

UNDERSTANDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF CLAUSES IN ENGLISH

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Abstract

In communication, always use sentences or clauses. need them to express our thoughts, and need them to express our feelings and ourselves, and communicate that expression to others. The clauses use are variety in English. Therefore, different clauses use in communication both in spoken and written using will describe different meaning or intention. The more know about the classification of clauses in English, the more easy can build sentences for English communication.

Keywords: classification of clauses, compound sentence, complex sentence.

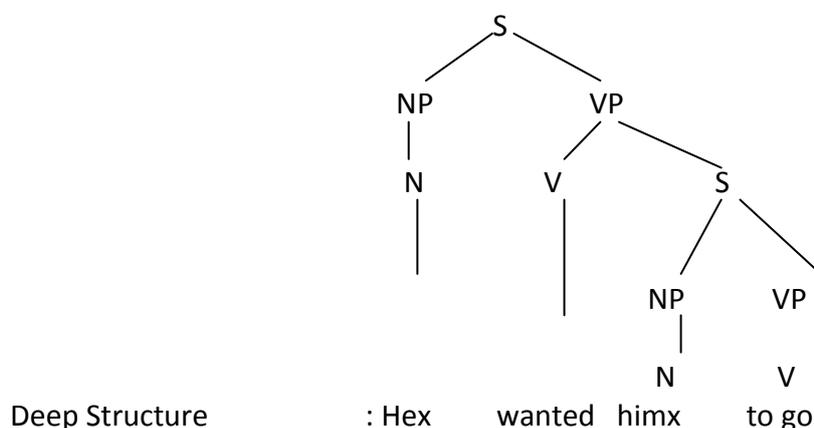
Abstrak

Dalam berkomunikasi, selalu menggunakan klausa atau kalimat. Menggunakannya untuk menyatakan apa yang ada dalam pikiran dan untuk menyatakan perasaan kemudian dituangkan dalam bentuk komunikasi dengan yang lainnya. Klausa yang gunakan sangatlah bervariasi dalam bahasa Inggris. Oleh karena itu, kalimat yang bermacam-macam yang gunakan dalam komunikasi baik secara lisan maupun tulisan akan menyatakan arti dan maksud yang berbeda pula. Semakin banyak tahu tentang jenis-jenis klausa dalam bahasa Inggris, akan semakin mudah untuk berkomunikasi dalam bahasa Inggris.

Kata kunci: klasifikasi klausa, induk kalimat, anak kalimat

A. INTRODUCTION

In traditional grammar a clause is defined as an expression which carries a complete sense consisting of a subject (explicit or implicit) and a predicate with a tensed verb. In modern grammar a clause is characterized by any expression with a verb or process for the simple reason that in a verb or process there must be somebody or something who does or undergoes the activity or event. Thus, all non-finite verb constructions are called non-finite clauses. For instance, the sentence *He wanted to go* is regarded as having two clauses in Generative Grammar analyzed as follows.



Coreferential NP Deletion : Hex wanted PROx to go
Surface Structure : He wanted to go.

The object *him* in the DS is coreferential to *he* and so it is potential for its deletion. If *him* is not coreferential to the subject in the matrix clause, it is not deleted as you have such a sentence as *She wanted him to go*.

In Functional Grammar the sentence *He told me to go* is analyzed as a hypotactic projection in terms of locution. It means that the sentence consists of a main clause *he told* as the projection and a non-finite clause *me to go* as the projected or the reported.

Hover, in this case the term clause refers to the traditional point of view. Thus, a simple sentence consists of a single clause; a complex sentence consists of one main clause and one or more subordinate clause and a compound sentence consists of two or more main clauses. A sentence in the written form is characterized by its nature which begins with a capital letter and closed with a full-stop. A clause usually refers to a sentence or sentences under analysis which constitutes part of the sentence. For instance, the imperative sentence *Shut up!* consists of a single clause *Shut up* and it is called a simple sentence. The sentence *You may come in if you want* consists of two clauses *you may come in* as the main clause and *if you want* as the subordinate clause and it is called a complex sentence. The sentence *John was smart but he was lazy to attend the classes so that he failed in many subjects* consists of three clauses *John was smart* as the main clause, *but he was lazy to attend the classes* as another main clause and *so that he failed in many subjects* as the subordinate clause and such a

sentence is called a compound complex sentence.

B. DISCUSSION

From the function, clauses are differentiated into *main clause* and *subordinate clause* with the features given in the following section.

1. Main Clause

Main clause with its various similar terms such as *principal clause*, *independent clause*, *matrix clause* or *paratactic clause* has the following features.

a. It is as a single clause in the simple sentence.

- 1) *Don't delay implementing your good plan.*
- 2) *Water naturally boils at 100 degrees centigrade.*
- 3) *What has made the world crisis?*
- 4) *Many people die of cancer nowadays.*
- 5) *Most deceases are caused by food.*

b. It is the clause in the complex sentence which is characterized by its nature without a conjunction as typed in italic in the following sentences.

- 1) *It is called a simple sentence because it has only one clause.*
- 2) *When the water has boiled it does not sound any more.*
- 3) *The earth is actually round although feel it flat.*
- 4) *I know what you are going to say.*
- 5) *Is this the book (which) you are looking for.*

c. It refers to all the clauses in a compound sentence whether it begins with a coordinate conjunction or not.

- 1) *John rarely attends the classes and he never submits assignments so*

he is not allowed to take the semester exam.

- 2) *You may either follow the reexamination or take the short semester class.*
- 3) *Never a borrower nor a lender be.*
- 4) *The contents of the book are perfect and the binding has no defect.*
- 5) *The ozone layer is thinner than the temperature of the world rises.*

d. In the complex sentence the main clause is possible to be changed into interrogative, not the subordinate clause.

- 1) *You're in the room* when there was an earthquake. →
Where're you when there was an earthquake?
- 2) *You understand* what I say. →
Do you understand what I say?
- 3) *He would commit suicide* if he failed in the exam. →
Would he commit suicide if he failed in the exam?

2. Subordinate Clause

Subordinate clause with its various terms such as *dependent clause* or *hypotactic clause* is a clause which is found in a complex sentence which generally begins with a subordinate conjunction. Subordinate clause may be differentiated into *Noun Clause*, *Adjective Clause* and *Adverb Clause*.

a. Noun Clause

Noun clause is a subordinate clause which functions the same way as a noun does.

1) Functions of Noun Clause

There are at least seven functions of noun clause in English.

b. Subject of a Clause

A noun clause may function as the subject of a clause as highlighted in italic in the following.

- 1) *What you say* is true.

- 2) *That the world is round* is not naturally really realized by most people.

- 3) *Where he was born* is unclear.

- 4) *What she is aiming* attracts the robbers' attention.

- 5) *That the strange creature always appears at midnight* is not actually true.

- 6) *That everybody will definitely die* is obvious.

c. Object of a Transitive Verb

A noun clause may also function as the object of a transitive verb either direct object or indirect object as in the following.

- 1) Most students know *that it is holiday today*.

- 2) The teacher explained the students *what had made the other hotter*.

- 3) He asked me *what my name is*.

- 4) The spectators enjoy *where they are now*.

- 5) Everybody hopes *the rain will soon stop*.

d. Object of a Preposition

Like transitive verbs, prepositions also require an object which may be in the form of a noun clause as in the following.

- 1) All the audiences believe in *what the speaker has said*.

- 2) The accuracy of his speech was on *that he could not give factual examples*.

- 3) One's service to Allah is invalid without being based on *what has been prescribed in the Holy Qur'an*.

- 4) Hamlet tells about *how a King was murdered by his own wife*.

- 5) Your question is concerned with *why this world was created by God*.

e. Subject Complement

Any noun clause after such copular verbs as *to be, become, turn, seem* etc is said to function as subject complement,

which gives the complete meaning of the subject.

- 1) This is *what I like very much*.
- 2) The naughty boy finally became *what his parents expected*.
- 3) Here is *where he was born*.
- 4) That was *why the big shop was finally closed*.
- 5) The point is *that he cannot give a convincing ansr to the question*.
- 6) What made me upset is *that many students always arrive late at the class*.

f. Object Complement

Object complement supplies a complete sense of an object in the clause and a noun clause may function as an object complement as given below.

- 1) His uncle makes the institution *what he wants*.
- 2) All the students agreed to turn the status of the class-room *what they need for their organization*.
- 3) The government makes the prison *what is called the hell on earth*

g. In Apposition to an NP

A noun clause after a noun phrase is said to be in apposition to it to give additional information about it. A noun phrase of this type generally begins with *that*. Note that it is not an adjective clause as it does not modify the preceding noun but instead it describes about it.

- 1) The belief *that the doomsday will happen in 2012* seems to be untrue..
- 2) His statement *that he will commit suicide* is not really true..
- 3) The plan *that shall make a trip to Malaysia* was discussed in the meeting.
- 4) You must not forget this, *that life is not eternal*.
- 5) Do you know the news *that doomsday will take place in a few years?*

Note also that noun clause of this type may modify the impersonal *it* in the main clause as in the following.

- 1) It is not true *that the doomsday will happen after a few years*.
- 2) It was unfortunate *that he could not finish his study on time*.
- 3) It is confirmed *that the flight is cancelled*.

h. As the Complement of an Adjective

A noun clause may function as the complement of an adjective as given in the following.

- 1) The parents felt very sad *that their son was allegedly involved in terrorism*.
- 2) All the students re disappointed *that the questions re too difficult*.
- 3) She was quite happy *that she got A marks in all the subjects*.
- 4) You are wrong *that Chelsea is not the winner in the final match*.
- 5) are sure *that can finish our study on time*.
- 6) Your assignment was perfect *that all the descriptions re provided with supporting examples*.

3. Forms of Noun Clause

In English there are three possible forms of noun clause as given below.

a. Beginning with Interrogative Word

The most potential form of a noun clause is that it begins with the interrogative words *who, whom, whose, what, which, why, where, when* and *how*.

- 1) Nobody in this campus knows *who the man with long hair is*.
- 2) *What the teacher has explained to us* is not that clear.
- 3) Mother finally found out *which cat had eaten the chicks*.
- 4) Do you know *why he arrived late this morning?*
- 5) Please let us know *where she lives*.
- 6) This is *what I like most*.
- 7) That was *why they refuse the offer*.

b. Beginning with *that*

Another potential form of a noun clause is that it begins with *that*.

- 1) all are sure *that can finish our study on time*.
- 2) *That he is a liar* seems quite obvious.
- 3) The student hopes *that the class be provided with air-conditioner*.
- 4) My sole expectation is *that life goes on smoothly*.
- 5) *That John is the best in the class* is not true.

c. With *that* Deletion

The subordinator *that* which initiates a noun clause may sometimes be deleted if it functions as the object of certain transitive verbs such as *know, hope, say, believe, and find*; or such phrases as *be sure, be sorry, etc.*

- 1) I know *you are fine*.
- 2) hope *they live peacefully and soundly*.
- 3) The teacher says *the class is lazy*.
- 4) He believes *I am right*.
- 5) I am sure *you will never forget this memory*.
- 6) are so sorry *cannot arrive at the party together*.

4. Restrictive and Nonrestrictive Relative Clauses

In English relative clause may be differentiated into restrictive (defining) and non-restrictive (non-defining). Restrictive relative clause has some salient features as follows.

- 1) It restricts some of the set given.
- 2) The relative may be replaced by *that*.
- 3) The antecedent and the relative is not separated by a comma.
 - a. The Japanese *who/that are industrious* are rich.
 - b. Children like books *which/that are full of pictures*.
 - c. My brother *who/that is a doctor* is very rich.

Non-restrictive relative clause has the following features.

- 1) It refers to the total set given.
- 2) The relative cannot be replaced by *that*.
- 3) The antecedent and the relative is separated by a comma.
 - a. The Japanese, *who/*that are industrious*, are rich.
 - b. Children like books, *which/*that are full of pictures*.
 - c. My brother, *who/*that is a doctor*, is very rich.

5. Adjective Clause

Adjective clause is a subordinate clause which has a single function, that is as the postmodifier of a noun phrase which is called the antecedent so that it generally comes after the noun modified. Note that an adjective clause cannot function as the premodifier of a noun phrase. Adjective clauses are generally introduced by a relative as described below.

a. Introduced by a Relative Pronoun

An adjective clause may be introduced by such relative pronouns as *who, whom, which* and *that*. *Who* as a relative pronoun is used as the subject of an adjective clause for human antecedent.

- 1) John Steinbeck is an author *who has won a Nobel Prize*.
- 2) Early risers *who always arrive at the office in time* get some bonus.
- 3) Is it me, your mother *who always feels worried about your safety*.
- 4) My uncle *who was a Member of Parliament* passed away in the plane crash.
- 5) Don't trust him anymore *who always tells lies*.

Whom as a relative pronoun is used as the object of a verb or preposition for human antecedent.

- 1) Shakespeare *whom most literary critics appreciate* passed away in the eighteen century.

- 2) Every student knows John Keats *by whom the elegy was written*.
- 3) Your sister *whom you are looking for* has gone home.
- 4) The trader *with whom you always cooperate* is very successful.
- 5) Is this the boy *whom you mean*?

The relative pronoun *which* is used as either a subject or an object in the adjective clause for non-human antecedent.

- 1) Children like books *which are colourful*.
- 2) The crocodile *which had swallowed a young boy* was shot dead.
- 3) The time *which is misspent* is a loss.
- 4) Children like books *which you provide in the library*.
- 5) The crocodile *which you shot dead* had swallowed a young boy.
 - a. The time *which you misspend* is a loss.
- 6) This is an important factor *without which the system does not work*.
- 7) She has bought a new cupboard *in which she will keep all her books*.

That as a relative pronoun may be used to replace the other three relative pronouns *who*, *whom* and *which* on condition that it is not preceded by a preposition.

- 1) John Steinbeck is an author *who/that has won a Nobel Prize*.
- 2) Early risers *who/that always arrive at the office in time* get some bonus.
- 3) Your sister *whom/that you are looking for* has gone home.
- 4) Is this the boy *whom/that you mean*?
- 5) Children like books *which/that you provide in the library*.
- 6) The crocodile *which/that you shot dead* had swallowed a young boy.

However, the relative *that* is compulsory if the noun phrase as the antecedent makes

use of certain words such as *only*, *little*, *all*, *something*, *nothing*, *anything* and superlative degree.

- 1) This is the *only* thing *that/*which I can give you*.
- 2) The *little* knowledge *that/*which you have* will be useful for your future life.
- 3) *All* the students *that/*whom I know* are very kind to me.
- 4) There was *nothing that/*which he could give you* but their true love.
- 5) The *best* student *that/*who got maximum marks* re my roommate.

b. Introduced by a Relative Determiner

An adjective clause may also be introduced by the relative determiners *which* and *whose*, which must be followed by a noun. *Which* is used to indicate cognate identity for non-human antecedent and it is usually preceded by a preposition.

- 1) The car *by which vehicle went to the beach last Sunday* was out of order.
- 2) Friday is a special day *on which time I was born*.
- 3) Father visited the cemetery *on which place mother was buried*.
- 4) Find a screw-driver *with which tool you can open the broken lock*.
- 5) You have to buy a set of sofa *on which furniture your noble guests may be seated*.

Whose is used to indicate possession for human antecedent.

- 1) The man *whose bad habit was smoking* had a heart attack.
- 2) The Company *whose staff went on strike* went bankrupt.
- 3) The airline *whose aircrafts were out of date* was finally closed.
- 4) He fed the cat *whose tail was injured*.
- 5) The chair *whose leg was broken* should be put away in the go-down.

Note that if the possessor is non-human, the relative may be replaced by *of which*.

- 1) The chair *the leg of which was broken* should be put away in the go-down.
- 2) The airline company *the aircraft of which is too old* was suspended to run the business.

c. Introduced by a Relative Adverb

An adjective clause may also be introduced by the relative adverbs *why*, *when*, *where* and *how*.

Why as a relative adverb is generally preceded by an antecedent related to reason and cause.

- 1) Do you know the reason *why he resigned from his position*.
- 2) So far, the cause *why the tube exploded* was not revealed yet.
- 3) The reason *why he always arrives late* is due to the lack number of busses.
- 4) Money usually becomes the cause *why a family is broken*.
- 5) The reason *why he divorced his wife* was too trivial.

When is preceded by an antecedent related to time.

- 1) Do you know the time *when he was born*?
- 2) do not know the exact date *when the examination will commence*.
- 3) It was at midnight *when a very strong earthquake happened*.
- 4) You have to do exercises early in the morning *when the air is still fresh*.
- 5) In 1998 *when a serious economic crisis hit Indonesia* Suharto step down.

Where is preceded by an antecedent related to place.

- 1) Do you know the place *where he was born*?
- 2) do not know the exact place *where the examination will be held*.

- 3) It was in Bali Island *where the bomb blast took place*.
- 4) You have to stand by in front of the hall *where can meet*.
- 5) On Himalaya Mountain *where eternal snow is found* the temperature reaches to 50 degree centigrade.

How is preceded by an antecedent related to way or manner.

- 1) He knows the way *how this problem should be solved*.
- 2) That is not the manner *how you have to behave in this village*.
- 3) You have to find a new method *how the teaching processes can be held effectively*.
- 4) The Minister of Home Affairs has released a system *how E-voting is conducted*.
- 5) The technique *how you could manage the class successfully* should be maintained.

d. Adverb Clause

Adverb clause or adjunct clause is a subordinate clause which functions as the modifier of a verb as in *He arrived when the door was just closed* or the modifier of another clause as in *He was unhappy although he was rich*. Adverb clauses are differentiated into several types as described below.

1) Adverb Clause of Time

Adverb clause of time is a subordinate clause which is associated to time; and therefore, it is usually introduced by such subordinate conjunctions as *after*, *before*, *as*, *just as*, *as soon as*, *by the time*, *every time*, *since*, *the first time*, *the last time*, *till*, *until*, *when*, *whenever*, *while*, etc.

- a. *After the rain stopped*, decided to go home.
- b. You will never be able to reach the best achievement *before you leave your bad habit*.

- c. *While he stayed in Java, he visited the office Minister of National Education to collect the certificate of his rank promotion.*
- d. *have to wait for the Dean until he arrives at the office.*
- e. *You may come to my office whenever you want.*
- f. *Every time I arrive home, my son has slept.*
- g. *The last time nt to Mecca, found the big hotel was still under construction.*
- e. *Inasmuch as he is still single, he can go anywhere he likes.*
- f. *The party was rejected as participant in the General Election due to the fact that it failed to reach the electoral threshold.*

2) Adverb Clause of Place

Adverb clause of place is associated to place and it is usually introduced by such subordinate conjunctions as *where, wherever, whence, whither*, etc.

- a. *He wants to die where he was born.*
- b. *You may live wherever you like.*
- c. *You have to return whence you came.*
- d. *Whither he goes she will follow him.*
- e. *Wherever you live you will never find a true friend.*

3) Adverb Clause of Reason

Adverb clause of reason is a subordinate clause which indicates reason and cause and it usually begins with such conjunctions as *because, since, as, as long as, inasmuch as, due to the fact that*, etc.

- a. *The national ceremony was suspended because there was a heavy rain.*
- b. *Since the ceremony was cancelled, the Rector failed to deliver a speech.*
- c. *As the petrol ran out, did not continue our journey.*
- d. *As long as he had a little patience, he was successful to win the door prize.*

4) Adverb Clause of Purpose

Adverb clause of purpose is a subordinate clause which is associated to purpose and it is usually introduced by such subordinate conjunctions as *so that, that, in order that, lest, for the purpose that*, etc.

- a. *He nt to the railway station so that he could catch the first train.*
- b. *Study hard that you may pass the exam.*
- c. *Donate some of your alth lest it is lost in vain.*
- d. *In order that he could be elected Governor, he did his best to be kindhearted to all the people.*
- e. *He pretended to be a pious man for the purpose that he could win the Imam's daughter.*

5) Adverb Clause of Result

Adverb clause of result is a subordinate clause which is associated to result or consequence and it usually begins with such subordinate conjunctions as *so ... that, such ... that*, etc. Note that when there is no predicative adjective or adverb in the main clause *so that* is used in sequence; otherwise *so* is follod by an adjective or adverb in the main clause and follod by *that* at the beginning of the subordinate clause and in English it requires an inversion style; but, the word *that* may occasionally be deleted. On the other hand, *such* in the conjunction *such ... that* can only be used with a noun phrase in the main clause and then follod by *that* at the beginning of the subordinate clause.

- a. He never submitted any assignment in the subject *so that he failed*.
- b. My hometown is *so far I rarely go there*.
- c. *So far is my hometown that I rarely go there*.
- d. He did not care about his neighborhood *so that nobody helped him* when her house was on fire.
- e. The girl was *so beautiful that all the boys like her*.
- f. She was *such a beautiful girl that all the boys like her*.
- g. The questions are *so difficult that nobody can do them*.
- h. They are *such difficult questions that nobody can do them*.

6) Adverb Clause of Condition

Adverb clause of condition is a subordinate clause which is associated to condition and it is usually introduced by such subordinate conjunctions as *if, even if, unless, on condition that, provided that, in case, in the event (that), only if, whether or not, wh-ever* etc.

- a. *If I have much money, I will give you some*.
- b. He will proceed his study to the higher degree *even if he has to sell his house*.
- c. You will never pass in the subject *unless you study very hard*.
- d. You may ask me question *in case you have a problem*.
- e. The children will go away *only if you give them sets*.
- f. *Whether they have time or not, they will not join the trip*.
- g. *Whatever you may say, I will always believe you*.

Adverb clause of condition may be without a conjunction. The conjunction is omitted by the process of inversion, that

is by changing the sentence into an interrogative-like construction without a question mark except when it is really an interrogative sentence.

- a. *Do I have much money, I will give you some*.
- b. *Does he have to sell his house, he will proceed his study to the higher degree*.
- c. You would never pass in the subject *re you absent in the exam*.
- d. You may ask me question *do you have a problem*.
- e. *Had he attended the meeting, he would have got the important information*.

7) Adverb Clause of Concession

Adverb clause of concession or opposition is a subordinate clause which is associated to the opposite fact of the main clause and it is usually introduced by such subordinate conjunctions as *although, though, even though, whereas, while, in spite of the fact that*, etc.

- a. *Although she is rich, she does not feel happy*.
- b. He could stand on his diet *although there re various kinds of delicious food*.
- c. The boy could not ansr the questions *even though all of them have been discussed in the classroom*.
- d. The young artist has plunged into an extravagant life in the metropolitan city *whereas her parents remain poor peasants in the village*.
- e. He goes to campus by bus everyday *while his father is one of the richest man in the town*.
- f. *In spite of the fact that electricity in this area is always off, he never complains to the company*.

Adverb clause of concession may sometimes be introduced by other conjunctions as in the following.

- a. *A small boy as he is*, he will become the next King.
- b. *A lazy student as you re*, you could pass to be a scholar.
- c. *Notwithstanding the fact that she worked in the Night Club*, she was married to an honorable man.

8) Adverb Clause of Comparison

Adverb clause of comparison is a subordinate clause which is associated to the comparison beten the meaning of the subordinate clause and that of the main clause and therefore, it is usually introduced by a positive degree with *as ... as* and a comparative degree with *than*.

- a. Jack is taller *than you (are)*.
- b. John is as claver *as she (is)*.
- c. He loves me more *than (he loves) her*.
- d. The price of this plaza is as costly *as that of the office building*.
- e. Indonesian cuisine is generally more delicious *than European one*.

9) Adverb Clause of Manner

Adverb clause of manner is a subordinate clause which is associated to the manner of the action in the main clause and it is usually introduced by conjunction *as, as if, as though, the way, like* etc.

- a. You have to ansr the questions *as it is instructed*.
- b. Do the job *as I asked you to do*.
- c. He walked by staggering *as if he re drunk*.
- d. She could dance *ll in the way the artists do*.
- e. He might take revenge against the accused *in the same way he did for him*.

- f. You must love your fellow office mates *the way you love yourself*.
- g. *Like you are the owner of this office*, you have to keep it clean all the time.
- h. In the case of theft, the security scolded all the workers *as though he re the boss*.

C. CONCLUSION

A clause is a group of related words containing a subject that tells readers what the sentence is about, and a verb that tells readers what the subject is doing. A clause is a simple and natural construction which is generated from a compound or a complex sentence. Clauses in English is actually divided into two, they are *main clause* and *subordinate clause*. In English, it is subordinate clause which has several types of clauses, they are *noun clause, adjective clause* and *adverb clause*. Subordinate clause is found in a complex sentence and is also called dependent clause because it always depends on the main clause and cannot be separated from the main clause. So a dependent clause cannot make a sentence by itself. Meanwhile, main clause which is also called independent clause can make a sentence by itself and can be changed into negative or question form.

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