processing the phrase "grasping an idea" activates brain regions associated with actual grasping motions, illustrating embodied cognition. This embodied aspect of poetic thought underscores how poetics bridges abstract concepts with concrete sensory experiences, enriching our grasp of meaning. --- The Cultural and Artistic Significance Poetry as a Reflection of the Poetics of Mind Throughout history, poetry has served as a mirror to the human condition, revealing how the poetics of mind shape cultural narratives. Poets harness figurative language to explore themes of love, mortality, spirituality, and identity, tapping into universal patterns of thought. In doing so, poetry becomes a collective reflection of the poetics core of human cognition—an art form that encodes and transmits the poetics of mind across generations. Impact on Artistic and Therapeutic Practices Recognizing the poetics of mind has influenced various disciplines: - Literary Theory: Understanding how poetic devices evoke meaning. - Psychotherapy: Using metaphor and poetic language to facilitate insight and healing. - Education: Employing poetic structures to enhance learning and creativity. These applications demonstrate the profound influence of poetics on human development and well-being. --- Final Reflections: The Future of Studying Poetics in the Mind As scientific tools become more sophisticated, our comprehension of how poetics shapes thought and understanding continues to deepen. Researchers are exploring how virtual reality, artificial intelligence, and neurofeedback can harness

poetic structures to enhance cognition and empathy. Understanding the poetics of mind is not merely an academic pursuit but a pathway to appreciating human creativity and the profound ways we make sense of our world. It reminds us that beneath the surface of rationality lies a poetic universe—a universe where The Poetics Of Mind Figurative Thought Language And Understanding 8 metaphor, imagery, and narrative are fundamental to our very being. In embracing this perspective, we open new avenues for fostering human connection, innovation, and insight—celebrating the poetic essence at the heart of cognition. poetry, cognition, metaphor, language, perception, thought, symbolism, semantics, creative expression, mental processes

The Poetics of Mind Studies in Figurative Thought and Language Figurative Meaning Construction in Thought and Language Figurative Thought and Language in Action Figurative Thought and Language in the Human Universe The Cambridge Handbook of Metaphor and Thought Figurative Language and Thought Indirect Reports and Pragmatics in the World Languages Figurative Thought and Language in the Human Universe Meaning and Relevance Figurative Language - Intersubjectivity and Usage Discourse Patterns in Spoken and Written Corpora Context and Connection in Metaphor The MIT Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences (MITECS) Metaphor and Corpus Linguistics Performing Metaphoric Creativity across Modes and Contexts Hermathena Handbook of Psycholinguistics The First-[sixth] Reader Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts Raymond W. Gibbs Angeliki Athanasiadou Annalisa Baicchi Mario Brdar Mario Brdar Raymond W. Gibbs, Jr. Albert N. Katz Alessandro Capone Mario Brdar Deirdre Wilson Augusto Soares da Silva Karin Aijmer L. David Ritchie Robert A. Wilson Alice Deignan Laura Hidalgo-Downing Morton Ann Gernsbacher Marcius Willson

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in this bold new work ray gibbs demonstrates that human cognition is deeply poetic and that figurative imagination constitutes the way we understand ourselves and the world in which we live

this volume contains original research and innovative analyses that deepen our understanding of figurative thought and language the selected papers focus on the multi faceted aspect of figuration its function in thought and its impact on areas of grammar and communication key topics explored include metaphor metonymy and their relationship to each other as well as the less studied figure of hyperbole and its relation to the fundamental figures of metaphor and metonymy collectively the papers examine the pragmatic reasoning processes triggered by figurative thought the lexicogrammatical motivations and or constraints on figurative language the impact of deeply entrenched figurative thought on the lexicon of

natural languages the cultural origins of figurative thought and the psycholinguistic motivations for figuration the comprehensive treatment of these issues is fundamental for future research on figurative thought and language particularly on questions of universality vs specificity of figuration the impact of figuration on constructions cross linguistic comparisons of figurative language and cognitive pragmatic approaches to figurative meaning

this volume brings together twelve usage based studies conducted by leading researchers in language and cognition that explore core issues of figurativeness from the cognitive linguistics perspective the individual chapters reveal the central function of figurativeness in thought and its impact on language cognition relies on knowledge structuring tools in the construction of meaning both mentally and linguistically collectively the chapters delve into an array of topics that are crucial to future research in figurative meaning construction especially on questions of identification and structure of figures the figurative motivation of constructions the impact of figurativeness on pragmatic and multimodal communication and the correlation between figures and cognitive models

the contents of the volume prove the vitality of cognitive linguistic studies of figuration when combined with new research methodologies in tandem with other disciplines and also when applied to an ever broader range of topics individual chapters are concerned not only with some fundamental issues of defining and delimiting metaphor and metonymy with the impact of figuration on grammatical forms but are also exemplary discussions of how figurative language is processed and understood as well as studies of practical ramifications of the use of figurative language in various types of discourse the language of media politics and healthcare communication most of the volume assumes a synchronic perspective but diachronic coverage of processes is not missing either in short the volume demonstrates how rewarding it is to return to the true origins of cognitive linguistics for new inspiration and take a fresh start promising a true cornucopia of future results

the volume focuses on the interaction between figurative language embodiment and society and culture from various theoretical and applied perspectives and methodologies it bears witness to the vibrancy of research into figurative language and the role of embodiment with conceptualization motivated not just by our physical interaction with the external world but also by social and cultural phenomena the topics explored here include the impact of figuration on all levels of linguistic analysis including grammar discourse and the relationship between language and emotions

a comprehensive collection of essays in multidisciplinary metaphor scholarship that has been written in response to the growing interest among scholars and students from a variety of disciplines such as linguistics philosophy anthropology music and psychology these essays explore the significance of metaphor in language thought culture and artistic expression there are five main themes of the book the roots of metaphor metaphor understanding metaphor in language and culture metaphor in reasoning and feeling and metaphor in non verbal expression contributors come from a variety of academic disciplines including psychology linguistics philosophy cognitive science literature education music and law

our understanding of the nature and processing of figurative language is central to several important issues in cognitive science including the relationship of language and thought how we process language and how we comprehend abstract meaning over the past fifteen years traditional approaches to these issues have been challenged by experimental psychologists linguists and other cognitive scientists interested in the

structures of the mind and the processes that operate on them in figurative language and thought internationally recognized experts in the field of figurative language albert katz mark turner raymond w gibbs jr and cristina cacciari provide a coherent and focused debate on the subject the book's authors discuss a variety of fundamental questions including what can figures of speech tell us about the structure of the conceptual system if and how should we distinguish the literal from the nonliteral in our theories of language and thought are we primarily figurative thinkers and consequently figurative language users or the other way around why do we prefer to speak metaphorically in everyday conversation when literal options may be available for use is metaphor the only vehicle through which we can understand abstract concepts what role do cultural and social factors play in our comprehension of figurative language these and related questions are raised and argued in an integrative look at the role of nonliteral language in cognition this volume a part of counterpoints series will be thought provoking reading for a wide range of cognitive psychologists linguists and philosophers

this volume addresses the intriguing issue of indirect reports from an interdisciplinary perspective the contributors include philosophers theoretical linguists socio pragmatics and cognitive scientists the book is divided into four sections following the provenance of the authors combining the voices from leading and emerging authors in the field it offers a detailed picture of indirect reports in the world's languages and their significance for theoretical linguistics building on the previous book on indirect reports in this series this volume adds an empirical and cross linguistic approach that covers an impressive range of languages such as cantonese japanese hebrew persian dutch spanish catalan armenian italian english hungarian german rumanian and basque

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when people speak their words never fully encode what they mean and the context is always compatible with a variety of interpretations how can comprehension ever be achieved wilson and sperber argue that comprehension is a process of inference guided by precise expectations of relevance what are the relations between the linguistically encoded meanings studied in semantics and the thoughts that humans are capable of entertaining and conveying how should we analyse literal meaning approximations metaphors and ironies is the ability to understand speakers meanings rooted in a more general human ability to understand other minds how do these abilities interact in evolution and in cognitive development meaning and relevance sets out to answer these and other questions enriching and updating relevance theory and exploring its implications for linguistics philosophy cognitive science and literary studies

intersubjectivity and usage play central roles in figurative language and are pivotal notions for a cognitively realistic research on figures of thought speech and communication this volume brings together thirteen studies that explore the relationship between figurativity intersubjectivity and usage from the cognitive linguistics perspective the studies explore the impact of figurativity on areas of lexicon and grammar on real discourse and across different semiotic systems some studies focus on the psychological

processes of the comprehension of figurativity other studies address the ways in which figures of thought and language are socially shared and the variation of figures through time and space moreover some contributions are established on advanced corpus based techniques and experimental methods there are studies about metaphor metonymy irony and puns about related processes such as humor empathy and ambiguation and about the interaction between figures overall this volume offers the advantages and the opportunities of an interactional and usage based perspective of figurativity embracing both the psychological and the intersubjective reality of figurative thought and language and empirically emphasizing the multidimensional character of figurativity its central function in thought and its impact on everyday communication

this book brings together a number of empirical studies that use corpora to study discourse patterns in speech and writing it explores new trends in the area of text and discourse characterized by the alliance between text linguistics and areas such as corpus linguistics genre analysis literary stylistics and cross linguistic studies the contributions to the volume show how established corpora can be used to ask a number of new questions about the interface between speech and writing the relation between grammar and discourse academic discourse cohesive markers stylistic devices such as metaphor deixis and non verbal communication the corpora used for text analysis can also be tailor made for the study of particular genres such as journal article abstracts lectures e mailing list messages headlines and titles a recent development is to bring in contrastive data from bilingual corpora to show what is language specific in the organization of the text

how do people understand metaphorical language can a commonplace metaphor affect the way people think even if they don't interpret it why does it matter how people interpret metaphors the author proposes an original communication based theory of metaphor that answers these and other questions about metaphors and metaphorical language

since the 1970s the cognitive sciences have offered multidisciplinary ways of understanding the mind and cognition the mit encyclopedia of the cognitive sciences mitecs is a landmark comprehensive reference work that represents the methodological and theoretical diversity of this changing field at the core of the encyclopedia are 471 concise entries from acquisition and adaptationism to wundt and x bar theory each article written by a leading researcher in the field provides an accessible introduction to an important concept in the cognitive sciences as well as references or further readings six extended essays which collectively serve as a roadmap to the articles provide overviews of each of six major areas of cognitive science philosophy psychology neurosciences computational intelligence linguistics and language and culture cognition and evolution for both students and researchers mitecs will be an indispensable guide to the current state of the cognitive sciences

metaphor is a topical issue across a number of disciplines wherever researchers are concerned with how speakers and writers package and process messages this book is addressed at readers from diverse academic backgrounds who are interested in ways of researching metaphor from different perspectives and especially through corpus linguistics a number of approaches to and exploitations of metaphor including conceptual metaphor theory and cognitive approaches more generally text and spoken discourse analysis and cda are discussed explored and critiqued using corpus data the book also includes corpus linguistic studies of different aspects of metaphor which investigate its linguistic and semantic properties and relate

them to current theoretical views the book demonstrates the need for naturally occurring language data to be used in the development of metaphor theory and shows the value of corpus data and techniques in this work

the creative potentiality of metaphor is one of the central themes in research on creativity the present volume offers a space for the interdisciplinary discussion of the relationship between metaphor and creativity by focusing on re contextualization across modes and socio cultural contexts and on the performative dimension of creative discourse practices the volume brings together insights from conceptual metaphor theory critical discourse approaches to metaphor and multimodal discourse analysis creativity as a process is explored in how it emerges in the flow of experience when talking about or reacting to creative acts such as dance painting or music and in subjects responses to advertisements in experimental studies creativity as product is explored by analyzing the choice occurrence and patterning of creative metaphors in various types of multimodal and multisensorial discourses such as political cartoons satire films children s storybooks music and songs videos scientific discourse architectural reviews and the performance of classical indian rasa

the handbook of psycholinguistics in one volume provides a single source state of the art review of the many subdisciplines in this area written by the leading experts in the field each chapter provides both depth and breadth in covering dynamic research findings on the acquisition perception and comprehension of language now in its third decade of existence the field has never before had a comprehensive reference source the handbook discusses research theory and methodology while never compromising the unique integration of psychology and linguistics fundamental to this field

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