

The Analysis Conspicuous Disparately in Colonial- Subject Cross – Cultural Stereotype Presented in Novel *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith's.

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How to cite this article: Shruti Chaturvedi, Deepika Dhand (2024) The Analysis Conspicuous Disparately in Colonial- Subject Cross – Cultural Stereotype Presented in Novel *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith's.. *Library Progress International*, 44(2s), 1791-1798.

Abstract

In Zadie Smith's novel "*White Teeth*," published in 2000, a deep exploration is conducted into the speculative landscapes surrounding the diaspora of immigrants from various countries to Britain starting from the Second World War onward. The narrative of "*White Teeth*" intricately navigates the experiences of these distilled immigrants who find themselves ensnared in a disordered, estranged world, compelled to navigate a maze of alienation, seeking to assert their identity through the careful construction of mimicry and adaptation mechanisms. Within the colonial backdrop of Britain, a meticulous examination within this research paper brings to light the existing disparities prevalent during the country's colonial era, shedding light on the transcultural perspectives on racism defined by skin pigmentation and intensity, a pivotal theme that centers predominantly on the characters of Samad Iqbal and his two sons, Millat and Magid. Zadie Smith's exploration in "*White Teeth*" skillfully juxtaposes the tumultuous interactions between the native British population and the incoming immigrants, offering a profound analysis into how the intertwining of immigrant narratives and the escalating socio-cultural and political undercurrents of White supremacy culminates in the creation of adverse effects, leading to a spiral of isolation within the colonial hub. Through a nuanced lens, the novel delves deep into the complexities of these intercultural dynamics, unraveling the intricate threads that bind together the contrasting worlds of the British and immigrant communities, ultimately exposing the underlying tensions and power struggles that shape their interactions. The gradual unfolding of these interwoven narratives serves to illustrate the profound impact of colonial legacies on individual lives, highlighting the enduring influence of historical contexts on the present-day realities of multicultural societies. In essence, "*White Teeth*" stands as a poignant reflection on the multifaceted nature of immigrant experiences, offering a compelling insight into the intricate web of socio-political influences that shape identities and relationships in a colonial landscape. By navigating the complex terrain of cultural assimilation and resistance, Zadie Smith weaves a tapestry of narratives that resonate with universal themes of displacement, struggle, and resilience, inviting readers to contemplate the enduring legacy of colonial histories on contemporary social structures.

Keywords: Post colonialism, Racism, Discrimination Skin colours , political orientation.

1. Introduction

In Zadie Smith's insightful novel *"White Teeth"*, the author delves deep into the complex terrain of colonial-subject cross-cultural stereotypes, offering readers a critical and nuanced examination of their implications in modern society. As the narrative unfolds, Smith expertly weaves together the lives of two distinct families, the Joneses and the Iqbals, providing a vivid portrayal of their diverse cultural backgrounds and experiences within the vibrant tapestry of London. Through the lens of these richly drawn characters and their multifaceted interactions, Smith skillfully explores the pervasive impact of stereotypes on individuals navigating the intricate web of a multicultural society. By shining a light on the ways in which these stereotypes manifest and influence personal identities, relationships, and societal structures, Smith prompts readers to reflect on the layers of complexity inherent in cultural perceptions and biases. Through her artful storytelling and keen observations, Smith invites us to engage with the often uncomfortable truths about how stereotypes shape our understanding of others and ourselves, ultimately challenging us to confront and reevaluate our own preconceptions in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.

Colonialism traces its roots back to the intertwining forces of racism, racial discrimination, and intolerance within Britain. The lingering repercussions of colonialism continue to impede the full realization of human rights, spanning from the right to sustainable development to socio-economic equality. Discrimination against immigrants of diverse descents, such as those hailing from Africa, Jamaica, and Bangladesh, further exacerbates these challenges. In Zadie Smith's renowned work *"White Teeth"*, she sheds light on the societal shifts in post-World War II Britain, as the demographic landscape evolved notably with the influx of black immigrants from the West Indies, Jamaica, Bangladesh, and beyond. This demographic transformation was a direct outcome of Britain's post-war economic developments, which necessitated a labor force primarily composed of unskilled and semi-skilled workers who settled in the country. Smith intricately weaves together the narrative of post-war British immigration with the deeply entrenched prejudices and stereotypes that marginalized these newcomers, resulting in a sense of disenfranchisement and alienation among these immigrant communities. Through her exploration of this historical context, Smith unveils the complexities of the immigrant experience amidst a backdrop of societal prejudices and systemic barriers to integration and acceptance. In *White Teeth* Zadie Smith sketched two defame actors in the Novel individual characters who immigrate from different countries and of expression multiple stresses that would impact the characters in the novel a mental being thought of, and loss of cultural norms religious customs and social support system, adjustment to new cultural and change's identity concept of self for example;

a). Irie Ambrosia Jones

In the novel *"White Teeth"*, Irie, a character of mixed English and Jamaican descent, grapples with a deep sense of not belonging anywhere and feeling lost. This theme of identity is central to her character development and essential to understanding the overall narrative. Irie's struggle is particularly poignant as she yearns to be accepted in England while resisting being labeled solely as "black." The novel delves into the complexities of cultural purity through characters like Samad Miah, Iqbal, and Hortense, who are determined to preserve their cultural heritage in the face of immigrating populations. This quest for cultural equilibrium sparks significant cultural anxieties that resonate throughout the story. The author, Greenwood, explores how cultural elements such as heritage, values, and ethics undergo transformations or face collapse in the midst of societal shifts. According to John Berker, linguistic and biological factors play a crucial role in determining cultural intensity, highlighting the importance of cultural integrity in uniting diverse populations. Irie's struggle to reconcile her Caribbean background with the expectations of her host country creates a profound inner conflict, as she strives to embody an English identity that feels out of reach due to her physical attributes inherited from her Jamaican lineage. Despite her mother Clara embodying more English characteristics, Irie's physical traits reflect her genetic inheritance from her Caribbean roots, emphasizing her internal battle to conform to British standards. Her attempts to camouflage her cultural background by altering her appearance to align with British norms reflect a larger narrative thread in the novel about the intersection of personal identity and societal expectations.

Irie has a deep desire to transform her physique, aiming to shed weight and redefine her substantial

Jamaican frame. This aspiration lingers in her mind even when she should be focusing on her studies in the classroom. Her struggle to concentrate during English lessons raises concern from her teacher, who notices her frequent distractions. It becomes evident that Irie's thoughts often drift towards her body size, a notable characteristic that reflects her Jamaican heritage. Whenever she encounters advertisements, her attention is immediately captivated, diverting her from the educational environment. Delving into her thoughts reveals her dissatisfaction with her current physical appearance, which she associates closely with her Jamaican identity.

Irie, the daughter of Archiebald Jones and Clara Bowden, navigates through a restlessness stemming from various sources. One significant source of her frustration lies in her unfulfilled quest for love. She yearns to find affection in Millat, acknowledging the depth of her feelings towards him. Jessica Weintraub's observations shed light on Irie's motivations, hinting at her strategic redesign of her body, style, and hair to catch Millat's eye. Jessica's discussion uncovers Irie's underlying aim to secure a place within Millat's heart, symbolizing her longing for a meaningful connection. Through her actions and reflections, Irie's journey unfolds as a blend of self-discovery, yearning, and a quest for acceptance and love.

b). The SAMAD IQBAL

In the embodiment of cultural purity, who aspire to find cure, symbolized by Gems Doctor 115 and fixed as the SAMAD, assumed the role of a parent-governor within the educational institution, symbolizing the school's deep-rooted dedication to embracing diversity. Despite facing instances of Islamic phobia, reminiscent of the character Samad in the acclaimed novel "*White Teeth*," who presented around twelve motions to the parent-governor body, facing dismissal and emotional turmoil, including encounters involving the sons of the headmistress, Magid and Millat. Attempts were made to console Samad by encouraging him to shift his focus from religious distinctions to a communal and charitable perspective (referencing SMITH130). Amidst moral dilemmas precipitated by the sectorization and portrayal of Samad Iqbal, he grappled with the realization of moral inadequacies fueled by an affair with an English Teacher, Poppy Burt-Jones (alluded to in the novel). These intense conflicts, stemming from his Muslim identity, prompted Samad Iqbal to wrestle with his excellent behavior and strive to reconcile his Westernized lifestyle with the principles of his Muslim faith (referencing page 281). Samad Iqbal, with unwavering conviction, continuously asserted his identity as a Muslim, a man, a son, and a believer, poised to face the final day triumphantly (as echoed on page 121). Delving into the intricate web of identity formation, Samad Iqbal delved deeper into the understanding that religiosity stands as an inseparable component intricately woven into the fabric of White Ethnic's cultural anxieties, marking his profound journey of self-discovery and poignant introspection.

c) ARCHIES JONES-

On the morning of New Year's 1975, Archie Jones found himself in a dire situation as he attempted to take his own life by trapping himself in a car filled with toxic fumes. This desperate act rendered him unconscious, leading to what he thought would be a tragic end. However, fate had other plans for Archie that day, as he was ultimately saved from his suicide attempt by Mohammed Husain Ismail, the owner of the local HALLAK. It was this unexpected intervention that turned the tide for Archie, showing him that his life was not meant to end in such a tragic manner. Moreover, amidst the tumult of the events that unfolded that day, Archie's thoughts drifted towards the notion of love and marriage. He couldn't help but contemplate the prospect of marrying an Italian woman who had captured the hearts of his children. This unforeseen twist in his thoughts brought a sense of hope and renewal to Archie's perspective. He started to see this desire for marriage as a positive sign, indicating that perhaps his life was not as bleak and troubled as he had previously believed. As he reflected on the dramatic turn of events that had transpired, Archie felt a newfound sense of gratitude and appreciation for the second chance he had been granted. The brush with death had not only shaken him to the core but also opened his eyes to the preciousness and fragility of life. In the end, what initially seemed like a failed and miserable suicide attempt had transformed into a powerful moment of realization and redemption for Archie Jones.

In the novel "*White Teeth*" by Smiths, there is a scene where Mohammed Husain unexpectedly jumps onto Archie's car and removes the towel that was wedged in the driver's window to allow for better airflow, lowering

the windows by about five inches. With a sense of urgency, Mohammed exclaims to Archie that they are not authorized for any suicidal acts in the vicinity. He confidently asserts that this area exclusively belongs to Hallak Cocher's, emphasizing the need to preserve life. In a somewhat ominous yet intriguing tone, Mohammed suggests that if one were to meet an unfortunate fate in this place, they must first undergo a proper ritual involving a blade. This sudden display of authority and ritualistic reference adds depth to the intensity of the moment, highlighting the importance of following certain procedures within the setting of the story. Mohammed's actions and words serve as a reminder of the unique rules and customs that govern their environment, setting the stage for further exploration of the characters' interactions and the intricacies of their world.

In fact, the rising prevalence of mental illness can be exemplified by the tragic case of Archie Jones, who resorted to suicide as a result of societal pressures and pervasive inequalities. This phenomenon is vividly depicted in the novel *"White Teeth"*, where the struggles and trauma faced by immigrants underscore the challenges of cultural displacement and the loss of identity. The interplay of biological, psychological, and social factors further exacerbates the negative perceptions experienced by immigrants within society. Through Zadie Smith's narrative in *"White Teeth"*, a profound exploration of cultural development emerges, shedding light on the complexities of multiculturalism and its profound impact on individuals. The novel delves into the conscious and unconscious processes involved in embracing a multicultural identity, presenting a nuanced portrayal of society and its diverse fabric. By delving deeper into the themes of multiculturalism, Smith illuminates the intricate network of social relationships and the implications of existing policies on fostering inclusivity and understanding among diverse communities.

2. Methodology

The methodological approach used in this study is primarily descriptive in nature, with two distinct phases devoted to the data collection initially, the primary data was sourced directly from the renowned work *"White Teeth"* penned by Zadie Smith, serving as a foundational element of investigation. Complementing this primary source, secondary data was meticulously gathered from various scholarly works delving into the themes of cultural identity, migration, and alienation as portrayed in the novel. The characters within the narrative, particularly those who have migrated to the bustling city of London, grapple with feelings of entrapment and marginalization, stemming from stark cultural disparities. These issues are evocatively depicted through the lens of cultural nuances, language barriers, divergent religious beliefs, and even discriminatory practices related to physical appearances and skin tones, as highlighted in the text of *"White Teeth"*. The intended methodological approach for this study hinges on meticulous textual analysis, wherein pertinent excerpts from the novel will be scrutinized to extract meaningful insights surrounding the experiences and challenges faced by the characters. Furthermore, the process of data collection, as articulated by Kabir (2016), entails a systematic effort to amass relevant information that will subsequently undergo thorough analysis to elucidate the overarching research objectives.

In the process of data analysis, I delved into the existing literature discussing the novel *"White Teeth"* by Zadie Smith. Among the primary sources referenced in this exploration was the insightful examination of the book. During this investigation, I outlined the specific research goal, honing in on the portrayal of crises within relationships in the context of multiculturalism, integrity, varied religions, and the intricate concept of cultural hybridity as presented throughout the narrative. This focus not only sheds light on the complexities intertwined within the novel but also allows for a deeper understanding of the thematic elements at play. By pinpointing these key aspects, a comprehensive analysis can be conducted, unveiling the nuanced representations and implications interwoven within the storyline. The observations drawn from the examination of these themes accentuate the depth of the work, highlighting the intricate layers and thought-provoking insights that contribute to the overall significance of *"White Teeth"*. Through this meticulous examination, a comprehensive perspective is gained, offering a richer appreciation of the profound messages and interwoven threads that shape the novel's narrative landscape. The multifaceted exploration of these themes adds a layer of depth to the analysis, enriching the scholarly discussion surrounding the work and providing valuable insights into the intricate tapestry of themes explored by Zadie Smith.

3. Literature review –

In the insightful exploration conducted by Alghamdi Alaa at the University in 2011, the focus was on analyzing how British postcolonial fiction depicted the intricate relationship between home, identity, and the transformation of the liminal self for Muslim characters, showcasing the compelling dynamics of culture and personal identity present in the narratives. Similarly, Joanne Barker's work "Native Acts - Law, recognition, and cultural authenticity," published in 2011 by Duke University Press, delves deep into the intricate interplay between law, recognition, and the crucial aspect of preserving cultural authenticity within indigenous communities, shedding light on the complex dynamics at play. Delving into the concept of cultural authenticity in marginalized groups, Davydd Greenwood's study "Cultural Authenticity," published in Cultural Survival Quarterly 6.3 in 1982, offers a nuanced analysis that uncovers the implications of embracing one's cultural heritage. Furthermore, Zadie Smith's acclaimed novel "White Teeth," which was published by Penguin Books in 2001, serves as a testament to the vibrant mosaic of multicultural experiences that reflect the diverse societal fabric of Britain, showcasing a rich tapestry of identities and perspectives. The exploration by Walter L. Tracey in the book "Black British Women's Literature and the Politics of Hair: Diasporic Women's Writing of the Black Atlantic," published by Routledge in 2014, elaborates on the profound importance of hair politics as portrayed in the literary works of black British women, providing new insights into the complexities of identity and representation in the literary works. Additionally, ALMZORA and Esther Alvarez-Lopez enlighten readers through their joint publication, shedding light on the empowering narratives of black Atlantic women writers like (En) Duren, as they navigate themes of identity, agency, and empowerment, capturing the essence of resilience and self-discovery within their stories.

4. Explanation

Zadie Smith's literary works have garnered significant attention primarily through the lens of postcolonialism due to her profound exploration of themes revolving around cultural alienation, exile, and identity crises experienced especially by individuals who have been displaced from their native lands. Noteworthy critics such as Raphael Dalleo and Ulka Anjaria have connected Smith to the rich tradition of Black British Literature. Dalleo, in particular, sheds light on the influx of Caribbean immigrants and the subsequent integration of Caribbean cultural nuances into the fabric of British society (DALLEO 91-97). Nevertheless, it is essential to recognize that Smith's engagement with such postcolonial subjects sets her apart from being merely categorized as a conventional postcolonial writer, as emphasized by Tracy L. Walters. Smith's distinctive perspective and treatment of these themes not only add nuance to the prevailing discourse on postcolonialism but also highlight her unique voice within the literary landscape. Additionally, her nuanced portrayal of the complexities surrounding cultural displacement and the search for identity resonates with a diverse range of readers, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries. In essence, Smith's profound exploration of postcolonial issues serves as a compelling bridge between different narratives and experiences, offering invaluable insights into the evolving dynamics of contemporary society.

One of the key distinctions observed when comparing postmillennial Black British writers to the previous generation of Black British writers lies in the manner in which the younger writers approach and examine the concepts of British identity and cultural tensions. (ZADIE 5)

Smith's departure from traditional postcolonial writing stands out as she delves into the nuanced experiences of second-generation immigrants, offering a fresh perspective on what it means to be 'British' in an era defined by multiculturalism. In her novels, she does not simply react to feelings of marginalization or call for a return to one's roots. Instead, she skillfully captures the intricate dynamics and complexities inherent in such issues, providing readers with a deeper understanding of the struggles and triumphs faced by individuals caught between different cultures. Philip Tew aptly describes Smith's work, particularly "White Teeth," as a mesmerizing portrayal of multiculturalism, showcasing the beauty and challenges that come with living in a diverse society. Through her writing, Smith invites readers to explore the rich tapestry of identities that make up modern Britain, encouraging us to embrace our differences and celebrate the unique perspectives each individual brings to the table. Her narratives serve as a beacon of hope, illustrating that unity can be found in diversity, and that by sharing our stories and experiences, we can forge connections that transcend cultural divides. In a world marked by division and

discord, Smith's work reminds us of the power of empathy, understanding, and mutual respect in creating a more inclusive and harmonious society where everyone's voice is valued and heard.

Multiculturalism, a complex and nuanced ideology rooted in political philosophy, emerges as a profound framework designed to engage with and negotiate the intricate tapestry of cultural and religious differences prevalent in contemporary societies. Through its multifaceted approach, multiculturalism strives to foster understanding, respect, and harmonious coexistence among diverse communities, recognizing the richness and significance of varied cultural expressions and beliefs that define our modern world. It seeks to offer a thoughtful approach to determining the most appropriate responses to the rich tapestry of cultures and beliefs coexisting within a given community or nation. At its core, multiculturalism challenges individuals and policymakers alike to embrace inclusivity, tolerance, and understanding as foundational principles when considering the interactions between different cultural and religious groups. By fostering an environment that celebrates diversity while promoting unity, multiculturalism strives to establish a harmonious coexistence that respects and values the unique contributions of each group. In essence, multiculturalism serves as a guiding framework that encourages dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect among individuals from various cultural backgrounds, ultimately helping to build bridges of communication and empathy across societal divides. Through its emphasis on recognizing and appreciating the inherent worth of every culture and belief system, multiculturalism plays a vital role in shaping inclusive societies where differences are not merely tolerated but embraced as sources of strength and enrichment."

Drawing inspiration from the multiethnicity of her existence, most of her characters identify with more than one culture, country, and ethnicity. Take, for example, Irie Jones, the principal character of *White Teeth*, written by Zadie Smith. Irie embodies a complex heritage as the daughter of a working-class, white, British father and a Jamaican mother who raised her in the vibrant multicultural environment of North London. This dynamic setting reflects the socio-cultural landscape of post-World War II England, characterized by a notable influx of migrants from former colonies. These immigrants brought with them a diverse array of traditions, languages, and customs that interwove to create a rich tapestry of cultural exchange in the bustling urban hub of North London, shaping Irie's identity and experiences in profound ways. This cultural amalgamation gave rise to a hybrid landscape where interactions between immigrant cultures and the host society gave birth to a new form of cultural exchange. The process of assimilation, imitation, and intercultural blending became commonplace in this dynamic environment. Consequently, multiculturalism has seamlessly integrated into the fabric of British society, enriching it with diverse perspectives, traditions, and practices that have become intrinsic to the nation's identity and ethos. This ongoing interplay between various cultural backgrounds has not only reshaped British culture but has also contributed to the formation of a vibrant and inclusive social landscape that celebrates diversity and promotes understanding among different communities.

In this era of globalization and cultural exchange, the 21st century has undeniably become a melting pot of diverse faces and backgrounds. It is a time where the boundaries between strangers of different ethnicities - whether brown, yellow, or white - have blurred, giving rise to a fascinating experiment in immigration. Nowadays, it is commonplace to witness a harmonious blend of names and faces from varied cultural backgrounds in everyday settings. As you stroll through a local park, you might come across individuals like Isaac Leung, Danny Rahman, QUANG O'Rourke, and Irie Jones enjoying different activities, their diverse heritages reflecting the complexities of mass migration and shared human experiences.

The historical narrative of cramped boats, long plane journeys, and initial struggles upon arriving in unfamiliar lands forms the backdrop against which these modern interactions unfold. As society continues to intertwine and individuals seamlessly integrate into each other's lives, it becomes increasingly clear that the concept of nationality is fluid and dynamic. The example of the Indian who embodies Englishness and the English individual who embodies Indianness serves as a poignant reminder of how identities can transcend mere labels and classifications.

Just like a lover warmly welcoming their partner back into bed after a nighttime stroll, we find ourselves

embracing the richness of cultural diversity with a newfound sense of familiarity and ease. The evolving tapestry of multiculturalism underscores the beauty and intricacy of human connections, challenging us to acknowledge that our differences ultimately enrich our shared experiences and create a more vibrant and inclusive society.

White Teeth, written by Zadie Smith, is a thought-provoking and intricately woven tapestry of a novel, featuring a diverse range of characters and a plot that spans across numerous years and continents. At the heart of the narrative are the intertwined fates of two best friends, Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal, whose friendship traces back to their days as fellow soldiers during World War 2. Archie, a working-class Englishman, finds himself at a crossroads on a New Year's morning in 1975, when he makes a desperate attempt to end his own life by inhaling toxic fumes in his car. Fortunately, his life is unexpectedly saved by Mohammed Husain Ismail, the kind-hearted owner of a local business. As Archie navigates the aftermath of his failed suicide, he is confronted with the unexpected prospect of marriage to an eccentric Italian woman, thrusting him into a series of unpredictable events that challenge his perceptions of life and fate. Amidst the complexities of their individual journeys, the enduring bond between Archie and Samad serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of friendship in the face of life's trials and tribulations. Through its rich tapestry of characters and intricate plot developments, *White Teeth* delves deep into themes of identity, destiny, and the unpredictable nature of human connections, making it a compelling and resonant exploration of the human experience.

In the novel "*White Teeth*" by Smiths, a gripping scene unfolds as Mohammed Husain, a character in the book, boldly leaps onto Archie's car in a moment of high tension. As tension mounts, Mohammed deftly removes Archie's towel that was strategically placed to fill the gap in the driver's window, thereby allowing fresh air to flow and cool the car an additional five inches. Amidst the chaos, Mohammed defiantly declares to Minister, making it clear that their location is not a place where reckless actions like suicide are tolerated, affirming that the territory belongs to Hallak Cocher's. His words carry weight as he emphasizes the importance of safety in this space by warning that anyone considering such an extreme action would first have to face the sharpness of a blade, symbolizing the severity of the consequences. The atmosphere crackles with tension and uncertainty as these words echo in the air, driving home the message that in this unique domain, standards are high, and every action carries a weighty significance. Mohammed's bold actions and impactful statements serve as a reminder of the stakes at play in this intricate narrative, adding layers of depth and intrigue to the unfolding story.

5. Conclusion

In the concluding remarks on this paper, it is pivotal to acknowledge how "*White Teeth*" (2000) masterfully fictionalized the harsh realities that immigrants often face. The novel poignantly reveals the depths of trauma experienced by individuals who find themselves entangled in a complex web of ethnic identity and societal struggles. By deftly weaving together various threads of ethnicity and alimented worldviews, the narrative highlights the arduous journey towards self-realization amidst a biased societal mechanism. In the contemporary London society portrayed in the novel, capitalizing on exploitation is all too common, particularly evident in the pervasive discrimination based on skin color. In response to this harsh reality, the characters within the narrative undergo a profound shift towards embracing a more multicultural orientation. This shift is not merely a passive response but a critical necessity in their endeavor to navigate a world fraught with alienation. Through a systematic exploration of colonial subjects like SAMAD IQBAL MAGID and MILLAT, the novel delves into the poignant experiences of alienation rooted in their racial, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. These characters grapple with the harsh realities of their societal positioning and strive to overcome the obstacles that threaten to engulf them in a cycle of illusory despair. Their struggles mirror a larger narrative of the complexities inherent in attempting to break free from the shackles of societal biases and prejudices.

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