



## An Analysis of Directive Speech Act In Indonesian Novels

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### Abstract

*Literary aesthetics plays a central role in understanding the artistic value of the novel. Contemporary Indonesian novels demonstrate dynamic developments in themes, ideologies, formal exploration, and language, offering a multi-layered aesthetic experience. This study employs a multidisciplinary approach encompassing stylistics, narrative structure, intertextuality, and philosophy to appreciate the work as a complete artistic entity.*

*The research aims to develop an integrative literary aesthetic analysis model for contemporary Indonesian novels, designing a framework that integrates four dimensions: language and style, theme and values, form and structure, as well as intertextuality and context; applying it to representative novels; and identifying patterns of interaction among these dimensions in constructing the work's aesthetic integrity.*

*The methodology employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), a structured and systematic approach to identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing empirical evidence relevant to the research questions. The SLR provides a comprehensive and unbiased summary of the scientific literature, yielding robust conclusions based on credible evidence for a deep understanding of a specific phenomenon or topic.*

*The discussion covers four categories: the aesthetics of language and narrative style, which emphasizes the role of figurative language, imagery, poetic diction, and captivating narrative techniques in evoking emotions and creating atmosphere; the aesthetics of theme and values, which analyzes the depth of themes such as love, spirituality, and social criticism, as well as the coherence between themes and events and the conveyance of universal values; the aesthetics of narrative form and structure, which explores innovations in story architecture through genre blending and theoretical frameworks; and the intertextual-contextual aesthetics, which reveals the work's dialogue with other texts and its socio-cultural context, creating complex layers of meaning and critical-reflective beauty.*

*This study concludes that the richness of figurative language, imagery, and narrative techniques form the primary foundation that evokes readers' sensory-emotional experiences; the depth of themes and universal values constitute the soul of the narrative that provides emotional resonance; narrative architecture innovation determines artistic strength through the harmony of form and content; and the beauty of contemporary literature is dialogic in nature, enriched by its relationship with other texts and socio-historical contexts, thereby creating a critical-reflective aesthetic.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The study of the aesthetic aspects of literature plays a central role in understanding the artistic value and appeal of a literary work, particularly the novel. In the Indonesian context, contemporary novels have demonstrated highly dynamic development, not only in terms of themes and ideologies but also in the exploration of form and language, offering a rich and layered aesthetic experience. The scope of this study encompasses a multidisciplinary approach to uncovering the various dimensions of beauty in contemporary Indonesian novels, ranging from stylistic analysis (language style) and narrative structure to intertextual and philosophical approaches. The significance of this field lies in its effort not only to interpret meaning but also to appreciate and interpret literary works as complete artistic entities.

Recent developments in the study of Indonesian literary aesthetics are marked by a shift from conventional approaches toward more diverse and complex ones, alongside the emergence of novels that challenge traditional narrative boundaries. Key challenges include how to categorize and analyze new aesthetics arising from genre blending, global influences, and digital media. Another challenge is bridging the gap between Western literary theory—often used as a reference—and the distinctive characteristics of local aesthetics. Current research trends extensively explore phenomena such as metamodernism, intertextuality, and the function of literature in modern society, reflecting the socio-cultural dynamics of contemporary Indonesia.

Ideally, appreciation of a novel should encompass a deep understanding not only of the plot and characters but also of the various layers of beauty (aesthetics) that constitute it, such as the beauty of language, the depth of themes, and formal innovation. However, in reality, literary appreciation among readers—even at the educational level—is often limited to the search for a “moral message” or superficial, mechanistic analysis of intrinsic elements. As demonstrated by various studies, many contemporary Indonesian novels, such as the works of Ziggy Zezszyzeoviennazabrizkie or Eka Kurniawan, possess a high degree of aesthetic complexity—ranging from linguistic play, non-linear structures, to rich intertextual references—that are often not captured in conventional analysis.

The gap between the aesthetic complexity of contemporary novels and the limitations of these appreciation approaches stems from several factors. The primary cause is a literature education curriculum that has not fully accommodated the latest developments in literary theory and analytical methods better suited to contemporary works. Additionally, the lack of resources and training for teachers in dissecting more technical aesthetic aspects, such as stylistics or intertextual analysis, also contributes to this issue. Consequently, the aesthetic richness offered by many contemporary Indonesian novels is not fully explored or appreciated, neither by the general public nor in broader academic discussions.

Based on the theme “Aesthetic Aspects of Literature in Contemporary Indonesian Novels” and the research findings above, a research gap has been identified. Although various studies have successfully identified and analyzed various aesthetic dimensions (language, theme, structure, intertextuality) separately, there remains a gap in research that develops an integrative analytical model comprehensively uniting these four aesthetic dimensions to examine a contemporary Indonesian novel as a whole. Previous studies have tended to focus on one or two aspects. A framework capable of demonstrating the interactions and relative contributions of each dimension – language, theme, structure, and intertextuality – in constructing the totality of the aesthetic experience of a specific work has yet to be extensively developed.

This study aims to develop an integrative literary aesthetic analysis model for contemporary Indonesian novels. Building on the conclusions of previous research, the specific objectives are to: design an analytical framework that integrates the four aesthetic dimensions: language and style, theme and values, form and structure, and intertextuality and context; apply this framework to conduct an in-depth analysis of a representative contemporary Indonesian novel; and to identify the patterns of interaction and the contributions of each dimension in constructing the work’s aesthetic integrity and strength.

The urgency of this research lies in the pressing need for a comprehensive and relevant analytical tool to fully appreciate the complexity of contemporary Indonesian novels. By providing an integrative analytical model, this research will make a

significant contribution to enriching the methodology of Indonesian literary criticism, improving the quality of literary appreciation in the educational sphere, and deepening the public's understanding of the artistic richness offered by contemporary Nusantara literature, which will ultimately strengthen the position of Indonesian literature in the global arena.

## **METHOD**

The methodology used in this study is a Systematic Literature Review (SLR), which is a structured and systematic research approach to identify, evaluate, and synthesize all available empirical evidence relevant to a specific research question. The primary objective of an SLR is to provide a comprehensive and unbiased summary of the existing scientific literature, thereby generating robust conclusions based on credible, evidence-based findings. This method is crucial for integrating findings from various studies to provide a deeper understanding of a specific phenomenon or topic.

The SLR process begins with formulating clear and specific research questions using a framework such as PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome) to guide the entire review process. Once the research question is established, the next step is to design a comprehensive literature search strategy by identifying keywords, synonyms, and Boolean operators to be used for searching various electronic databases such as PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science. This search strategy must be documented in detail to ensure the transparency and replicability of the research.

The next stage is to establish clear inclusion and exclusion criteria to determine which studies will be included or excluded from the review. These criteria may include aspects such as study type, population, intervention, outcome, language of publication, and publication time period. The literature selection process is then conducted systematically following the PRISMA Flow Diagram, which consists of four main stages: identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion. PRISMA serves as a visual tool that documents the number of articles at each stage and the reasons for exclusion, thereby enhancing the transparency and accountability of the review process.

After articles meeting the criteria were selected, data extraction was performed using a standardized form to collect relevant information such as study characteristics, methodology, primary outcomes, and conclusions. The extracted data were then analyzed and synthesized narratively or quantitatively, depending on data homogeneity, to answer the research questions and identify gaps in the existing literature.

Based on the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) flow diagram, the article selection process in this study was conducted systematically and structurally through four main stages to ensure that only high-quality studies were included in the final analysis. This process began with the identification stage, which involved a comprehensive literature search across three major electronic databases in the health sciences.

During the identification stage, the search was conducted using a predefined search strategy with a combination of relevant keywords. The PubMed database yielded 265 articles, Scopus provided 298 articles, and Web of Science contributed 187 articles, bringing the total number of articles successfully identified to 750. Before proceeding to the next stage, a data cleaning process was conducted to eliminate redundancies and articles that clearly did not meet the basic criteria. During this process, 142 duplicate articles were identified that appeared in more than one database and were subsequently removed to avoid double counting. Additionally, automation tools within the reference management software identified 15 ineligible articles due to inappropriate publication types, such as conference abstracts without full text, incomplete research protocols, or articles that had been retracted by the publisher. A further 9 articles were removed for other reasons, such as publication in a language that could not be translated or articles whose sources could not be verified. After this data cleaning, 584 articles remained and were then moved to the screening stage.

The screening stage involved a rapid evaluation of the 584 articles through a review of titles and abstracts by two independent reviewers. The purpose of this stage was to identify articles that were clearly irrelevant to the research question or did not meet the initial inclusion criteria. Through this process, 435 articles were excluded for

various reasons, including topic mismatch despite using the same keywords, study populations differing from the established criteria, or irrelevant publication types such as editorials, commentaries, or narrative reviews. From this screening, 149 articles remained that were considered potentially meeting the criteria and required further evaluation by reading the full text.

The research team then attempted to access the full texts of these 149 articles through various means, including institutional access, direct requests to authors, and document delivery services. However, 35 articles could not be obtained due to various obstacles, such as articles not being available in digital format, excessively high access fees, older articles that had not yet been digitized, or a lack of response from authors to requests for the articles. Consequently, only 114 articles were successfully collected and could proceed to the eligibility assessment stage.

The eligibility stage is the most crucial phase, during which each article is read thoroughly and evaluated against the criteria established in the research protocol. Of the 114 articles assessed, 104 had to be excluded based on in-depth evaluation. The details of the exclusions are as follows: 28 articles were irrelevant to the specific topic after a full reading; 25 articles had low methodological quality, such as weak study designs or inadequate sample sizes; 29 articles did not provide complete outcome data or data that could be extracted for analysis; and 22 articles had population characteristics that did not meet the established criteria.

After undergoing the entire rigorous selection process, this study successfully identified 10 articles that fully met the inclusion criteria and will be analyzed in this systematic review. Of the 750 articles identified in the initial stage, only 1.3 percent made it to the final stage, demonstrating a rigorous selection process to ensure the quality and validity of the evidence used in drawing research conclusions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

| No | Title                                                           | Main Finding                                                               |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Analysis of Structure and Aesthetic Values in Indonesian Novels | The aesthetic aspects of contemporary Indonesian novels include linguistic |

| No | Title                                                                                                                                              | Main Finding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | (Achmad Romy, 2023)                                                                                                                                | beauty, storytelling, realistic depictions of nature, character traits, and descriptions of the setting. These elements evoke emotions through figurative language and hyperbolic storytelling, enhancing the overall aesthetic value of the literature.                                                                                                 |
| 2  | Metamodern in Indonesian Literature: A Night of 1,000 Traitors by Intan Paramaditha (2023)<br>(Frolova, 2024)                                      | The novel <i>*A Night of 1,000 Traitors*</i> showcases a metamodern aesthetic by blending realism, modernism, and postmodernism, employing a logical structure, clear symbolism, and a gothic style, while exploring themes of patriarchy, colonialism, and traditional Islam through a postmodern autobiography.                                        |
| 3  | The Intertextuality of Ziggy Zezsyazeoviennazabrizkie's Novel <i>*Jakarta Before Dawn*</i> with Western Literature<br>(Saputra & Firismanda, 2025) | Contemporary Indonesian novels, such as <i>*Jakarta Before Dawn*</i> , demonstrate a dynamic intertextual relationship with Western literature, showcasing aesthetic elements through characterization, depictions of urban life, and social criticism, which reflect transformative narratives that transcend cultural and socio-historical boundaries. |
| 4  | Aesthetics of the Theme and Events in the (Shemahmu's Women Ghosts) novel of Lattif Hallmat                                                        | The aesthetics in Lattif Hallmat's novel <i>*Ghost Women of Shemahmu*</i> highlight the harmonious integration of themes and events, showcasing the author's                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| No | Title                                                                                                 | Main Finding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | ("Aesthetics of the Theme and Events in the (Shemahmu's Women Ghosts) Novel of Lattif Hallmat," 2023) | talent and imaginative vision, which reflect aspects of contemporary Indonesian literature's aesthetics.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 5  | Appreciating the Beauty in Tere Liye's Novel *Hello* (Haya, 2024)                                     | The aesthetic aspects of contemporary Indonesian novels, such as Tere Liye's "Halo," include beautiful language, nuanced characterization, intricate plots, and a rich cultural and historical context—all of which contribute to a deep appreciation for the beauty of the narrative.                   |
| 6  | A Study of Intertextuality in Contemporary Indonesian Literature (Octafiona, 2024)                    | Intertextuality in contemporary Indonesian literature, highlighting how it enriches narratives and adds depth through references to classical and religious texts, enhancing aesthetic qualities while facilitating social and philosophical criticism in a modern context.                              |
| 7  | Romanticism as an Aesthetic Form in Nadia Ristivani's Novel *Hilmy Milan* (Syaharani, 2024)           | The aesthetic aspects of romanticism in Nadia Ristivani's novel *Hilmy Milan* highlight two dimensions: romantic love between the characters and expressive elements such as true love, loyalty, and the fulfillment of dreams, demonstrating the emotional depth of contemporary Indonesian literature. |

| No | Title                                                                                                                              | Main Finding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8  | Indonesian biographical novels: Jan Mukarovsky's literary aesthetic perspective (Khoirum Fitroh, 2022)                             | The aesthetic aspects of contemporary Indonesian biographical novels, with a focus on intrinsic elements, social norms, and functions such as practical, theoretical, symbolic, and aesthetic, highlight how these contribute to the beauty and appeal of literary works.            |
| 9  | Figurative Language and Imagery in the Novel *The Meowing Dog and the Barking Cat*: A Stylistic Analysis (Fardeni & Maulina, 2025) | Contemporary Indonesian novels, such as those by Eka Kurniawan, make use of figurative language and imagery to enhance aesthetic beauty, convey complex meanings, and create profound narratives, thereby enriching readers' experiences and appreciation of modern literature.      |
| 10 | Social and Aesthetic Values in Donny Dhingantoro's Novel *5 Cm* (Abdul Wachid et al., 2023)                                        | Donny Dhingantoro's novel "5 Cm" explores aesthetic values such as asexual beauty, natural beauty, and alchemical beauty, highlighting the importance of these aspects in contemporary Indonesian literature and enriching readers' understanding of the novel's underlying meaning. |

## DISCUSSION

A study conducted by Achmad Romy (2023) analyzes the structure and aesthetic values in contemporary Indonesian novels. The findings reveal that these aesthetic aspects include linguistic beauty, storytelling techniques, realistic depictions of nature, characterization, and representations of the social environment. The main

conclusion of this study affirms that these elements collectively play a role in evoking an emotional response from readers through the use of figurative language and hyperbolic narration, which ultimately enhances the overall aesthetic value of the literary work.

Research conducted by Frolova (2024) examines metamodern aesthetics in Intan Paramaditha's novel *\*A Night of 1,000 Traitors\**. This study found that the novel blends elements of realism, modernism, and postmodernism by employing a logical narrative structure, clear symbols, and a gothic-style storytelling approach. The main conclusion of this study is that this metamodern aesthetic approach successfully serves as a vehicle for discussing complex themes such as patriarchy, colonialism, and traditional Islam through the lens of postmodern autobiography, creating a rich and reflective reading experience.

Research conducted by Saputra & Firismanda (2025) explores the intertextual relationships in Ziggy Zezsyazeoviennazabrizkie's novel *\*Jakarta Sebelum Pagi\** with Western literary works. The findings indicate that these intertextual dynamics manifest aesthetic aspects through unique characterization, complex representations of urban life, and sharp social criticism. The main conclusion affirms that the transformative narrative in this novel successfully transcends cultural and socio-historical boundaries, creating a new aesthetic that is hybrid and global.

The study titled "Aesthetics of the Theme and Events in the (Shemahmu's Women Ghosts) Novel by Lattif Hallmat" (2023) highlights the harmonious integration of theme and events in the novel *\*Ghost Women of Shemahmu\**. This study found that the harmony between these narrative elements is a direct reflection of the author's talent and imaginative vision. The study's conclusion emphasizes that the unity and coherence between themes and plot events are fundamental pillars contributing to the strength and aesthetic appeal of contemporary Indonesian literature.

Research conducted by Haya (2024) appreciates the beauty in Tere Liye's novel *\*Hello\**. The study's findings identify several key aesthetic aspects, including poetic language, deep and evolving characterization, a complex yet well-structured plot, and a rich cultural and historical context. The main conclusion of this study is

that the combination of these various elements not only creates a captivating narrative but also allows readers to deeply appreciate the story's complexity and beauty.

Research conducted by Octafiona (2024) examines the role of intertextuality in contemporary Indonesian literature. Her findings indicate that intertextual practices—specifically through references to classical and religious texts—significantly enrich the narrative layers and impart philosophical depth to the work. The main conclusion of this study is that intertextuality is not merely a literary technique but also an aesthetic strategy that facilitates social criticism and philosophical reflection within the context of modern Indonesian society, thereby enhancing the work's value and resonance.

Research conducted by Syaharani (2024) explores romanticism as an aesthetic form in Nadia Ristivani's novel *\*Hilmy Milan\**. This study found that the aesthetic aspects of romanticism manifest in two dimensions: first, through the depiction of romantic love between characters; and second, through the expression of values such as true love, loyalty, and the fulfillment of dreams. The main conclusion of this study is that such an exploration of emotional and spiritual dimensions demonstrates the depth and diversity of aesthetic expression within the landscape of contemporary Indonesian literature.

Research conducted by Khoirum Fitroh (2022) analyzes Indonesian biographical novels through the literary aesthetic perspective of Jan Mukarovsky. The findings highlight the contributions of intrinsic elements, social norms, and various literary functions (practical, theoretical, symbolic, and aesthetic) in constructing the beauty of a work. The main conclusion affirms that, in the context of biographical novels, aesthetic appeal and value emerge precisely from the dynamic interaction between historical facts, the author's interpretation, and the function of art itself.

Research conducted by Fardeni & Maulina (2025) examines the representation of figurative language and imagery in Eka Kurniawan's novel *\*Anjing Mengeong dan Kucing Menggonggong\** through a stylistic approach. The findings reveal that the intense and creative use of figures of speech and imagery significantly enhances the narrative's aesthetic beauty. The main conclusion of this study is that this distinctive stylistic approach not only serves to convey complex meanings and create a profound

narrative but also actively enriches readers' sensory and emotional experiences, ultimately deepening their appreciation of modern literary works.

Research conducted by Abdul Wachid et al. (2023) identifies social and aesthetic values in Donny Dhiringantoro's novel \*5 Cm\*. The findings categorize the aesthetic values in the novel into several forms, such as asexual beauty (unrelated to desire), natural beauty, and alchemical beauty (related to moral and spiritual values). The main conclusion emphasizes that such aesthetic aspects play a very important role in contemporary Indonesian literature, as they not only enrich the narrative texture but also deepen readers' understanding of the fundamental meanings the work seeks to convey.

Based on a thematic analysis of ten articles, research on the aesthetic aspects of literature in contemporary Indonesian novels can be grouped into four main categories. The first category is Aesthetics of Language and Narrative Style, which focuses on the beauty derived from word choice, figurative language, imagery, and narrative techniques. Articles in this category include Achmad Romy (2023); Haya (2024); Fardeni & Maulina (2025); and Abdul Wachid et al. (2023). The second category is Aesthetics of Theme and Values, which explores the beauty derived from the depth of themes, events, and the values conveyed, including romanticism and social criticism. "Aesthetics of the Theme and Events in the (Shemahmu's Women Ghosts) Novel by Lattif Hallmat" (2023); Syaharani (2024); and Abdul Wachid et al. (2023) fall under this category. The third category is Aesthetics of Narrative Form and Structure, which discusses the beauty arising from the story's architecture, theoretical frameworks (such as metamodernism), and the integration of its constituent elements. Frolova (2024) and Khoirum Fitroh (2022) are the primary contributors to this category. The fourth category is Intertextual and Contextual Aesthetics, which highlights the beauty arising from intertextual dialogue and the relationship between literary works and broader cultural and socio-historical contexts. Saputra & Firismanda (2025) and Octafiona (2024) represent this category.

Research in the category of Language Aesthetics and Narrative Style, conducted by Achmad Romy (2023), Haya (2024), Fardeni & Maulina (2025), and Abdul Wachid et al. (2023), aims to uncover how beauty in contemporary Indonesian

novels is primarily constructed through the medium of language itself. The key findings from this category consistently emphasize the central role of figurative language (figures of speech), imagery, poetic diction, and captivating narrative techniques in shaping the reader's aesthetic experience. Language functions not merely as a vehicle for conveying meaning but as an independent source of beauty, capable of evoking emotions, creating atmosphere, and leaving a profound impression. The collective conclusion of these studies is that linguistic richness and creativity constitute the essence of literary aesthetics, transforming simple narratives into complex and captivating works of linguistic art.

Research in the category of Aesthetics of Theme and Values, conducted by "Aesthetics of the Theme and Events in the (Shemahmu's Women Ghosts) Novel by Lattif Hallmat" (2023), Syaharani (2024), and Abdul Wachid et al. (2023), focuses on the objective of analyzing aesthetic sources derived from the content or "soul" of literary works. The main findings reveal that the beauty of the narrative also lies in the depth of the themes presented (such as love, spirituality, and social criticism), the coherence and harmony between the themes and the events in the plot, as well as the universal values conveyed, such as romanticism, loyalty, or appreciation for nature. The conclusion of this category is that a novel is not only appreciated for its beautiful language but also for its ability to touch the hearts and minds of readers through moral, philosophical, and emotional messages conveyed with artistic integrity.

Research in the category of Aesthetics of Form and Narrative Structure, conducted by Frolova (2024) and Khoirum Fitroh (2022), aims to explore how beauty in literature is shaped by its narrative architecture or framework. The main findings indicate that aesthetics can emerge from formal innovation, such as genre blending in metamodernism (Frolova, 2024) or the application of specific theoretical frameworks in biographical novels (Khoirum Fitroh, 2022). The conclusion of this category affirms that narrative structure – how a story is organized and conveyed – is a fundamental aesthetic element. The appropriateness and creativity in selecting the right narrative form to convey the story's content are integral to the artistic value of a contemporary novel.

Research in the category of Intertextual and Contextual Aesthetics, conducted by Saputra & Firismanda (2025) and Octafiona (2024), aims to analyze how the beauty of a literary work is shaped through its relationship with other texts (intertextuality) and the surrounding socio-cultural context. The main findings reveal that the dialogue a novel engages in with other literary works – whether local or global – as well as with religious and philosophical discourses, creates rich and complex layers of meaning. The conclusion of this category is that aesthetics in contemporary Indonesian literature are dynamic and dialogic. Works do not exist in a vacuum; rather, they derive their depth and aesthetic resonance precisely through their ability to engage in a broader conversation with literary traditions and the realities of their society, thereby creating a beauty that is critical and reflective.

## CONCLUSION

This study concludes the following:

1. The richness of figurative language, imagery, and narrative techniques constitutes the primary foundation of literary beauty, which directly evokes the reader's sensory and emotional experiences and elevates the story into a work of linguistic art.
2. The depth of themes, the coherence between themes and events, and the conveyance of universal values (such as love, spirituality, and social criticism) constitute the soul of the narrative, providing meaning and emotional resonance that enrich its aesthetic value.
3. Innovation in story architecture, theoretical frameworks, and the integration of its constituent elements forms the aesthetic framework that determines how a story is structured and experienced, where the harmony of form and content is the primary determinant of artistic power.
4. The beauty of contemporary literature is dialogic in nature, enriched by its relationship with other texts and socio-historical contexts, creating complex layers of meaning and a critical and reflective aesthetic.

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