

Research on diplomatic vocabulary in the English and Uzbek languages

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Annotation: This article provides a comparative analysis of diplomatic vocabulary in English and Uzbek, focusing on the unique characteristics of diplomatic discourse and the use of specialized terminology. It examines frequently used terms in both languages, exploring the linguistic and cultural challenges encountered in the translation process. Special attention is given to the semantic and pragmatic dimensions of diplomatic language, with an emphasis on how expressions function differently in formal and informal contexts. The paper underscores the importance of accounting for cultural and political differences during translation to ensure accuracy and appropriateness. Additionally, the research discusses how the historical and socio-political context influences the formulation of diplomatic terms and expressions. The findings highlight the role of language in shaping diplomatic relationships and in conveying political ideologies. This work offers practical insights for linguists, translators, and scholars, providing methodological recommendations for overcoming challenges in translation and fostering better mutual understanding between speakers of different languages, ultimately enhancing global diplomatic communication.

Keywords: diplomatic language, translation, culture, pragmatics, semantics, mutual understanding

Исследование дипломатической лексики в английском и узбекском языках

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Аннотация: В статье представлен сравнительный анализ дипломатической лексики на английском и узбекском языках, с акцентом на особенности дипломатического дискурса и использование специализированной терминологии. Рассматриваются часто употребляемые термины в обоих языках, а также лингвистические и культурные сложности, возникающие при их переводе. Особое внимание уделяется семантическим и прагматическим аспектам дипломатического языка, а также различиям в функционировании выражений в официальных и неофициальных контекстах. В статье подчеркивается необходимость учета культурных и политических различий при переводе для обеспечения точности и адекватности. Автор рассматривает, как эти различия могут влиять на значение и интерпретацию дипломатических терминов в разных политических и культурных контекстах. Также исследуется, как исторические и социально-политические обстоятельства могут влиять на формулирование дипломатических терминов и выражений. Результаты исследования дают практические рекомендации для лингвистов, переводчиков и ученых в области

дипломатической коммуникации, предлагая методические советы для преодоления трудностей в переводе и создания лучшего взаимопонимания между носителями разных языков. Это исследование представляет интерес для дальнейших исследований в области лексикологии и переводоведения, особенно в контексте международных отношений.

Ключевые слова: дипломатический язык, перевод, культура, прагматика, семантика, взаимопонимание

Diplomatik atamalarni ingliz va o‘zbek tillarida tadqiq etish

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola ingliz va o‘zbek tillaridagi diplomatik leksikani qiyosiy tahlil qilishga bag‘ishlangan. Diplomatik nutq uslubining xususiyatlari va undagi terminologiyaning ishlatilishi ko‘rib chiqiladi. Maqolada har ikkala tilda tez-tez uchraydigan diplomatik atamalar, tarjimaga ta’sir ko‘rsatadigan lingvistik va madaniy qiyinchiliklar tahlil qilinadi. Asosiy e’tibor diplomat tilining semantik va pragmatik jihatlariga qaratilgan, rasmiy va norasmiy kontekstlardagi ifodalar qanday ishlashini tushuntiradi. Maqolada tarjimaga madaniy va siyosiy farqlarni inobatga olish zarurligi ta’kidlanadi, chunki bu farqlar diplomatik atamalarni to‘g‘ri va aniq tarjima qilishda muhim rol o‘ynaydi. Tadqiqotda shuningdek, tarixiy va ijtimoiy-siyosiy kontekstlarning diplomatik terminlar va ifodalarni shakllantirishga qanday ta’sir qilishiga e’tibor qaratilgan. Maqola diplomatik tilning o‘ziga xos funktsiyalarini, madaniy o‘zgarishlarni va siyosiy muloqotdagi rolini ham yoritadi. Tadqiqot natijalari tarjimonlar, tilshunoslar va diplomatlar uchun metodik tavsiyalarni o‘z ichiga oladi, tarjimadagi muammolarni yengish va turli tillar o‘rtasida yaxshiroq o‘zaro tushunishni ta’minlash uchun yo‘l-yo‘riqlar beradi. Ushbu tadqiqot leksikologiya va tarjimashunoslik sohalarida yanada chuqurroq o‘rganish uchun katta qiziqish uyg‘otadi, shuningdek, xalqaro munosabatlar doirasida diplomatik tilni yanada rivojlantirishga yordam beradi.

Kalit so‘zlar: diplomatik til, tarjima, madaniyat, pragmatika, semantika, o‘zaro tushunish

Introduction

Diplomatic language serves as a bridge for communication between nations, governments, and international organizations. It is characterized by its formality, indirectness, politeness, and use of euphemisms to maintain neutrality and avoid conflict. The importance of diplomatic language lies in its ability to manage international relationships, negotiate treaties, and maintain peace. English, as a global lingua franca, has become a dominant language of diplomacy, while the Uzbek language has evolved within the context of regional and international cooperation, especially after gaining independence. Understanding the similarities and differences in diplomatic vocabulary between these two languages is essential not only for accurate translation but also for fostering effective international dialogue. This study explores the linguistic features and cultural underpinnings of diplomatic vocabulary in both languages, aiming to identify key challenges and propose solutions for translators and language professionals.

Theoretical Background

The study of diplomatic discourse has attracted attention in the fields of linguistics, translation studies, and political science. Scholars such as Chilton and Schäffner (1997) have emphasized that

diplomatic language functions both as a vehicle for international communication and as a tool for the strategic negotiation of meaning.

Key theoretical contributions come from Halliday's (1994) systemic functional linguistics, which enables the analysis of how language functions to achieve communicative goals in specific social settings, such as diplomacy. Pragmatic theories from Grice (1975) and Leech (1983) contribute insights into the role of politeness, implicature, and indirectness in shaping diplomatic meaning. These are particularly relevant when evaluating how intentions are conveyed subtly in international dialogue.

In the field of translation studies, the works of Nida (1964) and Hatim & Mason (1997) offer valuable frameworks for understanding how meaning shifts during interlingual communication. Their emphasis on dynamic equivalence and communicative effectiveness underlines the importance of contextually appropriate translation rather than strict literalism. The Skopos theory by Vermeer (1989) is also pertinent, especially when the translation purpose influences lexical and stylistic choices in diplomatic texts. Crystal (1997) discusses how English has developed into a global language used for diplomacy and international negotiations. Newmark (1988) emphasizes the importance of cultural awareness in translation, especially when dealing with political and diplomatic texts. House (2015) provides a framework for assessing translation quality that is particularly useful for evaluating the translation of sensitive diplomatic terms. In the Uzbek academic context, Rasulov (2015) explores political terminology in local media and its translation challenges. Baker (2018) also highlights the significance of pragmatic understanding in translation, particularly in high-stakes environments like international relations. Despite these contributions, few studies have directly compared English and Uzbek diplomatic vocabulary in a systematic way. This research attempts to fill that gap by offering a detailed analysis of commonly used diplomatic terms, their connotations, and their pragmatic implications in both languages.

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative comparative methodology that involves textual analysis and contrastive linguistics. A corpus of diplomatic texts, including international agreements, official statements, UN press releases, and bilateral communication documents, was compiled in both English and Uzbek. The selected texts were analyzed to identify frequently occurring diplomatic terms and expressions. These terms were categorized based on their function (e.g., agreement, disagreement, proposal, concern, cooperation) and evaluated for their semantic accuracy and pragmatic appropriateness in translation.

In addition, translation strategies were assessed using examples from official translated documents to observe how translators handle cultural references, idiomatic expressions, and diplomatic euphemisms. A coding system was applied to classify translation solutions such as borrowing, adaptation, modulation, and omission. The study also considered the socio-political context in which the terms are used, recognizing that diplomacy is not only about language but also about cultural perception, historical relationships, and political intention. The comparative approach enabled a cross-linguistic mapping of equivalents and divergences in diplomatic vocabulary.

To increase the validity of findings, expert opinions from professional translators and linguists were gathered through semi-structured interviews. This triangulation of textual analysis and practitioner insights helped to capture the nuances and real-world complexities of diplomatic translation practices.

Features of Diplomatic Vocabulary

Diplomatic language is formal, indirect, and often euphemistic. For instance, terms like "constructive dialogue" or "mutual concern" soften potential conflict. In Uzbek, equivalents such as "konstruktiv mulqot" or "o'zaro manfaatdorlik" carry similar tones but may differ slightly in connotation. One salient feature is the deliberate use of vagueness and ambiguity, allowing room for negotiation and interpretation without direct confrontation. Words such as "observe," "note with concern," or "urge" carry implicit meaning that signals disapproval or expectation without openly

expressing conflict. Additionally, diplomatic language is highly intertextual, frequently referencing past agreements, shared norms, or multilateral frameworks. The use of modal verbs (e.g., should, may, must) in English and their Uzbek counterparts (e.g., kerak, mumkin, lozim) illustrates how modality shapes the tone and intent of statements.

Honorifics and hierarchical language are more prevalent in Uzbek diplomatic discourse, reflecting cultural norms of respect and formality. This includes terms like "hurmatli" (respected) and institutional phrases that emphasize cooperation and solidarity.

The terminology used in diplomatic texts often overlaps with legal, political, and economic vocabularies, making it interdisciplinary in nature. Thus, understanding diplomatic vocabulary requires not only linguistic competence but also knowledge of international law and political science.

Translational Complexities and Pragmatic Dilemmas

One of the major challenges lies in finding semantic and pragmatic equivalents. For example: "Sanctions" vs. "sanksiyalar": Though seemingly direct translations, their implications vary. "Peace talks" vs. "tinchlik muzokaralari": Contextual understanding is required to grasp the depth of each term. Cultural idioms, honorifics, and geopolitical nuances also complicate direct translation. For instance, terms like "face-saving" or "walk back a statement" in English may lack clear equivalents in Uzbek and require paraphrasing or explanatory adaptation.

Additionally, diplomatic texts often contain implicit meanings or hedged statements intended to avoid political sensitivity. Translators must balance loyalty to the source with the norms and expectations of the target culture. For example, while English diplomatic language tolerates subtle criticism through understatement, the Uzbek equivalent may necessitate either softening or restructuring the entire sentence to maintain decorum.

Another challenge is lexical gaps where one language may have a term for a concept that has no direct equivalent in the other. In such cases, translators must use descriptive phrases or rely on borrowing strategies. The differing grammatical structures, particularly the use of passive voice in English versus a more active or nominal style in Uzbek, also influence translation choices. (Trudgill, 1986).

Comparison of Common Terms

Several commonly used diplomatic terms in English have corresponding expressions in Uzbek, though they may differ in tone, formality, or semantic nuance. For instance, the term "bilateral relations" is typically translated as "ikki tomonlama munosabatlar", which carries a similarly formal and structured tone suitable for official documents. Likewise, diplomatic mission is rendered as "diplomatik missiya", a direct equivalent used in both political and administrative contexts. Some expressions, such as ambassador-at-large, are translated as "maxsus elchi", though the Uzbek version may require additional contextual clarification depending on the target audience's familiarity with diplomatic ranks. Similarly, memorandum of understanding corresponds to "o'zaro anglashuv memorandum", signifying formal agreements that are not necessarily legally binding.

Terms like strategic partnership and joint declaration – translated as "strategik hamkorlik and qo'shma bayonot", respectively – are commonly found in documents related to bilateral or multilateral cooperation. These phrases highlight the political and economic significance of international relations. Meanwhile, diplomatic immunity, which translates to "diplomatik daxlsizlik", must be rendered precisely due to its legal implications.

Finally, expressions such as "multilateral negotiations", translated as "ko'p tomonlama muzokaralar", are widely used in United Nations documents and other international settings. These translations not only reflect lexical equivalence but also demand sensitivity to syntactic preferences and stylistic conventions in each language.

Strategies for Effective Translation

Equivalence adaptation: In diplomatic translation, equivalence adaptation is essential when direct translations could cause misunderstanding or lose subtlety. For instance, a term like "democracy" in English may not carry the same weight in different contexts in Uzbek, depending on

the local political landscape. Translators must adapt the term to ensure it resonates appropriately with the target audience while preserving its intended meaning.

Cultural substitution: Cultural substitution is a strategic tool in translation, especially in diplomatic language, where cultural references can be highly specific. For example, phrases or idioms that hold significance in English-speaking countries, like "the rule of law," may not translate directly into Uzbek. Therefore, a culturally equivalent concept or idiom must be chosen to maintain the meaning. In some cases, diplomatic titles or references to governmental institutions may require this strategy to ensure relevance.

Explanatory addition: In many cases, translation may involve adding an explanation to bridge cultural gaps. This is particularly important when translating legal or political terms with no direct counterpart. For example, a term like "commonwealth" in English, which has specific historical and political connotations, might require additional context or explanation to ensure that it is understood in Uzbek political discourse.

Borrowing and calques: Borrowing involves directly incorporating foreign terms (usually through transliteration) when a specific term lacks an equivalent in the target language. In diplomacy, terms like "Internet" or "globalization" are often borrowed across languages. Calques, or literal translations, can be used sparingly to maintain the conceptual integrity of diplomatic discourse. However, excessive borrowing or calques can lead to awkward, overly technical language that may alienate the target audience.

Cultural and Political Influences

These Uzbek diplomatic language reflects the socio-political fabric of Central Asia, where collectivism, respect for hierarchy, and consensus-building are foundational principles. These values permeate diplomatic communication, often manifesting in the language used to foster cooperation and mutual understanding. Diplomacy in Uzbekistan emphasizes the importance of unity and non-confrontational dialogue, both within the country and with neighboring states. The socio-political culture is deeply influenced by traditions such as hospitality, honor, and deference to authority, which also shape diplomatic exchanges.

• **Respect and Deference to Authority:** In Uzbek culture, respect for leadership and seniority plays a significant role in diplomatic language. The language used to address heads of state, ambassadors, or high-ranking officials reflects this hierarchical structure. In contrast to English, which might use direct titles such as "President" or "Prime Minister," Uzbek diplomatic language often employs more formal or respectful terms, sometimes invoking honorifics or titles that reflect a deeper reverence. This focus on respect is key to maintaining diplomatic decorum in formal settings and ensuring that communication does not unintentionally disrespect the power dynamics inherent in Uzbek politics.

• **Collectivism and Consensus-Building:** Central Asian cultures, including Uzbekistan, place great emphasis on collective identity and decision-making. Diplomatic language, therefore, often reflects a preference for phrases that promote unity and collective action. Terms like "cooperation" and "joint efforts" are used extensively to highlight mutual goals and shared responsibilities in diplomatic relations. In contrast, Western diplomatic language, especially in English, may focus more on individual actions, rights, or responsibilities. This difference in emphasis requires translators to be especially mindful of the underlying values when rendering messages from one language to the other.

• **Indirectness and Diplomacy:** Uzbek diplomacy tends to value indirectness, especially when addressing sensitive or potentially controversial issues. This reflects a broader cultural preference for avoiding direct confrontation, which is often seen as disruptive to social harmony. Phrases like "we believe" or "it is hoped" are frequently used in diplomatic speeches to soften the impact of a statement or avoid making firm, declarative statements. In English, however, diplomatic communication may be more direct and forthright, especially in international organizations or legal documents, where

clarity and precision are paramount. When translating, there is often a need to balance the respectful, indirect nature of Uzbek discourse with the more direct tone of English diplomatic language.

- **Neutrality and Non-Alignment:** Given Uzbekistan's historical and strategic position within Central Asia, its diplomatic language has been shaped by the country's pursuit of neutrality and non-alignment, especially after gaining independence from the Soviet Union. Uzbekistan's diplomatic rhetoric often reflects a desire to maintain a neutral stance in global affairs, which is emphasized through cautious, balanced language that avoids taking sides in international disputes. Translators must be aware of this tendency and ensure that English translations capture the essence of neutrality without seeming evasive or passive.

- **Religious and Historical Influences:** The deep-rooted Islamic heritage and historical experiences, particularly those from the Soviet era, also influence the diplomatic lexicon of Uzbekistan. Religious references and historical allusions to periods of Islamic civilization in Central Asia or the time under Soviet control are often used to strengthen the legitimacy of diplomatic positions. For example, references to historical figures like Timur or symbols such as the Silk Road may be invoked in diplomatic speeches to emphasize Uzbekistan's rich cultural heritage and strategic importance. These references might need to be explained or adapted when translating into English, where such historical or religious allusions might not resonate in the same way or could require additional context for clarity.

- **Legalism and Precision in English:** On the other hand, English diplomatic discourse places a strong emphasis on legalism and precision. The language is typically more formalized, structured, and bound by international conventions. In treaties or formal agreements, terms must be precise and unambiguous, as English diplomatic language often carries a weight of legal formality. Legal terms, such as "sovereignty," "territory," and "autonomy," are used in a way that reflects a Western emphasis on clear-cut agreements and the protection of legal rights.

- **Political Diplomacy in International Contexts:** English diplomatic language is influenced by political entities like the United Nations, the European Union, and other multilateral organizations. As such, English translations of Uzbek diplomatic language must account for these global frameworks. For example, terms like "international law," "human rights," or "conflict resolution" may need to be adapted when translating into Uzbek, which may use different terminology based on the country's engagement with international political systems and legal traditions.

Significance of diplomatic lexicon

The significance of diplomatic vocabulary in both English and Uzbek languages lies in its role in facilitating effective communication between nations, institutions, and political actors. Diplomatic language is characterized by specific terminology that embodies both cultural and political values, while serving as a tool for negotiation, conflict resolution, and international cooperation. Below is an overview of the importance of diplomatic vocabulary in each language:

Significance of Diplomatic Vocabulary in the English Language:

1. **Clarity and Precision:** English diplomatic vocabulary is designed to be clear, precise, and unambiguous. The language used in international treaties, agreements, and speeches emphasizes legalism and formal structure, ensuring that terms are well-defined and that there is no room for misinterpretation. The use of specific legal terminology, such as "sovereignty," "territorial integrity," and "jurisdiction," helps to avoid confusion in diplomatic exchanges, ensuring that the parties involved understand their rights and obligations in a given context.

2. **International Standardization:** English, particularly due to its status as the primary language of diplomacy in many international organizations (e.g., United Nations, European Union), serves as the lingua franca of global diplomacy. As a result, English diplomatic vocabulary often sets a standard for communication between countries. International norms, conventions, and terminologies developed in English are widely adopted across the globe, which enhances consistency and coherence in diplomatic discourse.

3. Legal Frameworks and Dispute Resolution: The legalistic nature of English diplomatic language is especially significant in international dispute resolution. It enables clear expressions of agreements, obligations, and the enforcement of laws or regulations between countries. For instance, phrases like "binding resolution," "legal obligations," and "adherence to international law" are crucial in ensuring that diplomatic negotiations lead to enforceable outcomes. The use of precise terminology helps ensure that all parties agree on the terms and their legal implications.

4. Global Influence and Political Rhetoric: English has become the dominant language in global political rhetoric. The choice of vocabulary in English can carry significant weight in shaping international perceptions and influencing public opinion. Politicians and diplomats often use carefully chosen words to frame issues in a favorable light, as seen in the use of terms like "democracy," "freedom," and "human rights." These terms carry profound ideological and political weight, shaping both domestic and international discourse.

5. Facilitating Multilateral Communication: English is widely used in multilateral forums where many countries come together to discuss global issues. Diplomatic vocabulary in these settings is crucial in maintaining neutrality and ensuring that all participants understand each other's positions. Terms such as "partnership," "cooperation," and "mutual respect" are often used to promote positive international relations and to foster dialogue.

Significance of Diplomatic Vocabulary in the Uzbek Language:

1. Cultural and Political Context: Diplomatic vocabulary in Uzbek reflects the country's unique cultural and political context. The language is deeply influenced by Central Asian traditions, which prioritize collectivism, respect for authority, and harmony in interpersonal and intergovernmental relations. As a result, diplomatic language often includes terms that emphasize unity, consensus, and respect for sovereignty. For example, the use of expressions such as "vatanparvarlik" (patriotism) and "xalqaro hamkorlik" (international cooperation) highlights the importance of national unity and regional collaboration in Uzbek diplomacy.

2. Formal and Respectful Language: Uzbek diplomatic vocabulary places a significant emphasis on formal and respectful expressions, which mirror the country's respect for hierarchy and seniority. This formality is often conveyed through the use of honorifics and deferential phrases when addressing foreign leaders or discussing national interests. For example, terms like "yuksak hurmat" (great respect) or "senior diplomatik vakil" (senior diplomatic representative) reflect the culture of politeness and deference inherent in Uzbek diplomacy.

3. Collectivism and Shared Responsibility: Reflecting the Central Asian socio-political values, Uzbek diplomatic language often emphasizes collective responsibility and unity. Words like "hamkorlik" (partnership) and "birgalikda ishlash" (working together) are frequently used to emphasize joint efforts, rather than individual actions. This vocabulary is integral in diplomacy, as it fosters a sense of solidarity and cooperation among neighboring countries and international allies.

4. Indirection and Diplomacy: In Uzbek diplomatic discourse, indirectness is a key feature, particularly when discussing sensitive issues. The language is often more conciliatory and less confrontational than in English. This indirectness allows for smoother negotiations and helps maintain social harmony in delicate situations. Terms like "bu haqda o'ylashimiz kerak" (we need to think about this) or "bilamizki, bu murakkab masala" (we understand that this is a complex issue) convey the need for careful consideration without making direct commitments or confrontations.

5. Regional Influence and History: Uzbek diplomatic vocabulary is also shaped by the country's historical and regional context. References to Uzbekistan's historical figures, such as Tamerlane or the Silk Road, are often invoked to emphasize the nation's cultural significance and strategic location. This use of historical references in diplomatic language is designed to reinforce Uzbekistan's status as a key regional player in Central Asia. Terms like "Markaziy Osiyo" (Central Asia) or "Ipak yo'li" (Silk Road) emphasize the country's historical role in connecting diverse civilizations and cultures.

6. Neutrality and Independence: Following its independence from the Soviet Union, Uzbekistan's diplomatic language emphasizes national sovereignty and political neutrality, especially in its relations with other global powers. Diplomatic terms such as "mustaqillik" (independence) and "xavfsizlik kafolatlari" (security guarantees) are commonly used to stress the importance of safeguarding the nation's autonomy and avoiding entanglement in external conflicts. This reflects the nation's pursuit of an independent foreign policy, free from the influence of larger powers.

Comparative Significance: English vs. Uzbek Diplomatic Vocabulary

Global vs. Regional Context: English diplomatic vocabulary operates on a global stage, influencing international norms and practices. Its vocabulary reflects a more standardized, legalistic approach suitable for multilateral negotiations. In contrast, Uzbek diplomatic vocabulary is shaped by the country's regional context, highlighting Central Asian values like respect for authority and collective action.

Tone and Directness: English diplomatic vocabulary is typically more direct and clear due to its focus on legal precision and clarity, especially in formal treaties and agreements. In comparison, Uzbek diplomatic language favors a more indirect and conciliatory tone, which is central to maintaining political harmony within Central Asia.

Legal vs. Cultural Emphasis: English diplomatic language often emphasizes legal structures and frameworks, ensuring clarity in agreements and international law. Uzbek diplomatic language, however, reflects cultural priorities such as respect, unity, and historical heritage, underscoring the importance of social harmony and national pride.

Conclusion

The study highlights the crucial role of both linguistic and cultural contexts in the accurate and effective translation of diplomatic vocabulary. Diplomatic language, being deeply embedded in the socio-political fabric of any society, is shaped by the values, traditions, and political ideologies of the respective culture. In the case of Uzbek and English, these linguistic variations reflect the distinct cultural and political landscapes. Uzbek diplomatic language is often characterized by values such as respect, collectivism, and indirectness, which are central to Central Asian socio-political norms. Conversely, English diplomatic discourse tends to prioritize clarity, legal precision, and directness, aligning with Western diplomatic practices that emphasize transparency and legalism.

Given these differences, the translation of diplomatic vocabulary between English and Uzbek requires careful consideration of both linguistic structure and cultural implications. Translators must navigate the challenges of rendering terms that are not just linguistically equivalent but also culturally and politically appropriate. The use of strategies such as equivalence adaptation, cultural substitution, and explanatory addition becomes essential when there is no direct counterpart between the two languages.

Moreover, understanding the significance of diplomatic vocabulary in both languages is vital. Diplomatic terms in both English and Uzbek are not merely linguistic tools but also serve as instruments of power, negotiation, and identity within international relations. These terms reflect the political values and diplomatic priorities of the respective countries. The ability to convey these terms accurately ensures that diplomatic communication remains effective, respectful, and aligned with the intended political message.

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