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Active and Passive Voice in the Translation of Political Texts

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

{..وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَإِلَيْهِ أُنِيبُ }

صدق الله العليّ العظيم

[هود من الآية:88]

To My Family

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Chapter one

Introduction

1.1 Problem

Voice behavior varies among languages. English prefer to use the passive voice, but this does not mean that it doesn't use the active at all. And Arabic prefer to use the active , but this does not mean that it doesn't use the passive (خلوصي, 1982: 117). Instead, it suggests that there is some kind of preference in use.

The present study tries to answer the following questions:

- 1-What is the definition the voice?
- 2-What are the types of voice?
- 3-What is the difference between the active and passive?
- 4- How can we use active and passive voice translation in political texts?

1.2 The Aims

The present study aims at :

- 1- Finding out the meaning of the voice .
- 2- Detecting the types of voice.
- 3- Differentiating between active and passive voice.
- 4- Checking the use of active and passive voice in the translation of political texts

1.3 The Hypotheses

In terms of the aims above, it is hypothesized that:

- 1-There are two types of voice
 - a-Active voice
 - b-Passive voice
- 2-There is a difference between active and passive voice.

3- Active and passive voice are used in the translation of political texts.

1.4 The Procedures

The present study will follow the following steps:

- 1-Review the theses related to active and passive voice.
- 2-Focusing on the use active and passive voice in the translation of political texts .
- 3-Presenting conclusions based on the hypotheses being presented.

1.5 The Limits

This paper is limited to the study of active and passive voice in the translation of political texts .

1.6 Value

The present study is of theoretical significance as it enables those interested in the English language ,especially those working in the field of translation how to use active and passive voice in the translation of political texts .

Chapter Two

2.1_ what is the voice?

Many theories have examined grammatical categories and aspects in language. Voice is one of these things that was and is currently in scope. Voice is the category responsible for connecting sentences' lexical parts.

Trask (2008, p.299) ,defines it as “the grammatical category expressing the relationship between, on the one hand, the participant roles of the NP argument of a verb and, on the other hand, the grammatical relations born by those same NPs”These connections relate to a clause's action, its doer, and its recipient. Additionally, it links these components to create a comprehensive picture of the actions, which aids in understanding the narrator's account of the incidents.

Kies (1995:120), states that" voice system allows the speakers to view the action of the sentence in different ways without changing the fact involved.

2.2 _The types of voice

Quirk et al. (1985: 159) define Voice is "agrammatical category which makes it possible to view the active of a sentence in either two ways, without change in the fact reported. ".These two approaches, which can be switched between in certain circumstances and contexts, are either active or passive forms. The verb phrase and the clause are the two grammatical levels that make up the active-passive relation. Lyons,(1968:376) states that" the active signifies an" action" whereas the passive signifies a "state". The changes between the two voices is that the passive add a form of the auxiliary "be" and the past participle to the verb phrase.While at the clause level, two clause elements must be arranged for active to become passive.

Quirk, et.al(1995:159), state that "transformation of a sentence from active into the passive could be expressed by the Following forms:

Active voice: noun phrase 1+ active phrase + noun phrase 2

1. The men respected her.

Passive voice: noun phrase 2+ passive verb phrase + by noun phrase 1.

2. She is respected by the men

2.2.1 _Passive voice

2.2.1.a- Definitions of Passive voice in English

The passive voice is verbs of this type, which have an agent (object) that may or may not be stated in the phrase and which affects the subject. This indicates that the subject is being affected and that the action itself rather than its performer is the main point of attention. The thematic relationships between the lexical elements change as a result of passive verbs. For examples:

1. The room was cleaned by Tom.
2. The window was broken.

Stein(1979:26), summarizes the narrow, historical view of passives as this conventional description of the passive involving an auxiliary and past participle is of little use cross-linguistically as many languages express the passive without an auxiliary. Verbal combinations consisting of a verb and an obligatory past participle that functions as a verb in a sentence and cannot be replaced by one word form in the present and past tense or by a corresponding coordinated active verb phrase.

Indeed, as Croft,(2001:76) states that" Passive can happen even when the verb isn't explicitly used.Croft,(2001:76) argues that " When no recognizable subject is performing the act, the passive voice is employed to express this. It is a kind of phantom form of the verb that causes things to happen even when there is no obvious cause.

According to Perlmutter and Postal (1974:76), the concept of the passive should take into account the shifting grammatical relationships between the subjects, direct objects, and indirect objects. Their definition appears simple: the active subject ceases to bear any grammatical relation to its verb, and the direct object becomes the subject.

2.2.1.b- Definitions of Passive voice in Aravoic

According to Hinds (1987:3), "The name Arabic refers to a genetically related set of languages spoken now mostly in the Middle East and North Africa." The Arabic dialects collectively refer to these languages. The phrase is also used to refer to Modern Standard Arabic, the official tongue in all of these places (MSA).

Husain (2002:19) claims that Arabic verbs can represent the active or passive voice. The passive voice is one of the rich and varied systems found in Semitic languages, which include Arabic. Passive verbs are used in Arabic to accomplish a variety of duties and purposes.

In the beginning, they are employed to exalt God. The Holy Qur'an's inclusion of Allah in only a few number of verses serves as an example of this. In addition, we use these verbs to hide the agent when we lack guts and are afraid of doing so. Thirdly, they serve to keep sentences short and to the point. By changing the first letter's vowel to admamah **ضمه** and the second-to-last letter's vowel to kasra. **كسره**, the pattern for the passive voice of the past tense is created from the active one. For examples

1_ سُرِّقَتِ السَّيَّارَةُ

The car was stolen

2_ قُتِلَ الْأَسَدُ

The lion was killed

Al- Hmash (1976:312). There are numerous ways to define the passive voice:

- a. The action or verb put into that form of which the agent is the subject.

Ibn Khalawayh (1941:190).

- b. " the action of which the agent is unknown" ., B. B. Al-Ssywti (1975:268)

- c. The passive voice is a verb that has been "moulded or molded" into a passive participle , Ibn-Alsarraj (1965:76).

- d. The passive is the doing or being done of that for which the agent has not been named , D. Alkhalil (1985:118).

2.2.2_ Active voice

2.2.2.a Definitions of Active voice in English

Active voice is considered to be a norm in the English language. Huddleston (1984, p. 438) defined the active voice as an unmarked voice. Unmarkedness is described as "a declarative sentence in which theme, subject, and actor are merged into single element", by Halliday (2004, p. 58). The subject, verb, and object or subject complement make up the active voice sentence structure. The grammatical subject, which might be a noun phrase or a nominal clause, is positioned in the first position of the sentence. The grammatical subject performs the action denoted by the verb.

The subject is followed by the verb that can be intransitive, transitive and intensive. The direct and indirect objects, or the subject complement, make up the final clause of the sentence. The adverbial phrase is the sentence's final component.

(Quirk et al., 1984, p. 348-349) To illustrate the distribution of clause elements in the sentence from the syntactic point of view, an example is to follow:

She (S) gave (V) me (iO) an expensive present (dO) last week (Adv).

1. The students are learning English.
2. My father is washing the car.

2.2.2.b Definitions of Active voice in Arabic

The voice that expresses or actually does the action's agent clearly is said to have an active voice. It is preferred for presenters to use a direct, and clear. Freeborn (1995, p. 175) describes it In Arabic, it has this pattern: Verb (action) + Agent (doer) + Recipient (object). For examples

1. يشرح الأستاذ الدرس.
2. سرق اللص السيارة.

Both languages convey the same meaning; the emphasis is on an agent who performs the action. The difference between the two languages' active voices has to do with order. The easy and explicit flow of meaning that the active form creates for readers is another reason for the desire to use it in Arabic and English.

According to Joshi (2014), writing in the active voice is vivid and effortless, which makes understanding a clause written in the active voice easier and more approachable than the identical clause written in the passive form.

2.3 The difference between Active voice and Passive voice

1. The active voice is used when the subject of the phrase executes or completes the activity. On the other hand, the passive voice is used when the subject of a sentence receives the action.
2. A sentence written in the active voice has a subject that acts on the verb, whereas a sentence written in the passive voice has the verb acting on the subject.
3. As the actor is the topic and is in charge of the relevant activity, it is stated in the active voice since they are one and the same. In contrast, the actor appears at the conclusion, denoted by the preposition "by," in a passive voice, the object or person on which the action occurs appears at the beginning.
4. While passive voice emphasizes the result and can make your writing sound neutral in tone, active voice is more direct, making it ideal for a variety of writing styles.
5. Passive voice tends to be more wordy, making it harder to understand, so active voice is typically easier to understand. While the active voice makes sentences easier to read, especially for non-native English speakers, the passive voice can be used to make a sentence more polite or indirect.

2.4 Active and passive voice in the translation .

The translation of the passive form from the English language into the passive form in the Arabic language came second in terms of frequency. viz. 24.24% of the presentations were marked by passivation. Fourth place went to the frequency of converting English passives into Arabic actives, with 17.17% of the renderings showing actives. The amount of this technique used by Arabic-to-English translators is overstated in the current literature.

Chapter Three

Data Description ,Collection and Analysis

A qualitative descriptive approach to data collection and analysis is used in this research paper . The data are taken from journals because They are written in English and Arabic Language. The articles in this critical analysis of passive voice are selected from The Wall Street Journal. The article covers the issue of American airstrikes against the Syrian regime in 2019, which killed women and children .

3.2 Data Analysis

1.*Many said that any candidate should be allowed to request election Reviews as many times as they want".*

قال كثيرون إنه ينبغي السماح ألي مرشح بطلب مراجعة أالانتخابات بقدر ما يريد..

In this text, the passive phrase "should be allowed" expresses the notion of mild necessity. In other words, it is the reporter's opinion or somebody else's about the necessity for secretary of state candidates To request election reviews.

2."*The election results could continuously be called into question With no end in sight".*

ويمكن التشكيك في نتائج الانتخابات باستمرار دون أن تلوح نهاية في الأفق

In this example, the passive with modals is used" could continuously be called into". The writer uses the modal could be with the passive form to express the possibility of election fraud. The writer attempts to express his opinion about interference in the election. In other words, the writer tries to change voters' minds about the validity of the election by using the passive construction "could be called into question".

3.*Trump's false election-fraud claims were underpinned by citing the Changes to how people voted in 2020.*

تم دعم مزاعم ترامب الكاذبة بشأن تزوير الانتخابات من خلال الاستشهاد بالتغييرات التي طرأت على كيفية تصويت الناس في عام 2020

In this example, the writer uses the passive form because he wants to focus the reader's attention on the action rather than the performer of the action.

4. *U.S. strike in Syria that killed dozens of people, including women and children, but that wasn't publicly acknowledged by the military until this year.*

الضربة الأمريكية في سوريا التي قتلت عشرات الأشخاص ، بمن فيهم النساء والأطفال ، لكن الجيش لم يعترف بذلك علنًا حتى هذا العام.

In this sentence, the writer uses the passive phrase "wasn't publicly acknowledged" alongside by phrase to highlight the doer of the action. the writer wants to communicate the notion that despite the military's killing dozens of women and children, there was no public acknowledgement of the event until this year. In this quote, the emphasis is on the military as the body responsible for the action

5. *Government agencies in Mexico are believed to have been among NSO's early customers.*

يُعتقد أن الوكالات الحكومية في المكسيك كانت من بين عملاء NSO الأوائل

The passive construction "are believed" is used in this sentence because the writer highlights the action rather than the causer of the action. The passive implies that it is unimportant to know " who believes"; the importance is knowing the names of the countries benefitting from this technology.

6. *The Israeli government is outraged about this, possibly because of revelations that phones of Palestinian human rights defenders have been "Pegasused".*

الحكومة الإسرائيلية غاضبة من هذا الأمر ، ربما بسبب الكشف عن هواتف المدافعين الفلسطينيين عن حقوق الإنسان " Pegasused "

The passive construction in this sentence "have been "Pegasused" is used to focus the reader's attention on the action, spying on palestinian activists. In addition, the passive voice is also used because the perpetrator is Israel. The following text is from article was selected from The Guardian ,discussing the new amendments to the laws of protest in Britain.

7. *And those governments – it can be assumed – make predictably heinous uses of it.*

وتلك الحكومات – يمكن الافتراض – تقوم باستخدامات بشعة يمكن التنبؤ بها.

The passive expression "it can be assumed" is used because the writer thinks unveiling the identity of the "assumer" is not of paramount importance or because the writer does not want to assign any responsibility to the assumer.

Chapter Four

Conclusion

The lexical components of sentences are joined together by the category of voice. These links concern the action, the doer, and the recipient of a clause.

There are two types of voice, being either active or passive. The passive voice is used to express actions when there is no discernible subject involved. Active voice is topic, subject, and actor are combined into a single element in a declarative statement.

There are many difference between active and passive voice. In contrast to passive sentences, which have the verb acting on the subject, active sentences have a subject that acts on the verb.. Passive voice, the object or person on which the action occurs appears at beginning, while the actor, indicated by the preposition "by," appears at the conclusion.

Thus, the passive voice is not used aimlessly in political reports, But, rather, journalists use it to serve several purposes such as focusing On one part of the discourse and ignoring another or avoiding Assigning responsibility to anybody.

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