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## Cultural and Historical Aspects as the Reason for the Presence of German Terms in the Romanian Vocabulary

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### Abstract

Timisoara is considered the informal capital city of the historical region of Banat. It is the main social, economic and cultural centre in the western part of Romania. During the Industrial Revolution, numerous modern innovations were introduced. It was the first city with street lighting, and the first city in mainland Europe illuminated by electric light. The present investigation is a contribution to the problem of the Romanian technical vocabulary, which took along the time some German words with. A special emphasis is placed on the technical and scientific applications. During my study of the technical language and its terminology I became aware of Termini German origin. Many questions were raised and the interest to find answers grew. Thus came the impulse to bring together the words of German origin, set up a glossary and to analyze them in detail.

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### 1. Overview

When the Habsburgs conquered the Banat in 1716 it was a swampy, depopulated waste land. Under the Habsburgs the Banat was administratively established as property of the Crown. Among the various ethnic groups which the Austrian Crown recruited to settle in the Banat were Germans who came largely from the Upper Rhine Basin. This settlement period extended from 1722 to 1787. In order to avoid ethnic conflicts and simplify language differences the Habsburg authorities, tended to settle the various ethnic groups separately each in their own villages. At a staggering cost in lives, these German colonists built the villages and roads, drained the swamps and under

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difficult conditions eventually converted the Banat with its rich soils to the most productive agricultural region of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. These German colonists introduced, by the standards of the time, advanced agricultural techniques into a backward SE Europe. When the Banat was recovered from the Turks, the sparse indigenous population of Serbs and Romanians largely existed on a precarious, pastoral, subsistence basis. In the following two centuries the Danube Schwab readily adopted new agricultural techniques, crops and methods as they became available. To a large degree these German settlers were culturally and linguistically isolated in the ethnic mix of Serbs, Hungarians, Romanians, and others found in the Banat. The Banaters possessed a distinctive dialect, a common heritage and the tradition of trekking from the Rhine valley to the marches of the Great Hungarian Plain in SE Europe where Christian faced Islam across a wild borderland. Except for the Banat Military Frontier, Austria turned the administration of the Banat over to Hungary in 1778. Over a period of almost two centuries the cohesive Banaters were able to maintain their language and folkways in spite of increasingly heavy-handed acculturation pressures from the Hungarian Government. By the end of the 19th century the descendants of that German Danube Schwab constituted a sizable minority of the Banat population. The numbers of Banat Germans, with their high birth rate grew, until by the end of the 19th century they found themselves without further farmland for an expanding agrarian population. The Banaters initially followed a hereditary system of primogeniture so that the oldest son inherited the farm and younger sons who wished to farm had to find farms through purchase or marriage. For the land proud agrarian Banaters the possession of farmland carried with it the highest prestige. After the Revolutions of 1849 the system of primogeniture was suspended and estates were divided among all the children. This system resulted in the division of estates so that by 1900 most farms were split up to the point that it was difficult to support a family on the fragmented land.

## 2. Geography and History of the Region

The Banat is now divided between western Romania, northern Yugoslavia (the eastern part of Vojvodina, which is part of Serbia), and eastern Hungary with boundaries as follows: North: Mures River, East: foothills of the Transylvanian Alps, i.e. Transylvania and Wallachia, South: Danube River, West: Tisa River.

As the Greek historian Herodotus observed (Book IV), the area that was later to become the Banat, was toward the end of the sixth century BC inhabited by the Thracian people. Around 400 BC the Celts moved east into the region and by the first century BC, the Romans. By 107 AD they had incorporated the region into the empire as the province of Dacia. The Emperor Trajan created in 106 the town of Tibiscum as a Roman stronghold which became the present-day Timisoara. Dacia was lost to Rome 270-75 during the reign of Marcus Aurelius and was overrun by various tribes of Iazyges, Vandals, Heruli, Gepids und Ostrogoths.

Toward the end of the fourth century, the region was again overrun, this time by the Huns. After their defeat by combined Roman and German forces, the Gepids inhabited the area until the seventh and eighth centuries which saw the arrival of the Avars and Slavs. When the power of the Avars was broken by Charlemagne, the region passed under the control of the Bulgars. Before the end of the ninth century, the Magyars or Hungarians arrived out of the east to conquer the region and hold it until the Turkish conquest in 1552.

Prior to 1526, when the Ottoman Empire defeated Hungary at the battle of Mohacs, there were several Banats (Hungarian *Bánát*). These were districts ruled by an official known as a Ban (a term that has its origin in a Persian word meaning lord or master which was introduced into Europe by the Avars; "Banat" came to mean a frontier province or a district under military governorship) The most common use of the term, though, is The Banat of Timisoara, which, oddly enough, was never administered by a Ban. Ruled by the Ottomans from 1552 until 1716, it was then conquered by the Habsburg armies led by Prince Eugene of Savoy, and officially transferred to Austria by the Treaty of Passarowitz/Pozarevac in 1718.

During the years of Ottoman rule, the area was largely depopulated and had a large proportion of marshland. Count Mercy was appointed governor in 1720 and started the process of turning the Banat into a settled agricultural region. In 1779 the Banat was transferred to Hungarian rule. From 1848 to 1860 the Banat and the Batschka were ruled directly by the crown. From 1860 until 1919 the Banat was formally a part of Hungary.

Between 1722 and 1787, many skilled settlers were recruited from Habsburg domains in the Holy Roman Empire to populate the newly-gained lands. The first settlers came primarily from Swabia, hence the term *Donauschwaben*.

Immigration occurred sporadically after that time and was known as the "Schwabenzug" or "Swabian Migration".

The original Swabian Migration also included French-, Italian-, and Spanish-speaking immigrants. The first two migrations were restricted to Roman Catholics, but the third was also open to Protestants. Emperor Josef II had granted freedom of religion in the Habsburg Empire by that time.

The early immigrants were recruited and given travel stipends and loans for seeds, implements, and tools, and were apportioned houses in master-planned villages. Fields were allotted in farmlands surrounding the villages. Freedom from serfdom, initial exemption from taxes, uncrowned land, startup help, and association with the Habsburgs were the lures for immigration to a frontier region which was beset by border wars, marshland, and illness. To put things in perspective, the Banat was still a frontier region in Europe at the time of the American Revolution.

The immigration of the "Swabians", along with the settlement of the Military Frontier by Serbs recruited for settlement and military service, populated a border region recently won from a perennial foe.

Jacob Steigerwald has written a review of 11 identifiable German ethnic groups in Romania in his book *Tracking Romania's Heterogeneous German Minority from its Origins to the Diaspora* (publication info).

### 3. The German population in Banat

The Danube Swabians are a German population colonised at the end of the 17th and during the 18th c. in various areas of the Kingdom of Hungary, mostly by the Habsburg administration. Their name is the same as that of the inhabitants of Swabia, but they heed from different areas of Germany, especially Rhineland, the Palatinate and indeed Swabia, but also Luxembourg, Lorraine, Alsace, Westphalia, Hesse, East Franconia and Bavaria. To avoid confusion with Swabians ('Schwabens') the term 'Danube Swabians' ('Donauschwaben') has been created and promoted in German, English and other languages. They were settled around and west of Budapest, on both sides of the Danube roughly between Kalocsa and Novi Sad, in the Banat, in Satmar / Szatmár / Sathmar and sparsely in Slavonia and Syrmia. There were three major settlement waves, in the first half of the 18th c., around the middle of the century and towards its end (in the reigns of Charles VI, Maria Theresia and Joseph II). More than a few Danube Swabian communities were founded later, through internal migration. They do not / did not speak a particular dialect (besides Standard German), but were characterised by a very heterogenous mix of dialects from the places of origin, with dialect levelling within individual villages or groupings of villages.

The Banat Swabians were colonised by the Austrian administration during the three major settlement waves. In practice, many settled even beyond the Mures, so outside the Banat proper (in Arad County, especially around Arad itself). A community isolated from the others was colonized at Palota / Neu-Palota, close to Oradea. The language of the Banat Swabian villages was most often a mixture of Rhenish-Franconian ( i.e. from the Palatinate, the Duchy of the Archbishopric of Mainz, the Principalities of the Bishoprics of Worms and Speyer, the Duchy of Lorraine etc. ) and Mosellan (i.e. from the Duchy of the Archbishopric of Trier, the Duchy of Luxembourg etc. ) dialects, sometimes only Rhenish-Franconian. A purely mosellan dialect was spoken in Duestii Noi / Besenova Noua / Neu-Beschenowa, a purely High Alemannic one ('hochalemannisch', from the southern Black Forest, by the Swiss border) in Zadareni / Saderlach. Occasionally French speakers (called 'Frenchmen') were also brought, usually from the northern Duchy of Lorraine: in 1839 the authorities still noted as Francophone in today's Romanian Banat the villages Tomnatic / Triebswetter, Comlosu Mic / Ostern and (partially) Alunis / Traunau. It seems that even more occasionally Italians and Spaniards reached the Banat. The Danube Swabian colonization was part of a Habsburg effort towards a re-Catholicisation of Hungary, as they were Catholics (see the Latin Catholic Bishopric of Timisoara / Temeswar) from Catholic (but usually not Habsburg) territories in Germany. In the so-called 'Josephine wave' the migration of some Lutherans was nevertheless also accepted and they often founded their own separate villages (e.g. Liebling or Sendlac / Sendlak). Due to their block settlement in a region laid waste to a great extent during the Austro-Ottoman Wars, they were able to resist the Magyarisation policies of the Dual Monarchy period

(including through the Catholic Church, then official), but were divided after 1919-1920 by the new Romanian-Yugoslav border. After the Second World War they were subjected to severely repressive measures as punishment for their massive collaboration with the Nazi regime (especially in the Waffen-SS) and involvement in the anti-partisan war in Serbia. Towards the end of the 1940s they were practically completely expelled from Yugoslavia to

Germany, but continued to populate extensively their villages in Romania. Here the decline arose through voluntary emigration and started in the second part of the Communist period, becoming a huge hemorrhage in 1990. Their numbers today are very small and dwindling.

The Satmar Swabians were also colonized in the 18th c., but privately, usually on the estates of the noble family Károlyi. They were settled not only in Satmar / Sathmar proper (i.e. the Hungarian county Satmar / Szatmár / Sathmar), but also in Salaj (Hodod / Kriegsdorf, Hurezu Mare / Nanten, Santau / Ackerfeld). Their area of origin is Upper Swabia (especially today's Ravensburg and Biberach districts in the state of Baden-Württemberg). Catholics were generally brought (see Latin Catholic Bishopric of Satmar / Sathmar / Szatmárnémeti), but at least two Lutheran communities were also founded (Gerausa / Ringeln and Hodod / Kriegsdorf, the latter settled by the counts Wesselényi with inhabitants of Baden and Swiss). The Satmar Swabians were colonized in a region where there was still a numerous Hungarian and Romanian population (they often settled down in pre-existing villages), unlike the Banat Swabians, which exposed to the Magyarisation policies of the Dual Monarchy period. After 1919-1920 they found themselves within the borders of the Romania, except two villages that remained in Hungary, but Magyarisation continued (especially through Church), so much so that there are nowadays very few Satmar Swabians who still speak German. This on the other hand has made their emigration to Germany after 1989 impossible, something that, together with the preservation (at least for some of them) of a German historical identity, makes them the most numerous German population in Romania. Their numbers are hard to weigh because of identity ambiguities and census subjectivity (censuses in the Dual Monarchy and Communist periods have underestimated the German dimension, the one in 1930 and especially the one in 1992 have overestimated it). <http://www.kia.hu/konyvtar>, <http://www.kulturraum-banat.de/>

#### 4. German influence in the Romanian vocabulary

The present investigation is a contribution to the problem of the Romanian technical vocabulary, which took along the time some German words with. A special emphasis is placed on the technical and scientific applications. During my study of the technical language and its terminology I became aware of termini German origin. Many questions were raised and the interest to find answers grew. So the impulse has come to bring together the words of German origin, set up a glossary and to analyze them in detail. The Romanian language has, like other Romanic languages for example French, Italian and Spanish it's origin in the spoken Latin. Therefore it belongs to the Italian group of East Romanic tongues. Among the Romanic languages, it takes a special position, it is considered the most interesting historical linguistics idiom, because its vocabulary has like no other Romanic vocabulary elements of foreign languages and cultures incorporated, and therefore testifies the diversity of cultural encounters in Romania.

Statements about the Latin heritage of the Romanian language were found in the 16 Century. Written evidence was taken much earlier true. Between the 14th and 16 Century, during the confrontation with the Ottoman Empire, Western Europe, Eastern people are taken for general knowledge. The defenders of the West Roman discover their ancestry and find reliable allies. Their neo-Latin language is to guarantee their Christian occidental mind and stands for loyalty. In the 15th Century, it is primarily the Catholic Hungary, who comments about the Romanic emerge.

The peoples who were conquered by the Romans, and those who have exercised power after the Romans in Romania, the Romanic structure of the Latin language could not change, but it have left its mark on the character of this language by numerous influences. Over a nearly 2000-year contact with other cultures, this was the Romanian contact with the Latin culture. From historical point of view the Romanian language is considered to be the most interesting of the Romanic languages. Its morphological basis is purely Romanic. The vocabulary has the highest frequency in the vernacular. Among the 500 most common words of the Romanian language there are only seven Slavic elements, less than 1%. However, taking the total vocabulary according to different estimates of counting the Latin inheritance is just over a quarter of the total vocabulary; to take further 38% loanwords from French. Because of the frequent use of Latin words is in some specific texts the Romanic percentage over 80%. For special types of texts (such as current affairs) in which the neo-Romanic proportion is particularly high, the total Romanic account is for well over 90%. It is essential to note that the Roman vocabulary is the non-active and productive part of the overall vocabulary and have not changed its Romanic structure of the Romanian loanwords (Ivanescu: 1980:23-29).

Since the end of the 6th century Slavic loanwords penetrate into the Romanian and enrich their vocabulary. The Slav - numerically by far the largest homogeneous group of loanwords - has given the Romanian additional

individuality compared to the other Romanic languages.

Although Slavic vocabulary is found in all areas of human life, the largest proportion of loanwords refers to agriculture, tilling the land and the Old Bulgarian social structure with their religious organization. For the Romanian Old Church played the Slavonic in the middle of the 19th century an important role. Many other languages have left their mark in Romanian. In addition to the Greek and Modern Greek influence that extended into the 18th century it was the linguistic contact under the Turkish rule, which left traces. Turkish loanwords originate mainly from the household affairs, trade, from the area of the kitchen and the military and political events. (Ivanescu: 1980:420-435)

For a greater extension of the population, German settlers were called into the country and the German administration language exerted their influence under the rule of the Habsburg Empire. Immigrants were encouraged to settle in the Banat by the Austrian emperors in the 18th century to repopulate a frontier province bordering the Turkish Empire, and to add ethnic European Christians to the population of the newly regained region. The Germans were offered free land and the privilege of keeping their language and religion. The Crown was seeking Roman Catholic immigrants, like the Italian and the Spanish colonists who had come in this region too. Most of the German settlers came from Alsace-Lorraine, Austria, Bavaria etc. A small group can be traced to Middle Germany. However, comparatively few came from the Swabian regions of what was then known as Further Austria. It is unclear how the group came to be called the Banat Swabians, but it is probably because of the majority registered and embarked from the Swabian city of Ulm. They were transported on the Ulmer Schachteln (barges) down the Danube to Budapest or Belgrade, whence they set off on foot for their new homes.

The colonists were generally the younger sons of poor farming families, who saw little chance of success at home. Under Maria Theresa, they received financial support and long-term tax relief. Many of the earliest immigrants never married, since few German women traveled among them. Craftsmen were financially encouraged, as were teachers, doctors, and other professionals. Over the decades and more, the spoken German language by these colonists became separate from that one developing in Germany, particularly after its unification. It became known as Danube-Swabian, an archaic form of the language.

Those who came from the French speaking language or linguistically mixed communes in Lorraine, maintained the French language (labeled Banat French or Française du Banat), as well as a separate ethnic identity for several generations.

In one part of Romania a number of German loanwords, invaded the Romanian language. The total number is now relatively insignificant (about 2%), although the individual loanwords could be seen by attentive observers. According to the newly-mediated activities of immigrants, German loanwords concentrated mainly on different crafts, engineering and other related technical language areas.

The problem of German loanwords presented a great interest for many linguists, leading to the appearance of numerous scientific works, which form today the basis of new research. The first who wrote about the influence of the Saxon on the Romanian language was S. Mindrescu, *Influența germană asupra limbii române*, Iasi, 1904. He was referring not only to Saxon loanwords, but on the German language generally (Ivanescu: 1980:435-436).

The loanwords, came from the newly-mediated activities of immigrants from various craft, or technical areas, and were focused on technical language areas that were characteristic of various social stages. Depending on the introduction of various technologies in specific subject areas are to be found foreign-language elements. For example, many terms are borrowed from unknown departments, as the technology became prevalent and there was need for a new terminology for the Romanians. When they were working in this field, the corresponding vocabulary came up with. More about this subject can be found in Johannes Thiele *Zum deutschen Lehngut im Wortschatz der rumänischen polygraphischen Industrie*, 1964 (Ivanescu: 1980:673).

Later, the Romanian vocabulary has been enriched with the terminology of mechanics, mechanical engineering and manufacturing technology so that the terminology was developed in this field. Recently became the terminology of construction very familiar.

The Romanian terminology has arisen in the wake of the emergence and spread of different disciplines. Because of the historical development described above, the lexical resources have been largely taken from the Latin and combined with concepts from different areas, such as the technical language of the craft, art, science and civil engineering needed. In addition, many terminological words from the common language are to be found. It serves

for a better understanding of specific objects and situations among the working people in the department, and in a relatively large degree by the non-specialist users of different areas. In the technical language area, there is a high proportion of various means of technical terms. The imprint of all new words is impossible by rote learning. Knowledge of the word formation processes is therefore very useful for decoding the meaning of new words in this context.

As a result of the technical progress and the development of various sectors of activity, the Romanian jargon is a continuous subject for the development process. The existing termini were partially absorbed unchanged or adapted to the Romanian spelling, phonetics and they were always appropriate creates of new terms to designate the individual contents and appearances. As already mentioned, the Romanian terminology contains many terminologies from the common language, words that were taken from the common language to describe an often similar phenomenon in the jargon. Such terms exist then in both language versions and can be used by speakers of both sites and as they don't differ graphically and phonetically, but merely semantic, they can theoretically be distinguished, depending on the situation. This phenomenon encounter many of the terms that are used due to the mechanization and media influence, as well as the film industry uses common language. Specific language isn't used only at work, but also in private conversation among friends, relatives and acquaintances or in the public domain under workers from other departments.

Since the technical languages are of great importance in modern science, they play an important role in the existence of many areas; I decided to deal with this issue more extensively.

Words like "technology revolution", "international cooperation", "multi-national corporations" and "knowledge transfer" draw the attention of society towards internationalization. Today's society got advanced information. Words like globalization, communication and trade on international markets in Europe come worldwide to the forefront. A solution to overcome language and cultural barriers is required. To understand and to make them understood, to communicate means that people are eager to share the same vocabulary to use the same language as an instrument. Understanding of technical texts means capture the relationships between the technical languages and understand their meaning, so acquire knowledge and thereby achieve a higher level of technical skill. That science and technology has experienced in recent years a huge upswing is for nobody a novelty. A related subject to this is that communication has been allocated an important role. The human knowledge has been increased in all areas, so that the number of technical terms also extended. Thus, it becomes increasingly difficult for nonscientists to understand these words. However, communication problems also appear among experts from different disciplines or even within the same subject area. Everything what is missing needs special tools in order to support the reader the understanding of technical texts under the individual conditions in the workplace. It is therefore particularly important to capture new technical terms soon after their formation and to clarify their meaning and make them available to all interested parties. These problems occur in the communication within a single language and got bigger where the parties speak different languages. For this reason, terminologists and translators today is attributed an increasing role. The translation of a technical text is only possible if the translator has the knowledge of the specialized vocabulary, which means its terminology. So the profession of terminologists is about to collect the specialist terminology resources, systematize and process in order to facilitate the task of the translator.

Nevertheless, it is not always possible to take their services. Here I am referring to a certain group, namely those of the craftsmen who along history often put together their own specialized vocabulary and set the tone which is finally accepted and used by other categories. For example technical documentation such as manuals and handbooks are forms of the largest share of technical texts, in which the respective terminology can be found. The German language has brought a great contribution to the development about own forms of expression in the Romanian jargon. Living together means simultaneously to communicate with each other, this is as much as having a common communication system, a common language. So that people can work together, they must communicate through language. Sociologists have for living together the term "community traffic". For the people who live in it, "communication" is essential and that forces almost a common language. Talk alone is not enough, because what has been said often disappears. Maintaining the writing and what moves the time is in the public interest. But the cultural and intellectual interests change over the course of time. In today's language, they have all left their mark. The interest in the earthly world events never really disappears. Sometimes it falls asleep but wakes up again and if that does not happen, it should be roused. The eventful life, the superiority of the technique, the intervention of science in all areas of life, the weight of the administration and the international links have also left their mark from

linguistically point of view and led to new ways.

Around the middle of the 19th century industrialization began in Germany. The industry attracted from the overpopulated rural areas, a working class which developed with great speed. Social relations forced the hermit, to gradually win their rights in industrial society. They demanded their share in public life, and public education. All these events played an important role in language development and in-membered rings of a place in world history. Thus, both in the natural sciences, in engineering and the humanities the German language won universalization. In the 19th century, and even up to the beginning of the First and even the Second World War, the German still had a great importance as an international language of science. Dissertations have been written in many countries very common in German.

The intensification of international economic relations and especially the exchange of goods required a proper understanding, comparable terminology that can be easily translated from one language to another, or can be transferred.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Society of Southeastern Europe experienced a profound change which is not least due to the industrialization process. This change experienced Romania as well as other countries too and got an economic and cultural change. The structure and way of life of the cities is changing. But a century earlier are were already such traces to notice. I would like to refer to this below.

It is known that due to the large wave of immigration, which took place in the 18th century, Swabia populated the Banat region to drive trade and commerce. Craftsmen, mountain and skilled workers were recruited.

They brought highly developed agricultural skills and craft techniques from which the surrounding communities of Romanians, Serbs and Hungarians took advantage over time.

Immigrants bring fresh ideas and knowledge, which promotes the culture, mentality and technical development of the country and enriches it.

## **5. Conclusions**

It seems important to me to point out that the development of the Banat industry did not start from the domestic market but from outside, which is of course reflected in a number of areas in various fields.

The industrialization is encouraged by the policy of the Habsburg Monarchy. Professionals arriving from the Empire, the economy rely on. The local people benefit from it. The Banat Mountains has the advantage of not having to go through the stages of development of the West and Central Europe again. The industrial plants were built on the highest state of the industry at that time. Around the middle of the century the construction of railway lines take a big boost. Because of the establishment of the railway company the Banat Mountains took advantage in southeastern Europe and got a leading position.

It followed a period of large investments and the reorganization of the production by introducing technical innovations. Basis of entrepreneurial activity here are the presence of coal and iron. It is known that the mineral resources of the country and the Banat Mountains have been known since ancient times, during the early Roman rule. Mining in this region achieved a first large-scale recovery. The coal from Steierdorf, Doman and Sekul and the iron from Eisenstein was used and processed in the iron works of Resita, Bokschan, Dognatschka and later Anina. There are different kinds of raw materials produced, such as iron and steel. From these primary products were built railway lines and bridges. In the field of metallurgy we can find a specialized German dictionary, about metal and engineering which still serves as evidence. Specialists from Styria, from Tyrol, Bohemia and Slovakia fundamentally modernized the technologies applied in mining, transportation and metal processing.

The social prestige of modern science, and especially of the natural sciences has grown, confidence in the knowledge and truth value of scientific languages also. Science takes a top position in our society representatives. Industry and business are therefore very interested to exploit this fact.

Increasingly the specialized language becomes the use means of advertising for their products and ideas. In this case, however, the real purpose of the technical language is often ignored. The sense of the jargon is an accurate and fact-based certain object. Your goal must be to accurate information and clear communication of this information. Consumers or potential buyers and voters are often faked a scientifically guaranteed quality of products and programs, but false specialist language terms are misleading.

For technical products we have to come back to the technical vocabulary and understand as much as possible of the new terms for technical achievements, certain manufacturing processes, substances and elements that make the product unsurpassed.

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