

Expanding the lexicon through debonding: A constructionist perspective

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Expanding the lexicon

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Outline

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 - Debonding of Dutch *luxe* (lit. 'luxury')
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1. Introduction

1.1. Debonding: definition

- “a composite change whereby a bound morpheme in a specific linguistic context becomes a free morpheme” (Norde 2009: 186)
- Free use of clitics, affixes, affixoids (Norde 2009: 186-227)
- Focus of this paper:
 - Debonding of the first element in Germanic head-final [NN]_N compounds
 - A dynamic process of lexical innovation in Germanic languages: creation of new adjectives/adverbs
 - Benefits of a constructionist approach

1.2. Debonding: examples

- Du. *reuze(n)*, Gm. *Riesen* and Sw. *jätte* 'giant' (Norde & Van Goethem 2014)
 - **Simile compound:** Gm. *Riesenpizza* ('giant pizza'), Sw. *jättestor* (lit. 'giant-big'; 'huge')
 - **Intensifying prefixoid:** Gm. *Riesen-sauerei* (lit. 'giant-mess'; 'huge mess'), Du. *reuzecharmant* (lit. 'giant-charming'; 'very charming')
- **Adjective/ Adverb:**
 - Gm. (...) *ein Mega **Riesen** 80er Revival Event* '(...) a mega giant 80s revival event' (DECOW2012)
 - Du. *Onze kinderen hebben zich **reuze** vermaakt (...)* 'Our kids enjoyed themselves tremendously (...)' (NLCOW2012)

1.3. A constructionist perspective

- **Construction Grammar:**

- A usage-based approach to language, language acquisition, and language change (cf. Hoffman & Trousdale 2013)
- Language is a hierarchical network of constructions (i.e., conventionalized form-meaning pairings)
- No strict division between grammar and the lexicon
- Constructions are linked to each other by (vertical) inheritance and (horizontal) connectivity relations
- Highlights the importance of context-sensitivity in language change (cf. Bergs & Diewald 2009)

1.3. A constructionist perspective

- **A constructional view of language change** (cf. Hilpert 2013, Traugott & Trousdale 2013):

- Constructionalization: the creation of form_{new}-meaning_{new} (combination of) signs (Traugott & Trousdale 2013: 22)

“Minimally, **constructionalization** involves neoanalysis of morphosyntactic form and semantic/pragmatic meaning (...). Formal changes alone, and meaning changes alone cannot constitute constructionalization. We characterize such changes as **constructional changes**.” (Traugott & Trousdale 2013: 22)

- **Is debonding a case of constructionalization?**

- Does debonding lead to the creation of a new construction?
- To complement the study by Trousdale and Norde (2013) on the relation between degrammation/deinflectionalization and constructionalization

2. Case study 1: debonding of Dutch *luxe*

Cf. Van Goethem & Koutsoukos (forth.)

2.1. Lexicographical analysis

- Van Dale (2015):
 - synchronic uses as
 - a noun *luxe* ('luxury')
 - an adjective *lux/luxe* ('luxurious')
 - as left-hand member of compounds

'lux /lyks/ bn.; -er, meest - • 'luxe

'lux /lyks/ de $\text{\textcircled{m}}$ onv. • eenheid van verlichtingssterkte (afk. lx): een oppervlakte heeft een verlichtingssterkte van 1 lux, als er per m² een lichtstroom van 1 lumen op valt • 1658, Lat. [licht] ~ Du. leuchten

Lux. Luxemburg

LUX in BE Luxemburg (provincie)

lux aeterna /lykseterna/ de $\text{\textcircled{m}}$ g.mv. • rel. eeuwig licht • Lat.

luxaflex^{MERK} de $\text{\textcircled{m}}$ g.mv. • zonwering binnenshuis met lamellen

luxatie de $\text{\textcircled{v}}$ 1 anat. ontwrichting; – ook als tweede lid in samenst. als de volgende, waarin het eerste lid een gewricht of een lichaamsdeel in de nabijheid daarvan noemt: *heupluxatie*, *kaakluxatie*, *kuitluxatie* 2 verplaatsing van de ooglenzen uit haar kapsel • 1720 < Lat. *luxatio*, van *luxare* [ontwrichten]

luxe bn.; -t, meest - • luxueus, weelderig, var. *lux*: *luxe* dingen kopen; *luxer* gaan leven, een *lux(e)* levenje leiden; – ook als eerste lid in samenst. als de volgende, ter aanduiding dat het in het tweede lid genoemde (niet zo zeer nuttig als wel) luxueus is: *luxe*bakkerij, *luxe*boot, *luxe*bus, *luxe*doos, *luxe*hond, *luxe*hotel, *luxe*hut, *luxe*jacht, *luxe*schip, *luxe*trein, *luxe*-uitgave, *luxe*-uitvoering, *luxe*villa, *luxe*voorwerp

'luxe de $\text{\textcircled{m}}$ g.mv. 1 weelde, overvloed: *luxe* en comfort; zich de *luxe* van iets niet kunnen veroorloven; zich de *luxe* permitteren niet meer fulltime te werken; uitdr.; litot. dat is geen *luxe*, ook enigszins pleonastisch dat is geen overbodige *luxe* dat is dringend gewenst, hard nodig 2 weelderige inrichting, geheel van weelderige installaties • 1785, Fr.

2.1. Lexicographical analysis

- Diachronic cline of debonding (*WNT* 2007, s.v. *luxe, luxe''*):

(1) **Noun** borrowed from French (1785)

(2) Borrowing of French **collocations** (beginning 19th c.)/ **compounds** (end 19th c.)

- *Meubilaire of andere artikelen van luxe* [1807] 'articles of LUXE'
- *Het zijn luxe-artikelen, (...)* [1889] 'LUXE-articles'

(3) **Attributive adjectival use** (beginning 20th c.)

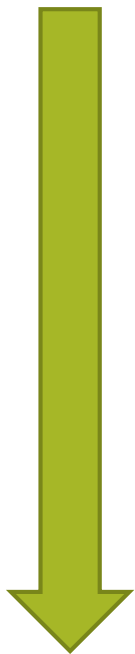
- (...) *met kleine luxe dingen voor zijn kamertje* [1914] 'with little LUXE things for his room'

(4) **Predicative adjectival use** (60's)

- *Tassen worden luxer* [1964] 'Bags are getting [LUXE-COMP]'

(5) **Adverbial use** (60's)

- (...) *dat hij zeer lux is uitgerust* [196.] 'that he (=the car) is very LUX equipped'



2.2. Method and results

- **Synchronic corpus study:**

- **NLCOW₂₀₁₄AX** (Schäfer & Bildhauer 2012; Schäfer 2015)
 - 4,7 gigatoken Dutch webcorpus
 - essentially Netherlandic Dutch
 - 600 random hits of *lux**
- **Corpus Hedendaags Nederlands (2013)**
 - Texts from written press
 - 200 random hits of *lux** for Netherlandic Dutch (ND) and Belgian Dutch (BD)

➤ More debonding in informal (60,17%) than in formal written language (43,90%)

➤ Much more debonding in ND (43,80%) than in BD (4,85%)

NLCOW ₂₀₁₄	
Noun (free)	196 [32.67%]
[<i>lux</i> -N] _N	38 [6.33%]
Adj	337 [56.17%]
- Attributive	(313)
- Predicative	(24)
Adv	24 [4.00%]
Ambiguous	5 [0.83%]
n	600

CHN 2013	ND	BD
Noun (free)	45 (36.59%)	36 (34.95%)
[<i>lux</i> -N] _N	24 (19.51%)	62 (60.19%)
Adj	53 (43.09%)	5 (4.85%)
- Attributive	(44)	(5)
- Predicative	(9)	0
Adv	1 (0.81%)	0
n	123	103

2.3. Debonded *luxe*: formal changes

- **Syntactic context-expansion:**

- **Attributive use:**

- (1) *Dit ruim opgezette **luxe** resort beschikt over een eigen 18 - holes golfbaan*
'This spacious LUXE resort has its own 18-hole golf course'
- (2) *Zeer **luxe** en vernieuwd sanitair* 'Very LUXE and renovated sanitary'

- **Predicative use:**

- (3) *De onderkomens zijn stijlvol en **luxe*** 'The accommodations are stylish and LUXE'

- **Adverbial use:**

- (4) *Vanochtend heerlijk **luxe** ontbeten in dit prachtige resort (...)*
'(lit.) This morning deliciously LUXE breakfast-ed in this beautiful resort'

➤ **Only expansion to attributive use in Belgian Dutch!**

2.3. Debonded *luxe*: formal changes

- **Degrees of comparison:**

- (5) *Voornamelijk (...) in de **luxere** besteksets terug te vinden* . 'the [LUXE-COMP] cutlery sets'
- (6) *Aan boord van **de meest luxe** cruiseschepen beleefde Arno Raymakers als cruisedirector ongelooflijke avonturen (...)* 'the most LUXE cruise ships'

- **Adjectival inflection:**

- The shape of *luxe* conforms to the inflected form of an attributive adjective in most syntactic positions

	Masculine/feminine (<i>de</i>)		Neuter (<i>het</i>)	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
Singular	-e	-e	∅	-e
Plural	-e	-e	-e	-e

2.3. Debonded *luxe*: formal changes

- In **written** language: invariable *luxe* (both in Netherlandic and Belgian Dutch)
- In **spoken** language:
 - Invariable form in Belgian Dutch (schwa is always pronounced)
 - Regular inflection in Netherlandic Dutch:
 - (7) *Dat is wel erg luxe [lyks]* 'that is really very LUXE'
 - (8) *Een luxe [lyks] hotel* 'a LUXE hotel' (+ **stress shift!**)

➤ Defective inflection in Belgian Dutch!

(sources: Taaladvies.net; *Corpus Gesproken Nederlands*)

2.4. Debonded *luxe*: semantic change?

- Different types of [*luxe* N]_N compounds:
 - Subordinative compounds: *luxeprobleem* 'problem of luxury' ≠ *luxueus probleem* 'luxurious problem'
 - Attributive compounds: *luxehotel* 'luxury hotel' = *luxueus hotel* 'luxurious hotel'
- Debonding (essentially) applies to attributive compounds
- Attributive *luxe* occurs in similar collocations as the adjective *luxueus*
 - *Luxe/luxueus hotel*, *luxe/luxueus appartement*, *luxe/luxueuze villa*
- *Luxe* develops a qualifying meaning in attributive compounds (through semantic coercion) and this qualifying semantics triggers debonding and reanalysis into an attributive adjective
- Debonding does not result in semantic change

2.5. Constructionalization?

- **Formal changes:** **yes**, but very limited in BD
- **Semantic changes:** **no**, just selection of qualifying *lux* in attributive compounds
- 'Constructional change' instead of 'constructionalization'
- Only incipient constructional change in BD, more advanced in ND

3. Case study 2: debonding of Swedish *kanon*

3.1. Lexicographical analysis

- Svenska Akademiens Ordlista (2006):
 - synchronic uses as
 - a noun *kanon* ('cannon')
 - an adjective *kanon* ('fantastic')
 - as left-hand member of compounds

¹kan.on [ka'-] s. -en el. =;
pl. -er [ka'-] • rättesnöre,
fastställd norm; bibelns
erkända böcker; för-
teckning över helgon;
musikstycke



²kan.on [-o'n] s. -en -er
• som förled i sms äv. allm.
förstärkningsord; vapen



³kan.on [-o'n] adj. oböjl.
• predikativt; <vard.> jättebra
kan.on.ad [-a'd] s. -en -er
• ihållande kanoneld;
<bildl.> häftigt angrepp

kan.on.lbra adj. oböjl. • <vard.>



kan.on.lbåt s.

kan.on.lbåts|dipl.om.ati s.

kan.on.ldunder s.

kan.on.ldäck s.

kan.on.leld s.

kan.on.lform s. • <vard., sport.>
i k.



kan.on.lfoto.graf s. • <ngt åld.>

kan.on.lföda s. • <vard.>

kan.on.lhård adj. • <vard.>

3.1. Lexicographical analysis

- Diachronic development (SAOB 1935, s.v. *kanon*₃):



(1) **Noun** borrowed from French (1631): *canon* 'cannon'

- including derivations, e.g. *kanonad* (1631) 'bombardment', *kanonera* (1627) 'to fire', *kanonjär* 'cannonneer'
- (2a) Borrowing of the **expression** *bourré comme un canon / voll wie eine Kanone / zoo vol als een kanon* 'full (i.e. drunk) as a cannon'

- formation of the compound *kanonfull* (1909) 'stone-drunk' (INFORMAL)
- predicative use: *vara fullständigt kanon* 'to be completely wasted' (INFORMAL)

(2b) **Compounds relating to sports**

- *kanonskott* (1924) 'cannonball shot' (INFORMAL) (< *kanonskott* (1656) 'cannon-shoot')
- *kanonlag* (1924) 'terrific team' (INFORMAL)

- No further diachronic information available (SAOB or corpora)

- entry from 1935
- (very) informal usage not recorded
- (2a) probably the source of N-ADJ compounds
- (2b) probably the source of N-N compounds

3.2. Method and results

- **Synchronic corpus study:**
 - **SVCOW₁₄AX₀₁** (Schäfer & Bildhauer 2012; Schäfer 2015)
 - subset of 4,8 gigatoken Swedish webcorpus
 - 1000 random hits of bound *kanon-*
 - 1000 random hits of free *kanon*
- **Substantial differences between free and bound constructions**

SVCOW ₂₀₁₄ : bound	function / PoS
As Noun 'cannon'	65 [6.6%]
Adjective	465 [74,4%]
Noun	389 [39.6%]
Adverb	61 [6.2%]
Quantifier	2 [0.2%]
n	982

SVCOW ₂₀₁₄ : free	function / PoS
As Noun 'cannon'	24 [2.5%]
Predicative	518 [53.0%]
Noun	161 [16.5%]
Adjective	140 [14.3%]
Verb	116 [11.9%]
Adverb	16 [1.6%]
Quantifier	3 [0.3%]
n	978

3.3. *kanon(-)* as prefixoid

R₁ = Adjective

Bound prefixoid

- *kanontrött* 'very tired'
- *kanonfräsch* 'very fresh'

Free prefixoid

- *kanon bra* 'very good'
- *kanon snygg* 'very cute'

R₁ = Noun

Bound prefixoid

- *kanondag* 'great day'
- *kanonväder* 'great weather'

Free prefixoid

- *kanon pris* 'good price'
- *kanon jobb* 'great job'

3.4. Debonded *kanon*: formal changes

- **Syntactic context-expansion:**
 - Predicative use:
 - (1) *Och tillsammans med parmesan blir det **kanon!***
'And with Parmesan (cheese) it is going to be fantastic!'
 - (2) *Min helg var helt **kanon** iallafall :)*
'At least my week-end was really fantastic'
 - Interjection:
 - (3) *Jaja , nu verkar problemet fixat, **kanon.***
'Yeah yeah, the problem appears to be fixed by now, great'
 - Adverbial use:
 - (4) *Pontus sjöng **kanon!***
'Pontus sang fantastically!'

3.4. Debonded *kanon*: formal changes

- **Inflection (rare):**

(5) *Dom ÄR **kanona!***

'They *are* fantastic!'

[Plural –a]

(6) *jag tycker du gjorde ett **kanont** jobb som modell.* [<http://kongsmark.se/2010/11/02/en-jattebra-kompis-och-kollega-sa-gick-det-till/>]

'I think you did a great job as a model.'

[Neuter –t:]

- **Degrees of comparison (rare):**

(7) *Ser **kanon** ut - skall bli ännu **kanonare** att se med lite scenery.*

'Looks fantastic – will be even more fantastic to look at with a bit of scenery'

(8) ***kanon-ig-aste** kebaben*

'the most fantastic kebab'

3.4. Debonded *kanon*: formal changes

- **Input for derivation and modification**

- *en kanonare* 'a great one'

(9) *jag tror att deras dag varit en riktig **kanonare**.* [<http://www.bylundsdotter.se/2015/05/knappt-lamnatt-garden.html>]

'I think that their day has been a really great one'

- *kanonish* (*kanon* + English suffix *-ish*)
- *kanoners* (cannon-PL-GEN)

(10) *en **kanonershelg** 'a fantastic week-end', **kanonersbra** 'very good'*

(11) *Vi gjorde pannkakor igår som smakade **kanoners**.*

'We made pancakes yesterday that tasted excellent'

(12) *så de kommer bli **kanoners kanon!***

'So it is going to be really great!'

3.5. Debonded *kanon*: semantic changes

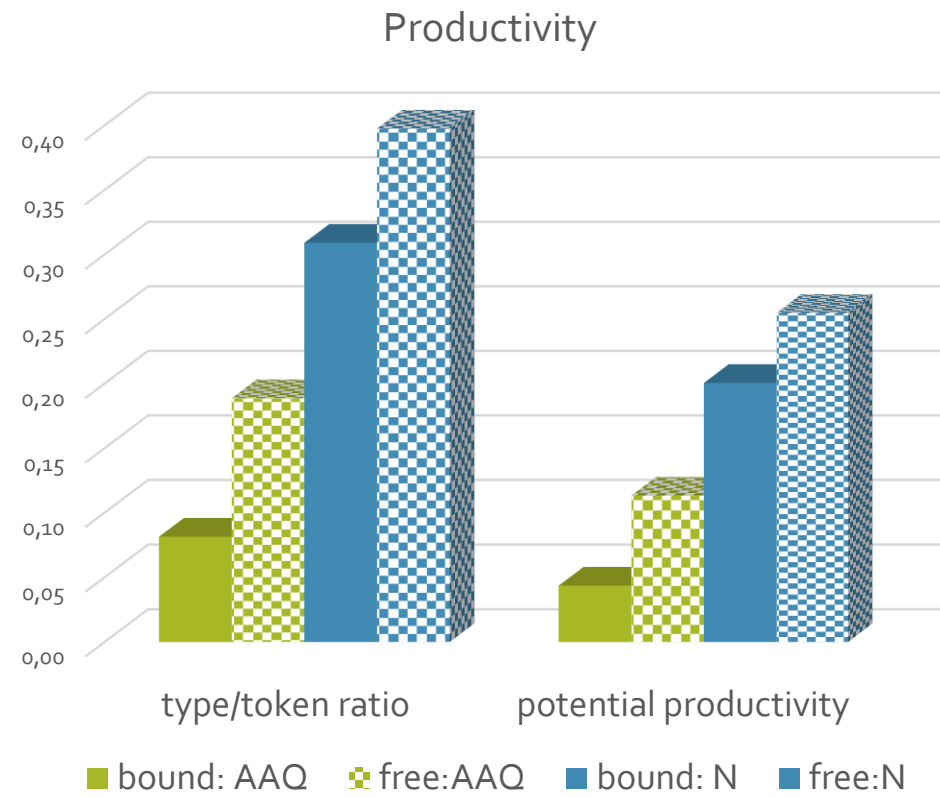
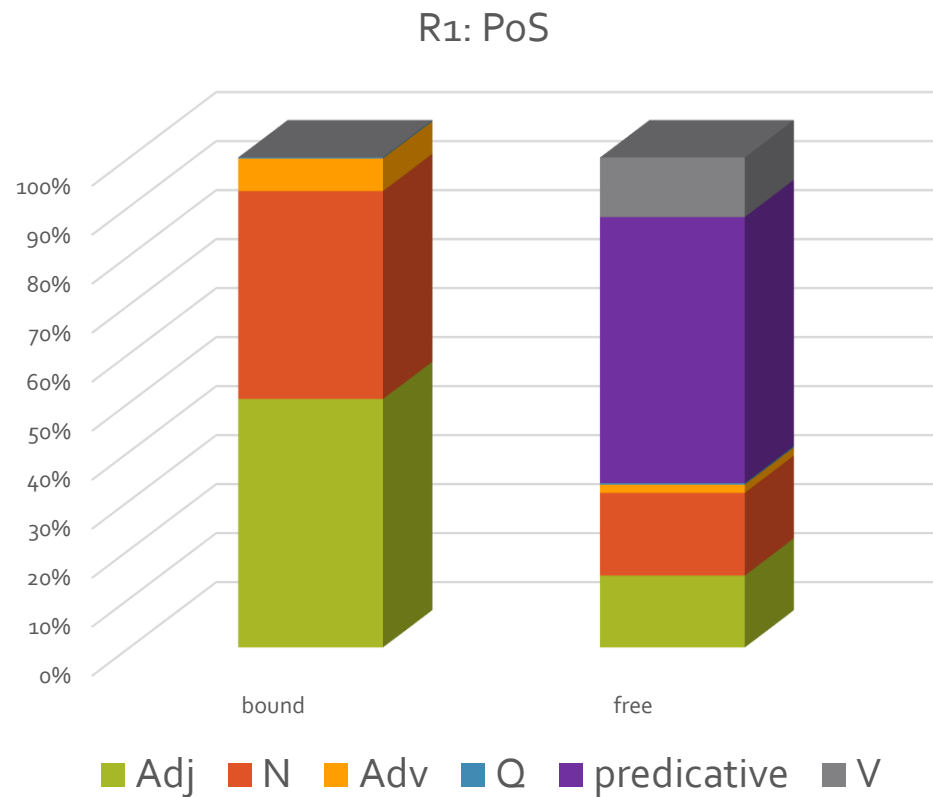
R₁ = Adjective

- original *kanon*-Adj compound: *kanonfull* 'drunk as a cannon'
- *kanon* reinterpreted as intensifying prefixoid
- expansion to other adjectives
- debonding: probably orthographic phenomenon (Norde & Van Goethem 2014)

R₁ = Noun

- original N-N compound: *kanonskott* 'cannonball shot' (simile meaning)
- *kanon* reinterpreted as evaluative prefixoid: 'super-'
- expansion to other nouns
- debonding: expansion to predicative and adverbial contexts: 'great, fantastic'

3.6. Bound and free *kanon*: comparison



3.7. Constructionalization?

- **Formal changes:** **yes**

- distributional differences: debonded *kanon* in predicative and adverbial position
- (incipient) inflection of debonded *kanon*

- **Semantic changes:** **(yes)**

- Most significant semantic changes in bound *kanon* (e.g. similative to evaluative meaning in N-N compounds)
- R1 = adjective: no difference between bound and free *kanon*
- R1 = noun: no difference between bound and free *kanon*
- *kanon* in predicative and adverbial position: semantic enrichment

➤ **'Constructionalization', though more formal changes than semantic ones**

4. Discussion and conclusions

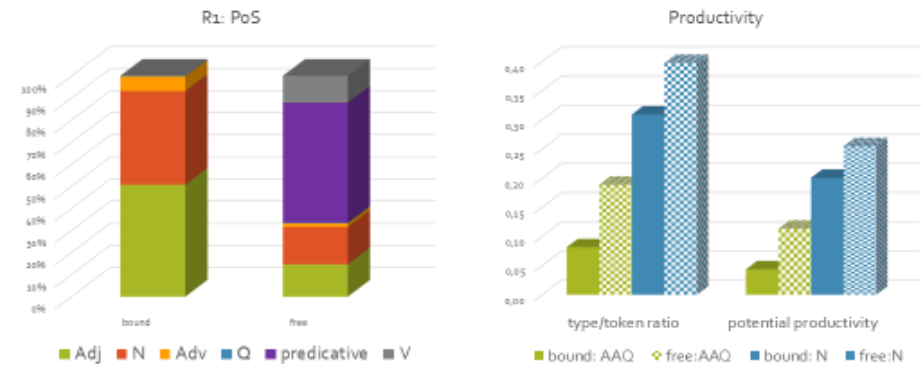
Benefits of the constructionist approach

- Neoanalysis into adjectives as a result of analogical thinking (Traugott & Trousdale 2013)
 - ✓ Semantic analogy: qualifying/evaluative semantics ~ qualifying adjectives
 - ✓ Formal analogy:
 - Dutch: compound elements in *-e* resemble inflected adjectives (cf. *luxe* 'luxury', *reuze* 'giant', *klasse* 'class')
 - Swedish: association with other indeclinable adjectives / adverbs, most notably *bra* 'great'
- To account for some problematic features of debonding:
 - ✓ Counterdirectionality of the process (bound lexical item > free lexical item)
 - ✓ Context-sensitivity: semantic coercion in attributive compounds

Limits of the constructionist approach

- Debonding of *kanon*: no constructionalization in the strict sense of Traugott & Trousdale 2013
- “Just after how many constructional changes exactly do we have a construction that counts as a new node?” (Hilpert 2015: 134)

3.6. Bound and free *kanon*: comparison



5. References

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