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#### **EDITORIAL**

Every academic environment is sustained by learning through rigorous methods. Research is one and the focal point for assessment. A serious member of the academic community is measured by the quality and number of academic articles.

In spite of the desire to acquire many research reports, this edition has insisted on standards and quality. It is important to note that many articles have been rejected for not meeting our requirements.

The first and most obvious task of our journal is to provide a level playing field for researchers all over the globe in language-related disciplines, which is the vehicle for conveying knowledge. In this edition, thirty-one (31) articles have undergone academic scrutiny from our blind reviewers.

To our esteemed contributors and readers, thought-provoking articles are expected and we are ready to publish them in the next volume.

## PROFESSOR ALI AMADI ALKALI,

Editor-in-Chief, JAJOLLS: Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Department of Languages and Linguistics, Taraba State University, Jalingo.

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This volume of JAJOLLS (Jalingo Journal of Linguistics and Literary Studies, Volume 8, Issue 1) adheres to the guidelines of the current edition of the American Psychological Association and Modern Language Association (APA & MLA) Publication Manual for editing and formatting the featured papers. Renowned for its clear and user-friendly citation system, the APA/MLA manual also provides valuable guidance on selecting appropriate headings, tables, figures, language, tone, and reference styles, resulting in compelling, concise, and refined scholarly presentations. Furthermore, it serves as a comprehensive resource for the Editorial Board, navigating the entire scholarly writing process, from authorship ethics to research reporting and publication best practices.



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A Study of Clipping and Blending in Jukun Language

## Abstract

Word formation is a universal principle or characteristic of all languages of the world. In the daily life of human beings, words are used and new words are formed and reformed in order to contain and accommodate all entities. This is the concern of this current study entitled 'A study of clipping and blending in Jukun" This research study analysed some of the word formation processes, especially clipping and blending and how they are used in forming new words in the Jukun language. The research aims at identifying, clipped and blended forms found in the Jukun language and how they are formed as well as their types, also, how clipped and blended function forms in Jukun syntactic construct. Among other areas of language study, the research was restricted to morphology and specifically, clipping and blending in Jukun. The geographical areas of interest to this study is "fiidi" in Benue and "Jalingo" in Taraba States. Data for this study was sourced through primary and secondary sources and the intuitive knowledge of the researcher. The study adopted the functional theory by Halliday (1961). The study found that, in Jukun only clipping of the back syllable and clipping of the front syllable exist. It was also discovered that in the Jukun language, there may be slight changes between the original form of the word and the clipped form of the word, some of the times while the original form of the word is in past tense, the clipped form of the word is in present tense or present continuous tense. Whatever the change may be, in Jukun, both the original form of the word and the new word (clipped form) maintain the same meaning or idea. It was also found that there are three types or forms of clipping: clipping of the initial syllable, mid and final syllable, however only initial and final clipping are obtainable in the Jukun language. Yet others are formed from simply clipping out the middle part of a word and merging it with other words in full or parts. It was then concluded that, there is both clipping and blending in the Jukun language and they contribute a large volume of words into the Jukun vocabulary. It was recommended that, other morphological processes like coinage, acronyms, reduplication, borrowing, and so on, should be studied by subsequent researchers with elaborate and deeper research in reference to these processes that are not considered in the present study.

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#### 1.1.Introduction

Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which human beings communicate and co-operate with one another. These sounds are fashioned in a way to express one's thoughts, intentions, and feelings. Parts of the human body referred to as speech vocal organs work together for the articulation of definite sounds, which when arranged according to set patterns, form the words of a given language. According to Diamonds (1956) Language can be said to be a medium of expression and also a means of communication. Any sound which emanates from the lips gains significance only when it is understood by others. The individual happens to be the key figure in the development of language.

Language is the codes that individuals share in the form of elements of a system. In traditional view of language, words are put together to form sentences. The form differs from each other in both sound and meaning as in 'book' and 'push' for example, the two words denote different sorts of object and are distinguished by different consonants at the beginning and end. Hence sentences too, will differ in sound and meaning; 'the book is big' being distinguished from 'push the door' as a function of the words 'book and push'. However, not only the words but also constructions and the forms of words will vary from one individual sentence to another. 'The book has been sold' is a passive construction, with the book as a subject, contrasts with the active; 'He has sold the book', in which it is object. In both the sentences, book is singular and when it is subject with the auxiliary verb 'has' in contrast with the 'books have been sold' where 'books' is plural. In such examples, the choice between different forms of words -between the endings 'books' and 'book' on the one hand and 'have' and 'has' on the other, varies independently on the variation in the construction (passive versus active).

Argenis (2007:55) discusses word formation processes in the English language to include: compounding, reduplication, affixation, acronym, blending, clipping etc. Clipping is the process whereby a lexeme (simple or complex) is shortened, while retaining the same meaning and still being a member of the same word class. According to Bauer (1993:233) Frequently, clipping and blending results in a change of grammatical unit.

These word formation processes are not different from the ones used in the formation of Jukun words. According to Aisha cited in Musa (2006:49) clipping in Jukun is the process of shortening a Jukun word without changing its meaning or part of speech. Bossey (2003:41) provides a somewhat similar view of Jukun clipping, although more phonological. He sees Jukun clipping to be the term for the formation of a new wordform, with the same meaning as the original lexical term, by lopping off a portion and reducing it to a monosyllabic or dysyllabic rump.

We can with the above submit that, clipping in the Jukun language is the process whereby new words are formed by shortening other words. That is, by eliminating the initial part, the last part, or both parts, of those words. Musa (2012:76), further stresses that, Jukun clipping provides synonymous words from the same base, (not the different meaning) and allows both to co-exist. Clipping in Jukun appears as a rather

mixed bag of forms abbreviated from larger words, which share a common function, namely to express familiarity with the denotation of the derivative. In the words of Alfa (2021:3),

the short form or clipping represents the word in its entirety; however, that fragment does not have to be the salient part of the original word, neither prosodically nor semantically. Also, the clipping may not be used in the same contexts as the longer word. For example, the word *exam* is mostly used to refer to academic examinations or tests, not to medical examinations or check-ups.

Blending is the word formation process whereby new words are formed by combining parts of two words, usually the beginning of one word and the end of another. Blending is a way of forming new lexical units by putting together parts of existing words. Blends can also be called portmanteau words or telescope words. Boagundu (2021:87), avers that, blends combine the initial part or whole of one word with the final part or whole of another word. In the English language for instance, the blend *brunch* was formed by conjoining the initial part of the word *breakfast* and the final part of the word *lunch*. Blends are often formed in such a way that base words overlap, as in *jumbrella* where the base words *jumbo* and *umbrella* share the segment *-umb-*. In some cases, blending involves clipping of both base words, in other cases one or both base words are incorporated into the blend, as in *floordrobe* (*floor* + *wardrobe*), *frenemy* (*friend* + *enemy*), or *predictionary* (*prediction* + *dictionary*). These examples represent only a fraction of possible configurations blends may have. This study is concerned with the word formation processes in the Jukun language, focuse is on 'Clipping' and 'blending' in the Jukun language.

## 1.2. Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this research work is to vividly discuss word formation processes in the Jukun language, especially the aspects of clipping and blending. The study will therefore, seek to:

- 1) Identify clipped and blended words in the Jukun language.
- 2) Identify different types and processes of clipping and blending in the Jukun language
- 3) Explain the function of clipped and blended forms in phrases and sentences in the Jukun language

## 2.1 Conceptual Review

Language has structures that are rule-governed and systematic in nature. Following this assertion, Tremholm (2000:82), looks at language as a rule-governed system of symbols that allow the users to generate meaning and in the process, to define reality. Despite the arbitrary nature of language, Gimson (1998:4), affirms that it has pattern of conventions, rules covering sound units, the inflections and arrangement of 'words' and the association of meaning with words that learners of English as a second language have to brace up with for proficient performance. From the above view of these scholars, Oyewo concludes that, every language exhibits certain important characteristics; it is made up of symbols, it is rule-governed; it is productive and it affects individuals' view of the world. Stock (1992:34) see "language" as the expression of ideals through sounds which is combined into words, words into

sentences and then sentences into thoughts. Building on this, Els (1994:35) view language as:

The most important medium of human communication. It is both unique to the species and universal within that same specie. Only human beings can make use of verbal communication and all human can learn it.

From all of the above, the concept of language seem to have the idea of communication as its focus. Communication in the words of Gartside (1976:67) is "the basic essence of language" Gartside further opines that "It is possible to communicate pleasures by a smile, approval by a nod of head......and pain by groan, and death". Language having components, it is made up of phonology, grammar (syntax and morphology), semantics and pragmatics.

## 2.1.1 Morphology

Morphology as a subfield of linguistics is concerned with the study of the internal structure of words. It investigates the rules that govern the combination of meaningful units into the words of a language. As every language of the world is not a random activity but a rule governed activity, the rules of a language that concerns how each word is formed are housed in a box called morphology. In the words of Haspelmath (2002) "morphology is the study of combination of morphemes to yield words". Essentially, a morphological analysis consists of the identification of parts (constituents) of words. Example, the word "hands" consists of two morphemes 'hand, and '-s' which is a plural marker.

Hocket (1998:32), morphological approach (IP) sets up morphological processes or operations which show the relationships between word forms as one of the replacives. Consider the following examples: Replace the /ei/ of take with the /u/ /o/ took or the /i/ of swim with /a/ of swam. Furthermore, Robins (1959) proposes a third morphological model on the two models earlier proposed by Hocket. Based on Robin's model, which he refers to as word and paradigm (WP), the phonetic forms of words are specified alongside their lexical meanings and grammatical characteristics, making clear which parts of the total phonological segment realize which categories.

Robins offers convincing criteria for words and argues that (WP) is an extremely useful model in the description of languages. Word forms which have a common root or base are grouped into one or more paradigms. Paradigm categories include such things as tense in English, case in Latin, gender in French. These models, though not directly part of this research appears to be relevant, in that, they establish the basis of processes of word formation which is central to this investigation. Some of the major areas of morphology include: inflection, derivation, word formation and composition. Morphology provides another perspective to the study of the word by considering the word as a lexeme'. Lexemes are dictionary words, which would be further generated to provide other forms of words in substitution on relationship.

## 2.1.2 The Morpheme

Morphemes primarily can be referred to as minimal distinctive units of grammar and the central concern of morphology. It is the abstract category which has either lexical or grammatical meaning. Morpheme is the minimum and smallest significant unit of language. Universally, linguists have identified basically two types of morphemes, this is the free and bound morphemes. The free morpheme for instance is comprises of

nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs which we think of what always carry 'content' of the message we convey. These free morphemes are called lexical morphemes. According to Yule (1996) we can add new lexical morphemes in the language rather easily; so they are treated as an open class of words. The other groups of free morphemes are called functional morphemes which consist of functional words such as conjunctions, prepositions, articles, and pronouns.

The bound morphemes on the other hand is said to be sectioned into two. As Yule (1996) clearly avers that, the bound morpheme is divided into two types; the derivational morphemes and the inflectional morphemes. Derivational morphemes are used to make new words of different grammatical category from the stem (root). While inflectional morphemes are not used to produce new words, but rather to indicate aspect of grammatical function of word-present tense or past tense. The base, also called a stem, is an element (free or bound, a root morpheme or complex word) to which additional morphemes are added. A base can consist of a single root morpheme with the 'kind' of 'kindness. But a base can also be a word that itself contains more than one morpheme. For example, the word 'kindness' can be used as a base to form the word 'kindnesses'. To form the word 'kindnesses', the plural morpheme, spelt 'es' in this case, is added to the base 'kindness'. The root is usually a free morpheme around which words can be built through the addition of affixes. The root usually has a more specific meaning than the affixes that are attached to it. The root 'kind', for example, can have suffixes added to it to form words, such as 'kindly', 'kindness', 'kinder' or' kindest'.

The root is the item left when a complex word is stripped of all other morphemes. If the word 'dehumanizing', for example, is stripped of all the affixes---- 'ing', 'ize', and 'de', 'human' is what is left. It cannot be divided further into meaningful parts. It is the root of the word. An affix, on the other hand, is a bound morpheme attached to a base (root or stem). Prefixes are attached to the front of a base; suffixes to the end of a base, infixes are inserted inside a base. An example of a prefix is The 're' of 'rewrite'; while that of a suffix is '-al' of critical'. A morpheme is considered as a content morpheme when it has relatively more specific meaning than a function morpheme; a morpheme that names a concept or idea in our record of experience of the world.

#### 2.1.3Word Formation

Word formation has to do with the processes that involve the creation of entirely new words of a language. In the words of Adams (1973) There are two types of word formation. These include:

- 1- Formation with signs of linguistics, This type of morpheme is further segmented into: compounding, affixation, derivation by using the zero allomorph.
- 2- Formation without the inclusion of signs. Under this we have: blending, clipping and word manufacturing, coinage, borrowing, etc.

In another dimension, the work of Quirk (1973) is another contribution that discusses words formation processes in English. Quirk et al. divided the chief processes of English word formation such as affixation, conversion and compounding in which the base may be modified, and the minor processes such as reduplication, clipping, blending and acronyms. Although this study in particular, appears not to cover some common aspects of the processes of English such as suplition and modification.

Booij (1995) in his work on morphology focuses on relationship between word formation (which include compounding and derivation) and inflection. According to Booij (1995) word formation seems to be more of a lexical nature, whereas inflection has a syntactic flavor. So the question is whether inflection should be seen as part of the pre-syntactic morphological component or as belonging to separate post-syntactic component of inflection, in which the morpho-syntactic features of words are spelled out. The specific aim of Booij's paper is the distinction between inherent and contextual inflection and its relevance for the split morphology issue.

The Booij study concluded that inherent inflection, although it is similar to derivation in certain respects, should not be identified with derivation. It is half way on a scale with, at one end, contextual inflection (the prototypical case of inflection) and its other end derivation.

On the other hand, Booij (1989) has tried to show that the impressive work on the derivational morphology of French done by Danielle Corbin can very well be integrated into a paradigmatic approach to word formation. In order to support this interpretation of Corbin's morphology, he highlighted a number of basic claims as put forward in Corbin (1989), and related these to similar claims and analyses in Dutch and of other languages. Thus, he has made an (admittedly modest) attempt to make Corbin's work and insights fruitful for the non-French part of the morphological community, and to show in this way how much respect she has earned and deserved for her work on French morphology. The work is based on Danielle Corbin's theory of derivational morphology. Therefore, it is in no way compatible with this study, because it focuses its attention to derivation.

## **2.1.4 Clipping**

Clipping is a form of word formation that involves the subtraction of one or more syllables from a word. According to Mafruzah (2010:2) "Clipping is a linguistic process in which new words are formed by removing one or more morphemes of words (real/actual or perceived/supposed) of the existing words. It is a popular word forming process especially in the recent years." A close relation to clipping is back formation which is another linguistic process where morphemes of existing words are also removed. However, the morphemes are usually affixed and the entire part of speech of the affected word is also changed, clipping does not.

Clipping can be divided into the following types:

Front clipping – This is the process of trimming words in the front. In this order, the front syllable is taken to stand as a word. For example: airplane - plane, telephone - phone, etc.

Back clipping – This is another process of clipping where the trimming takes place at the back, thus, the back syllable is trimmed. For instance: advertisement - ad, gasoline - gas, fanatic - fan, polytechnic - poly, etc.

Front and back clipping – This is where the clipping process takes place both front and back of the word. An example of this process is Influenza – flu. However, Fagge (2004, p. 21) posits that clipping in Hausa is of two types: back-clipping and front clipping. Cornelius (2008) adds: shortening of lengthier words is a popular policy for conserving breath when talking and space when writing or typing. Clipping or trimming words in the front or back (or sometimes both).

Clipping is a morphological process used in many natural languages. In Malay, for instance, clipping usually occurs in the use of loan words from other languages. Because Malaysia, formerly known as Malaya, was once a trading centre for many merchant of various nations, and was colonized by several foreign countries, which led to language contact, and eventually, language transfer became a common occurrence.

#### 2.1.5 Blending

This process deals with bringing together, two or more lexemes to form a new word. Blending is a common process of word formation in English. Blends are formed by combining parts of more than one word to arrive at a new word. According to Fromkin and Rodman (1998: 89) "two words may be combined to produce blends." Blends are similar to compounds but parts of the words combined are deleted and so they are less than compounds. Examples of words formed through the blending process in English include: Brunch: from breakfast and lunch, Motel: from motor and hotel, Chunnel: from channel and tunnel, Spork: from spoon and fork, Urinalysis: from urine and analysis, etc.

Wagner (2010) discussed different kinds of morphological processes in English, among which are compounding, reduplication, affixation and modification, acronyms, clipping and blending. He described blending as a combination of two or more words to create a new one, usually by taking the beginning of one word and the end of other one. Debbie (2003) discussed how blending is used in the English language. He concentrated specifically on the relationship and differences found between blends and related word formation processes such as clipping, coinage, and compounds. As such, this is a formal rather than functional study. His work can be considered as a seminal work in the area of blending in English Language. The tool for analysis utilized to extract data in the research was from the corpus, which is the same as those used by Bauer and Renouf, (2011). These are the analytical tools developed in the aviator project (Renouf 1993), and the acronym project Renouf (1996), all these were used to extract new words occurring in each quarter of the project.

#### 3.1 Research Methodology

This study employs the descriptive plan for the purpose of this research work. Hence, this current study is concerned with the analysis of clippings and blending in the Jukun language and how they are formed. The adaption of descriptive plan in this study is because the researcher seeks to analyze what is in existence and present or explain them. The researcher will collect and build on what is already obtainable in the language in order to vividly analyse and draw conclusions.

This study uses the qualitative research design. Qualitative research deals with texts, patterns and qualities. This research design will make it possible for the researcher to critically examine how words are formed through clipping and blending in Jukun as well as the conditions or variables that are found in the cause of this study. Data for the study will be generated from secondary sources of data collection. Also being a native speaker of the Kona of the language, the researcher's knowledge of the Jukun language will also be critically explored.

## **Discussion of Results**

**Clipped Words and Formation Process in Jukun** 

S/N	Root	Gloss	Clipped form of	Syllable removed		
	Word	/lexical	the Word	and process		
		class		•		
1	akaire	truth (noun)	akai (truth) = noun	re (clipping of the back syllable		
2	sarig	done (verb)	sa (do) = verb	rig (clipping of the back syllable)		
3	dangrig	told (verb)	dang (tell) = verb	rig (clipping of the back syllable)		
4	vunrig	finished (verb)	vun (finish)	rig (clipping of the front syllable)		
5	bairig	spoiled (adjective)	bai (bad) = adjective	rig (clipping of the back syllable)		
6	santeng	beautiful (adjective)	san (beauty) = noun	teng (clipping of the back syllable)		
7	vengdri	cherish (noun)	veng (love) = noun	dri (clipping of the back syllable)		
8	aveubam	no love (adjective)	veu (love) = adjective	bam (clipping of the back syllable)		
9	vunbam	unfinish (verb)	vun (finish) = noun	bam (syllable)		
10	brimper	people (noun)	mper (person) = noun	bri (clipping of the final syllable)		
11	khiiteubai	painfuldeath (adjective)	khii (death) = noun	teubai (clipping of back syllable)		
12	kabmai	preferred (verb)	kab (prefer) = verb	mai (clipping of the back syllable)		
13	taukani	battleline (noun)	tau (battleline) = noun	kani (clipping of the back syllable)		
14	jenrig	lost (verb)	jen lost (lost) = verb	rig (clipping of the back syllable)		
15	tanububari	school (noun)	bubari (school) = noun	tanu clipping of the back syllable)		
16	sasan	gooddeeds (adjective)	san (goodness) = adjective	sa (clipping of the back syllable)		
17	baibam	not bad (adjective)	bai (bad)	bam (clipping of the bai syllable)		
18	kadrig	entered (verb)	kad (enter) = verb	rig (clipping of the final syllable)		
19	abaniadai	goldstone (noun)	abani (goldstone) = noun	adai (clipping of the back syllable)		

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20	)	birutaba	shea	butter	biru	(cheer		taba (clipping of the
			oil (noun)		butter	oil)	=	back syllable)
					noun			

Source: Field work 2023.

#### 4.2 Blended Words and Formation Process in Jukun

S/N	Word 1	Word 2	Formation	New word   Lexical		Meaning of
			process		class	blended word.
1	saumam	nka	sa+nka	Sanka noun		name of hotel
2	abud	kuni	abu +kuni	Bukuni	noun	mountain
3	zauzau	piru	zau+piru	zaupiru	noun	electric cable
4	janna	bamboo	jan +banbu	janbanbu	noun	name of clan
5	jiri	teubai	ji +teu	jiteu	noun	name of a person
6	hyini	kama	vin+kam	vinkam	noun	pole
7	kwaba	vunmaug	kwab+vun	kwabvun	adjective	endless
8	tannu	bubari	tan +	tanububari	noun	school
			bubari	<u> </u>		
9	hyini	tannu	hyin tannu	hyintanu	noun	roof
10	santeung	teubai	san+teu	santeu	adjective	tricky
11	neu	tannu	neu +tanu	neutanu	noun	door
12	ba'a	arighea	ba+ghea	baghea	noun	tiny
13	sannu	jiri	san+jir	sanjir	noun	battle field
14	ino	novuni	ino+vuni	inovuni	noun	january
15	nojiri	mri	no+mri	nomri	noun	june
16	sasau	npenri	sa+penri	sapenri	noun	name of a person
17	addai	peru	dai+peru	daiperu	noun	light/hight
18	ayari	bu	ayar+bu	ayarbu	noun	driver
19	zah	kanni	za+kani	zakani	noun	name of person
20	tannu	waru	tan+war	tanwar	noun	kitchen

Source: Field work 2023.

#### 4.3 Findings

It can be observed that in the Kona variety of Jukun language, there may be slight changes between the original form of the word and the clipped form of the word, some of the times while the original form of the word is in past tense, the clipped form of the word is in present tense or present continuous tense. Whatever the change may be, in Jukun both the original form of the word and the new word (clipped form) maintain the same meaning or idea. In example (3) above for instance, the root word "dangrig" which means "told" has it clipped form as "dang" present tense with the "rig" which was observed to be a tense maker. This is complex because the said words cannot be considered to be cases of tenses, since they express more than mere tense cases hence considered clipping. Also, the syllables that appear to be plural makers still does not express plurality or singularity in other instances as in example (14).

The study also found that, in clipping of Jukun words, the lexical class of both the root word and the clipped word are maintained. Also, while the root word express negativity, as in example (8) the clipped form of it express positivity. Also, while some root words express plurality, their clipped form express singularity. They can however

not be regarded as plural and singular in the state they exist, hence preferably referred as cases of clipping.

There are three forms of clipping generally. There is: clipping of the back syllable, where the first syllables of the root words become the new words as in example (4, 9, 10, etc). There is also, clipping of the front/initial syllable, these are cases where the second syllables become the new (clipped) word, as in example (10) in the table above. There is another form of clipping where the trunk or middle part of the word is clipped and considered the new word. This was however found to be absent in the Jukun language.

The researcher however saw that there are instances where there is a change in the lexical class some of the times, the meaning of the words or the idea painted is however maintained.

The above examples show that, most of the blended words in Jukun are nouns. While few of the blended words are not related majority are related or have some level of commonness either in their meaning, roots, lexical class and so on. In the blending process, while some words are formed from clipping the first syllables and blending them with the first syllables of other words, others are formed by removing the last syllables of a word and blending with another complete word. Yet others are formed from simply clipping out the middle part of a word and merging it with other words in full or parts.

#### 5.1 Conclusion

It was then concluded that, there is clipping and blending in the Jukun language as against some assertions that, clipping and blending does not exist in the Jukun language. As against the three general clipping process of: clipping of the back syllables, clipping of the front syllable and clipping of the trunk or middle syllable, only two were found to exist in the jukun language. In Jukun only clipping of the back syllable and clipping of the front syllable.

The researcher also submits that, in Jukun there are blended words with shared relatedness and without any form of relationship in, roots, lexical class and so on, yet they are considered to be blended. In the blending process, while some words are formed from clipping the first syllables and blending them with the first syllables of other words, others are formed by removing the last syllables of a word and blending with another complete word. Yet others are formed from simply clipping out the middle part of a word and merging it with other words in full or parts

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