

Language Used by Female and Male in “Free Guy” Movie by Shawn Levy: Sociolinguistics Study

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to examine the female and male language used in the film "Free Guy." Diagrams depicting the data frequency of appearance in each category are used to support this qualitative study research. The data is taken from utterances by characters in "Free Guy". The source of data collection in this research shows that there are seven types of female language in "Free Guy" movies. The result of the research demonstrates that there are seven types of female language such as adverbs (4), adjectives (15), color words (2), diminutives (2), expletive and swear statements (6), tag questions (2), and modulation (8). On the other hand, there are five types of male language in "Free Guy" movies such as back-channeling signals (14), adverbs (9), expletive and swear statements (16), imperative sentences (8), and modulation (1). Expletive and swear statements are the most frequently used types of language by both female and male characters in the film "Free Guy." The researcher discovered 6 female languages swear statements and 16 male languages swear statements. In addition, there are 3 claims of female and male voices such as biologically different, social organization, and social creatures (learn how to act).

Keywords

Sociolinguistics; gender language; Free Guy; female language; male language



I. Introduction

Language is what members of a particular society speak (Wardhaugh, 1992: 1). Language plays an important role in society. It is because the language has been connecting the people and they need it for interaction with one another. Sociolinguistics taught us about the relationship between language and society. The appearance, behavior, and language that they used indicate that they are male and female.

Language is one of the most important things in the life of every human being. Each of them is of course inseparable from language, the first time a child gets a language that is heard directly from the father or mother when the child is born into this world. Then as time goes by and as the child grows, they will acquire a language other than the language taught by the mother and father, either in the form of a second, third, foreign language or so on which is called language acquisition where it depends on the social environment and cognitive level possessed by these children through the learning process in their environment. (Purba, N. et al. (2020).

The study of gender is important to the study of language, and the first step to studying gender is to explore the difference between males and females. It is quite clear that males and females have a lot of differences in many fields. According to Wardhaugh (2005: 315), "Sex is different from gender. Sex is to a very large extent biologically determined whereas gender is a social construct involving the whole gamut of genetic, psychological, social, and cultural differences between males and females." Wardhaugh

(2005: 316), stated that gender is also something we cannot avoid because it is part of how societies order themselves around us, with each society doing so differently. This means that males and females communicate differently.

The differences between male and female language in conversation are presented in various media. People can obtain information or messages through movies, hence they are considered media. One of the movies which contains the interaction between males and females is "Free Guy" by Shawn Levy. The movie tells a story of a mild-mannered bank teller (Ryan Reynolds), who leads a happy ordinary life. He usually wears the same blue shirt every day, drinks the same regular coffee, says the same jokes, and calmly endures bank robberies and criminal sprees perpetrated by persons wearing unique sunglasses. One day, he meets a woman named Molotov (Jodie Comer) who persuades him to try on a pair of sunglasses. Guy's entire world turns out to be a fantastic video game called "Free City," and the people wearing the sunglasses are game players, the majority of whom commit crimes to get points. Guy and all of his friends, like security guard Buddy (Lil Rel Howery), are unplayable characters, made to have only a few traits. Millie as the human player behind Molotov, along with her friend Keys (Joe Kerry), who programmed the characters to respond to Millie, on a mission to retrieve a piece of code she wrote that was stolen by the game's greedy owner Antwan (Taika Waititi) so that she can use to win a lawsuit. Artificial intelligence was built by Millie and Keys. Millie and Keys have a responsibility to keep the characters alive since the technology is worth it. Antwan does not want the robots to think for themselves, whether in the game or at work, thus Guy is instructed to reject them. Fortunately, Guy could now save himself, thus the game continued. A phenomenon of language and gender was found in an American movie. This phenomenon is found in the dialogue in the Free Guy movie in 2021.

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is 'the study of language in connection to society,' according to Hudson (1994: 4), whereas the sociology of language is 'the study of society in relation to language. Rather than studying language and society in order to learn as much as possible about what types of things language is, we study the sociology of language in order to reverse the direction of our interest.

Sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used (Simatupang, 2019). One of the topics discussed in sociolinguistics is the relationship between language and gender. The relationship between male and female language is referred to as 'language and gender,' as previously stated. Gender differences represent not just the differences in male and female voices, but also their diverse lifestyles and attitudes.

2.2 Language and Gender

Holmes (2008: 157) stated that language and gender are one of the aspects explored in sociolinguistics. Holmes (1998) claims that there are five lists of what she calls 'sociolinguistics universal tendencies.' First, females and males acquire different patterns of using language. Second, females are more likely than males to focus on the emotive function of interaction. Third, are more likely than man to utilize linguistic strategies that emphasize solidarity. Fourth, females prefer to interact in ways that maintain and increase solidarity, whereas males tend to interact in ways that will maintain and expand their power and status (particularly in formal contexts). Fifth, females have more stylistics flexibility than males.

2.3 The Different Characteristics of Female and Male Voices

a. Female Voice

The female voice differs from the male voice in many ways, and female and male speakers often have different ranges of verbal abilities. Philips (1987) also adds that he is aware that diverse socialization approaches might result in a wide range of variances. Based on Wardhaugh (2005: 315-334), the feature of female language is as follows:

1) Adverbs

The language used to distinguish between male and female could be seen in the use of adverbs. For example, females tend to use adverbs like *pretty*, *awful*, *so*, and *terrible*.

2) Adjectives

Adjectives are words or phrases that reflect a speaker's approbation or appreciation for something that is purely emotional in nature rather than a reaction to precise information. Some examples of adjectives, such as *adorable*, *charming*, *sweet*, *lovely*, *divine*, *gorgeous*, and *cute*.

3) Color words

According to Lakoff (1973: 49), females use color words. In English, there is a particularly feminine vocabulary that men may not, dare not, or will not use. Females are good at using color words such as *amazing*, *extraordinary*, *unique*, and *so forth*.

4) Diminutives

Females prefer words with the meaning "small," such as *bookie*, *hanky*, and *panties*. They also like to use affectionate words like *dearie* and *sweetie*. Furthermore, females prefer to use polite words such as *please* and *thank you*, as well as euphemisms.

5) Expletives and swear statement

Females spoke with less force than males, and males swore far more than females. Females frequently use the phrase "*Oh, dear*", "*Oh my God!*" to express their emotions. Females are more likely to avoid curses that are violent. When it comes to swearing words, men and women have different preferences. Males frequently use rude and forbidden words such as *damn*, *bloody hell*, and *shit*, which are common in male language, whereas females use more polite versions such as *oh dear*, *my dear*, and *my goodness*. Females are more concerned with their language manners and politeness.

6) Tag questions

Females use interrogative sentences more than males. According to Lakoff, females may respond to a question with a statement that uses the rising intonation pattern typically associated with questions rather than the falling intonation pattern typically associated with making a firm statement. Females often add tag questions to statements, e.g., "*...like a symbol, you know?*"

7) Modulation

When a female speaks, she frequently considers what others are thinking. Rather than imposing her ideas and claims on others, she usually keeps her decisions open. Females frequently hear, "*well, you know, I think, I suppose... kind of...*" and so on. When it comes to asking for help from others, both males and females express themselves. In many ways, females are more polite than males.

b. Male Voice

According to Lakoff (2004: 76), numerous factors contribute to the establishment of language distinctions between men and women. Male language is defined as more aggressive, mature, and more on point or indirect forms. Based on Wardhaugh (2005: 315-334), the feature of male language is as follows:

1) Back-channeling signals

Wardhaugh claims that in cross-gender conversations, women ask more questions than men, encourage others to speak, use more back-channeling signals like *mhmm*, *yeah*, and *right* to encourage others to continue speaking, use more instances of *you* and *we*, and do not protest as much as men when they are interrupted.

2) Adverbs

Adverbs are words that describe or modify other verbs, adjectives, adverbs, frequency, and sentence phrases. The use of adverbs differs between male and female speakers. Males frequently use adverbs such as *very*, *utterly*, and *really*.

3) Expletives and swear statements

Male tends to use words like *"damn, shit, fuck you, hell."* For example, *"You didn't do shit."* In everyday life, we often hear people express shock in similar ways. Males are more likely than females to use swear words.

4) Imperative sentences

According to Xia (2013: 1485), a study studied a group of boys and girls on a single street in Philadelphia, and the study discovered that the boys and girls employ distinct imperative sentences. The males used a lot of command phrases like *"Everybody down on the ground!"*

5) Modulation

Males and Females express themselves differently, and males tend to ask questions directly, such as *"Please, just stay down!"*

2.4 The Factors of Female and Male Voice

An analysis of how women are portrayed in an animated series yielded some intriguing results (Kramer 1974). According to the analysis, males spoke twice as much as women in the cartoon when both genders were depicted. Male and female characters in the cartoon converse about various topics of discussion. Males talked about business, politics, legal issues, and sports, while females talked about social life, books, food and drink, and lifestyle issues.

When researchers observe gender differences in linguistic behavior, the researcher is faced with the task of trying to explain them. One explanation is that languages can be sexist. According to Wardhaugh (2005: 326-333), the researcher obtained three other interesting claims. The first claim is that males and females are biologically different and that this difference has serious gender implications. Psychologically, females tend to stick together and support each other and not be competitive. On the other hand, natural mens tend to be independent and have vertical relationships rather than horizontal ones. The second claim is that the social organization is considered to be the best in a kind of hierarchical power relationship. The third claim, not really denying the second claim, is males and females are social creatures who learn how to act in any way.

III. Research Method

This research is a qualitative descriptive study to analyze female and male language features in the “Free Guy” movie. Based on Wardhaugh’s theory (2005) of women’s language features, the researcher tries to collect and analyze the data qualitatively and present the finding of the analysis descriptively. In this research, the object studied was the dialogue of female and males and the subject of this research was the speech of female and male characters in the “Free Guy” movie in 2021. The data in this study came from a movie of 1 hour 55 minutes duration. The movie consists of 8 pieces of data that are used as research data to answer questions that have been formulated in the problem statement.

The researcher collects data in this study in several steps. The researcher begins by watching the film “Free Guy” and reading the transcript. The next step is to divide the dialogue into female and male language features. Following the completion of the data, the researcher analyzes the data collected using the descriptive method. The researcher then divides the dialogue into female and male language features and counts how many times those features of female and male language are used in the dialogue. Finally, the researcher discovered the consistency of the use of linguistic features based on the gender of each character in the film “Free Guy.”

IV. Results and Discussion

This section is divided into two-part. The first part discusses the differences between female and male characteristics in the “Free Guy” movie. The second part discusses the factors of female and male characteristics in the “Free Guy” movie.

4.1 The Different Characteristics of Female and Male Voices

a. Female Voice

The female voice differs from the male voice in many ways, and females and males frequently demonstrate different levels of verbal abilities. 7 types of the female voices cover thirty-nine (39) expressions found in the conversations of “Free Guy” movie script based on Wardhaugh theory such as adverbs, adjectives, color words, diminutives, expletives and swear statements, tag questions, and modulation.

1) Adverbs

The language used to distinguish between male and female could be seen in the use of adverbs. The researcher found four (4) adverbs used by female characters in the “Free Guy” movie script. The word is *pretty*.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:27:35	“Oh! It’s <i>pretty</i> bleak.”
2	00:40:56	“Yeah, life has been <i>pretty</i> .”
3	01:39:57	“You’re <i>pretty</i> cute, when you brag.”
4	01:40:57	“... life has been <i>pretty</i> crazy lately.”

The word “Pretty” is an adjective term and expression commonly used by female and includes an adjective as a compliment to others because it includes female talk.

2) Adjectives

Adjectives are words or phrases that reflect a speaker's approbation or appreciation for something that is purely emotional rather than a reaction to precise information. The researcher found fifteen (15) adjectives used by female characters in the "Free Guy" movie script such as *cute*, *genius*, *weird*, and *crazy*.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:01:17, 00:32:41	"You're so <u>hot</u> ."
2	00:21:43	"Antwan is a <u>genius</u> ."
3	00:42:42	" <u>Impressive</u> ."
4	00:45:15	"Nothing, You're <u>funny</u> ."
5	00:45:18	" <u>Weird</u> , <u>funny</u> ."
6	00:46:27, 00:46:33	"Okay, this is too <u>weird</u> ."
7	00:51:07	"Why is it so <u>hot</u> ?"
8	00:51:20	"He's <u>funny</u> , and he's <u>sweet</u> , and he's so <u>handsome</u> ."
9	01:05:17	"He's also a really <u>cute</u> guy."
10	01:05:34	"He's like <u>crazy</u> hot."
11	01:39:57	"You're pretty <u>cute</u> , when you brag."
12	01:40:57	"... life has been pretty <u>crazy</u> lately."

The words *hot*, *impressive*, *funny*, *cute*, and *crazy* are expression commonly used by female to express their feeling to something and other people.

3) Color words

Females are good at using color words such as *amazing*, *extraordinary*, *unique*, and *so forth*. The researcher found two (2) color words used by female characters in the "Free Guy" movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:21:42	"That's what's so <u>charming</u> about Keys..."
2	01:18:38	"You're <u>amazing</u> ."

The words *amazing* and *charming* are commonly used by female to express their feeling to others.

4) Diminutives

Females prefer words with the meaning "small," such as *bookie*, *hanky*, and *panties*. They also like to use affectionate words like *dearie* and *sweetie*. Furthermore, females prefer to use polite words such as *please* and *thank you*, as well as euphemisms. The researcher found two (2) diminutives used by female characters in the "Free Guy" movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:45:28	" <u>Please</u> ."
2	01:10:58	" <u>Please</u> , Guy, you're all I've got."

The word *please* is commonly used by females and they prefer to use polite words to talk to other people.

5) Expletives and swear statements

Females spoke with less force than males, and males swore far more than females. Females frequently use the phrase “*Oh, dear*”, “*Oh my God!*” to express their emotions. Females are more concerned with their language manners and politeness. The researcher found sixteen (6) expletives used by female characters in the “Free Guy” movie script. The word is *Oh my God!*

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:51:24, 01:05:35, 01:07:56, 01:15:25, 01:15:28, 01:18:37	“ <u><i>Oh my God!</i></u> ”

Females use ‘Oh my God!’ to express surprise or praise and be more religious than males do.

6) Tag questions

Females often add tag questions to statements, e.g., “...*like a symbol, you know?*” The researcher found two (2) tag questions used by female characters in the “Free Guy” movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	01:15:27	“...like a symbol, <u><i>you know?</i></u> ”
2	01:10:56	“We had it together, <u><i>remember?</i></u> ”

Tag question such as *you know?* or *remember?* above are express curiosity while repeating clarity.

7) Modulation

When a female speaks, she frequently considers what others are thinking. Rather than imposing her ideas and claims on others, she usually keeps her decisions open. Females frequently hear, “*well, you know, I think, I suppose... kind of,...*” and so on. The researcher found eight (8) modulations used by female characters in the “Free Guy” movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:26:07	“Wow, you are a special <u><i>kind of</i></u> noob.”
2	00:27:22	“I’ve got to admit that is <u><i>kind of</i></u> refreshing.”
3	00:28:10	“Okay, <u><i>well</i></u> , enjoy your life time...”
4	00:39:23	“I don’t <u><i>suppose</i></u> this thing can fly.”
5	00:45:20	“But that’s <u><i>kind of</i></u> my speed.”
6	00:46:56	“You had to win, and that pleasure, <u><i>you know</i></u> it was just constant.”
7	00:48:15	“ <u><i>I think</i></u> someone’s at the door.”
8	01:05:26	“ <u><i>I think</i></u> blue shirt guy’s like symbol.”

The words kind of, *well*, *suppose*, and *I think* are express to asking for help from others, both males and females express themselves. In many ways, females are more polite than males.

b. Male Voice

Many factors contribute to the emergence of gender differences in language. Male language is described as more assertive, mature, and on point or direct forms. There are 5 types of the male voices which cover forty-eight (48) expressions found in the conversations of “Free Guy” movie script based on Wardhaugh’s theory such as back-channeling signals, adverbs, expletives and swear statements, and imperative sentences.

1) Back-channeling signals

There is evidence that in cross-gender conversations, females ask more questions than males, encourage others to speak, and are more open to listening, use more back-channeling signals like *mhmm*, *yeah*, and *right* to encourage others to continue speaking. The researcher found fourteen (14) back-channeling signals used by male characters in the “Free Guy” movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:03:07	“ <u>Mmm. Mmm!</u> That’s is unexpectedly hot.”
2	00:10:00	“ <u>Mmm.</u> That’s hot.”
3	00:41:23, 00:41:34, 00:44:45, 00:45:00, 01:16:15, 01:31:11	“ <u>Mmm-hmm,</u> ”
4	01:01:06, 01:02:11, 01:02:17, 01:03:22, 01:20:50, 01:32:27	“ <u>Yeah,</u> ”

The words *Mmm-mmm* and *Yeah* are commonly used by male to encourage others to speak and make other people more open to listening them.

2) Adverbs

Adverbs are words that describe or modify other verbs, adjectives, adverbs, frequency, and sentence phrases. Males frequently use adverbs such as *very*, *utterly*, and *really*. The researcher found nine (9) adverbs used by male characters in the “Free Guy” movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:05:34	“Hey, you <u>really</u> British.”
2	00:36:47	“It felt <u>really</u> cool, you look really pretty.”
3	00:47:17, 00:50:22	“I <u>really</u> wanna kiss you. I mean, that’s <u>really</u> difficult.”
4	01:51:31	“ <u>Really.</u> ”
5	01:14:20	“I mean I haven’t <u>really</u> even seen your face...but I’m not <u>really</u> good with descriptive words.”
6	01:14:40	“Not <u>really</u> god with words in general.”
7	01:16:40	“ <u>Really</u> hard to understand.”

The word *really* is commonly used by male to emphasis, saying what is true and showing surprise to other people.

3) Expletives and swear statements

Male tends to use words like “*damn, shit, fuck you, hell.*” For example, “*You didn’t do shit.*” The researcher found sixteen (16) expletives used by male characters in the “Free Guy” movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:06:01	“ <i>Damn</i> , girl, you’re so feisty.”
2	00:22:22	“Zeroes and ones are as cool as <i>shit</i> .”
3	00:25:52	“ <i>Holy hell</i> , what just happened?”
4	00:29:53	“Good <i>fucking</i> morning, Goldie.”
5	00:32:49	“Yo, <i>dumbass</i> .”
6	00:33:37	“I’m keeping these, <i>asshole</i> mouth.”
7	00:39:40	“Oh <i>shit</i> .”
8	00:49:49	“I mean, <i>hell</i> ,...”
9	00:57:44	“...close your <i>dumbass</i> door.”
10	01:01:00	“Holy <i>shit</i> .”
11	01:06:35	“...that all this <i>shit</i> about a self-ward...”
12	01:16:11	“Antwan may be an <i>asshole</i> ...”
13	01:33:00	“...but <i>hell</i> yes, I’m with you.”
14	01:34:40	“You didn’t do <i>shit</i> .”
15	01:35:00	“I’ve been scared my whole <i>damn</i> life.”
16	01:35:49	“...was a <i>Goddamn</i> hero.”

Males are more likely to use swear words such as asshole, shit, hell, fucking to express their feeling to something or others and mostly spontaneously.

4) Imperative sentences

The males used a lot of command phrases like “*Everybody down on the ground!*” The researcher found eight (8) imperative sentences used by male characters in the “Free Guy” movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:04:31, 00:20:32, 00:32:40, 01:13:25, 01:19:18	“Everybody down on the ground!”
2	00:48:51, 00:48:55	“Millie, open up!”
3	01:16:25	“Gather around!”

Males most usually utilized imperative sentences to communicate directive forms, offer direct commands, and give instructions in a more polite manner than a direct order.

5) Modulation

Males and Females express themselves differently, and males tend to ask questions directly, such as *“Please, just stay down!”* The researcher found one (1) modulation sentence used by male characters in the “Free Guy” movie script.

No.	Minute	Dialogue
1	00:14:47	“Please, just stay down!”

Males commonly used to suggest emotion and tend to ask questions directly than females.

4.2 The Factors of Female and Male Voice

In conversations between males and females, it has been observed that males tend to speak more than females do. One study revealed that when males talked to females, the topics they talked about were mainly sports and competitive behavior. According to a study, females are more likely to use positive and polite forms of communication than males. They are also said to be more likely to develop social bonds. On the other hand, men are known to use talk to get things done. One of the most challenging tasks for a researcher is trying to explain the differences in the way men and women communicate. The researcher obtained three (3) interesting claims.

The first claim is that males and females are biologically different and that this difference has serious gender implications. Based on the movie, a woman named Molotov is a strong and brave character. They tend to stick together and support each other. On the other hand, the main character is the eponymous “Guy”, an NPC inside of a massive online game. As the game progresses, he breaks away from normal NPC behavior and begins interacting with different players, bringing cheerfulness and vibrancy.

The second claim is that the social organization is considered to be the best in a kind of hierarchical power relationship. Based on the movie, as always, Ryan Reynolds is cheerful in capturing Guy's naivety when it comes to game content. Moreover, he has a great match with everyone who shares the screen. Jodie Comer and Joe Keery play our actual leads, Millie and Keys. They have incredible (predictable) romance-blooming chemistry. Comer also plays Millie's in-game avatar, Molotov girl, but it took a minute to realize that she was actually the same person.

The third claim, not really denying the second claim, males and females are social creatures who learn how to act in any way. Based on the movie, both males and females are social creatures and good at the act. They try to show their best by making good and professional chemistry.

V. Conclusion

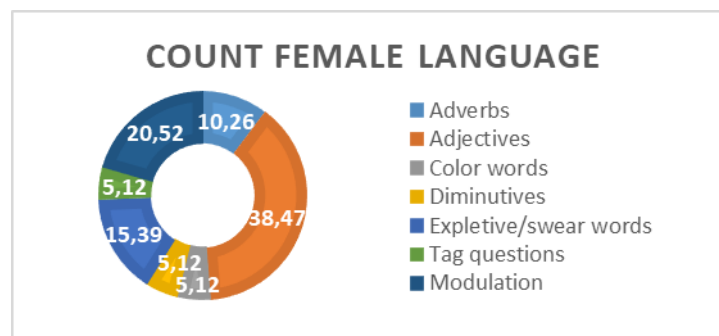


Figure 1. Diagram of the Result of Female Voice

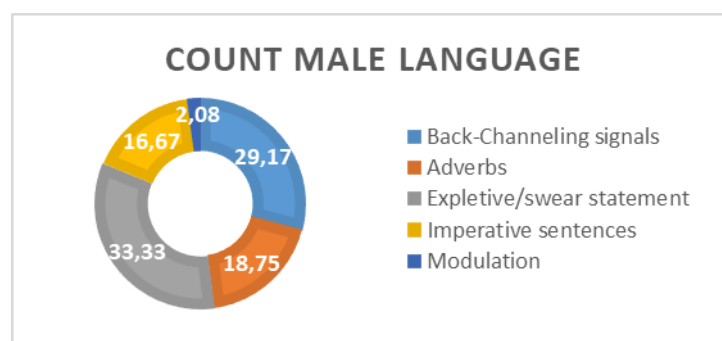


Figure 2. Diagram of the Result of Male Voice

According to the result and findings in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that there are thirty-nine (39) female languages and forty-eight (48) male languages that are analyzed in the “Free Guy” movie by Shawn Levy. For female language, they are *adverbs* (4), *adjectives* (15), *color words* (2), *diminutives* (2), *expletives and swear statements* (6), *tag questions* (2), and *modulations* (8). Furthermore, male languages are *back-channeling signals* (14), *adverbs* (9), *expletives and swear statements* (16), *imperative sentences* (8), and *modulation* (1). *Expletives and swear statements* are the most frequently used types of language by both female and male characters in the film "Free Guy." The researcher discovered 6 female languages swear statements and 16 male languages swear statements.

Besides, the researcher found three interesting claims or factors of female and male voices according to the data above such as 1) males and females are biologically different and that this difference has serious gender implications, 2) the social organization is considered to be the best in kind of hierarchical power relationships, and 3) males and females are social creatures who learn how to acts in any way so that they try to show their best by making good and professional chemistry.

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