

AN ACTION RESEARCH ON DEVELOPING SPEAKING SKILL Study Guide

An action research on developing speaking skill is a systematic and reflective process aimed at improving learners' oral communication abilities through practical interventions and continuous evaluation. In the realm of language education, developing speaking skills is crucial because it enables learners to effectively communicate their thoughts, ideas, and emotions in real-life situations. This article explores the significance of action research in enhancing speaking skills, the methodology involved, key findings, and best practices for educators seeking to implement similar initiatives.

Understanding the Importance of Developing Speaking Skills

Why Speaking Skills Matter in Language Learning

Speaking is often considered the most dynamic and interactive language skill. It allows learners to:

- Engage in meaningful conversations
- Express themselves confidently
- Improve overall language proficiency
- Foster intercultural communication and understanding

Effective speaking skills are essential not only for academic success but also for professional and social interactions. As global connectivity increases, the ability to speak fluently and confidently in a second language becomes a vital skill.

Challenges Faced in Developing Speaking Skills

Despite its importance, many learners face obstacles such as:

- Anxiety or fear of making mistakes
- Lack of vocabulary or grammatical knowledge
- Limited opportunities for practice
- Insufficient feedback from instructors

Overcoming these challenges requires targeted strategies and pedagogical approaches, which can

be systematically explored through action research.

What is Action Research in Language Education?

Definition and Purpose

Action research is a reflective process conducted by educators or researchers to identify issues, implement strategies, and assess outcomes within their specific teaching context. Its primary goal is to improve teaching practices and learner outcomes through iterative cycles of planning, action, observation, and reflection.

Relevance to Developing Speaking Skills

In the context of speaking skill development, action research enables educators to:

- Test innovative teaching methods
- Identify effective activities for speaking practice
- Adjust approaches based on learner feedback and performance
- Foster a learner-centered environment

Methodology of the Action Research on Developing Speaking Skills

Step 1: Identifying the Problem

The process begins with recognizing specific challenges faced by learners. For example, a common issue might be students' reluctance to participate in oral activities or limited vocabulary during conversations.

Step 2: Planning Interventions

Based on the identified problem, educators design targeted strategies such as:

- Incorporating communicative activities like role-plays and debates
- Using multimedia tools to facilitate listening and speaking
- Implementing peer feedback sessions
- Encouraging learner-led discussions

Step 3: Implementing the Strategies

The planned activities are integrated into the classroom over a specific period, ensuring consistent practice and engagement.

Step 4: Observation and Data Collection

Throughout the intervention, data is gathered through:

- Audio or video recordings of speaking activities
- Learner self-assessments and reflections
- Teacher observation checklists
- Student questionnaires and interviews

Step 5: Reflection and Evaluation

Analyzing the collected data helps determine the effectiveness of the strategies. Adjustments are made for subsequent cycles to enhance outcomes.

Key Findings from the Action Research

While the specific results may vary depending on context, typical findings include:

- Increased learner confidence in speaking activities
- Enhanced vocabulary usage and grammatical accuracy
- Greater willingness to participate in oral tasks
- Improved fluency and coherence during conversations
- Positive attitudes toward speaking practice

These outcomes demonstrate that systematic, well-planned interventions can significantly impact learners' speaking abilities.

Best Practices for Developing Speaking Skills through Action Research

1. Create a Supportive Environment

Foster an atmosphere where learners feel comfortable making mistakes and experimenting with language. Encourage positive peer interactions and constructive feedback.

2. Incorporate Diverse and Authentic Activities

Use real-life scenarios and varied formats such as debates, storytelling, interviews, and presentations to expose learners to practical speaking situations.

3. Use Technology to Enhance Practice

Leverage multimedia tools like language learning apps, online discussion forums, and recording devices to provide additional practice opportunities and self-assessment.

4. Promote Learner Autonomy

Encourage learners to set personal speaking goals, reflect on their progress, and seek out opportunities for autonomous practice outside the classroom.

5. Provide Continuous Feedback

Offer timely and specific feedback to guide learners' improvement, focusing on both strengths and areas for development.

Conclusion

An action research on developing speaking skill exemplifies a practical, evidence-based approach to enhancing oral communication abilities among language learners. By systematically identifying challenges, implementing targeted strategies, and evaluating outcomes, educators can create effective learning environments that foster confidence and competence in speaking. Emphasizing active participation, authentic activities, and continuous reflection ensures that the development of speaking skills becomes an engaging and rewarding process. As language education continues to evolve, integrating action research methodologies remains a valuable tool for teachers committed to fostering proficient and confident speakers.

An Action Research on Developing Speaking Skill: A Detailed Examination

Introduction

Action research has emerged as a vital approach in language education, especially when it comes to enhancing learners' speaking skills. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the ability to communicate effectively in spoken language is paramount. This article offers a comprehensive review of an action research study focused on developing speaking skills among learners, highlighting its methodology, findings, and implications for educators. By dissecting the process and outcomes, we aim to provide educators, researchers, and language enthusiasts with valuable insights into effective strategies and pedagogical practices.

Understanding Action Research in Language Education

What is Action Research?

Action research is a reflective, cyclical process that teachers and educators undertake to identify problems in their practice, implement solutions, observe outcomes, and refine their approaches accordingly. Unlike traditional research that often remains theoretical, action research is practical, participatory, and directly applicable to classroom settings. Its core aim is to improve teaching practices and student learning through iterative cycles of planning, acting, observing, and reflecting.

Relevance to Developing Speaking Skills

In the context of language education, action research is particularly suitable because it allows educators to tailor interventions based on their students' specific needs. Developing speaking skills involves more than just exposure; it requires targeted strategies to boost fluency, accuracy, confidence, and interaction. Action research enables teachers to experiment with various techniques such as task-based activities, technology integration, or peer collaboration and assess their effectiveness in real-time.

Designing the Action Research Study

Problem Identification

The starting point of this action research was recognizing that students in a beginner to intermediate language course exhibited limited fluency and lacked confidence in spoken interactions. Common issues included frequent hesitations, grammatical errors, and reluctance to participate in oral activities. The educator aimed to enhance these students' speaking proficiency through targeted interventions.

Research Objectives

The primary objectives of the study were:

- To improve students' speaking fluency and accuracy.
- To increase student confidence and willingness to participate.
- To identify effective teaching strategies that promote active speaking.
- To evaluate students' perceptions of speaking activities.

Participants and Setting

The study involved approximately 30 students enrolled in a language institute's beginner/intermediate speaking course. The classroom environment was traditional, with teacher-led instruction supplemented by speaking activities.

Methodology Overview

The researcher adopted a cyclical action research model comprising four phases:

- Planning: Designing specific speaking activities and interventions.
- Action: Implementing activities in the classroom.
- Observation: Monitoring student participation and collecting data.
- Reflection: Analyzing data and planning modifications for subsequent cycles.

This iterative process was conducted over two academic semesters to ensure data reliability and depth.

Interventions and Strategies Implemented

Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT)

One of the core strategies was integrating task-based activities that simulate real-life communication. Tasks included role-plays, interviews, problem-solving scenarios, and storytelling exercises. These activities aimed to foster meaningful interaction, reduce anxiety, and promote spontaneous speech.

Use of Technology and Multimedia

The researcher incorporated multimedia tools such as speech apps, video recordings, and language learning platforms. Students recorded their speeches for self-assessment and received peer feedback via online forums, promoting reflective learning and peer collaboration.

Structured Pair and Group Work

To encourage interaction, activities were designed for pair and small group work, allowing shy students to participate in a less intimidating environment. Rotating partners also exposed students to diverse speaking styles and vocabulary.

Teacher Feedback and Error Correction

Constructive and timely feedback was provided to guide students' pronunciation, grammar, and

coherence. Emphasis was placed on positive reinforcement to boost confidence.

Incorporating Cultural and Contextual Topics

Topics relevant to students' lives and cultural backgrounds were used to increase motivation and personal connection, making speaking practice more engaging and authentic.

Data Collection and Analysis

Quantitative Measures

- Pre- and Post-Tests: Students completed oral proficiency assessments at the start and end of each cycle, scored based on fluency, accuracy, vocabulary, and pronunciation.
- Participation Records: Frequency and quality of student participation during activities were documented.

Qualitative Measures

- Student Journals and Self-Reflections: Students reflected on their speaking experiences, confidence levels, and perceived challenges.
- Teacher Observations: The researcher recorded classroom interactions, noting improvements and persistent difficulties.
- Student Surveys and Interviews: Feedback was gathered regarding students' attitudes toward speaking activities and perceived effectiveness.

Data Analysis Techniques

The researcher employed descriptive statistics to analyze test scores and participation data. Thematic analysis was used to interpret qualitative feedback, identifying recurring themes such as increased confidence, reduced anxiety, and enjoyment of activities.

Findings and Results

Improvements in Speaking Performance

Data indicated significant progress in students' oral proficiency. Average scores on post-tests increased by approximately 20-25%, with notable gains in fluency and vocabulary usage. Students demonstrated greater ease in initiating and maintaining conversations, with fewer pauses and hesitations.

Enhanced Student Confidence and Motivation

Qualitative feedback revealed that students felt more comfortable speaking in class and were motivated by interactive and multimedia activities. Many expressed that their anxiety decreased over time, and they began to view speaking as an achievable skill.

Effective Strategies Identified

The study confirmed that task-based activities, peer collaboration, and multimedia integration were particularly effective in fostering speaking development. Structured feedback played a crucial role in helping students recognize their progress and address errors constructively.

Challenges and Limitations

Despite improvements, some students continued to struggle with anxiety and grammatical accuracy. Limited class time and large class sizes posed challenges for individualized attention. Additionally, technological issues occasionally hindered the smooth implementation of multimedia activities.

Implications for Teaching and Future Research

Practical Recommendations for Educators

- Incorporate task-based, meaningful speaking activities that simulate real-life situations.
- Use technology to diversify learning modalities and encourage self and peer assessment.
- Foster a supportive classroom environment that emphasizes positive reinforcement.
- Design activities that promote interaction among students to build confidence.
- Regularly collect and analyze student feedback to tailor instructional strategies.

Suggestions for Further Research

- Explore the long-term effects of specific interventions on speaking proficiency.
- Investigate the role of cultural factors in speaking confidence.
- Examine the impact of online or hybrid learning environments on speaking development.
- Study the effectiveness of peer-led versus teacher-led speaking activities.

Conclusion

Action research offers a practical and reflective pathway for educators aiming to improve learners' speaking skills. This cyclical process enables continuous refinement of teaching strategies, ensuring

that interventions are responsive to student needs. The study reviewed demonstrates that integrating task-based activities, multimedia tools, collaborative work, and targeted feedback can significantly enhance speaking performance and confidence. While challenges remain, especially regarding individual learner differences, the findings affirm that thoughtful, evidence-based practices can foster more effective and engaging speaking instruction. Ultimately, such research underscores the importance of teacher autonomy, reflective practice, and student-centered approaches in the pursuit of language mastery.

Question What is the primary goal of an action research on developing speaking skills? The primary goal is to identify effective teaching strategies and interventions to improve students' speaking abilities through iterative cycles of planning, action, observation, and reflection. How can teachers assess the progress of students' speaking skills during action research? Teachers can use formative assessments such as oral presentations, peer feedback, self-assessment checklists, and recording students' speech to monitor progress and inform instructional adjustments. What innovative techniques can be explored in action research to enhance speaking skills? Techniques like role-playing, language games, peer teaching, use of multimedia tools, and incorporating real-life communication scenarios can be explored to boost speaking confidence and fluency. How does action research contribute to sustainable development of speaking skills? By continuously reflecting on and refining teaching practices based on evidence, action research promotes lasting improvements in students' speaking abilities and encourages a learner-centered approach. What challenges are commonly faced during an action research on developing speaking skills? Common challenges include limited student participation, lack of resources, time constraints, and difficulty in accurately measuring speaking proficiency improvements. What role does student motivation play in the success of developing speaking skills through action research? Student motivation is crucial; motivated students are more engaged, willing to participate actively, and more likely to practice speaking, leading to better outcomes in skill development.

Related keywords: action research, speaking skills, language development, communicative competence, teaching strategies, oral communication, language learning, classroom intervention, student engagement, pedagogical approaches

Written Research In Moi University

Written Research in Moi University: An Overview of Academic Excellence and Innovation

Written research in Moi University plays a pivotal role in shaping the academic landscape of one of Kenya's leading higher education institutions. As a university committed to fostering innovation,

critical thinking, and scholarly excellence, Moi University emphasizes the importance of rigorous research output across various disciplines. This article explores the significance of written research at Moi University, the processes involved, and how it contributes to societal development and academic advancement.

The Significance of Written Research at Moi University

Moi University has established itself as a hub for academic research, aiming to produce knowledge that addresses local, regional, and global challenges. The university's research culture encourages students, faculty, and staff to engage in scholarly activities that lead to published papers, reports, theses, and dissertations.

Key reasons why written research is vital at Moi University include:

- Advancement of Knowledge: Contributing to existing academic literature with new insights and discoveries.
- Policy Development: Informing policymakers with evidence-based research to shape effective policies.
- Community Impact: Addressing societal issues such as health, agriculture, education, and technology.
- Academic Recognition: Enhancing the university's reputation through high-quality publications.
- Capacity Building: Developing students' and staff's research skills and analytical capabilities.

The Role of Research in Moi University's Academic Framework

Moi University's academic framework emphasizes research as a core component of higher education. The university integrates research into curricula and encourages students to undertake research projects as part of their coursework.

Main aspects of research integration include:

- Undergraduate and Postgraduate Research Projects: Students undertake research projects that culminate in dissertations or theses.
- Faculty-Led Research: Academic staff are actively involved in research activities, often collaborating with industry, government, and international partners.
- Research Centers and Institutes: Specialized units focus on areas like health sciences, agriculture, engineering, and social sciences to promote targeted research.
- Research Funding and Grants: The university actively seeks funding from government agencies, development partners, and international organizations to support research initiatives.

The Process of Conducting Written Research at Moi University

Conducting written research at Moi University follows a structured process designed to ensure quality and relevance. This process typically involves the following stages:

1. Identifying a Research Problem

- Recognizing gaps in existing knowledge or societal needs.
- Formulating clear, concise research questions or hypotheses.

2. Literature Review

- Reviewing existing studies to contextualize the research.
- Identifying theoretical frameworks and methodologies.

3. Designing the Research

- Choosing appropriate research methods (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods).
- Developing research instruments such as questionnaires, interview guides, or experimental setups.

4. Data Collection

- Gathering data through surveys, experiments, observations, or archival research.
- Ensuring ethical considerations and obtaining necessary approvals.

5. Data Analysis

- Analyzing data using statistical tools or qualitative techniques.
- Interpreting findings in relation to research questions.

6. Writing the Research Report

- Structuring the research document with sections like introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion.

- Citing sources appropriately to maintain academic integrity.

7. Publishing and Dissemination

- Submitting research for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Presenting findings at conferences, workshops, or community forums.

Types of Written Research Produced at Moi University

Moi University's research output manifests in various formats, including:

- Theses and Dissertations: Completed by postgraduate students as part of their degree requirements.
- Research Articles: Published in national and international journals.
- Conference Papers: Presented at academic and industry conferences.
- Research Reports: Detailed findings shared with stakeholders, government agencies, and partner organizations.
- Policy Briefs: Summarized research insights aimed at informing decision-makers.

Research Support and Resources at Moi University

To foster a robust research environment, Moi University provides extensive support, including:

- Research Grants and Funding Opportunities: Through internal and external sources.
- Research Centers and Laboratories: Equipped with modern facilities suitable for various disciplines.
- Training and Capacity Building: Workshops on research methodology, academic writing, and publication processes.
- Libraries and Digital Resources: Access to journals, e-books, and databases essential for literature review and data analysis.
- Mentorship Programs: Guidance from experienced faculty and researchers.

Challenges and Opportunities in Written Research at Moi University

While Moi University has made significant strides in research, certain challenges persist:

Challenges:

- Limited funding for extensive research projects.
- Insufficient research infrastructure in some departments.
- Need for increased collaboration with international research bodies.
- Publication barriers, including access to high-impact journals.

Opportunities:

- Expanding partnerships with industry and government for applied research.
- Leveraging technology to enhance research dissemination.
- Promoting interdisciplinary research to solve complex societal problems.
- Increasing student involvement in research activities.

Impact of Written Research on Society and Development

The research produced at Moi University has tangible impacts, including:

- Improved Healthcare Solutions: Research in medicine and public health informs better treatment protocols and health policies.
- Agricultural Innovation: Studies on crop improvement and pest management benefit local farmers and food security.
- Educational Reforms: Findings from social sciences influence curriculum development and teaching methods.
- Technological Advancements: Engineering and IT research contribute to innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Environmental Conservation: Studies on climate change and natural resource management aid sustainable development.

Conclusion

Written research at Moi University embodies the institution's commitment to academic excellence, societal development, and innovation. Through rigorous research processes, diverse outputs, and strategic support, Moi University continues to contribute valuable knowledge to Kenya and the world. Embracing emerging opportunities and addressing existing challenges will ensure that the university sustains its reputation as a center of scholarly and societal impact.

By fostering a vibrant research culture, Moi University not only enhances its academic stature but also plays a vital role in solving real-world problems, thereby making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

Written Research in Moi University: A Comprehensive Analysis of Academic Inquiry and Scholarly Output

In the landscape of higher education, research serves as the backbone of academic growth, innovation, and societal contribution. Moi University, one of Kenya's premier institutions of higher learning, has demonstrated a significant commitment to fostering a vibrant research culture. This article offers a detailed exploration of written research at Moi University, examining its history, scope, quality, impact, and the challenges faced by researchers within this esteemed institution.

Introduction to Moi University's Research Ecosystem

Moi University, established in 1984, has grown from its humble beginnings into a leading university in Kenya, with a reputation for academic excellence and research innovation. The university's mission emphasizes the generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge to improve society. As such, research is a core pillar of its strategic objectives.

The university's research activities are driven by various faculties, institutes, and centers, each contributing to a diverse body of scholarly output that spans disciplines such as health sciences, engineering, social sciences, education, and natural resources. The written research produced by Moi University encompasses theses, dissertations, journal articles, conference papers, technical reports, policy briefs, and books.

The Historical Evolution of Research at Moi University

Understanding the trajectory of written research at Moi University requires a historical perspective:

- Early Years (1980s - 1990s):

During its initial decades, research output was primarily academic, focusing on postgraduate theses and dissertations. Limited funding and infrastructural challenges constrained extensive publication efforts.

- Growth and Institutional Development (2000s):

The university increased emphasis on research capacity building, establishing research offices, funding schemes, and collaborations. This period saw a rise in peer-reviewed publications and international partnerships.

- Recent Trends (2010s - Present):

Moi University has expanded its research footprint, with a significant increase in written outputs, including high-impact journal articles, policy-oriented reports, and multidisciplinary research. The institution adopted digital repositories, promoting open access and dissemination.

Scope and Nature of Written Research at Moi University

The research output at Moi University is characterized by diversity in topics, formats, and disciplines. Its scope includes:

- Academic Theses and Dissertations:

Graduate students contribute a substantial volume of written research, often serving as foundational work for future publications.

- Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

Faculty members and postgraduate students publish findings in national and international journals, covering applied sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

- Technical and Research Reports:

Many projects, especially those funded by government agencies or development partners, produce detailed reports aimed at policymakers and practitioners.

- Books and Book Chapters:

Faculty authors contribute to scholarly books, often based on their research specialization.

- Conference Papers and Proceedings:

Participation in national and international conferences leads to the presentation and publication of research findings.

- Policy Briefs and Practice Guides:

To ensure societal impact, some research outputs are tailored into accessible formats for policymakers and practitioners.

Quality and Rigor of Research Output

Assessing the quality and rigor of Moi University's research involves multiple metrics and qualitative factors:

Publication Quality

Many Moi University researchers publish in reputable, peer-reviewed international journals, including those indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. The increasing number of publications in high-impact journals indicates growing research quality.

Research Methodology

The university emphasizes methodological rigor, with research projects often employing mixed-methods approaches, experimental designs, and systematic reviews, depending on discipline-specific standards.

Research Funding and Grants

A rising trend in securing external funding from national bodies like the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), international agencies, and development partners reflects confidence in the quality of research.

Ethical Standards

Research ethics committees oversee compliance with ethical standards, especially in health sciences and social sciences, ensuring integrity and societal responsibility.

Impact and Contributions of Moi University's Research

The tangible impact of written research at Moi University manifests in various ways:

- Academic Advancement:

The university's research enhances graduate training, fosters innovation, and contributes to the

academic reputation.

- Socioeconomic Development:

Research outputs inform policies in health, agriculture, education, and environmental management. For example, studies on disease prevalence inform public health interventions.

- Capacity Building:

Through research mentorship and collaborations, Moi University develops skilled researchers and practitioners.

- Knowledge Dissemination:

Digital repositories, open-access journals, and conferences facilitate the broad dissemination of research findings.

- International Recognition:

Publications in high-impact journals and participation in global research networks elevate the university's profile.

Challenges Facing Written Research at Moi University

Despite commendable progress, Moi University faces several hurdles in research development:

- Limited Funding:

Insufficient financial resources constrain large-scale and longitudinal studies, reducing the scope and depth of research.

- Infrastructure Gaps:

Inadequate laboratory facilities, research equipment, and access to academic databases hamper research productivity.

- Capacity Constraints:

A shortage of skilled research mentors and technical staff affects the quality and mentorship of emerging researchers.

- Publication Barriers:

Challenges in navigating publication processes, language barriers, and high publication costs can impede dissemination.

- Policy and Administrative Bottlenecks:

Complex administrative procedures and slow approval processes delay research initiation and completion.

- Collaboration Limitations:

While international collaborations are growing, local interdisciplinary collaborations remain limited, affecting comprehensive research approaches.

Strategies for Enhancing Research Output and Quality

To address these challenges and amplify research impact, Moi University can adopt several strategies:

- Increase Funding and Resource Allocation:

Boost internal grants, seek diversified funding sources, and invest in research infrastructure.

- Strengthen Capacity Building:

Conduct regular training workshops on research methodologies, academic writing, and grant writing.

- Promote Collaborative Research:

Foster interdisciplinary projects within the university and establish partnerships with other academic and research institutions.

- Encourage Open Access and Digital Repository Use:

Maximize visibility by depositing research outputs in open-access platforms.

- Enhance Mentorship Programs:

Pair early-career researchers with experienced mentors to improve research quality and publication success.

- Streamline Administrative Processes:

Simplify research approval procedures and establish clear guidelines for ethical and logistical support.

Conclusion: The Future of Written Research at Moi University

Moi University's commitment to scholarly inquiry is evident in its growing body of written research. As the institution navigates contemporary challenges and leverages emerging opportunities, its research ecosystem is poised to produce even more impactful and high-quality outputs. Sustained investment, capacity building, and strategic collaborations will be pivotal in realizing the full potential of Moi University's research endeavors, ultimately contributing to societal development and academic excellence.

The trajectory of written research at Moi University exemplifies a vibrant academic community dedicated to knowledge creation, dissemination, and application. Its continued growth will not only elevate the university's stature but also serve as a catalyst for positive change within Kenya and the broader East African region.

Question What are the main requirements for submitting written research at Moi University? Students are required to complete a research proposal, conduct the research adhering to ethical standards, and submit a comprehensive research paper following the university's formatting guidelines and deadlines. How does Moi University support students in their research activities? Moi University provides research funding opportunities, access to laboratories and libraries, supervision from experienced faculty, and workshops on research methodology and writing skills. What are the common challenges faced by students when conducting written research at Moi

University? Challenges include limited access to current research resources, time management issues, lack of research experience, and difficulties in data collection and analysis. Are there specific guidelines for formatting and citing sources in Moi University's research papers? Yes, Moi University follows standard academic formatting styles such as APA or Harvard, and students are provided with detailed guidelines on citation and referencing to ensure consistency and academic integrity. Can students publish their research findings externally after completing their projects at Moi University? Yes, students are encouraged to publish their research findings in academic journals and conferences, with the support of their supervisors and the university's research office. What is the role of supervision in the written research process at Moi University? Supervisors provide guidance throughout the research process, from proposal development to final writing, ensuring academic rigor, ethical compliance, and timely completion of the research project.

Related keywords: Moi University research, academic publications Moi University, student research projects, Moi University thesis, faculty research Moi University, research funding Moi University, research centers Moi University, research conferences Moi University, research methodology Moi University, scholarly articles Moi University

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