of the sentence. The change in voice is used to give thematic and prominence to the agent or the goal. Most of the constraints on voice transformation are true of both Arabic and English, e.g. intransitive verbs and coreference block passivization.

However, the two languages differ in essential points. English passivization of the verb is mainly a syntactic process. Arabic passivization of The verb is morphological. Arabic usually allows only one type of the passive voice, agentless; English permits both the agent and the agentless type. thematization often involves passivization in English; in Arabic, this is not the case; thematization is often realized without passivization owing to the relative flexibility of the Arabic word order.

These similarities and differences have practical implications for those who are concerned with the two languages, including teachers, translators, and linguists.

Bibliography

Bubenik vit. 1979. *Thematization and Passivization in Arabic* Memorial university of New fondland, Canada.

Halliday, M.A.K. 1985. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar*. London.

Huddleston, Rodney Desmond. 1971. the Essence in Written *English: a syntactic study based on analysis of scientific texts*. Cambridge.

Johnson, D.D.1967. *Modern Arabic short stories* London.

Palmer, F.R. 1979. *Semantics* Cambridge university press.

Quirk, R., Green baum,S., Leech,G.,and Svartivk, J.(1972).*A Grammar of Contemporary English*. London and New york.

Quirk, R.S. Greenbam, G. Leech and J Svarkvik. 1985. *A comprehensive Grammar of English Language*, London and New york: Longman.

Wright, w. 1972, *A Grammar of The Arabic Language*. London.

مصدر باللغة العربية

نجيب محفوظ : دنيا الله / مجموعة قصص قصيرة / ١٩٦٣ دار مصر للطباعة .

of it save an antiquated facade :
and a courtyard which, despite ;
it being supposedly in the :
charge of a caretaker, *was being* :
used as a rubbish dump. :

55- *I've been told* that sheikh : قلت له : «قيل لي ان الشيخ زعبلاوي:
Zaabalawi is your friend and I 'm: صديقك وانا ابحث عنه»
looking for him, "I said. : يعلم الله انني في مسيس الحاجة

56- ...and no one knows than you : اليه وانت ادرى بالمتاعب التي ،
of the ailments in respect of : يقصد من اجلها .
which is sought :

Arabic passive sentences may also correspond to English active sentences.

English/ Active	:	Arabic / passive

57- "Sheikh Kamar" he said : والشيخ قمر ترك الحي من عهد بعيد
looking at me in amazement : ويقال انه يقيم اليوم بجاردن سيتي
"He left the quarter ages ago. : وان مكتبه بميدان الازهار»
They say he's now living in :
Garden city and has his office in :
al-Azhaar square" . :

58- Amazed at his understanding : وقلت مستبشراً خيراً : أنا من عشاق
and kindness, which boded well, I : فنك طالما طربت له في افواه
said "I am an admirer of yours and: المطربات والمطربين «فقال باسماً
have long been enchanted : «نشكر»
by the renderings of your songs" :
"*Thank you* ," he said with a :
smile. :

6. Conclusion :

Arabic and English agree on certain points concerning the use and formation of voice. Both terms (active and passive) are found in the two languages. Passivization involves changes in the verb and other elements

t'on we carried out of a short story by Najeeb Mahfuz, *Zu 'bulawi,* and its English translation.

In the Arabic text the passive accounted for 30% whereas in the English translation the passive accounted for 70 %, Moreover, the voice in the two languages often does not correlate. Frequently Arabic uses the active voice, where English uses the passive voice as in:

English/passive	Arabic/Active
50– I *was told* by a vendor of lupine	أخبرني بياع ترمس
51– His legs *were stretched*	يمد ساقيه .
52– Nothing *was left*	لم يبق منه شيء.
53– He *was seated* on a divan, his famous Lute lying beside him, concealing within itself the most beautiful melodies of our age. I immediately greeted him and introduced my-self, and *was put* at my ease by the unaffected way in which he received me	وكان يجلس على كنبة وعوده الشهير منطرح الى جانبه منطوياً على اجمل انغام عصرنا وحالماً سلمت وقدمت نفسي اشرني بحلاوة استقباله وانطلاق هل سجيته باني في بيتي

However, there are a number of Arabic passive sentences which correspond to English passive sentences. These accounts for about 30% of the passive examples, attested in the texts.

English / passive	Arabic / passive
54– I went to the Birgawi Residence which *was situated* in a thickly populated quarter. I found that time had so eaten into the building that nothing was left	وذهبت الى ربع البرجاوي الذي يقوم في حي مأهول لكد الاكتظاظ فوجدته قد تآكل "ان" القدم حتى لم يبق منه الا واجهة اثرية ونحوش استعمل رغم الحراسة الاسمية مزبلة .

meaning "can", for example, shifts its meaning from ability to possibility in such sentences as.

44- The boy can easily climb that high tree (ability)

  That high tree can easily be climbed (possibility)

  A shift may be detected even when the modal retains its basic meaning (cf–Quirk 1972, 107).

45- Peter can't teach that bird to speak. (peter is unable to teach that bird to speak).

  That bird can't be taught to speak.

  (That bird is unable to learn to speak).

On the basis of this shift in meaning, sentences are sometimes divided into voice–neutral (with no shift in meaning as a result of voice transformation) and voice–oriented (involving a shift in meaning as a result of voice transformation).(Palmer 1979) The latter type is not confined in English to the modal verbs but is also found in other verbs which usually express modality. (46) and (47) have different meaning.

46- Ali is willing to see Susan.

47- Susan is willing to be seen by Ali.

The distinction into voice –neutral and voice– oriented is found in Arabic, too.

(48) and (49) do not mean the same thing.

48–   يريد علي ان يبلغ احمد بالأمر

49–   يريد احمد ان يبلغ بالأمر

There are a number of factors affecting the frequency of active and passive in various texts. In English the active is generally more common than the passive voice (Quirk 1972, 808). The main difference in frequency of use seems to be associated with imaginative creative texts and informative texts. The former seems o prefer the active voice, the latter the passive voice. In a recent textual study (Rosenhouse 1988) the passive accounted for 25.06% in journalistic texts, 16% in literary texts and 31% in scientific texts.

The same study gives the following figures for Arabic: 9% journalistic texts, 3% literary texts and 7.5% scientific texts.

A comparison of the figures for English and Arabic given above shows a marked difference. On the whole Arabic has a low frequency of the passive voice. The same tendency is confirmed by a limited investiga-

13

The main object constraint on passive transformation in both English and Arabic is coreference between the subject and the object of the same sentence. There are three types of this relation:

(a) reciprocal,

(b) reflexive, and

(c) possessive.

(a)   Reciprocal

39–   They loved each other

   *   Each other were loved (by them)

أحبّوا بعضهم بعضا   * أحبّ بعضهم بعضا

A number of the forms denoting reciprocal sense in Arabic are considered intransitive, and as such have no passive. This is especially true of the sixth form (تفاعل):(تنازعا). "They quarrelled with one another; and the eigth form افتعل, e.g.; اختصم الناس "the people disputed one another". (of wrigth, 1, 39–42).

(b) Reflexive

   40– The man praised himself—Himself was praised (by him).

مدح نفسه   * مدح الرجل نفسه

(c) possessive

   41– My brother will sell his house.

   *   His house will be sold (by my brother).

سوف يباع بيته *   سوف يبيع أخي بيته

The sentence سوف يباع بيته is unacceptable in the relevant sense, I.e. (by him) It is acceptable in the other senses.

The constraint on the agent in English passive sentences specifies that mentioning the agent is optional. It is, however, more frequently deleted than mentioned. Textual analyses show that deletion of the agent accounts for 75%–80% of the instances of the passive voice (Huddlestione: 1 8–441.

   42– A French company built the bridge in 1957.

   The bridge was built (by a French company) in 1957.

In Arabic passive sentences, agent deletion is obligatory.

43–

بني الجسر في عام ١٩٥٧

بنت شركة فرنسية الجسر في عام ١٩٥٧

Voice transformation may involve a change in meaniny. In English this is often found in the modal verbs which have more than one

حسن (become beautiful). كبر (grow big). The third, فعل , is often transitive and may be used in the passive, e.g. قتل (to kill) قتل (to be killed).

The signification of the second class فعل is normally transitive, which readily lends itself to passive Transformation, e.g. علم (to teach) علم (to be taught)

The third class فاعل frequently expresses reciprocal sense which ordinarily blocks passivization, e.g. خاشنه (he treated him roughly). كاتب المدير (he wrote to the manager). A number of verbs belonging to this class occur in the passive: ضاعف الايجار (He doubled the rent) ضوعف الايجار (the rent has been doubled).

The fourth class افعل denoted a factitive or causative sense. Verbs belonging to this class are transitive and are commonly found in the passive. ابلغه (he informed him) ابلغ (he was informed). However this class comprises mainly denominatives (verbs derived from noun) expressing object relation, e.g. اثمر (to bear fruit) or adverbial relation, e.g. اسرع (to make haste), اصبح (to enter upon the morning), اشام (to go to syria الشام). These verbs are intransitive and do not occur in the passive form.

The fifth تفعل , the sixth تفاعل , the seventh انفعل , and the eighth انفعل have normally a reflexive sense. They are termed by the Arab grammarians the verbs of مطاوعة , and may often be rendered into English by the passive voice. In Arabic they occur in the active form only. For example فرق الناس،فتفرقوا (he dispersed the people, and they were dispersed) فتح الباب فانفتح (wright-138) I kept him away and he was kept away باعدته فتباعد (I opened the door; the door was opened) فرقهم،فافترقوا (he dispersed or seperated them, they were dispersed.) It is to be noted that it is also possible to use the active form in English as in" the door opened;" "he kept away", and "they dispersed".

The ninth form افعل expresses colour اصفر (to become Yellow) or defect احول (to become squint). These verbs are intransitive and found only in the active.

The tenth form استفعل comprises (a) intransitive reflexive verbs, e.g. استعد (to get ready), استسلم (to give up) and (b) transtive verb, استحسن كلامه (he thought well of his words) استقصى الامر (he investigated the matter). Group (a) is normally found in the active voice only, Group (b) has both active and passive forms, e.g. استقصى الامر , استحسن كلامه (His words were well thought of), (the matter was investigated).

11

24- Jo n has two houses.
* Two house; are had by John.

Verbs expressing a symmetrical relation between the subject and the object are usually not pass vized. e.g. resemble, equal (cf. Huddleston 1971. p. 440).

25- Ali resem les Tom ←→ Tom res miles Ali.
* Ali s resembled To.m   .

There are more restrictions on passive prepositional verbs than on active prepositional verbs.

26- They arrived at a small village after a two hours' trip.

A small village was arrived at after a two hours' trip.

However, the passive voice is possible for (27) below.

27- They arrived at this conclusion after a two hours' deliberation.

This conclusion was arrived at after two hours' deliberation.

The difference between (26) and (27) is usually accounted for in terms of concrete/ abstract. The passive transformation is possible when the verb has an abstract sense. However, this principle will not explain with the passive voice is blocked for (28) but not for (29).

28- Layla agreed with Susan

Susan was agreed with by Layla.

29- Layla looked after Susan.

Susan was looked after by Layla.

_ The explanation given for this type of prepositional verbs is based on "cohesiveness" (Quirk: 1972, 805). Prepositional verbs with greater degree of cohesiveness lend themselves more readily to passivization than ordinary prepositional verbs. "Look after", which forms a cohesive unit has a passive form; "agree with", which is less cohesive in the sense that adding "with" to "agree" hardly forms a new linguistic unit as does after" to "look"; "agree with" has therefore no passive.

Constraints on Arabic verbs may be plausibly discussed by referring to the ten recognized verb classes. They are usually fifteen but the last five are rare and may be neglected .

Two of the three subtypes of the first class (فل) are normally int-ransitive, فل and فل : the first is always the second frequently, so, e.g.

18 — The bill has been paid by the proprietor .

19 — The bill has been paid .

Both these types are quite common English : In Arabic only the agentless type is normally used . The agentive passive is sometimes found in modern Arabic writings especially in journalistic style ; but it cannot be said that it has become fully established in the language . Thus the equivalent of(18) would normally be an active sentence with the grammatical object as theme (see section 3) , assuming that translation equivalence is thematically based .

20 — [al hisaabu dafaahu saahibu al – maha'li]

الحـساب دفعه صاحب المحل

There is however another alternative, semantically slightly different where the passive verb and the agent are used in two different sentences.

21 — du iaa al – h'saabu . dafa ahu sahbu al – mahal'

دفع الحسـاب دفعه صاحب المحل

Here additional prominence is given in (21) to the process rheme (the verb) which is placed in the initial position .

The English sentence ; (19) has a straightforward passive equivalent in Arbabic .

22 — du iat qaaimatu--al – hisaabi   دفعت قائمة الحسـاب

23 — qaaimatu al--hassabi dufiat   قائمة الحساب دفعت

The difference between (2') and (23) may be related to theme–rheme whether (quamatu al–hisabi) is placed at the beginning or in end-position .

5 — Voice Constraints

Most of the voice Transformation constraints usually stated for English are also applicable to Arabic . Quirk et-d (1972 : 803) distinguishes five types of constraints for English connected with the verb, the object, the agent, the meaning, and the frequency of use .

Normal , Transitive verbs only lend themselves to voice transform ; intransitive verbs a e found only in the active voice . This is true of English and Arabic . Within the class of transitive verbs, the restrictions in English on the passive voice are greater than on the active voice. A number of verbs (usually called middle or relational verbs) occur only in the active voice, e.g. hav , lack, hold (contain), become.

9

hth form, ifta ala أفتعل (wright 1972 I , 36 – 42) : takassara (to be broken into pieces) , inqata,a (to be cut off), imtala' a (to be full) .

In all the English and Arabic examples given above the passive is semantic rather than syntactic . In most casses there is a corresponding passive verb form e.g :

[fataha] , infataha : futiha , opened , open , was opened
[kasara] , inkasara : kusira , brok , break , was broken
[galaqa] , ingalaqa : guliqa , shut , shut , was shut
[shaala] , ishtaala : shuila , burnt , burn , was burnt
[fataha] opened, [infataha] open, [futiha] Was opened

3 — Thematization and the Passive Voice

As has been suggested above , one of the functions of he passive transformation is to thematize the grammatical object in English . In the following sentences the theme is underlined .

14 – Every one here admires his courage .

15 – His courage is admired by everyone here .

In (14) the theme is the grammatical subJect, in (15) it is the grammatical object (or the logical goal) . The main function of the passive here is to change the word - order and bring to the front position certain elements of the sentence, which the speaker regards as theme . There is another possibility where thematization of the object is achieved, yet required as in (16) ;

16 – His courage everyone here admires .

but this pattern is highly marked and may be said to be less frequent than (15) .

Arabic, on the other hand uses a pattern which is nearer to the one illustrated by (16) . The relative flexibility of the word order makes thematization without passivization possible in Arabic .

17 – [Sha aatuhu yastahsinuha al jamiu huna .]

شجاعته يستحسنها الجميع هنا

Thus, thematization cannot be said to be a function of the passive voice in such sentences .

4 — Agentive and Agentless Passive

A distinction may be drawn between passive sentences where the agent is mentioned, agentive passive (18) , and passive sentences where agent is deleted, eg ntless passive (19) :

(6) .We will say that the verb (and the sentence) has the passive sense. Sim larly, in (8) and (9) the difference is that between the passive voice and the passive sense.

8 – futiha albabu (the door was opened)

فتح الباب

9 – infataha albabu (The door opened)

أنفتح الباب

(8) is in the passive voice, whereas (9) is in the active voice and has the passive sense. It is to be noted from the examples (6) , (7) , (8) , and (9) that the semantic base is the same . In (7) and (9) the grammaitcal subject is actually the goal, the existence of the goal is implied rather than ment-ioned, and the verb has the active form. This type of passive is lexicalized in contrast with the passive voiced illustrated by (6) and (8), where the passive sense is grammaticalized. The importance of this distinction for contrastive grammar will become clear from the translation of (6) and (7) into Arabic. For both sentences the Arabic equivalent requires to be in the passive voice .

10 – Yubaau alkitaabu bi suhuulatin

يباع الكتاب بسهولة

Thus the passive senses which are grammaticalized or lexicalized normally differ from one language to another, a fact which is significant for translation .

In English and other European language is the relation between the following sentences is described as "ergative" (Lyons : 1953 , 351–2) .

10 – The door opened .

11 – Ali opened the door .

The same form of the verb "opened" is used in the two sentences ; in (10) it is intransitive with "the door" acting a subject., in (11) the verb is transitive with the subject of the former sentence becoming object .

The same relation is termed by the Arab grammarians "mutawa, a" However here the form of the verb changes :

12 - [infataha albaabu]

انفتح الباب

13 – [fataha alijun al-baaba]

فتح علي الباب

In Arabic, two different forms of the same verb are used for the intransitive and the transitive . "Mutawa' a" (with passive sense) is norma-lly expressed by at least three of the derived forms of the Arabic verb : the fifth form tafa"ala تفعل , the seventh form, infa"ala إنفعل and the eig-

change the meaning of the sentence . Thus the passive transformation the ideal transformation of the transformationalist, proved later to be their stumblingblock.

In contrast to the TGG Theory , the systemic theory of grammar developed by Halliday and his followers in Britain paid more attention to function and context. Thus a new (functional) account was provided for active – passive relation. Passive transformation was explained as a process whereby different functions (roles) would be relegated to the various participants. In the active sentence the role of subject, agent, and theme are realized by the same participant. Thus in (1) "the tiger" fulfils the role of the subject, the agent and the theme. whereas, ' the fox" fulfils the role of the object and the goal. Passive Transformation, which in the systemic theory is studied as a part of the transitivity system, relegates the roles of subject and theme to the goal as in (2) . This is obviously a functional view of the active–passive process which deals with at least three levels of the language : The logical (agent, goal, etc) , the grammatical (subjec , object) and the thematic level (theme, rheme) .

Traditional Arab grammarians, whose interest was confined to the grammar of their own language dealt with the voice of verb as part of its morphology. The passive voice was considered as a category of the verb form. This is understandable since in Arabic the process of passivisation is mainly morphological (involving mainly the verb) concerned : كَتَبَ kataba (active) : كُتِبَ kutiba (passive) ; which may be ontrasted with the English wrote : was written. This does not mean that Arab grammarians neglected completely the syntactic aspect of the passive, it only means that, owing to the inflectional nature of the Arabic language, more attention was given to the morphology of the verb than to the syntactic changes.

2 — Passive Voice and Passive Sense

It is useful to draw a distinction between the passive voice and the "passive sense" in a study like the present one where two languages are involved. In order to illustrate this distinction, we take the following two examples :

6 – The book will be sold easily

7 – The book will sell easily

In (6) the verb (and the sentence) is in the passive voice ; (7) grammatically speaking, is in active voice, but the semantic sense is the same as

6

A Contrastive Study of The
Passive In English And Arabic
With Reference To Translation

BY

Dr. Yowell Y. Aziz (professor)   Dr. Khalida Y. Yamoor
Dep. of Translation   Dep. of English
College of Arts   College of Arts
University of Mosul   University of Mosul

Introduction

The rel tion between the active sentence and the corresponding pa sive sentence has been one of the most extensively studied aspect of syntax . Modern theories of grammar have investigated the topic for various reasons . Transformational generative grammarians used the active – passive relation in the hayday of their theory to show how surface structure may conveniently be derived from deep structure wh ch embodied all the meaning of the sentence . To them , the passive transformation represents an ideal example of a process which preserves meaning (a basic characteristic of all transformations in those days and simplifies the act of derivation . According to TGG theory both the active sentence and the passive ar derived from a common base :

1 – The tiger caught the fox (active)

2 – The fox was caught by the tiger (passive)

The first split occured in the TG theory when it was discovered that it was not true that the passive Transformation preserves meaning. Certain passive Transformations change meaning as in:

3 – Everybody here speaks one language (active)

4 – One language is spoken by everyone here (p s ive)

Obviously (3) and (4) have different meanings; (3) says that everyone present speaks one language; (4) on the other hand means that there is one language which everyone here speaks. It was found that there are certain words termed quantifiers. They cross over from the position of the subject to the position of the object by means of Transformation, and