

**CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS: DONALD TRUMP SPEECH BROUGHT
THE U.S. TO PANDEMIC PREVENTION FAILURE**

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Abstract: *This research focuses on Donald trump's speech on preventing COVID-19 at White House Conference on May 18, 2020. His speech was suggestion on taking hydroxychloroquine which known as an anti-malaria. The method used in this research is mix method, as the data displayed using description and numbers and this research uses critical discourse theory by Fairclough to analyze the data, and meta function within systematic functional linguistic proposed as the tool to scrutinized the object of the research through transitivity analysis to know the power and ideology used within the speech; modality analysis is to know the information of modal verb, tense, and personal pronoun used within the speech, and textual analysis is to prevail the of the speech and also clarify whether the speech spoken coherently or not. The result of the research shown that (1)the most process used by trump is material process with a total of 95 and a percentage of 52.77%; relational 21 with percentage of 11, 66%, mental process is 42 with a percentage 23,33%, verbal process 18, with a percentage 10%, behavioral process 2 with a percentage 1,12%, and existential process 2 with a percentage 1,12%, in which becomes the reason of the audience has unconsciously followed the irresponsible suggestion by Trump; (2) modality analysis shows that Trump rarely used modal verb; (3) textual analysis shows that Donald Trump's speech has been delivered coherently and transitivity analysis found two the new process forms, both processes are existential process + relational process and relational process + existential process.*

Keywords: *critical discourse, donald trump's speech*

INTRODUCTION

United States (U.S.) President Donald Trump has become the main spotlight in the middle of this pandemic because of his speech about COVID-19 since World Health Organization (WHO) identified the virus at the beginning. During those months, the virus has spread around the world, Trump has delivered messages that the U.S. will be fine. According to (Aljazeera, 2020) the U.S. has confirmed the first case with whom the suspect was a traveler and had traveled to China on January 21st. To respond that, in the following date Trump has block travels from China on January 31st, but the regulation did not apply to U.S. citizens. Once again Trump keeps telling everyone to remind calm. Finally, the community spread case confirmed on February 26, the suspect had not been going to any hotspot or traveling abroad, and still Trump stated to not worry about this. Even Trump said that the heat could kill the virus so citizens must have no issue about that since the U.S. has a high temperature.

While China and other experts still working on the virus to classify what medicine could cure the virus itself, on May 18 Trump had made a blunder by saying to the media at White House Conference that he has taking hydroxychloroquine which known as an anti-malaria drug to fight COVID-19. The statement got a lot of critics from many doctors because it is still an unproven drug to prevent the virus. The drug has a side effect that could bring harm to the consumers without the right prescriptions. In the article (BBC, 2020), Dr. Stephen Griffin, associate professor at the School of Medicine University of Leeds says that the people who take the drug in certain dozes could put themselves in danger situation even the worst situation where the patient with certain conditions in needs of the drug will lack of the stock.

Trump's speech on suggesting the anti-malaria drug to prevent COVID-19 has affected the society badly. The sale of the drug is raising significant since people think it is good to consume, while reported from (Healthline, 2020), many COVID-19 patients who were taking the drug were having abnormal heart rhythms and unfortunately some



of them have died. We can see how powerful speech impact to the society. Donald Trump has brought his country to the worst by his indirectly irresponsible speech. It is important to see the speech of Donald Trump to understand what was his intention and how he had constructed his fatal speech.

Trump as the powerful figure to the U.S. has used his language ability to provoke his audience into his certain goals which in this case whatever goals that he intended have brought his people to the fall. In the certain event, Donald Trump speech has been considered by critics that the suggestion of taking the anti-malaria drug is totally fatal to people health. Because, language is the most important vehicle of political speech which showed publicly on stage and has a well-prepared goal to the audience in order they could be provoked, prevailed and persuaded to a certain goal that has been intended (Woods, 2006). Therefore, the power of language is not shown without any actions on the use, instead of how certain figures process it into something powerful. Since language processed as a device to do so, it could be learned critically through certain linguistic features. Studying language spoken by certain figures could lead us to some messages and objections to the figures themselves. It all gained through the grammatical use and word use within the spoken sentence.

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a device to unveil the use of power through language that spoken or written in the social and political context. CDA mostly used to study speech, advertisement, propaganda, document, newspaper and etc. CDA aims to see the connections within language between power and ideology. The main foundation of CDA is systemic function grammar or usually known as systemic function linguistic that invented by Michael Alexander Kirkwood Halliday and has influenced the model of grammar internationally. CDA is one of the theories in the pragmatic study and is the most accurate tool to research language used by certain figures especially speech. (Fairclough, 1997) called that CDA is distinctive because of two points where first, how it sees the connection between language and society and secondly, the approach to the



methodology in a critical way.

Systemic functional linguistic (SFL) is a new model of grammar that used to look further and understand how language could create meaning. Halliday had initiated SFL around 1960 as an approach of discourse study. Comparing to other linguistic features SFL has a difference between syntax, pragmatic, and etc. which in SFL instead of learning about the study of form, actually it studies about text and context. (Martin, 2004: 14) comments that SFL is a main theory in linguistic that had been constructed in 21 century and still developed since now. It is so realistic to study a language based on the context within using SFL and the most suitable object to be studied is a discourse. There two main aspects of SFL, which are systemic and functional and to elaborate those two main aspects (Wiratno, 2011: 1) says that by the meaning of systemic is based to the choice of the system and functional means that a language exists in a context of language is used also those forms are compatible to their functions. ideational function that will show the logical and experiential background of the figure within the speech through transitivity analysis, interpersonal function tries to uncover the modal verb, tense, and personal pronoun through modality analysis, and textual function shows the theme of the speech and the cohesiveness of the text within the speech. on the other hand, ideational function requires six processes, namely material process, mental process, relational process, verbal process, behavioral process, and existential process, but unfortunately, there are new processes found within the speech that have no matches with the theory used. Both processes found are the combination of two processes, such as existential process + relational process and relational process + existential process. Those process are not covered by the theory that Halliday has proposed and considered as the novelty of the research. Therefore, there are new names for those process, co-exrel (existential process + relational process) and co-relex (relational process + existential process) .



RESEARCH METHOD

Mix method is used in this research which means this research is based on qualitative and quantitative. As what is said by (Creswell, 2010: 5) mix method is a study approach by combining the qualitative and quantitative method as one. The data in this research is a speech delivered by Donald Trump in the White House Conference which has been transcribed into a text. The qualitative method is used to elaborate on the speech analyzed and served descriptively and the quantitative method is used to show the amount number of a certain type of data analyzed.

The instrument of this research is the researchers. Because of what is said by (Moleong, 2004: 168) that the researcher handles several roles, such as data collector, analyst, data interpreter, planner and also reporter to the results of the research. Besides, as the main instrument, reading is also part of the instrument since (Annum, 2019: 5) determined that reading is one of the tools used to understand relevant theories in the literature review, it is also becoming an instrument to study public documents such as newspapers and private document such as

The data on this research is analyzed using the SFL theory proposed by Halliday. The theory itself provides three meta-functions, namely ideational function, interpersonal function and textual function. In the ideational function, the data analyzed through transitivity to find several processes that show the relationship between power and ideology within the speech. Second, the interpersonal function used to analyze modality from the utterances within the speech. Last, the textual function used to analyze the theme of the speech and determine whether the speech is coherent or not. Finally, the analysis through meta-functions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data found through transitivity analysis, modality analysis, and textual analysis are discussed to expose the power and ideology within the speech by Donald



Trump.

Ideational Function

Table 1. Transitivity In Discussion

No.	Material process	Relational Process	Mental Process	Verbal Process	Behavioral Process	Existential Process	Total
1.	95	21	42	18	2	2	180
2.	52,77%	11,66%	23,33%	10	1,12%	1,12%	100%

The most process used in Trump's speech is material process which ranks at the first place with total amount 95 (52,77%) and followed by mental process which is 42 (23,33%). This condition occurs because Trump was trying to figure out what he has experienced from taking hydroxychloroquine. Therefore, the only reason Trump using material process as the most processes in his speech is because he wanted to show to the people that the medicine is good and every citizen of the U.S. should try the medicine also in return. As what is said by (Wang, 2010: 258) that the material process used to show what the government has achieved within the speech, thus the people will be receiving the speech confidently. It is clear that, the confidence of the U.S. citizen has brought them to trust Trump's statement and turns it into a suggestion to be followed in the middle of pandemic. On the other hand, mental process is the second most used process in Trump's speech. The amount of mental process found in Trump's speech is 42 (23,33%) which used by Trump to deliver his feeling towards the phenomenon that he has experienced. Trump has been trying to show his personal experience to the audience, such as cognition, perception, and reaction toward his speech in order to give a touch to the audience's feeling. Thus, Trump has easily controlled the emotion of his audience to believe his statement within his speech. This approved by (Wang, 2010: 258) that states, material process will lighten the connection of audience's inner heart to the speaker's



experience, thus the audience’s emotion of choosing what they believe intentionally, is strengthen. Trump has easily controlled the audience’s emotion to follow his suggestion on taking hydroxychloroquine and unfortunately has brought the citizen of the U.S. into a nightmare.

Material process

Material process requires some participants. the participants mentioned are actor and goal, these are two main participants in material process. Besides, there are several additional participants, namely recipient, client, and initiator (Halliday and Matthiessen, 2004: 509). Material process on Donald Trump’s speech can be seen on the table 2.

Table 2. Material Process of Donald Trumps’ Speech 1

No.	Material Process			
	M	Actor	Process	Goal
1.	M8	I	am taking	It, hydroxychloroquine
2.	M12	Frontline workers	take	It
3.	M13	A lot of doctors	take	It

Those three clauses, whether M8, M12, or M13 show that Trump has used the word ‘*taking*’ and ‘*take*’ as the material process within his speech. Trump intentionally states his experience on taking hydroxychloroquine so that the audience will feel confident to take the medicine also, since Trump is the president of the U.S whom is the figure that should be listened. Meanwhile, both M12 and M13 are the clauses that using third person actors which require evidence to be truth. Trump has used the ‘*frontline workers*’ and ‘*doctors*’ as an actor within his speech to show that he is not alone on taking the medicine, in a way Trump has tried to support his own action without further evidence. Here the Donald Trumps Speech:



Unfortunately, Trump statement in his speech is incorrect, because according to The American Nurses Association in (The New York Times, 2020) that says they have not received reports that any frontline workers or doctors have taken the hydroxychloroquine as the medicine to prevent the virus, they also added if there is still no report from any research that proves the medicine could be a prevention for the spread of the virus back then. It is clear that Trump has told the citizen of the U.S. a lie which as the president of the U.S., the figure that should be listened has not been responsible to his proceeding.

Table 3. Material Process of Donald Trumps' Speech

No	Material Process				
	M	Actor	Process	Recipient	Goal
1.	M21	I	give	them	hydroxychloroquine
2.	M77	Actor	Initiator	Goal	Process
		They	had	a report	come out

Both clauses M21 and M77 show that there is additional participant to each clause, for example in M21 the word '*them*' is referring to recipient participant, because recipient functions as the addressee of the material process happened within the clause. In the other hand, M77 shows initiator as the additional participant which the word '*had*' becomes the trigger of what is going to happen next with the goal. Indeed, there are two verbs in a clause but, the one which becomes the word of material process is the one after the goal.

Relational Process

In relational process, there are two main categories that can be identified within every clauses of relational process, namely attributive and identifying. To be clear, attributive means that the clause attached to the speech functions to explain a thing or something abstract, and attributive itself is tend to be irreversible. Meanwhile, identifying is tend to be reversible and has the similarity between each participant except the process, namely



identifier and identified which is different with the attributive that requires different participant except the process, such as carrier and attributive. The relational process found within Trump’s speech can be seen as follows.

Table 4. Relational Process

No.	Relational Process			
	R	Carrier	Process	Attributive
1.	Ra7	This	Is	A doctor
2.	Ra5	People that	Were	Dying
3.	Ra6	It	Is	Worth

Based on Trump’s statement, Trump only said that he got a letter from a doctor that told him a good report of hydroxychloroquine, but there will be further question of “*who is the doctor?*” that was not considered by the audience since they heard the speech spontaneously and focused to a single word ‘*doctor*’ which was enough for them, at that time. Similar to what is said by (Wang, 2010: 258) that relational process takes control on elaborating the conventional ideals and audience’s beliefs in a wide spectrum since it has been heard convincing to them. In conclusion, the audience’s idealism has approved ‘*doctor*’ conventionally and strengthen their beliefs on Trump statement that says the report of the medicine is good, unconsciously.

Mental Process

(Halliday, 1985: 112) puts mental process precisely in the middle of two participants, namely sener and phenomenon. Thus, the reason it is called sener, because the subject is not such a definite thing instead the feeling of the speaker that shows his experience mentally. Meanwhile, the object of mental process clause is replaced by phenomenon since what is depicted by mental process is a feeling.



Table 5. Mental Process

No.	Mental Process			
	M	Senser	Process	Phenomenon
1.	ML1	Because I	Think	It's good
2.	ML11	I	Want	The people of this nation feel good
3.	ML2	I've	Heard	A lot of good stories

The process of cognition, volition, and perception have been found in ML1, ML11, and ML2. In addition, (Lock, 1996: 105) has determined mental process into four types, namely perception (every ability on sensing, such as seeing, smelling, hearing, and noticing), cognition (the ability that operates in human's brain, such as thinking, understanding, and remembering), affection (the chemical reaction that occurs in determining human's feeling, such as liking, loving, and admiring), and volition (focusses on human's desires, such as wanting, hoping, and wishing).

ML1 uses the word '*think*' within the clause and functions as cognition where the ability of thinking and considering have been applied to the speech. Thus, Trump has tried to show his considering and thinking that the hydroxychloroquine is beneficial on preventing the virus, and has decided to recommend the medicine to the people intentionally. Although, if Trump did not propose his intention to promote the medicine, the audience will keep following his proceeding in taking the medicine since he is the President of the U.S. and is delivering his consideration on something. Similar to (Wang, 2010: 258) that states, if mental process is applied to connect the audience's feeling and their beliefs that will increase their expectation, and hopes that appeared directly and finally strengthen the audience's willingness to choose. On the other hand, ML11 shows that Trump has used the volition by choosing the word '*want*' to tell the audience that he



has been hoping the best for the citizen of the U.S. and they will accept the instruction in return. Meanwhile, ML2 elaborates the use of perception by Trump as the complement of his previous statements. Therefore, the word ‘*heard*’ could signal the audience that Trump has been supported by the phenomenon.

Verbal Process

Verbal process is a process of saying, in which the process shows the verb that used to express ideas into utterances, such as say, talk, ask, and etc. (Halliday, 1985: 240) states that verbal process functions to stating, questioning, offering, and commanding. Therefore, there are several participants included in verbal process, namely sayer and verbiage which are the basic participants of verbal process. In addition, there will be other participants, such as receiver and target, but unfortunately there is no target found in Trump’s speech.

Table 6. Verbal Process

No	Verbal Process			
	VP	Sayer	Process	Verbiage
1.	VP15	I	Announced	this
2.	VP9	I (just)	Said	That

The word ‘*announced*’ and ‘*said*’ found at VP15 and VP9 have been used by Trump to fulfill the stating function. By expressing those words, Trump could easily bolder his utterance that has been intended. The word ‘*this*’ and ‘*that*’ represent what the sayer has uttered, in which those words could refer Trump’s previous utterance or his upcoming utterance, but in this condition, the word ‘*that*’ functions to trigger his upcoming utterance,



Behavioral Process

This process only found in the small scale compares to others. There are only two behavioral process found within Trump’s speech. Therefore, the participants used in behavioral process is only two, namely behavior and circumstance, in which behavior fulfilled by the subject that does behavioral thing and circumstance is the complement of the clause within behavioral process.

Table 7. Verbal Process

No.	Behavioral Process			
	BP	Behavior	Process	Circumstance
1.	BP1	(and) you’d (be)	Surprised	At how many people
2..	BP2	Your eyes	Light up	When I said this

As it is seen at BP1 and BP2, the words ‘*surprised*’ and ‘*light up*’ are two of behavioral thing that attached to human in daily life. Trump has tried to tell the audience to look up at number of people that takes the hydroxychloroquine and the audience will be surprised in return. On the other hand, BP2 shows that Trump has been trying to convey if the audience will be happy for what Trump has stated within his speech.

Existential process

Same as behavioral process, existential process is only discovered in total amount of two processes. This process mainly tries to explain and depict the existent of a solid thing, such as place, thing, and etc. The only participant that appropriates to existential process is the existent of an object. Because, as what is said by (Halliday, 2004: 56) if the word *there* and etc. do not function as a subject instead of it just a grammatical subject to fulfill the empty place before predicate.



Table 8. Existential Process 1

No	Existential Process		
	EP	Process	Existent
1.	<i>Here's my evidence</i>		
	here	Is	My evidence

Table 9. Existential Process 2

No.	Existential Process			
	EP	Existent	Process	
1.	EP2	Bad people that should	Never been	There

It is possible to move the existent participant in the beginning of a clause instead of at the end as what is seen at EP2 where the clause turns into passive voice. Trump has willingly to prove his beliefs using existential process as is seen at EP where he could provide an evidence to the audience if the medicine is the excellent choice.

New Process

According to (Halliday, 1976: 101) and (Halliday, 1985: 129) that determines six processes, namely material process, relational process, mental process, verbal process, behavioral process, and existential process are connected to ideational process through transitivity analysis. Halliday also defines the description and characteristic of those six processes. Therefore, the analysis used in this research is based to the SFL theory proposed by Halliday. But luckily, there are two clauses that found within the speech have no matches to one of the process theories proposed by Halliday, instead those clauses are the combination of two process, namely *existential process* + *relational process* and *relational process* + *existential process*. Those new model of process found after further



analysis applied to those clauses within the speech. both processes are not covered by Halliday’s theory of SFL. Therefore, those processes are elaborated as follows:

Table 10. Co-exrel Process

No.	Co-Exrel Process (Existential + Relational)		
	Process	Existent	
1.	And there’s a very good chance		
	There	Is	A very good chance

The word *there* and *is* are the trigger to the existential process as what is said by (Halliday, 2004: 56) if the word *there* and etc. do not function as a subject instead of it is just a grammatical subject to fulfill the empty place before predicate. Meanwhile, the existent participant to the clause above is an abstract thing, in which opposites to (Haratyan, 2011: 262) if existential process tries to describe the existent that is solid, whether an entity, action, event, or place. Thus, the clause above which named ‘co-exrel process’ is the new form of processes within SFL theory proposed by Halliday.

Table 11. Co-Relex Process

No.	Co-Relex Process (Relational + Existential)		
	Carrier	Process	Attributive
1.	I’m still here		
	I	Am	Still here

In this case, the clause within ‘co-relex process’ has showed the combination of relational process and existential process, because basically relational process is the process of being, in another meaning, relational process tries to describe an object called attributive. This similar to (Haratyan, 2011: 262) the concentration of relational process is precisely on how an abstract relational described. Thus, the carrier participant in ‘co-relex process’ is proceeded by a to be ‘*am*’ to describe a thing whether it is solid or not.



But then again, the attributive participant in the clause above is the sign that express a place, which is the characteristic of existential process, as what is stated by (Eggins, 2004: 238) it is a specific circumstance of existential process that shows a location. Obviously, the 'co-relex process' is the new process found within Trump's speech, in which the combination of relational process and existential process.

Interpersonal Function

This meta-function focuses on how Trump describe the reality through his speech. besides, Trump also tries to depict his attitude towards the speech, in which his effort on building the interaction between himself and the audience has been shown within his speech. similar to (Haratyan, 2011: 262) that states if interpersonal function explores the roles in the society on picturing the connection of formality degree and pronouns. Still in the same page, (Haratyan, 2011: 262) said if the intimacy between the speaker and the audience could be explored through modality analysis. Therefore, further analysis of interpersonal function is exposed through modality analysis, as follows:

Modal Verb

Table 12. Modal Verb

No.	Modal verb	Trump's speech (in number)	Trump's speech (in percentage)
1.	Will	4	16%
2.	Would	12	48%
3.	Should	2	8%
4..	Shall	-	-
5.	Can	4	16%
6.	Could	3	12%



7.	Must	-	-
8.	May	-	-
9.	Might	-	-
10.	Total	25	100%

The most modal verb used by Trump through his speech is *would* with total amount 12 (48%), in which 3x amount compares to the second most used, *will* with total amount 4 (16%) and *can* 4 (16%). Meanwhile, there are no modal verbs based on (Coates, 1983) found, such as *shall*, *must*, *may*, and *might*. This occurs, because Trump has only used the most recognized modal verbs to make the audience easier on listening his speech. this strengthened by (Wang, 2010: 259) that says if these types of modal verb are easy to be accepted and understood since the frequency of the speech that was delivered.

Tense

Table 13. Tense

Tense		Numbers	Percentage
Present	Simple	70	53,84%
	Perfect	15	11,54%
	Continuous	11	8,46%
Simple	Past	30	23,08%
	Future	4	3,08%
Total		130	100%

It is seen in table, the most used tense found within Trump's speech is simple present tense, then followed by simple past tense. Obviously, this occurs because the intention to suggest the use of hydroxychloroquine by the use of simple present tense and, on the other hand, the use of simple past tense is functioned to show Trump's experience on taking the



medicine through his speech. (Wang, 2010: 260) also says that the use of tense is to provide the lack of distance between the speaker and the audience in order the assertion delivered by the speaker could be accepted by the audience easily.

Personal Pronoun

Table 14. Personal Pronoun

Personal Pronoun	Trump’s Speech (In Number)	Trump’s Speech (In Percentage)
First person	I(me)	79 42,94%
	We(us)	12 6,52%
Second person	You(you)	37 20,10%
Third person	She(her)	- -
	He(him)	13 7,06%
	It(it)	25 13,59%
	They(them)	18 9,79%
Total		184 100%

Similar to the finding in tense analysis, the use of first person I is the most personal pronoun expressed, then followed by the second most personal pronoun exposed which is the second person you. This condition occurs, because Trump has focused on expressing his personal experience and suggesting the audience to follow his way.

Textual Analysis

‘In textual analysis, Trump’s speech will be explored to see the theme within the speech, because the theme is created by the speaker within the speech. according to (Haratyan, 2011: 263) theme within the speech is located in the beginning and then



followed by the flow of information. Similar to (Halliday, 1981: 330) that says if the message of the text is potentially found within the theme.

CONCLUSION

Through several analysis done, namely transitivity analysis, modality analysis, and textual analysis, the researchers concludes that the implication of Donald Trump's speech to the failure of the U.S. on preventing pandemic is causing by the used of the material process in total amount 95 (55,77%) and mental process 42 (23,33%) by Donald Trump within ideational function that is so significant. This condition occurs because, Trump has intentionally expressed his experience on taking the hydroxychloroquine to the audience through material process within his speech. On the other hand, Trump has approached the audience's emotion by giving his perception of the medicine through mental process, in which he intentionally with high responsibility and consciousness has persuaded the audience to consume the medicine, despites it is still unproven and criticized by many healthcare experts. As the result, the audience who is the citizen of the U.S. effortlessly have followed Donald Trump suggestion on taking the medicine, beside he is the president of the U.S. that should be listened. Thus, the implication that has appeared is the condition of the people that thought if they have immune to prevent the virus, in which they could be free to go to anywhere without considering the health protocol after listening to Trump's speech and consuming the medicine. In return, until this chapter is written by the researcher, according to dashboard. Therefore, after several further analyses, such as modality analysis and textual analysis, the researchers could conclude that the speech by Trump has been constructed by total 180 process found within ideational function, in which material process 95 (52,77%), mental process 42 (23,33%), relational process 21 (11,66%), verbal process 18 (10%), behavioral process 2 (1,12%), and existential process 2 (1,12%). Besides, the speech by Trump also has contained 25 modal verbs, in which the most used is *would* modal verb with total 12 (48%), followed by *will*



and *can* modal verbs in the same amount 4 (16%), *could* 3 (12%), and the less used modal verb *should* 2 (8%). Next, the most used tense within the speech by Trump is simple present with total amount 70 (53,84%), followed by simple past 30 (23,08%), perfect present 15 (11,54), present continuous 11 (8,46%), and simple future which only found 4 (3,08%). Meanwhile, the most personal pronoun used by Trump in his speech is the first person *I* in total amount 79 (42,94%), followed by the second person *you* 37 (20,10%), the third person *it* 25 (13,59%), the third person *they* 18 (9,79%), the third person *he* 13 (7,06%), the first person *we* 12 (6,52%), and unfortunately, there is no the third person *she* personal pronoun found. On the other hand, the text spoken by Trump through his speech is coherent, and manifest the theme of the advantage of hydroxychloroquine.

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