

A Morphological Analysis of Inflectional and Derivational Morphemes in Saddam Hussein's Victory Anniversary Speech

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ABSTRACT

Morphology is a key area of linguistics that examines the formation of words and grammatical constructions via morphemes. This research seeks to examine the utilization of inflectional and derivational morphemes in Saddam Hussein's Victory Anniversary Speech through the lens of Laurie Bauer's (2003) morphological theory. The research utilized a qualitative descriptive approach through document analysis. The information included words with inflectional and derivational morphemes gathered from the speech transcript. The data were recognized, categorized, and examined according to the types of inflectional and derivational morphemes, and the results were interpreted with the aid of pertinent morphological theories and earlier research. The findings show that inflectional morphemes prevail over derivational morphemes, suggesting that the language mainly depends on grammatical changes to deliver clear and cohesive messages. Of the inflectional morphemes, plural markers appear most often, whereas the formation of verbs into nouns and the suffixes *-tion/-ion* represent the most productive derivational patterns. These results show that inflectional morphemes aid in grammatical correctness, while derivational morphemes enhance lexical diversity and reinforce political arguments. This research enhances morphological studies by showing how morphological processes facilitate efficient communication in political speeches.

Keywords: Inflectional Morphemes; Derivational Morphemes; Political Speech; Saddam Hussein.

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INTRODUCTION

The branch of linguistics that studies language from various perspectives is called linguistics. One of the subjects studied within it is morphology. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that studies word structure, word formation, and the relationship between word form and meaning. Morphology plays a crucial role in understanding how words are formed. Each word is formed from equivalent words with specific meanings, called morphemes. Morphological analysis can help researchers broaden their understanding and knowledge regarding the formation of words, the development of word meanings, and the relationship between word form and grammatical function. This is crucial because morphology is a crucial subject in linguistics, making it widely used in various forms of language, both spoken and written. According to (Bauer, 2003), the study of morphology encompasses not only word structure but also the process by which words are formed, allowing new words to be created by adding affixes to form new meanings or phrases. According to (Yule, 2005) a morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit or part that has a certain meaning or function in a language.

In English, morphemes have two main types: inflectional morphemes and derivational morphemes. Inflectional morphemes function to change words into plurals, tenses, possessives, and comparatives without altering their original meaning. These two functions differ because they play different roles in word formation. Inflectional morphemes maintain the basic identity of a word by providing only grammatical information. Unlike inflectional morphemes, derivational morphemes change the form or class of a word, thus creating new vocabulary. Therefore, these two types of morphemes are important to discuss in English morphological analysis. According to (Siegel, 1974), the process of word change involves morphemes formed from the rules that establish the relationship between a root word and its derivatives, thus forming new words.

Morphological analysis is not only used in words or sentences but can also be used in other forms such as novels, articles, news, social media, and speeches. Speeches are a form of communication that utilizes systematic word choice to convey information to the audience and form an argument. In the political sphere, political speeches, the choice of words is crucial because they relate to the conveyance of ideology. Therefore, political speeches are an interesting topic for analysis using a morphological approach.

Many researchers have conducted research on inflectional and derivational morphemes with different objectives. One such related study is (Halawa et al., 2017), which discusses inflectional and derivational morphemes in The Jakarta Post article using a qualitative descriptive approach. This study was conducted with the aim of identifying the types of morphemes and their grammatical functions. This study resulted in the discovery that the two types of morphemes in forming word structures and grammatical information have different functions. This study was chosen as one of the references conducted by the researcher because it has the same research focus even though the objects studied are different. Other research in (Guna et al., 2025) on Kamala Harris's speech and a similar study in (Jimmi & Sulaeman, 2022) which discusses Dwayne Johnson's speech. In both studies, they have similar results, namely that morphological analysis can be used or applied in various conversations to examine how morpheme usage patterns in communication.

Most previous research has been limited by its focus on social media, news articles, and speeches by specific figures. These studies have focused more on the types of morphemes without addressing the patterns of morpheme use in political speeches characterized by persuasive language. Therefore, this presents an opportunity for researchers to conduct research and examine the use of inflectional and derivational morphemes in political speeches. Meanwhile, research examining the use of inflectional and

derivational morphemes in Saddam Hussein's Victory Anniversary Speech is still limited. This could be because political speeches like those delivered by Saddam Hussein contain many morphological variations, as they contain multiple meanings of words used to convey the message and emphasize the speaker's point of view. Therefore, this study aims to address this gap by analyzing and providing an understanding of the use of inflectional and derivational morphemes in speeches.

Based on the above description, this study aims to identify the types of inflectional and derivational morphemes in Saddam Hussein's Victory Anniversary Speech and analyze the function of each morpheme based on morphological theory. Therefore, the results of this study will benefit readers and future researchers in developing morphological studies, especially in English political speech discourse.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

This study applies a descriptive qualitative approach to identify and describe the use of inflectional and derivational morphemes in Saddam Hussein's Victory Anniversary Speech. The qualitative approach was chosen because this study emphasizes the analysis of morphological forms in the text and the interpretation of the function of each morpheme according to morphological theory. The analysis was conducted without hypothesis testing or inferential statistical analysis.

The research data comes from the Victory Anniversary speech delivered by Saddam Hussein. The research data consists of all words in the speech text containing inflectional and derivational morphemes. This study utilizes the morphological theory proposed by (Bauer, 2003) as the main basis for recognizing and categorizing morpheme variations. Furthermore, the theory (Yule, 2005) is applied to support the explanation of the role of inflectional morphemes, while the concept of derivation is strengthened through several previous related studies.

Data collection was carried out using document analysis. Researchers discussed the entire speech text repeatedly to gain an understanding of its content. After that, each word containing an affix was identified, recorded, and grouped according to the categories of inflectional and derivational morphemes. Inflectional morphemes were further divided according to their grammatical function, while derivational morphemes were grouped based on changes in word class and suffix variations.

The data were analyzed through several stages. First, all words containing affixes were taken from the speech text. Second, all data were grouped according to morpheme categories according to (Bauer, 2003) theory. Third, the frequency of each morpheme type was calculated to determine its usage patterns. The results of the analysis were then presented in a distribution table before being interpreted to explain the characteristics of the use of inflectional and derivational morphemes in the speech. The research findings were then analyzed using morphological theory and previous studies to gain a comprehensive understanding.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The purpose of this study is to analyze the types of inflectional morphemes conveyed by Saddam Hussein in his Victory Anniversary Speech. This analysis was carried out by identifying all words that have inflectional morphemes according to the categories explained by (Bauer, 2003) and (Yule, 2005) in the entire speech text. In this study, both of them explained that the categories of inflectional morphemes consist

of plural markers, past tense markers, present participle markers, possessive markers, and comparative and superlative markers.

Inflectional morphemes

The results of this study showed that there were 162 inflectional morphemes, or 57.2% of the total 283 morphemes identified in the speech text. This large number means that inflectional morphemes are the most dominant type of morpheme compared to derivational morphemes. This relatively dominant number means that the language structure in the speech utilizes more grammatical changes to convey information than to form new vocabulary.

Table 1. Types of Inflectional Morphemes Found

Types of Remuneration	Function	Identified Words	Frequency
-s/-es	Showing plural (noun)	peoples, lessons, chapters, nations, empires, acts, coffins, dreams, years, forces, schemes, threats, resolutions, chests, chains, duties, children, mothers, fathers, lands, initiatives, millions, barrels, guns, tanks, aircraft, heroes, etc.	76
-ed	Showing past tense / passive form	derived, combined, misled, mobilised, buried, preceded, ignored, stood, faced, believed, placed, endured, surrounded, sought, liberated, unfettered, relied, required, confronted, designated, blessed, granted, graced, cleansed, faced, etc.	52
-at	Indicates an ongoing action / adjective	advancing, defending, attacking, charging, protecting, extending, proceeding, wading, exchanging, ripening, etc.	18
-‘s/-s	Demonstrate ownership	its, people’s, nation’s, Allah’s, etc.	12
-is/-est	Showing comparison	greater, most, etc.	4

(source: Research Data, 2026)

There is discoveryThe 5 types of Inflectional Morphemes in table 1 are plural marker (-s/-es), past tense marker (-ed), present participle marker (-ing), possessive marker (-‘s) and comparative and superlative marker (-er/-est). Of the five types found, the plural marker (-s/-es) is the most frequently used type based on the number of uses of plural nouns referring to a group of people, countries and organizations as well as troops that are the topic of this speech. In addition, there is the use of the past tense marker (-ed) which is the most numerous type to explain past events that have occurred which are the background of this speech such as conflicts and historical stories. Then there is the present participle marker (-ing) which is used to explain actions that are taking place even when the speech is being delivered.

This study also found the use of possessive markers, which are used to indicate ownership, whether between individuals, groups, or even countries. Meanwhile, comparative and superlative markers were found relatively few times in this speech compared to other inflectional morphemes. Overall, this indicates

that inflectional morphemes maintain the word class of their base form and can provide grammatical information about the word.

Derivational Morphemes

The findings of this study revealed 121 derivational morphemes that have undergone word formation. The researchers then classified the data based on their word class change patterns and the types of suffixes used. The word class change patterns can be seen in the following table.

Table 2. Derivational Morphemes Based on Word Change Patterns

Word Change Patterns	Suffix Type	Examples of Basic Words → Derived Words	Frequency	Presentation
Verb → Noun	-tion, -sion, -ment	evolve → evolution; advance → advancement; aggress → aggression; resolve → resolution	47	38,8%
Noun → Adjective	-ful, -ous, -ive, -al, -ical, -ic	faith → faithful; history → historical; hero → heroic; protect → protective	43	35,5%
Adjective → Noun	-ity, -ty, -ce, -dom, -tude	free → freedom; arrogant → arrogance; secure → security; capable → capability	25	20,7%
Noun/Adjective → Verb	-ate, -en, -ize	pure → purify; strong → strengthen; equal → equate	6	5,0%

(source: Research Data, 2026)

Based on Table 2, the results of the discovery of word class change patterns found four patterns of word class changes, including verbs to nouns, nouns to adjectives, adjectives to nouns, and nouns/adjectives to verbs. Of the four change patterns found in this study, the most prominent pattern is verbs to nouns with a frequency of 47 occurrences or around 38.8%. This is formed from the addition of the suffixes -tion, -sion, and -ment which then produce new nouns that express processes, results, and conditions. Examples of sentences found in this speech are evolve → evolution; advance → advancement; aggress → aggression; resolve → resolution.

The next change is the conversion of nouns into adjectives, with a frequency of 43 occurrences, or approximately 35.5%. This is formed by adding the suffixes -ful, -ous, -ive, -al, -ical, and -ic, which then produce adjectives that describe the characteristics, qualities, and relationships of the base words. Examples of sentences found in this speech include faith → faithful; history → historical; hero → heroic; protect → protective.

The third change is the change of adjectives to nouns, with a frequency of 25 occurrences, or approximately 20.7%. This is formed by adding the suffixes -ity, -ty, -ce, -dom, and -tude, which then produce abstract adjectives that indicate certain qualities, states, and characteristics. Examples of sentences found in this speech include: free → freedom; arrogant → arrogance; secure → security; capable → capability.

The final change is the change from noun to verb, with a frequency of 6 occurrences, or approximately 5.0%. This is formed by adding the suffixes -ate, -en, or -ize, which then form new verbs. Examples of sentences found in this speech include: pure → purify; strong → strengthen; equal → equate. These four changes show that nouns and adjectives appear more frequently than verbs.

Table 3. Derivational Morphemes Based on Types of Suffixes

Suffix Form	Word origin and resulting words	General Meaning of Suffixes	Example Words from Text	Frequency
-tion / -ion	Verb → Noun	Expressing the process, state, result, or concept of an action	evolution, advancement, aggression, instruction, protection, oppression, determination	38
-ment	Verb → Noun	Stating the result, condition, or consequence of an action	judgement, commitment, development, achievement	9
-ity / -ty	Adjectives → Nouns	Expressing abstract properties, qualities, states, or conditions	capability, security, purity, dignity, eternity, reality	15
-ful	Noun → Adjective	Expressing having a characteristic, being abundant, or being full of something	faithful, powerful, respectful, helpful, successful	11
-ous	Noun → Adjective	To state that one has certain characteristics, traits, or conditions	heinous, generous, dangerous, equitable, courageous, glorious	10
-ive	Verb → Adjective	Expressing the nature, tendency, or ability to carry out an action	protective, aggressive, decisive, resolute, active	8
-al / -ical	Noun → Adjective	To state that it is related to, is connected with, or is of a similar nature	historical, eternal, divine, final, political, traditional	14
-is / -or	Verb → Noun	Stating the perpetrator or person who carried out the action	oppressor, aggressor, leader, fighter, defender, conqueror	7
-dom / -tude	Adjectives → Nouns	Expressing a state, condition, or quality in an abstract way	freedom, gratitude, fortitude, attitude	6

(source: Research Data, 2026)

Based on Table 3, the results of the derivational morphemes are classified based on the type of suffix. Of the four change patterns found in this study, the most frequently occurring pattern is the suffix -tion/-ion, with a frequency of 38 occurrences. This suffix creates new nouns that describe processes, actions, states, and results of an action. Examples found in this speech text include evolution, advancement, aggression, instruction, protection, oppression, and determination.

The next change is the ending-ity/-ty with a frequency of 15 occurrences. This suffix describes quality and condition. Examples found in this speech text include capability, security, purity, dignity, eternity, and reality. Next, the suffix-ful, -ous, -ive and the suffix -al/-ical. These two suffixes describe certain characteristics or adjectives. Examples found in this speech text include: faithful, powerful, historical, political, protective, aggressive, dangerous, And glorious.

In addition, this study also found the use of the suffix **-is/-or** which forms nouns that represent actors, such as leader, fighter, defender, aggressor, and conqueror. In addition, the suffix **-dom/-tude** is used to form nouns that indicate abstract states or qualities, such as freedom, gratitude, and fortitude. Several other derivational forms, such as **purify** and **strengthen**, are also found, although they are relatively few compared to other types of suffixes.

1) Result and Discussion 1

The results of the study indicate that inflectional morphemes are the most dominant type of morpheme in Saddam Hussein's Victory Anniversary Speech. This dominance indicates that the speech focuses more on the application of grammatical changes than the creation of new vocabulary. Thus, the expression of messages in the speech relies more on the accuracy of language structures to explain time, number, possession, and also the relationship between words so that the intended meaning remains clear to the listener. This finding suggests that the main role of morphology in speech is not to create new terms, but rather to ensure clarity of information by using appropriate grammatical forms.

These results are in line with the theory proposed by (Bauer, 2003) which states that inflectional morphemes only provide grammatical information to the base word without changing its lexical meaning or category. Bauer stated that form modifications such as the addition of **-s**, **-ed**, and **-ing** only produce grammatical variations of the same lexical item. This view is supported by (Yule, 2005) who explains that inflectional morphemes function to mark grammatical categories such as number, tense, aspect, possession, and comparison, but do not create new words. Therefore, the dominance of inflectional morphemes in this study indicates that the language structure used by Saddam Hussein maintains the lexical identity of each word despite experiencing shifts in form.

The analysis shows that the plural marker (**-s/-es**) is the most frequently encountered inflectional morpheme. The dominance of plural forms indicates that the speech content discusses more about community groups, nations, troops, organizations, and countries than individuals. In the context of political speeches, the use of plural nouns functions rhetorically because it can create a collective identity between the orator and the audience. The use of terms such as nations, people, forces, and leaders shows that Saddam Hussein attempted to raise the issues discussed as collective problems, not personal ones. This language strategy strengthens the persuasive message that is the main characteristic of political speeches.

The results of this study are similar to those of Datondji Cocou André (2023), which explored morphemes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. The study revealed that inflectional morphemes were also more dominant than derivational morphemes, with plural markers being the most frequently encountered form. Although both speeches have different historical contexts and purposes, they both utilize plural forms to describe the social group as the primary target of communication. This similarity indicates that the use of plural markers is a linguistic feature frequently found in speech texts.

The results of this study align with a study by Halawa et al., 2017, which showed that inflectional morphemes dominate the morphological analysis of speech texts. Halawa explained that this mastery stems from the speaker's desire to maintain accurate grammatical structure when conveying a message to the listener. In this way, the use of inflectional morphemes functions not only as a grammatical element but also supports the unity and clarity of the speech content, making it easier for the listener to understand.

In addition to plural markers, this study also identified a significant use of the past tense marker (**-ed**). This past tense indicates that Saddam Hussein frequently refers to historical experiences, conflicts, and various events that have occurred previously. The use of the past tense allows the speaker to build arguments

based on previous experiences, thus providing a more solid foundation for the message. Conversely, the use of the present participle (-ing) indicates an action or state that is currently occurring. This form creates the impression that the struggles, defenses, and situations described in the speech are still ongoing at the time of the speech, thereby increasing the listener's emotional involvement.

The findings of this study are also supported by a study by Pradana & English (2024), which showed that plural suffixes (-s/-es) were the most productive inflectional morphemes in their data. Although the objects analyzed were scientific articles, not political speeches, both studies showed a similar pattern, namely that inflectional morphemes were used more often to maintain the accuracy of language structure than to create new vocabulary. Furthermore, findings from research in Ismail et al. (2023) showed that the use of inflectional morphemes is very important in establishing grammatical relationships between words so that information can be conveyed systematically. These similar results indicate that the dominance of inflectional morphemes is not only present in political speeches, but also in various types of English texts.

Overall, this analysis shows that the dominance of inflectional morphemes in the Victory Anniversary Speech not only reflects the morphological characteristics of English, but is also closely related to the communicative purpose of political speeches. The use of plurals, past tense forms, and intermediate forms allows the speaker to create group identities, convey sequences of events, and describe ongoing processes without changing the main meaning of the words. Therefore, the findings of this study strengthen the theories of (Bauer, 2003) and (Yule, 2005) and support a number of previous studies that show that inflectional morphemes are the most important morphological elements in the analysis of speech texts.

2) Result and Discussion 2

The research findings indicate that derivational morphemes are fewer in number than inflectional morphemes. However, derivational morphemes have a distinct role because they not only add grammatical information but also create new words, in some cases changing the word class of their original forms. These findings indicate that in his Victory Anniversary Speech, Saddam Hussein more often used the process of derivation to convey abstract concepts, explain certain characteristics, or create terms with more specific meanings. Therefore, the use of derivational morphemes in this speech serves as a tool to expand vocabulary while clarifying the expression of political ideas.

This finding is consistent with the theory (Bauer, 2003) which states that derivational morphemes are word formation processes that create new lexemes by adding affixes. Unlike inflectional morphemes, the process of derivation can change word categories, for example from verbs to nouns, nouns to adjectives, or adjectives to nouns. Laurie Bauer supports this explanation by emphasizing that derivation is one of the most productive mechanisms in creating English vocabulary, because it allows the birth of new words with syntactic functions and meanings different from their original forms. Consequently, the effect of word category changes in this study indicates that the process of derivation is used to increase the lexical variety found in speech.

The analysis shows that the transformation of verbs into nouns is the most prominent derivation pattern. The dominance of this pattern indicates that Saddam Hussein frequently converted verbs into nouns to convey actions or processes as more general and abstract ideas. For example, forms such as *determine* becoming *determination* or *protect* becoming *protection* allow actions to be understood not only as activities but also as ideas or values that can be the focus of discussion. In political speeches, the application of this kind of nominalization supports speakers in communicating ideas in a more formal, concise, and convincing manner.

This finding aligns with Siegel's (1974) view that the process of derivation through nominalization is often used in English to transform an action into an abstract concept. Nominalization allows a process or activity to be viewed as an object of discussion, making it easier to develop arguments. In the context of Saddam Hussein's speech, the use of nominal forms creates the impression that issues such as protection, struggle, and development are not merely temporary measures, but values that have deep meaning for society.

In addition to the transformation of verbs into nouns, this study also identified a significant frequency of noun-to-adjective transitions. This process produces adjectives that describe the characteristics of individuals, groups, or specific conditions. Forms such as history to historical, hero to heroic, and glory to glorious demonstrate that adjective affixation is used to emphasize the characteristics or identity of an object. This use of adjectives enhances rhetorical effect because the speaker not only names a concept but also provides an assessment or characterization of that concept.

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The results of this research show similarities with a study published in (Dogar et al., 2024) on the productivity of derivational morphology. The study indicates that suffixes such as -tion, -ity, -al, and -ous are the most productive derivational forms in English because they are often used to form abstract nouns and adjectives. This similarity indicates that suffix productivity exists not only in academic texts but also in political discourse, which requires formal and conceptual vocabulary to convey messages to listeners.

The dominance of the suffixes -tion/-ion in this study also indicates that the creation of abstract nouns is a primary strategy in speeches. Terms such as steadfastness, protection, liberation, and organization provide speakers with the opportunity to convey political thoughts in a more structured manner than using verb forms. The use of abstract nouns creates an objective and formal impression, making the arguments sound more convincing. Therefore, the use of the suffixes -tion/-ion not only illustrates the productivity of the derivation process but also reflects the style commonly used in political speeches.

These results align with a study published in (Goni et al., 2022), which showed that derivational suffixes play a significant role in expanding the lexical meaning of a term. The study explained that creating new words through derivation allows writers or speakers to express more complex concepts than simply using the base form. The findings of this study support this finding, as the majority of derivational morphemes in Saddam Hussein's speeches were used to create terms related to ideology, struggle, history, and national identity.

The findings of this study also align with those of Ismail et al., 2023, which indicated that word class changes are a key indicator in recognizing derivational morphemes. This study emphasizes that shifts in word class not only create new forms but also impact the syntactic function of words in sentences. In this study, these changes are clearly visible through the dominant patterns of verbs becoming nouns and nouns becoming adjectives, indicating that the creation of new words is used to enrich the language structure in speech.

Furthermore, studies of the speeches of Kamala Harris, Elon Musk, and Dwayne Johnson also revealed that derivational morphemes are often used to create abstract terms related to the visions, values,

and goals they wish to convey to their audiences. Although these three figures come from different backgrounds, their research findings demonstrate a similar tendency: the use of derivational morphemes as a strategy to create a more formal and convincing vocabulary. This similarity supports the findings of this study, which suggest that derivation is an important element in constructing speech rhetoric, especially when speakers wish to convey conceptual ideas.

However, there are differences between this study and several previous studies. In Saddam Hussein's speeches, the use of derivational morphemes is more often associated with themes of struggle, conflict, and national identity. Meanwhile, in Kamala Harris and Dwayne Johnson's speeches, derivational processes are more frequently applied to discuss leadership, motivation, and character development. This difference indicates that the productivity of derivational morphemes is influenced not only by the morphological system of English, but also by the social context, communicative purpose, and the themes discussed in a speech.

Overall, this analysis indicates that derivational morphemes serve as a tool for creating new vocabulary that allows communicators to convey ideas more clearly, formally, and persuasively. The dominance of verb-to-noun transformations and the productivity of the suffixes *-tion/-ion* indicate that the derivational process in the Victory Anniversary Speech is used to transform actions into more abstract concepts to make them more acceptable in political arguments. These results strengthen the theories of (Bauer, 2003) and (Siegel, 1974) and add support to recent research on the use of derivational morphemes in various varieties of English speech and text.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals that the morphemes in the Victory Anniversary Speech are dominated by inflectional morphemes, while derivational morphemes are used in smaller quantities. The dominance of inflectional morphemes indicates that the message conveyed in the speech emphasizes grammatical functions to maintain clarity of language structure, while derivational morphemes contribute to the formation of new vocabulary that supports the delivery of abstract concepts and political arguments. In this way, both types of morphemes function complementary to each other in increasing the effectiveness of communication in the speech.

In addition to identifying the various types of morphemes present, this study also revealed that the choice of morphological form is influenced by the communicative purpose of the speech. The use of inflectional morphemes helps convey information in a structured and clear manner, while derivational morphemes add richness to lexical variation and strengthen the delivery of the ideas and values the speaker wishes to convey. These findings confirm the application of morphological theory in analyzing political discourse and demonstrate that the study of morphology not only explains word structure but also offers insight into the linguistic strategies used in speech.

This study focuses on analyzing a single speech, so the results do not yet reflect the use of morphemes in all of Saddam Hussein's speeches or those of other political figures. Therefore, it is recommended that future research analyze more speeches from various figures or compare morpheme use in political, educational, and mass media contexts to gain a more comprehensive understanding of morphological characteristics in various types of discourse.

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