POWER AND GENDER OPPRESSION IN LAUREN WEISBERGER'S THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA AND SETH GRAHAM SMITH'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze (1) what power is exercised in *The Devil Wears Prad*a and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, (2) how power operates gender oppression, and (3) how power plays an important role in gender oppression in the novels. Marxist-Feminist approach is used to analyze the data by applying Engels's theory of power, Young's theory of gender oppression, Marx's, Engels's and Lenin's theory of liberation. The result has found out that all the indicators of the exercise of power by the ruling class are present in both novels. In relation to gender oppression, the female character in *The Devil Wears Prada* suffers from exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, and cultural imperialism in the workplace. Meanwhile, some female characters in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* suffer from all the forms of gender oppression as the impact of the exercise of power in their social life. However, almost all elements of women liberation mostly is revealed in the novels.

Keywords: Power, Gender Oppression, Women Liberation

Abstrak: Kajian ini bertujuan menganalisis (1) kekuasaan apa yang digunakan di dalam novel *The Devil Wears Prad*a dan *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, (2) bagaimana kekuasaan berperan dalam penindasan gender, dan (3) bagaimana kekuasaan memberi arti penting dalam penindasan gender di dalam kedua novel tersebut. Pendekatan Marxis-Feminis digunakan untuk menganalisis data dengan menggunakan teori Engels tentang kekuasaan, teori tentang penindasan gender oleh Young, dan teori Marx, Engels, dan Lenin tentang pembebasan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan semua indikator digunakannya kekuasaan oleh kelas yang berkuasa muncul dalam kedua novel tersebut. Berkaitan dengan penindasan gender, tokoh wanita dalam novel *The Devil Wears Prada* mengalami eksploitasi, marginalisasi, ketidakberdayaan, dan penjajahan budaya di tempat kerja. Sedangkan, beberapa karakter wanita di dalam novel *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* mengalami semua bentuk penindasan gender sebagai akibat digunakannya kekuasaan dalam kehidupan sosial mereka. Akan tetapi, hampir semua elemen pembebasan wanita muncul di kedua novel tersebut.

Kata Kunci: Kekuasaan, Penindasan Gender, Pembebasan Wanita

Many literary works represent women as being loyal, tender, modest, full of forgiveness, and devotion (Endaswara, 2003, p. 144). This representation occurs because of patriarchic system which positions women as inferior. This representation is also supported by the

findings of some studies quoted in a critical discourse analysis conducted by Magalhaes (2007, p. 186). It shows implicitly as well as explicitly the identity of women in a certain community. First, a study by Lima (1997) shows that Brazilian textbooks represent women identity as passive, weak, and lack of logical reasoning. This finding supports the previous research done by Hardi (1989) which states that most women are as "competent" as men. These results of studies confirm the negative image of women in the society. It creates the general perception or prejudice of the role of women when they have to compete with men, such as in the family or workplace. The poor position of women is getting worse when they come from different social class. The limitation is not only about gender discrimination but also from class discrimination.

Marxist-feminist ideology firstly comes up from Friedrich Engels (1884) who has explained that the inferiority of women is not a result of their biological nature but of social affair. In addition he has satated that one way for women to emancipate themselves in through the elimination of capitalist. Meanwhile, Mies (2014, p. 12) states that Marxist feminist is the realization of the tendency to the new feminist critique and rebellion into the former theoretical body of Marxism. Marxist feminism is a sub-type of feminist theory that explains about structure of modern industrial society emphasizing class and labor.

According to Dahl (1957, p. 203) power is the ability to influence and control other's behavior. Power is also defined as domination's relation that causes something unjust or oppressive power over relation (Amy, 2016, p. 33). According to the traditional Marxist account of power, domination is understood on the model of class exploitation. Domination result from the capitalist appropriation, of surplus value that is produced by workers. This happens since what is good for the ruling class must also be good for the whole of the society, with which the ruling class identifies itself (Engels, 1884, p. 95). In addition, Engels's idea about Marxist feminist conception of private property gives rise to the following factors: economic inequality, dependence and political confusion, and ultimately unhealthy social relations between men and women (employers and employee). This is the root of the oppression of women. It happens since there are both of powerful and powerless (upper and lower) classes that play role in that kind of relationship.

Lynch (1998, p. 65) states that the existence of power relation cannot be seen, touched, or even realized, it is mixed up among relations. If there is relationship then, there is power relation as well. The statement is in line with Davis who claimed that power relation is every time and everywhere, contextual, power is throughout the structure of domination, is in connection to concrete situated social practice (in Lazar, 2007). In relations to Marxism, there are still view point differences of socio cultural system between the powerful and powerless people. Power is an important factor that determines the destiny of poor proletariats. In addition, according to Tyson (2014, p. 54) Marxism divides people into group of bourgeois and proletariat. Bourgeoises (capitalists) are those who have natural resources, like farm that brings them power. The other group is proletariats (worker). This group comprises people who do not have any kind of natural resources. They are the majority of population who have to work hard, but the benefit goes to bourgeois, whereas they live in poverty.

Patil (2007) claims that an oppression that is associated with the gender norms, relation and stratification of a given society is called gender oppression. In more details, based on a report of Community Accountability within the People of Colour Movement (Incite!, 2005, p. 5), it is defined that gender oppression is as the result of individual acts of abuse and violence, patterns of power and control, and system of abuse and violence that are created against women and girls due to their gender. The definition of gender oppression can be presented more clearly in the following table:

Subject	Action	Object
Individual (Mostly	Individual acts of abuse	Women and girls
men but can be	and violence against	(especially if more
women, transgender)	women and girls*.	vulnerable or have less
Organization	Pattern of power and	power because poor,
(Workplaces,	control elevating men	person of color,
Coalitions,	and/ boys* at the expense	indigenous, immigrant,
Constituencies and	of women/girl.	queer, less education,
Movements)	C	disabled, English second
System (Imperialism,	System of abuse and	language or no English,
capitalism, Militarism,	violence targeting	young, dependence on
religion, race,	women/girl	the person/organization
heterosexuality and	C .	who is doing it)
patriarchy)		

*Note: Men/boys and Women/girls can include biological-born, transgender or Man/boy-identified person (Masculinity) or women/girls identified person (Femininity).

Table 1. The Definition of Gender Oppression (adapted from Community Accountability withinthe People of Color Movement: 2005, p. 6)

In more detail Young (2009, pp. 45-58) claimed that there are five types of gender oppressions, in the following forms.

- 1. Exploitation, it is the act of using human's labors in order to gain profit while not compensating them fairly;
- 2. Marginalization, it is the act of relegating or confining a group of women to a lower social standing or outer limit or edge of the society;
- 3. Powerlessness, it is a condition where a certain class of women is dominated

by the ruling class and is situated to take orders and merely have the right to give them;

- 4. Cultural imperialism, it is associated with taking the culture of the ruling class and applying it as a norm. In other words, the other groups of women, in this case should follow the laws made by the ruling group although it is not appropriate for them. The ruling group is the one who has right to make laws for the society
- 5. Violence, it is the most real and visible form of gender oppression. Members of some groups live by knowing that they must fear random, unprovoked attacks on their person. These attacks do not necessarily need a motive but are intended to damage, humiliate, or destroy the woman/women.

In relation to Marxist feminism, capitalism can lead women to be oppressed, as stressed by Evelyn Reed's (in Tong, 2009, p. 107) that the same capitalist economic forces and social relations that brought about the oppression of one class by another, one race by another, and one nation by another also brought about the oppression on women and it is the worst kind of oppression for all women. Marxists believe that the oppression of women inextricably links to the class society. The capitalists are using any divisions within the working class to attack the conditions of the workers. The fight against women oppression is a struggle for the entire working class, regardless of gender. As stated by Bardwaj (2016, p. 34) that the liberation of men and women from the slavery of inhuman capitalist is the true strength of Marxist feminist ideology. Meanwhile, Barrett (2014, p. 258) claims that when women's oppression is entrenched in the structure of capitalism

then the struggle for women liberation cannot wholly disengaged. This statement is in line with the goal of Marxist feminism as stated by Sheivari (2014) that liberating women by transforming the conditions of their oppression and exploitation actually is the main goal of Marxist feminism.

In relation to literary works, some novels represent the portrayal of women who become the victims of the exercise of ruling class's power; consequently they encounter some oppressions done as the significance of power to gender oppression. *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* are considered as two novels that represent these values. A study conducted by Surahman (2011, p. x) shows the way the exploitation and the alienation happens in the social setting of the novel and how the subordinate character (Andrea) struggles to come out of the situation in *The Devil Wears Prada*. Spiker (2012, p. 16) states that *The Devil Wears Prada* depicts not only female power in career, love and friendship but also how women use their power effectively to compete in business world. Chretien (2011, p. 3) claims that canonical literature/monster mash-up subgenre, focusing specifically on its originating text, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, as a case study to explore and understand the cultural work being done in this subgenre. In relation to the issues, this study emphasizes what power is exercised, gender oppression, and the significance of power to gender oppression reflected in *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*.

METHOD

The research is set into the following four steps: intensive close reading, noting the data, and highlighting and coding the data from the novels. In analyzing the novels, the writer uses Marxist-Feminist approach. This approach emphasizes the discriminations both of class and gender, which are based on economic perspective. Interpretation was done along the analytic process, discussion and drawing conclusion.

The theory of Marxixt feminism divides group of people in the society into bourgeoisie and the proletariat, which are also called as the capitalist and working class. In fact, this kind of class division can also be represented by the role of gender in the society, especially in the family called masculinity and femininity.

Thus, the procedures taken to analyze the data are presented in the following.

- 1. Analyzing the data taken from Weisberger's *The devil Wears Prada* and Smith's *Pride and prejudice and Zombies* assessed with Engel's idea; economic inequality based on private property, dependence, and ultimately unhealthy social condition between the employer and the employee (men and women).
- 2. Analyzing the data taken from Weisberger's *The devil Wears Prada* and Smith's *Pride and prejudice and Zombies* assessed with Irish Young's theory of the types of gender oppression, namely exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism, and violence.
- 3. Analyzing the data taken from Weisberger's *The Devil Wears Prada* and Smith's *Pride and prejudice and Zombies* assessed with Marx's, Engels's and Lenin's idea of women liberation that were synthesized by Mies (2014, p. 178). The idea is elaborated further into seven parts. First, when women questions appear as the response of capitalist system. Second, the women enter social production (that is, waged labor outside the household) in order to gain a material base for their economic independence and emancipation. Third, no seperation between men and women, as capitalism has eliminated the differences between men and women. Fourth, women as women may be oppressed or subordinated but they are not exploited in the same way as male workers are exploited. Therefore, together with men, they can fight aginst this exploitation in the struggle for change of production relations (class struggle). Fifth, it is the struggle

against their specific oppression as women have to fight for their ideological values (through legal action, education propaganda, exhortation and persuasion). Sixth, women should unite in order to liberate themselves so that their struggle will be strong. Seventh, women can participate not only in wage labor, but also in political activity. On the level of man-woman or employer-employee relations they have to achieve true equality or democracy between man and woman and/or employer-employee. This is only possible through the ideological struggle.

FINDINGS AND DISSCUSSION

Power in The Devil Wears Prada and Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Economic inequality, Dependence and Unhealthy Relationship between Borgouise and Proletariat in The Devil Wears Prada

Economic inequality is the first indicator, which is found in the novels. Andrea comes from middle class family; meanwhile Miranda is a high class leader in the Runway. Of course, their financial base would be totally different. It can be seen from their daily life styles that are represented in the novel. Andrea is a simple and ordinary girl that lives and grows in the common environment (Weisberger, Ch.2 p.7). In contrast, Miranda is an extravagant woman. She lives in glamorous life, wealth, as well as popularity (Weisberger, Ch.P). She frequently exercises her power to oppress Andrea so that at the certain point Miranda comes to the conclusion that she is superior to Andrea (Weisberger, Ch.8 p.84).

Dependence is the next indicator that shows the exercise of power over others. Here it can be seen that the proletariat's fate is on the bourgeoisie's hand. The condition is illustrated when Emily, Miranda's first Assistance, repeatedly reminds Andrea that their leader, Miranda is their priority. A little mistake or ignorance means that their career in Runway will end (Weisberger, Ch.5 p.47). This is the way Miranda uses her power toward her workers by reminding them that their careers depend on Miranda's hand.

The novel also exposes unhealthy relationship between employers and employees (Weisberger, Ch.6 p. 60), when Miranda's husband, Mr. Tomlison, asks Andrea whether or not she is happy to work for his wife, she tells lies by saying that she loves working for Miranda very much. Deep in her heart, Andrea feels that the relationship between her and Miranda is like a predator and baby mammals.

Economic Inequality, Dependence and Unhealthy relationship between Employee and Employers in Pride and prejudice and Zombies

Economic inequality in this novel causes class discrimination in which the power of high class/the ruling class controls the lower class. As told in the novel (Smith, Ch. 7 p.14) the only Mr. Bennet's property is his estate which can only produce two thousand pounds a year. The worse issue is that the patriarchy system applied there does not allow Mr. Bennet to inherit his limited wealth to his daughters. In contrast, Mr. Bingley, Mr. Darcy, Lady Catherine, and their family come from prosperous family or high class family. This economic inequality has led them to a condition where the ruling class tends to abuse their power to the middle class in order to get a certain people's purpose (Smith, Ch.56 p.181). It represents a condition which economic inequality play important role in the exercise of power.

The second indicator of the exercise of power is dependence. Beside love, economic dependence encourages Jane Bennet to maintain her relationship with Mr. Bingley. Realizing Jane's motive to his friend Mr. Darcy reminds him that Jane will take advantage

of him after they get married. Moreover, after Jane suffers from severe fever and stays for some time in the Netherfield, he believes that Jane has been infected by the zombies' plague which will harm his friend, Bingley. Then Mr. Darcy exercises his power by arranging a scenario to separate Mr. Bingley and Jane. Darcy has used Bingley's dependence on his's opinion to influence Bingley to leave for Herfordshire. His departure left an impression that it is Bingley who has left Jane and discontinued the relationship. Elizabeth sees this from Darcy's letter (Smith, Ch.35 p.103).

Unhealthy relationship between the middle class and the ruling class are also present in the novel. Born in the middle class family, Bennett's daughters are often subordinated by the people from the upper class members. Many people dislike Mr. Darcy—who is from the upper class—because of his manner, especially Mrs. Bennet. She doesn't like the way he treats and subordinates one of her daughters, Elizabeth. It seems that the members of the ruling class freely exercise their power to insult and judge those from the middle class using the rude words.

In conclusion, the three indicators of the exercise of power—economic inequality, dependence, and unhealthy relationship between men and women (employee and employers)—exist in both of novels. These three indicators enable the superior to oppress more the inferior ones using their power.

Gender Oppression in The Devil Wears Prada and The Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Exploitation, Powerlessness, Marginalization, and Cultural imperialism in The Devil Wears Prada

Exploitation is a form of oppression that is mostly found in *The Devil Wears Prada*. This happens since Miranda as the employer or the ruling class of the place where she lives always tends to exploit her employee in order to achieve what she wants. These can be seen from the illustrations in the novel that Andrea does not only handle to serve snacks, lunch, drink, and dinner but also, for example, collecting Miranda's dirty clothes after her photo shot session, getting the latest novel of *Harry Potter* for Miranda's twins, and organizing Miranda's brother in law's wedding party. The things they do are generally known as women's tasks in the household. Women are able to produce most of the material goods, for example cookware, clothing, tools, sheltering, and so forth. As claimed by Marx (2009, p. 99), since employers have monopoly on the means of production—including factories, tools, and land—and means of communication, workers are forced to choose between being exploited or having no work at all. This actually is what Andrea experiences.

The next form of oppression that is found in the novel *The Devil Wears Prada* is gender marginalization. It is the act of relegating or confining a group of people to a lower social standing or outer limit or edge of the society. It is seen in the novel when Miranda frequently calls Andrea as Emily (Weisberger, Ch.8 p. 84). It seems that both Emily and Andrea are similar in Miranda's view. Both of them are her female workers who come from middle class so she thinks that it does not matter for her to marginalize Andrea by calling her using her other female workers' name.

Powerlessness is a condition in which woman from the low class people are dominated by the ruling class people and hove no capacity or power to oppose them. Because of the market interest and expectation to this famous fashion magazine, Miranda gets very strict on her workers performance, especially female workers. The condition is illustrated when Miranda shows her dislike when Andrea is wearing two inch sling black in the office. She considers that it is too flat and not elegant. They are inappropriate to be used by a female official of a famous fashion magazine office like Runaway (Weisberger, Ch.13 p.192).

In addition, there is also a form of cultural imperialism. It is a condition when the ruling class decided their culture as norm or rule that the lower class should obey, even though sometimes it is not appropriate. In this novel, fashion and life style are important to emphasize, especially Miranda as the leader. "*To be new woman*" (Weisberger.Ch.9 p.89) means Andrea should transform herself into new figure of woman that is more dynamic, fashionable, and elegant, especially in terms of performance. Andrea has tried hard to change her out of date style into more up to date in order to follow the culture in her office. In short, she has to reflect the portrayal of modern women of the era.

Exploitation, Powerlessness, Marginalization, Cultural Imperialism, and Violence in The Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Exploitation is found in this novel. This kind of oppression is experienced by Charlotte. The exploitation comes from Lady Catherine who is not sure of the capability of Charlotte as a woman and a wife (Smith, Ch.30.p.84). She frequently comes to Mr. Collin's home only to find out some unimportant carelessness which Charlotte may perform as his wife, such as: the wrong set of the furniture or other housemaid's mistakes. It is clear, then, that Lady Catherine's visit to supervise whether or not the chores in Charlotte and Mr. Collins household run well is a manifestation of gender oppression, "... seemed to do it only for the sake of finding Mrs. Collins's joints of meat were too large for her family, ..." means that Lady Catherine search for Charlotte's weaknesses in handling the chores of the family. Therefore, it is considered as gender exploitation.

Marginalization is another form of gender oppression mostly found in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. Marginalization is not only done by individual but also by system. The novel represents that patriarchal system has marginalized Bennet daughters. At that time, in England, daughter could not inherit any property from her father but son or other male relatives could. In the case of Bennet's family, since Mr. Bennet doesn't have any son, he has to inherit his wealth to his cousin, Mr. Collins. This is a form of gender marginalization that it is only man who deserves inheritance, not woman. This woman does not have the rights to inherit estate from her own biological father. Thus, this novel presents how patriarchal system marginalizes women in the family. In this regard, Young (2009, p. 50) stated that marginalization is perhaps the most dangerous form of oppression. Consequently, it results in powerlessness to those who are marginalized, i.e. women.

The powerlessness is experienced by Jane Bennet when Mr. Bingley leaves her without giving any clear reasons and explanation (Smith, Ch.26 p.73). Moreover, when she meets Miss Bingley, she indirectly states that Mr. Bingley is interested in Mrs. Darcy. It really hurts her because she cannot ask Mr. Bingly for clarification about the issue, as she is a woman. Even though she is disappointed and very curious about it, she is powerless to do it. It seems that Mr. Bingley, as a man of the ruling class, has privilege as decision maker to determine and decide the fate of their relationship. Meanwhile, as a woman, she prefers accepting the reality and forgeting her wish to continue their relationship. This is the form of Jane's powerlessness on what Mr. Bingley has done to her. As stated by Engels in Tong (2009, p. 105), men represented the bourgeoisie and women represented the proletariat.

Cultural imperialism is also revealed in the story after Elizabeth has had her dinner and returned to Jane's room, Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst start abusing her (Smith, Ch.8 p.18). They consider her manner impolite. The only thing she can be proud of is that she has ever learned in Chinese combat school very well. Even about this competence, however, Mrs. Hurst claims that her appearance and style are very wild and messy. In other words, Elizabeth does not reflect a figure of an honored lady.

The last form of oppression is violence. One morning after Bingley and Jane are engaged, Lady Catherine and her dojos (escorts) come to Bennet's family (Smith, Ch.56 p.184). When she talks to Elizabeth, she considers Elizabeth as unfeeling and selfish that insistantly keep on having relationship to Mr. Darcy. Because Elizabeth refuses her suggestion to stay away from Mr. Darcy, she tries to kill Elizabeth. She and her dojos attacks Elizabeth one after the others. Elizabeth cannot avoid some attacks. Fortunately, she can beat them all because of Elizabeth's excellent competence in martial art. Acording to Young (2009, p. 57), violence is intended to humiliate, damage, or destroy person. The violence revealed in the novel belongs to ruling class repression. It is used as a tool to keep certain group oppressed and, in this novel, it is used to show Lady Catherine's power over Elizabeth.

Thus, some forms of gender oppression in both novels are found as the result of power operation of gender oppression. The main character of *The Devil Wears Prada* suffers from exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness and cultural imperialism. However no violence oppression is found in the novel. Meanwhile, in *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, the five forms of oppression are revealed in the novel. They are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism, and violence.

Women Liberation in The Devil Wears Prada and Pride and Prejudice and Zombies

Based on the eight elements of women liberation, it is found that the following elements of women liberation are revealed in both novels, they are presented in the following table.

No	Elements of Women	The Devil Wears	Pride and Prejudice
	Liberation	Prada	and Zombies
1	When women questions appear as the response to capitalist system, the questions can be answered by the fallen of capitalism itself.	Andrea wants to find out the way to start her career and be independent from her parents' financial support.	sisters try to find out the way to survive from zombies' attack
2	Women join economic production (that is, waged labor outside the household) in order to gain material base for their economic independence and emancipation.	6	Elizabeth goes out of her home to master Chinese martial art and look for wealthy man to marry.
3	There is no limitation between male and female workers as capitalism has eliminated the differences.	with other male friends	work together as warriors that fight

No	Elements of Women Liberation	The Devil Wears Prada	Pride and Prejudice and Zombies
4	Women as women may be oppressed or subordinated but they are not exploited in the same way as male workers are exploited. They can fight this exploitation together with men in the struggle for change of production relations (class struggle).	This element is not completely revealed in the story. Andrea and her male companions actually hate the way Miranda dominate her female workers though at the end of the story, Andrea should liberate herself individually from capitalism, in general, and the exploitation of Miranda without any help from her male companions.	Darcy, Mr. Gardiner, and colonel Fitzwilliam are Elizabeth's male companions in struggling against Lady Catherine.
5	Struggle against their specific oppression is important as women has to get on ideological <i>plane</i> (through legal action, education propaganda, exhortation, and persuasion.	Andrea persuades Emily to learn that actually Miranda has exploited them. Andrea quits working as Miranda's personal assistance.	Elizabeth persuades and gives exhortation to Jane to learn that Bingley and Darcy are not good guys. Elizabeth refuses Darcy proposal. Elizabeth fights against Lady Catherine in order to show her class struggle.
6	Women should unite in order to liberate themselves so that their struggle will be strong. If the struggle is done personally, it will only overcome certain problems relevant to the person.	own problem in the workplace since she liberates herself individually from the	against Lady Catherine's
7	After the revolutionary change, women can participate not only in wage labor, but also in political activity.	Loretta, they are good	reconciliate with his

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No	Elements of Women	The Devil Wears	Pride and Prejudice
	Liberation	Prada	and Zombies
8	On the level of man- woman or employer- employee relations true equality or democracy has to be achieved. This is	Andrea and Loretta work together as employee and employer in harmonious	

CONCLUSSION

Obviously, power, gender oppression, and women liberation are aspects that relate one another. They can be found almost in any kind of social relations; in the family, workplace, government, society, and culture. The novels represent moral values about what actually power is exercised and how it should be exercised in daily life in order to reduce the impact of gender and social asymmetry. When someone has authority or power, it does not mean that he/she is able to treat others as they like. They have to consider the impact of the decision they take. They also have to consider other values like politeness, humanity, and cooperation with others in order to maintain good relationship for the sake of everyone's goodness. In short, people who have wealthy and authority should consider the moral value of humanity when they will take any decision and action, so that the conflicts between class and gender can be avoided.

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