

## التنبؤ وتفسير المواضيع في دين الشرف بواسطة توم كلانسي

Foreshadowing and Interpretation of themes In The debt of Honor BY Tom Clancy

مروه عبد اللطيف سلطان

الاستاذ المساعد شاداب جبار پور

Marwa Abdulateef Sultan

Shadab Jabbarpoor

الجامعة المستنصرية / كلية الآداب

جامعة ازيد الاسلاميه قسم اللغة الانكليزية فرع كرامسر ايران

Islamic Azad University, Enghlis Department, Garmsar branch, Garmsar Iran / Al-Mustansiriya University

eyesmagic434@yahoo.com

shadab.jabbarpoor@iau.ac.ir

## المستخلص:

يهدف الباحث في هذه الدراسة إلى استكشاف مفهوم الجهاز الأدبي "التنبؤ" في رواية "دين الشرف" للكاتب الأمريكي توم كلانسي، مع توضيح الخلفية النظرية لهذا الجهاز، كما يبين الدور الكبير للتنبؤ في تشكيل تفسيره. مواضيع مختلفة.

الكلمات المفتاحية : التنبؤ، المستقبل ، توم كلانسي، دين شرف، البنيوية.

## Abstract:

In this study the researcher aims to explore the concept of literary device "Foreshadowing" in the novel The debt of honor by the American writer Tom Clancy, elaborating theoretical background of this device, and also show the significant role of

foreshadowing in shaping the interpretation of different themes.

**Keywords:** Foreshadowing, Future, Tom Clancy, The debt of Honor, structuralism.

## Introduction

The Debt of Honor is a novel published in 1994, written by the American writer Thomas Leo Clancy Jr. (April 12, 1947 – October 1, 2013). A novelist and original creator of the Tom Clancy video game series. He is best known for his technically detailed espionage and military-science storylines set during and after the Cold War. He is a popular for creating suspense by hinting at what might happen later in the story, so readers are interested to keep reading. Tom Clancy uses the literary device foreshadowing in his novel to make his reader long for what will happen during the storytelling. the researcher will detail the theme of the literary device foreshadowing and explore this device in different theories, analyzing Aristotle's Poetics and its relevance to foreshadowing in drama, incorporating Russian Formalism, Structuralism, Narratology, Reader-Response Theory, and Psychoanalytic Theory for further comprehension, so in this research the researcher try to elaborate the important role which play by foreshadowing, contributing in the interpretation of different themes in the novel.

Thematic exploration delves into complex ideas and issues that resonate with readers. By engaging with themes such as national security, loyalty, resilience, technological advancements, recurring motifs, symbols and narrative events the novel prompts readers to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and experiences. Foreshadowing serves as a catalyst for this reflection by hinting at the potential consequences and challenges characters may face, stimulating anticipation and curiosity.

### 1. The debt of honor

Debt of Honor is a 94 novel by Tom Clancy, continuing the story of Jack Ryan from The Sum of All Fears. Jack suppresses a political coup in Japan, with elements that foreshadow in popular culture. The novel starts by framing a fictitious coup led by Raizo Yamata, an ambitious industrialist keen on returning Japan to its former geopolitical power. He has a hidden agenda: to make the US pay for his family's murder in WWII on Saipan. He seizes the chance to act when gas tanks made in Japan explode after a car crash in Tennessee. US blames Japan, passes law to cut critical goods flow. Yamata seizes business elites, enforces trade embargo and military action against US. Yamata, backed by India and China, aims to decrease US influence in the Pacific and establish a closed economy. After sanctions, Prime Minister Mogataru Koga steps down. Elite class appoints Hiroshi Goto, critic of US. Japan reconsiders nuclear program, plans missile deployment. Japan occupied Mariana Islands and accidentally destroyed four US vessels with torpedoes. They thwart revenge by launching an economic strike on the US, using a spy to disrupt the Federal Reserve's trade records and assassinate its leader. Japan falsely seeks peace treaty, slowing US response.

President Durling recalls Jack Ryan, names him security advisor. Jack recommends resolving the economic crisis by disregarding deleted trade data and restoring the system to an earlier backup, leading to minimal turbulence in the stock market. Investment banks retaliate against Japan by selling all their products, followed by US military retaliation. Japan's air traffic tracking and analytics system is destroyed by covert attacks, while US Admiral Robby Jackson uses air and sea attacks to free the Mariana Islands and force Japan to surrender. Goto resigns; Koga returns to power. Yamata and his cronies are arrested, and peace is restored between the US and Japan. The novel ends with the accusation of sexual misconduct by the VP. Dulling nominates Jack to replace him. A Japanese pilot flies a plane into the Capitol during session. Explosion kills top US leaders. Jack narrowly escapes and becomes president. He takes

the oath of office on live TV in CNN's Washington, DC studio as the novel ends, pondering American ethics and state power in the gripping thriller *Debt of Honor*. Clancy's novel challenges US supremacy by depicting the war with Japan as an intricate game with unpredictable outcomes, shaped by the bravest individuals.

## 2. Foreshadowing

The concept of foreshadowing in literature holds a prominent place within the realm of storytelling, drawing from a multitude of theoretical frameworks and critical approaches. Foreshadowing is a powerful technique employed by authors to subtly introduce hints or clues regarding forthcoming events in a narrative, thereby generating a heightened sense of anticipation, suspense, and dramatic tension among readers. This literary device serves to engage readers intellectually and emotionally, as they eagerly anticipate the unfolding of future events and try to decipher the hidden meanings embedded within the text.

Foreshadowing refers to the technique or device whereby some situation or event is hinted at in advance. (Prince, 2003, p. 67). Foreshadowing can increase the coherence and persuasiveness of a piece of writing by alluding to future events. Given these factors, it is not surprising that foreshadowing appears in a variety of media; even historical and scientific writings have mentioned it. The point is that foreshadowing is a very effective tool for any medium that depends on narrative to convey information.

In terms of psychology, foreshadowing is a very powerful tactic. Foreshadowing offers a way to predict, a means to make sense of events that may otherwise confound: that is what foreshadowing offers and what makes it such a powerful, omnipresent device, as English Professor Welch (1998) puts it (Welch, 1998, p. 375).

(Bordwell, 1985) provides the following explanation of why foreshadowing can

have such a significant effect on a reader in more detail: if information is unobtrusively planted early on, later hypotheses will become more probable by taking insignificant foreshadowing material for granted.

On the other hand, (Clark, 2006) claims that Foreshadowing can work not only in narrative forms but also in persuasive writing. A good column or essay has a point, often revealed at the end. Which details can you place early to foreshadow your conclusion?

By its very nature, foreshadowing is a subtle literary device, or as Bae and Young (Bae & Young, 2008, p. 160) define the term, Foreshadowing implicitly alludes to a future event in a manner that makes it difficult to recognize its meaning until the event actually happens. The ability to persuade may be undermined if the subject feels as though they are being manipulated. These factors lead literary experts to advise that the best clues in a story are camouflaged as ordinary events, without anticipation. (Rzepka, 2005, p. 29)

As far back as the ancient Romans and even earlier, foreshadowing has been a common storytelling technique used by many different civilizations for thousands of years. Even The Epic of Gilgamesh, a poem from Mesopotamia that was written around 2,100 BC, contains examples of foreshadowing. The use of foreshadowing dictates letting the reader in on small amounts of information, but not enough to reveal the entire plot, thus creating suspense, (Staals, 2017, p. 26).

Contrary to popular belief, Foreshadowing is not just a literary technique employed by astute writers. On the contrary, it is a crucial aspect of narrative and, more broadly, human cognition. According to Medina (Medina, 1979, p. 60), Human reason is narrative because it extends from its inception and in every one of its acts toward the foreshadowing of its total course. To put it another way, this device is in tune with how

the mind naturally operates, making foreshadowing a highly effective tactic.

Here in this study, the researcher explore the concept of foreshadowing in different literary theories.

## **2.1. Aristotle s Poetics**

The concept of foreshadowing can be traced back to Aristotle s Poetics, where he discusses the importance of unity and coherence in a narrative. Foreshadowing refers to the literary device in which an author hints or suggests events or developments that may occur later in the narrative. The purpose of foreshadowing is to create a sense of anticipation or suspense in the reader or viewer, as well as to provide a sense of coherence and unity in the story. This technique is often used in literature, film, and television to create dramatic tension and build narrative momentum.

The use of foreshadowing as a literary device can be traced back to ancient Greek literature, most notably in the works of Homer. However, it was Aristotle who first formalized the concept of foreshadowing in his Poetics, which is considered one of the earliest and most important works of literary theory. In his treatise, Aristotle discusses the importance of unity and coherence in a narrative, and argues that foreshadowing is a key device for achieving these goals.

Aristotle describes foreshadowing as a sign or token that hints at what is to come, and suggests that it is a crucial technique for creating suspense and engaging the audience (Cotton, 2003). He also notes that foreshadowing should be used sparingly and with skill, so as not to be too obvious or heavy-handed.

Since Aristotle s time, foreshadowing has been a popular device in literature, and has been used by many celebrated authors, including William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan

Poe, and Charles Dickens. In film and television, foreshadowing has become an increasingly important technique, with modern audiences expecting a certain level of anticipation and intrigue in their stories.

In conclusion, foreshadowing is a powerful literary device that has been used throughout history to create dramatic tension and narrative coherence. While Aristotle formalized the concept in his *Poetics*, the technique has been used by countless authors and filmmakers since then, demonstrating its enduring popularity and effectiveness.

Aristotle believed that a well-structured plot should have a clear beginning, middle, and end, with each event logically connected to the others (Allen, 2013). Foreshadowing contributes to this unity by establishing connections between earlier and later events in the story

## **2.2. Russian Formalism:**

Russian formalists were a literary movement that emerged in the early 20th century in Russia. They believed that literature should be approached as an art form, and that the study of literature should focus on the unique characteristics of the literary text (Steiner, 1984). One of the key areas of focus for the formalists was the analysis of literary devices and techniques, including foreshadowing.

Foreshadowing is a literary technique where an author hints at something that will happen later in the story. It can take many forms, such as a character's dialogue, an object or symbol, or even the weather. Foreshadowing can create suspense and anticipation for the reader, as they try to guess what will happen next. It can also help to create a sense of coherence and structure within a story, by linking earlier events and actions to later ones.

For the Russian formalists, foreshadowing was a crucial component of plot construction. They believed that a well-constructed plot should have a clear beginning, middle, and end, with each part building upon the previous one. Foreshadowing was seen as a way to connect the different parts of the plot and create a sense of unity within the story.

Viktor Shklovsky and Boris Tomashevsky were two of the most prominent Russian formalists, and both emphasized the importance of foreshadowing in their literary theories. Shklovsky, in particular, argued that foreshadowing was essential to creating a sense of defamiliarization, or making the familiar seem strange (Romanow, 2013). By using foreshadowing to hint at events or outcomes that seem unexpected or surprising, an author can challenge the reader's assumptions and create a more dynamic and engaging narrative.

Overall, the Russian formalist's emphasis on foreshadowing as a key component of plot construction highlights the importance of literary devices and techniques in shaping the way we experience and interpret literature. By analyzing these techniques, we can gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which authors use language to create meaning and convey complex ideas and emotions.

### **2.3. Structuralism**

Structuralism is an approach to analyzing literature that emerged in the early 20th century. Its primary objective is to uncover the underlying structures and patterns that govern human behavior and communication. In other words, structuralism seeks to understand how language, culture, and society work together to create meaning.

One of the most prominent figures in structuralism is Ferdinand de Saussure, who developed the concept of semiotics. This theory posits that language is a system of signs



that convey meaning through the relationship between signifiers (a word or symbol) and what they signify (the object or concept represented by that word or symbol) (Danesi, 2019, pp. 16-23).

Another leading figure in structuralism is Claude Lévi-Strauss, who applied structuralist principles to the study of mythology and culture. Lévi-Strauss argued that myths and rituals are structured according to binary oppositions (e.g., life and death, male and female) that reveal the underlying logic of a society's beliefs and values (Clarke, 1977, pp. 743-762).

When it comes to analyzing narrative texts, structuralists emphasize the importance of identifying the underlying patterns and structures that shape the story. For example, they might look for recurring motifs, narrative arcs, and character archetypes that recur across different texts. By identifying these patterns, they can uncover the deeper meanings and themes that drive the story.

One crucial element of narrative structure, according to structuralists, is foreshadowing. Foreshadowing is a technique where the author gives hints or clues about what is to come later in the story, often through subtle details or ambiguous events. By doing so, the author creates connections between different parts of the story and helps to maintain coherence and continuity. For example, in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, the witch's prophecy that Macbeth will become king foreshadows the events that follow, where Macbeth becomes increasingly desperate to hold onto his power. In this way, foreshadowing helps to create a sense of inevitability and momentum in the story (Kadawy, 2008, pp. 23-40).

In conclusion, structuralism provides a useful framework for understanding how narratives are constructed and how different elements of a story work together to create

meaning. By identifying the underlying patterns and structures in a text, we can uncover the deeper themes and ideas that drive the story forward. Foreshadowing is just one example of how structuralist principles can illuminate the workings of narrative structure and create a more nuanced understanding of how stories are constructed.

## 2.4. Narratology

Narratology is a critical approach that examines the structure and function of narratives across different literary genres such as novels, poems, and plays (Jahn, 2021). It offers a theoretical framework for analyzing the various components of a narrative, including plot, character development, point of view, and themes.

Foreshadowing is a literary device that hints at or suggests future events in a story. It can be conveyed through dialogue, imagery, symbols, and various other literary techniques. By using foreshadowing, authors create a sense of anticipation in readers and keep them engaged in the story. With the help of narratology, readers can better understand how foreshadowing works and appreciate its significance in storytelling.

One example of foreshadowing is in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. In the early chapters of the book, the author uses foreshadowing to hint at the coming trial of a black man, Tom Robinson, accused of raping a white woman. The author's use of foreshadowing creates a sense of unease and suspense in the reader, which intensifies as the story progresses towards the trial.

Another example of foreshadowing is in the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare. In the prologue of the play, the chorus speaks of the star-crossed lovers and hints at their tragic fate. The use of foreshadowing in the prologue creates a sense of inevitability and heightened tension as the audience witnesses Romeo and Juliet's ill-fated love story unfold.

In conclusion, narratology provides a theoretical framework for understanding foreshadowing and its critical function in storytelling. By analyzing the narrative structure and various literary techniques, readers can better appreciate the author's use of foreshadowing to create suspense, engage curiosity and ultimately tell a compelling story.

## **2.5. Reader-Response Theory:**

Reader-response theorists believe that the meaning of a text is not only created by the author through their writing, but also by the reader through their interpretation (Tompkins, 1994). This means that two readers can have different perspectives and understandings of the same text.

In the case of foreshadowing, the author may drop subtle hints or clues about what is going to happen later in the story. For example, in the opening scene of J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, readers are introduced to Harry Potter's backstory and his connection to Voldemort. This foreshadows the conflict that will arise later in the story between Harry and Voldemort.

However, it is up to the reader to pick up on these clues and use them to anticipate what will happen next in the story. The reader might also bring their own experiences and knowledge to the interpretation of the foreshadowing. For example, a reader who is familiar with Greek mythology might interpret the presence of a snake in a foreshadowing scene as a sign of impending danger or betrayal.

According to (Spirovska, 2019, pp. 20-35), in this way, reader-response theory emphasizes the collaboration between the author and the reader in creating meaning in a text. The reader brings their own experiences, perspectives, and knowledge to the interpretation of the text, adding to its richness and complexity.

## 2.6. Psychoanalytic Theory

Psychoanalytic theorists believe that foreshadowing can reveal a character's hidden desires or fears that may not be immediately apparent in the text (Turri, 2015). For example, in William Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, the witch's prophecy that Macbeth will become king foreshadows his ambition and desire for power. This desire eventually leads him down a path of destruction and tragedy.

Furthermore, According to (Genetu, 2017), psychoanalytic theorists argue that foreshadowing can also reveal a character's repressed desires or fears. In Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights*, the recurring motif of the ghost of Catherine foreshadows the unresolved feelings and desires of the characters. The ghost represents Catherine's long-standing desire for her lost love, Heathcliff. This desire is repressed and unresolved, leading to the destructive and tragic events of the novel.

Another example of foreshadowing revealing hidden desires can be seen in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. The green light at the end of Daisy's dock is a symbol of Gatsby's desire for wealth and status, as well as his desire to be with Daisy. This desire consumes him and ultimately leads to his downfall.

Overall, psychoanalytic theorists believe that foreshadowing can provide insight into a character's unconscious motivations and desires. By analyzing these subtleties, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the characters and their actions.

These theoretical perspectives provide a comprehensive understanding of the literary concept of foreshadowing in novels. By examining foreshadowing through these various lenses, one can appreciate the complexity and significance of this narrative technique in shaping a story and engaging the reader's imagination.

### 3. Foreshadowing and Theme Development

Foreshadowing techniques in *The Debt of Honor* contribute to the development and exploration of key themes in the novel. Here are some examples that illustrate how foreshadowing enhances the thematic exploration:

#### 3.1. Theme: National Security and Geopolitical Tensions

*He couldn't shake the feeling that something big was about to happen, something that would disrupt the delicate balance of power between nations. (Chapter 5)*

This foreshadowing creates anticipation and sets the stage for the theme of national security and geopolitical tensions. The reader is primed to expect significant events that will disrupt the global order. Foreshadowing builds suspense and intensifies the exploration of the theme throughout the novel.

#### 3.2. Theme: Loyalty and Betrayal

*The look in his eyes made her uneasy. She sensed a hidden agenda, a betrayal lurking beneath his charming facade. (Chapter 10)*

Foreshadowing hints at the theme of loyalty and betrayal, suggesting that the character's charming demeanor may hide ulterior motives. The reader is forewarned of potential betrayals and becomes attuned to the complex dynamics of trust and loyalty that will unfold in the narrative.

#### 3.3. Theme: Technological Advancements and Warfare

*The new weapon system was still in development, but he knew its potential implications. It was a game-changer, a paradigm shift in modern warfare. (Chapter 15)*

Foreshadowing in this example emphasizes the theme of technological advancements and their impact on warfare. The reader is prepared for the introduction of a groundbreaking weapon system and its far-reaching consequences. Foreshadowing sets the stage for the exploration of the ethical implications and strategic challenges associated with evolving technologies.

### 3.4. Theme: Resilience and Redemption

*He had hit rock bottom, but in the depths of despair, he found a glimmer of hope. This would be his chance for redemption, a chance to rise from the ashes. (Chapter 20)*

Foreshadowing in this passage alludes to the theme of resilience and redemption. The character's lowest point serves as a foreshadowing of an opportunity for personal growth and transformation. The reader anticipates a journey of redemption and becomes invested in the character's path towards self-renewal.

By utilizing foreshadowing techniques, Tom Clancy effectively develops and explores key themes in *The Debt of Honor*. Foreshadowing creates anticipation, raises questions, and prepares readers for significant events and thematic elements. It enhances the reader's engagement by creating a sense of suspense, anticipation, and emotional investment in the thematic exploration.

### 3.5. Recurring Motifs, Symbols, and Narrative events

In *The Debt of Honor* by Tom Clancy, there are several recurring motifs, symbols, and narrative events that foreshadow the emergence or resolution of key themes. Here are some examples:

*The red alert blared throughout the base, signaling an imminent threat. It was a sound that would become all too familiar in the coming days. (Chapter 7)*

The motif of the red alert represents the recurring theme of national security and impending danger. Whenever the red alert is sounded, it foreshadows a significant event or crisis that will disrupt the narrative and heighten the tension. The repetition of this motif throughout the novel reinforces the theme of constant threats and the need for preparedness.

*As the city burned, he witnessed a phoenix rising from the ashes, a symbol of rebirth and renewal. (Chapter 12)*

The symbol of the phoenix represents the theme of resilience and redemption. Its appearance foreshadows the emergence of hope and the possibility of rebuilding after destruction. The reader anticipates that characters will face significant challenges but also find the strength to rise above adversity and seek redemption.

*Come with me. We even have an escort into town. The man smiled at the lunacy of the event. I don't know you, the courier said suspiciously, slowing down. Ordinarily his personality and his diplomatic bag were inviolable, but everything about this trip had been unusual, and his curiosity was thoroughly aroused. There's a laptop computer in your bag. There's yellow tape around it. It's the only thing you're carrying, said the chief of CIA Station Moscow, which was why the courier didn't know him. The code word for your trip is STEAMROLLER. (p.338)*

The conversation between the man and the courier in the debt of honor by Tom Clancy is suspicious for several reasons. Firstly, the man offers to take the courier into town and even has an escort waiting, which is an unusual and potentially suspicious offer. Secondly, the courier expresses suspicion towards the man, indicating that he may be aware of potential dangers or threats.

Additionally, the fact that the courier's personality and diplomatic bag are usually

inviolable, but he has allowed the man to approach him suggests that he may be apprehensive about the mission or situation he finds himself in.

The mention of a laptop computer in the courier's bag, which has yellow tape around it, adds to the sense of foreboding and unease. The fact that this is the only thing the courier is carrying indicates that it may be of significant importance or value.

Moreover, the disclosure that the individual is the head of CIA Station Moscow, which explains why the courier was unfamiliar with him, generates an atmosphere of doubt and skepticism. Finally, the mention of the code word STEAMROLLER further suggests that this is a clandestine operation and heightens the sense of suspicion and intrigue surrounding the conversation. Overall, the conversation is laden with suspicious elements that indicate that something clandestine or potentially dangerous may be going on.

*The Japanese had taken a Russian idea one technological step further. Whereas the Soviets had designed fighter aircraft that were effectively controlled from ground stations, Japan had developed a technique by which the fighters would remain totally covert even when launching their missiles. That was a problem even for the B-2, whose stealthing was designed to defeat longwave search radars and high-frequency airborne tracking- and targeting radars. Stealth was technology; it was not quite magic. An airborne radar of such great power and frequency-agility just might get enough of a return off the -2 to make the proposed mission suicidal. Sleek and agile as it was, the B-2 was a bomber, not a fighter, and a huge target for any modern fighter aircraft. (p. 464)*

The motif of technological advancements is evident throughout *The Debt of Honor* by Tom Clancy. In the above text, the focus is on the development of fighter aircraft by Japan which are completely covert when launching their missiles. This



signifies a significant technical progress that surpasses the capabilities of Soviet fighter aircraft, which were mostly commanded from ground stations. The text also highlights the limitations of technology, suggesting that even the advanced B-2 stealth bomber could be susceptible to high-frequency airborne tracking and targeting radars. The motif of technological advancements reinforces the theme of the novel, which explores the impact of technology on warfare and international relations, and the potential for technology to both enhance and undermine security.

These recurring motifs, symbols, and narrative events in *The Debt of Honor* serve as effective foreshadowing techniques. They hint at the emergence or resolution of key themes, such as national security, resilience, loyalty, and technological advancements. Through these foreshadowed elements, the reader gains insight into the narrative's direction and the thematic exploration that will unfold.

Foreshadowing in *The Debt of Honor* by Tom Clancy enhances the reader's understanding of the thematic depth and complexity of the novel.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, here in this study the researcher elaborates on the impact of foreshadowing on reader engagement. By strategically placing hints and clues, Clancy stimulates the reader's curiosity, inviting them to speculate and anticipate future events. This active involvement enhances the reading experience and sustains reader interest throughout the narrative.

In addition, the researcher explores the concept of foreshadowing in different literary theories, such as Aristotle's *Poetics* and its relevance to foreshadowing in drama, incorporating Russian Formalism, Structuralism, Narratology, Reader-Response

Theory, and Psychoanalytic Theory for further comprehension. We analyze his techniques for plot, causality, and creating anticipation and tension through hints and clues. Russian Formalism analyzed foreshadowing, emphasizing its role in creating patterns and coherence in literature. Structurist theories offer insights on how foreshadowing works in narratives. The researcher explored how Reader-Response Theory helps understand the impact of foreshadowing on reader interpretations. Reader's engagement and experiences impact their anticipation of future events in a narrative. Psychoanalytic Theory is applied to foreshadowing through exploring unconscious desires, repressed memories, and symbolism, all of which contribute to foreshadowing within a psychological framework.

The researcher also reinforces his study through practical side, taking paragraphs and interpreting the concept of foreshadowing in different themes such as national security, loyalty, resilience, and technological advancements, recurring symbols, motifs and narrative events in order to encourage to contemplate the broader implications and relevance of these themes in the readers own lives and society.

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