



Newsletter: August 2007

Welcome to the LSSA newsletter, we hope you find the information useful.

If you would like to add information to the LSSA newsletter please send the information to Prof Naudé: naudej.hum@ufs.ac.za.

- [Thank you: Jennifer De Beer](#)
- [18th International Congress of Linguists \(CIL 18\)](#)
- [Book Published: General Linguistics: de Saussure](#)
- [Vacancy: Professor \(Department of Applied Language Studies - South Campus\)](#)

Thank you: Jennifer De Beer

We would like to thank Jennifer our previous webmaster for her hardwork and dedication to our previous LSSA webiste. It is with regret that we had to say good bye to her, but work obligations has made it neccessary for Jennifer to say goodbye to us.

We wish you all the best for the future. The LSSA will miss you.

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[Back to Top](#)

18th International Congress of Linguists (CIL 18)

Information received from: Prof Wannie Carstens

LINGUIST List: Vol-18-2459. Wed Aug 22 2007. ISSN: 1068 - 4875.

Full Title: 18th International Congress of Linguists (CIL 18)

Date: 21 Jul 2008 - 26 Jul 2008

Location: Seoul, Korea, South

Contact Person: Ik-Hwan Lee, ihlee@yonsei.ac.kr

Linguistic Field(s): General Linguistics

Call Deadline: 31-Aug-2007

Meeting Description:

18th International Congress of Linguists (CIL 18)
1st Circular (August 15, 2006)

Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea
July 21-26, 2008

Organized by the Linguistic Society of Korea.

Under the auspices of the Permanent International Committee of Linguists (CIPL).

Sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development, Republic of Korea.

Address of the Local Organizing Committee:
c/o Ik-Hwan Lee, College of Liberal Arts, Yonsei University,
Seoul 120-749, Republic of Korea
Tel. +82-2-365-4290, +82-2-2123-2315
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E-mail: ihlee@yonsei.ac.kr

We are pleased to announce that the 18th International Congress of Linguists will be held from July 21 through 26, 2008, at Korea University, Seoul, Korea. Those who are interested in organizing a workshop are invited to apply. You may refer to the following guidelines for organizing workshops.

"CIL18: The 18th International Congress of Linguists"

Dates: 21 - 26 July 2008

Venue: Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Call For Papers

Those who are interested in submitting abstract to the Parallel Sessions, Workshops, and/or General Sessions are invited to apply. You may refer to the following description and directions.

Ik-Hwan Lee, Chai-song Hong
Co-Chairs, CIL18 Organizing Committee
Jong-Yurl Yoon
Chair, CIL18 Program Committee

Important Dates:

- August 31, 2007: Deadline for submitting the abstract.
- November 30, 2007: Notification of acceptance.

Form and submission of abstracts:

An abstract(.pdf or .doc file) should be up to 3 pages long, including data and references. The abstract should start with the title of the paper, followed by the text of the abstract. Please do not include the author's name in the abstract. On a separate page, please give the author's name, affiliation, e-mail address, telephone number, mailing address, the paper title, and the session number

and title. Please send the abstract and the author's information to both cil18@cil18.org and the organizer of your session. For more information, please visit our website(<http://cil18.org>).

Sessions:

I. Parallel Sessions of Designated Topics

- (1) Language, mind and brain
Organizer: Gary Libben (gary.libben@ualberta.ca)
- (2) Information structure
Organizer: Manfred Krifka (krifka@rz.hu-berlin.de) & Caroline Féry(caroline.fery@gmail.com)
- (3) Language policy
Organizer: Bernard Spolsky (bspolsky@gmail.com)
- (4) Intercultural pragmatics, language and society
Organizer: Shoshana Blum-Kulka ([mskcusb@mscc.huji.ac.il](mailto:mस्कusб@mscc.huji.ac.il))
- (5) Historical and comparative linguistics
Organizer: Brian D. Joseph (bjoseph@ling.ohio-state.edu)
- (6) Phonetics and phonology
Organizer: Donca Steriade (steriade@mit.edu)
- (7) Lexical semantics
Organizer: Sebastian Löhnner (loebner@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de)
- (8) Tense, aspect and modality
Organizer: Johan van der Auwera (auwera@chello.be)
- (9) Computational linguistics
Organizer: Hans Uszkoreit (uszkoreit@dfki.de)
- (10) Syntax
Organizer: Farrell Ackerman (ackerman@ling.ucsd.edu)

II. Workshops

- (1) Interface Conditions
Organizer: Anna Maria Di Sciullo (www.interfaceasymmetry.uqam.ca)
- (2) English with Asian Accents: English for Intercultural Communication in Asian Contexts
Organizer: Angel Lin (AngelLin@cuhk.edu.hk)
- (3) Silent Issues in Linguistic Theory
Organizer: Hee-Don Ahn (hdahn@konkuk.ac.kr)
- (4) Speech Sciences in Linguistics: Non-native speech production and perception
Organizers: Hyun-Gi Kim(hyungk@chonbuk.ac.kr) and Sangjoon Kim(malsori@malsori.or.kr)
- (5) Formal Approaches to the Relation of Tense, Aspect and Modality
Organizers: Yukinori Takubo and Stefan Kaufmann
(ytakubo@bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp; kaufmann@northwestern.edu)
- (6) Contrastiveness in Information Structure and/or Scalar Implicatures
Organizers: Chungmin Lee and Ferenc Kiefer
(cleee@snu.ac.kr; kiefer@nytud.hu)
- (7) Language Diversity: From the Perspective of Descriptive Linguistics
Organizer: Kayo Nagai (knagai@tc4.so-net.ne.jp)
- (8) Writing Systems and the Linguistic Structure
Organizer: Sang-Oak Lee (sangoak@snu.ac.kr)
- (9) Current Issues in Linguistic Interfaces
Organizer: Jong-Yurl Yoon (jyyoon@kookmin.ac.kr)
- (10) Language and Gender
Organizers: Hye-Sook Kim, Kathleen Ahrens, & Ik-Hwan Lee

- (hskim@konyang.ac.kr; kathleenahrens@gmail.com)
- (11) Second Language Acquisition and Applied Linguistics
Organizers: Jin-Wan Kim and Jong-Im Han
(jihan@ewha.ac.kr; jinwan@snu.ac.kr)
- (12) Linguistic Studies of Ontology: From Lexical Semantics to Formal Ontologies and Back
Organizer: Chu-Ren Huang (churenhuang@gmail.com)
- (13) Features of Translation Universals
Organizers: Euiyon Cho and Soon-Young Kim (choey@dongguk.edu)
- (14) Endangered Languages
Organizer: Kim Juwon (kjwn@snu.ac.kr)
- (15) Argument Realization in Asian Languages
Organizer: Henry Y. Chang (henryylc@gate.sinica.edu.tw)
- (16) Lexis-Grammar Interface
Organizer: Eric Laporte (eric.laporte@univ-mlv.fr)
- (17) Syntactic Parameters
Organizers: Niina Zhang and Youngjun Jang (lngnz@ccu.edu.tw)
- (18) Interfaces in Phonology
Organizer: Jongho Jun (jongho@snu.ac.kr)
- (19) Languages and Cultures in Contact
Organizers: Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk(blt@uni.lodz.pl) and
Thekla Wiebusch(thekla.wiebusch@hotmail.fr)

III. Sessions of Non-designated Topics (General Sessions)

If we receive abstracts which are not appropriate for any of the Parallel Sessions of designated topics and Workshops, the Organizing Committee will review them and, if accepted, will have 'General Sessions' for them.

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[Back to Top](#)

Book Published: General Linguistics: de Saussure

Information received from: Prof Wannie Caarstens

LINGUIST List: Vol-18-2536. Wed Aug 29 2007. ISSN: 1068 - 4875.

General Linguistics: de Saussure (2006)

This LINGUIST List issue is a review of a book published by one of our supporting publishers, commissioned by our book review editorial staff. We welcome discussion of this book review on the list, and particularly invite the author(s) or editor(s) of this book to join in. To start a discussion of this book, you can use the Discussion form on the LINGUIST List website. For the subject of the discussion, specify "Book Review" and the issue number of this review. If you are interested in reviewing a book for LINGUIST, look for the most recent posting with the subject "Reviews: AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW", and follow the instructions at the top of the message. You can also contact the book review staff directly.

AUTHOR: de Saussure, Ferdinand

TRANSLATORS: Sanders, Carol; Pires, Matthew

TITLE: Writings in General Linguistics

PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press

YEAR: 2006

Mareike Buss, Institute of Linguistics and Communication Studies (ISK), RWTH Aachen University, Germany

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Ferdinand de Saussure is widely considered to be the father of modern linguistics, at least of its structuralist branch. His influence on modern linguistics, however, is not based on his own writings but on the *Course in General Linguistics* (CGL), a posthumous publication of Saussurean ideas based on students' notes. In fact, he never published any of his writings on general linguistic issues. His published oeuvre is limited to two major publications, the so-called 'mémoire' and his PhD thesis, and to a series of short articles concerning questions of 19th century comparative grammar (Saussure 1922). The *Writings in General Linguistics* (WGL) is the first English publication of Ferdinand de Saussure's own writings in general linguistics. WGL is a translation of the French *Écrits de linguistique générale* (ELG) (Saussure 2002) containing Saussurean texts edited and published in French since the 1950s as well as recently discovered autographs. These autographs are generally referred to as "Orangery Manuscripts" because they were found in the orangery of the Saussures' family house in Geneva in 1996.

In this review, I will not primarily focus on the theoretical content of Ferdinand de Saussure's writings and their divergences with regard to the CGL. These issues have been extensively discussed elsewhere (see e.g. Harris 2001, Sanders 2004). Instead, I will give some background information on the publication of ELG/WGL and comment on the edition as well as on the translation.

BACKGROUND ON THE BOOK

As mentioned above, the CGL was not published by Ferdinand de Saussure himself. It was edited and published posthumously by two Genevan colleagues, Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye. They considered Saussure's own writings too fragmentary and not elaborate enough for serving as a textual basis for the compilation of the CGL. Consequently, they mainly relied on the lecture notes Saussure's students had taken during the three courses on general linguistics at the University of Geneva from 1907-1911. The two editors, however, did not only compile and redact the students' notes. In fact, they structured and ordered the chapters of the CGL according to their own ideas, left out important Saussurean formulations and explanations, added their own comments and theoretical ideas - in short: they composed a text that diverged in many respects from the original Saussurean teachings. It was only at the end of the 1950s, after Robert Godel had ordered and classified the Saussurean estate at the public library of Geneva (Godel 1957), that the scientific community began to recognize the massive editorial interventions of Bally and Sechehaye.

From the end of the 1950s to the early 1980s, Saussurean studies mainly concentrated on elucidating the relation between the CGL and Saussure's own writings. Even though the question of the CGL's "authenticity" dominated the scholarly discussions back then, these did not have an exclusively philological focus. Many researchers were fascinated by the intellectual physiognomy that Saussure's own writings revealed and that differed in so many respects from the CGL. Saussure's writings showed a linguist "in search of his object of study", often hesitating and doubting with regard to his theoretical postulates and distinctions, but also adamant and harsh in the critique of certain linguistic positions of his time. All the central theoretical achievements of the CGL, e.g. the distinction of language system (*langue*) and language use (*parole*), synchrony and diachrony, or signifier and signified, are developed and discussed in these writings. However, these concepts are exposed and explained in a completely different way. Whereas they are conceptualized as plain theoretical dichotomies in the CGL, Saussure develops them in his own texts as dialectically structured dualities in which both terms are inextricably intertwined. Hence, these writings do not advocate a structural linguistics with an exclusive focus on the language system but they rather propose a usage-based model

for the study of language. In fact, Saussure's epistemological and methodological claims often remind one of positions developed in hermeneutics and ethnomethodology (Jaeger in press).

CONTENT OF THE BOOK

Being the first English translation of Saussure's writings on general linguistics, WGL not only presents an edition of the Orangerie Manuscripts discovered in Geneva in 1996, but it comprises all texts of thematic relevance that have been published in French since the 1950s. WGL contains the "Notes on general linguistics" published by Rudolf Engler (Saussure 1968, 1974) (ca. 155 pages), the Orangerie Manuscripts (ca. 70 pages), and two shorter texts that were edited by Jean Starobinski (1971) and Aldo Prosdocimi (1983) (2 pages). The notes are organized in four sections: (1) "On the Dual Essence of Language" (pp.3-60) includes only documents of the Orangerie Manuscripts; these documents were partially marked 'On the Dual Essence of Language', 'Dual Essence', etc. by Saussure and found together in a large envelope; (2) "Miscellany and Aphorisms" (pp. 63-82) includes the so-called "Notes item" and aphoristic notes (Engler edition and Orangerie Manuscripts); (3) "Further Reflections on General Linguistics" (pp. 85-197) includes the "Notes on general linguistics" from the Engler edition, five new notes and the two texts edited by Starobinski and Prosdocimi; (4) "Notes for the Course in General Linguistics" (pp. 201-240) includes preparatory notes for some lessons of Saussure's three courses in general linguistics (Engler edition and Orangerie Manuscripts).

The translators of WGL have labeled the two major corpora, the Engler edition and the Orangerie Manuscripts, "Early Notes" and "New Notes", respectively. These labels are somehow misleading because they suggest considerable chronological and theoretical differences between the two corpora. All the manuscripts, however, were written during the same period from the early 1890s to 1912/13 and show clear theoretical parallels and convergences. It is only due to a mere historical contingency that some of the Saussurean manuscripts were given to the public library of Geneva, while others were forgotten in the orangery of the family house of the Saussures' until their rediscovery in 1996.

The volume opens with the French editors' preface (pp. xi-xvii) followed by an introduction by the English translator Carol Sanders (pp. xviii-xxx). While the preface situates the publication of WGL in the context of Saussurean studies, Sanders gives an overview of the discovery and publication of the new notes and outlines Saussure's linguistic ideas in contrast to the CGL. The book also contains a substantial bibliography of works about Saussure from 1970 to 2004 (pp. 241-325), of Saussure's own writings (pp. 325-326), of English translations of these writings (p. 327), and, finally, a comprehensive index nominum and rerum (pp. 329-336).

THE EDITION

The French editors as well as the English translators claim that the newly found Orangerie manuscripts constitute "the substantial outline of a book on general linguistics" (Bouquet/Engler 2006, xvi) or "a draft for the book on the nature of language, or the 'philosophy' of language, to which Saussure had referred." (Sanders 2006, xix). These statements suggest, in other words, that we are dealing with a book on general linguistics, maybe not totally completed and revised, but still a book. Yet, this is not the case, neither for the "New Notes" of the Orangerie Manuscripts nor for the "Early Notes". It is true that many of the Saussurean manuscripts contain metacommunicative comments referring to the reader, pointing to other chapters or paragraphs and even to parts of a book. However, these markers are nothing but clues to a project that Saussure apparently failed to accomplish during his lifetime and that we only find traces and fragments of. So WGL is not the publication of a 'book on general linguistics'. It is a collection of notes, of briefer and longer texts, even of scraps and snippets, all dealing with the same questions of linguistic theory and methodology. Every

potential reader should keep this in mind in order to avoid being disappointed by this extraordinary collection of texts.

In contrast to the German and Italian translations of ELG (Saussure 2003, 2005), WGL faithfully reproduces the French edition. The French editors aimed primarily at enhancing the readability of the widely fragmentary manuscripts and decided to use only a minimum of critical apparatus. On the one hand, this decision may certainly be helpful for many readers as it somehow lowers the first barrier of approaching these texts. On the other hand, the polished surface of the texts may suggest that this is a 'normal text' - which is misleading.

Furthermore, WGL reproduces all editorial errors present in the French edition. To mention just some examples: many of Saussure's metacommunicative comments have been omitted, e.g. p. 6, p. 44, p. 48, p. 50, p. 55; on p. 53 the original order of the paragraphs and the logic of the argumentation in the manuscript have been changed; on p. 86 the manuscript is faultily transcribed, in that a whole phrase is omitted: "starting from philology, that is the study of literature, of texts, and secondarily of languages, [but absolutely not of language (langue) > omitted], ..."; at the end of the first paragraph on p. 201 WGL reads "frontispiece" while the Saussurean manuscripts read "frontière" (= border). These errors could have been easily emended, if the translators had compared the text of ELG with the online diplomatic transcription of the original manuscripts by Rudolf Engler (Saussure 2004) or with the original manuscripts themselves.

Finally, two texts are erroneously classified as belonging to the Orangerie Manuscripts, the "Note on discourse" and "Unde exoriar" (p. 197). Whereas the former was first published by J. Starobinski (1971, p.14), the latter was first edited by A. Prosdocimi (1983, pp. 69-71).

THE TRANSLATION

As far as I can tell (being a non-native speaker), the English translation reads very smoothly while still preserving the tone of the French original. Sanders explains the most important terminological choices of the translation in her introduction (pp. xxvi-xxviii), e.g. the rendering of Saussure's 'langage', 'langue', and 'parole'. Further explanations regarding the translation of certain terms or expressions can be found in footnotes that have been added to the translated text. Still, the translation is not always accurate.

The most salient inaccuracy is the translation of the "Notes Item" as "Miscellaneous Notes". The "Notes Item" are a small set of notes exclusively dedicated to semiology and the semiological foundation of linguistics. They show a peculiar formal feature: All notes begin with the Latin word 'item' (= likewise, moreover). The translation of "Notes Item" as "Miscellaneous Notes" and of the initial "Item" as "Misc." is a very unhappy choice because in the context of Saussurean studies these notes are normally referred to as "Notes Item". The title of these notes being less a title than a proper name, it would have been much better to preserve the internationally well-known "Notes Item".

Minor inaccuracies regarding the translation of Saussurean idiosyncrasies or neologisms such as "intégration ou postméditation-réflexion" which has been translated as "integration or retrospective reflection" (p. 60). Even though the English translation may well convey the sense of the Saussurean neologism, it is impossible for the English reader to relate this term to other passages or texts where Saussure discusses similar phenomena. More annoying is the loose translation of other phrases or passages, for instance the translation of "trésor mental de la langue" as "inner mental store of langue" (p. 64): Here, the well-known Saussurean metaphor of the langue as an "inner treasure" is unrecognizable in the English translation.

All in all, the translation is very readable and may well be used in undergraduate or graduate courses on semiotics or the history of linguistics. The scholarly reader, however, who wishes to do in-depth research, can only use WGL to get a preliminary idea of the Saussurean texts and then absolutely has to fall back on Engler's critical editions (Saussure 1968, 1974, 2004) or on the manuscripts themselves.

EVALUATION

WGL IS the first book that renders accessible Ferdinand de Saussure's writings in general linguistics to a broader audience in the English speaking world. Therefore, it was a very good decision to translate all the writings and not only the Orangerie Manuscripts. Thanks to the economical use of critical apparatus the edited texts are also readable for non-experts in the field. However, as I have pointed out in the previous section, the translation is not always reliable and accurate.

Very useful, especially for non-expert readers, is the supplementary information that the translators Carol Sanders and Matthew Pires have included in the volume: footnotes, an index, and a bibliography. The footnotes contain some textual commentary on the Saussurean writings. Topics range from comments on the translation of single terms or phrases, explanations regarding persons or theoretical terms and questions mentioned by Saussure, to references to parallel passages in the CGL. The index includes all crucial terms and names of persons (only surnames) that are mentioned in the texts. Very interestingly, the translators have also listed all analogies for language, linguistics, and the linguistic sign that Saussure used in his writings to illustrate his conception of language and linguistics.

The bibliography contains works on Saussure in all major languages of the world from 1970 to 2004. Its broad scope is at the same time its strength and its weakness. On the one hand, it is very useful to include such a comprehensive bibliography in a volume that will certainly become a point of reference for Saussurean studies in the English speaking world. On the other hand, it would have been desirable to make explicit the criteria underlying the selection of the included titles. Also, the bibliography shows various formal inconsistencies, e.g. some Japanese or Russian titles are only transliterated, some are transliterated and translated, and others, finally, only translated; in addition, it contains many typos.

On the whole, I consider the present volume a highly valuable publication not only in the context of Saussurean studies but for all linguists and graduate students interested in the history of linguistics, philosophy of language, and semiotics. In a historiographical perspective, WGL will surely permit a critical reevaluation of the Saussurean contribution to modern linguistics in the English speaking scientific community.

In a philosophical perspective, it could be stimulating to confront Saussure's usage-based approach to language and linguistics (see e.g. pp. 44-54), for example, with Ludwig Wittgenstein's linguistic reflections in his "Philosophical Investigations". Their disciplinary and theoretical differences notwithstanding, both discuss similar questions: How are cognition and language related to one another? What is the relation between cognition, language, and world? What is the relation between language and society? What is the role of the individual?

Saussure's methodological and epistemological reflections are another interesting strand of future research. In contrast to the positions known from the CGL, his methodological claims, e.g. with regard to linguistic categories, sometimes even remind one of ethnomethodological positions (see e.g. pp.122-135).

The Saussurean writings are fascinating documents of the history of linguistics. Although sometimes not completely satisfying because of their fragmentary status, they captivate

the reader through their intellectual brilliance as well as through their continuous doubts: "Should we reveal our true thoughts? It may be feared that a precise view of what 'langue' is will lead to doubts about the future of linguistics. It is a science in which the difficulty of obtaining a rationally defined object, and the importance of the object, are disproportionate" (p. 59).

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ABOUT THE REVIEWER

Mareike Buss is working as a researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Linguistics and Communication Studies (ISK), RWTH Aachen University, Germany. She is currently

finishing her PhD thesis about 'iteration' as the central semiotic mechanism governing the interaction of language system and language use. Her research is concerned with usage-based models of language, functional theories of grammar, metaphorology and semiotics as well as the historiography of (modern) linguistics. She has co-edited and co-translated the German edition of the Saussurean Orangerie Manuscripts.

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[Back to Top](#)

Vacancy: Professor (Department of Applied Language Studies - South Campus)

Applications are invited for the following post(s):
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (Port Elizabeth, George, SA)
Faculty of Arts
Department of Applied Language Studies - South Campus
Professor (Ref.4067)

Core

purpose:

The purpose of this post is to create, develop, facilitate, disseminate and set standards of knowledge in order to address current and future needs of internal and external stakeholders.

Key performance areas:

- To provide academic leadership to staff and students of the department
- To facilitate learning and teaching processes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- To conduct, publish and promote research
- To supervise and facilitate academic engagement
- To perform relevant administrative tasks.

Core competencies:

- Expert knowledge in the field of linguistics, in addition to expertise in more than one area of applied linguistics, such as sociolinguistics, language teaching, lexicography, etc
- Particular competence in the theory and practice of translation, linked to multilingual proficiency, with a view to the teaching of translation
- Extensive experience of facilitating learning in the fields of linguistics and applied linguistics at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels.
- Capability in the creation of knowledge, as evidenced by a substantial record of high quality research publications in the relevant field, both nationally and internationally
- Strong experience in the successful supervision of master's and doctoral candidates in the required field.
- Strong people management skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Knowledge of HE policies and procedures.

In order to be considered for appointment to this post, candidates must possess a relevant doctorate with extensive experience in the field of linguistics and applied linguistics, and at least 3-5 years in an academic leadership position. Applications for the above post close at 17:00 on 7 September 2007.

Prescribed application forms are obtainable from the Human Resources Department and must be accompanied by a covering letter stating how applicants meet the selection criteria. Applications must be submitted electronically to Ms Phyllis Redcliffe at hrads@nmmu.ac.za or posted to The Human Resources Department, PO Box 77000; Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, 6031. Tel: +27 (0)41 504 2129. NMMU reserves the right not to make an appointment.

NMMU is committed to diversifying its staff profile in terms of its transformation agenda and encourages candidates from previously disadvantaged backgrounds to apply. NMMU will respond to all short listed candidates. Candidates who have not been contacted within six weeks of the closing date can assume that their applications have been unsuccessful.

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[Back to Top](#)