

THE PASSIVE IN TURKISH

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INTRODUCTION

The passive voice has been an area of interest to linguists since the beginning of early studies in Linguistics. In Traditional grammar, the passive has been analyzed on the basis of the way it is used. In later studies, the relationship between active and passive sentences has been investigated and attempts to account for this relationship have been continuous. The relation of passive to active sentences provided one of the prime arguments for the superiority of transformational theory over other types of linguistic description.

The active voice has generally been considered more basic than the passive, which is generally taken to be derived from the active. The synonymy of corresponding active and passive sentences has been questioned. In fact, the significance of the passive voice has been discussed widely. Mc Kerrow (1922, cited in Svartvik 1966:2) states that, "If we were now starting for the first time to construct a grammar of modern English, without knowledge of or reference to the classics, it might never occur to us to postulate a passive voice at all. It seems to me that it is questionable whether in spoken English of today there is really any such thing, and though, as a matter of convenience, it may be well to retain it in our grammars, I doubt whether it ought to occupy quite so prominent a position as it sometimes does." Robin Lakoff (1971) points out that passivization is a rule that adds little semantic material, yet complicates the sentence syntactically and morphologically.

On the other hand, Allen (1959:290) states that "a great deal of harm has been done by teaching the passive voice as if it were merely another way of expressing a sentence in the active voice. ... We ought to stress the fact that the passive voice has an important and special place in the language; most sentences that are good in the active voice are just grotesque curiosities when put into the passive voice".

It might be maintained that the passive voice has an important place in the languages of the world. Slobin (1971:33) has stressed that "sentences are used to express meanings in situations and language allows for a range of syntactic expressions because they are called for in a range of communicative contexts". In the same line, Sinha (1974:633) has shown that the contrast between the active and the passive

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emphasizes the significant information and when the passive is changed into the active the effect is lost. He admits that the active and the passive have transformational relation in abstract syntax and that there are reasons to conclude that actives are more basic than passives; but in a particular discourse, because of special semantic and syntactic requirements, the passive is the only choice.

The use of the passive in languages has been related to topicalization in general.¹ The topic identifies what the speaker is talking about. It constitutes a starting point for the speaker in the discourse in general. The speaker starts with what is familiar to the hearer and then adds new information to it, in other words, he comments on the topic after establishing it. Thus, the information structure of the Sentences has been termed topic-comment, theme-rheme, old information-new information, given-new, logical focusing-expressive focusing, etc. This structure coincides with the subject-predicate structure in the surface. The topic coincides with the subject and the verb is marked with the passive morphology. And the non-occurrence of intransitive verbs in the passive has been related to this fact. In English and in many Indo-European languages, the passive is restricted to transitive verbs, that is, verbs, which take an object. It is generally accepted that when the object conveys what is already known both to the speaker and the hearer, it becomes the Subject and is placed initially. The verb is marked with the passive morphology and the underlying subject is expressed in an adverbial phrase if it conveys new information, otherwise it is deleted.

In Turkish, word order is quite free. The basic order is Subject-Object-Verb. However, depending upon the focused element, the order may vary considerably. The focused element is placed preverbally, and the least focused element is initial. This seems to be consistent with the notion of topicalization.

The passive construction in many languages is restricted the transitive verbs which take an object. In Turkish, the so-called intransitive verbs which do not take an object occur in passive constructions as well. There is no grammatical subject in such constructions and verb is marked in the third person singular as there is no subject to trigger verb agreement. Since there is no subject which is the topic in such sentences, the use of the passive construction seems to be related to certain factors other than topicalization only.

Thus, two kinds of passive constructions are observed in Turkish. The first is the personal passive which implies an underlying agent. However, the perspective of the object is taken by the use of the passive. The second is the impersonal passive

(1) The definition of the noun and the verb has been associated with the distinction between subject and predicate from the time of Plato onward. Sapir (1921) has pointed out that there must be something to talk about and something must be said about this subject of discourse. Sapir (1921) has implied that the subject is the person or thing about which something is said, and the predicate is the statement made about that person or thing!

Hockett (1958) introduced the now widely accepted terms *topic* and *comment*.

constructions in which there is no underlying agent. Such sentences seem to be similar in function to sentences with dummy subjects in some languages such as *On* in French, *Man* in German, *they* (in general) Or *one* in English. Such impersonal constructions can also be formed from verbs which take an object.

Along with the two kinds of passive constructions there exist certain verbs which take the passive marker, however, the meaning of such verbs implies a notion of reflexivity, that is, an action done for oneself or a process, that is, a change of state or condition. However, a notion of process seems to be present in all passive constructions.

Personal Passive: Personal passive constructions are formed from verbs which take a direct object. The direct object is promoted to subject position, takes the nominative case marker and triggers verb agreement. The verb is marked with the passive morphology *Il-In*. The underlying subject is usually deleted, but may be expressed in a postpositional phrase.

Topicalization versus Word Order: In English, the passive is triggered when the object is the topic, that is, when it is already known to the speaker and the hearer, as in the following examples:

John gave the book to Mary.
 Mary was given the book (by John).
 The book was given to Mary (by John).

In Turkish, as the normal word order reveals (Subject-Object-Verb), the topic also usually corresponds to the subject in the surface structure, and is placed earlier in the sentence in the least marked option. Thus, first position in a sentence is taken up by the topic, and the unmarked order is Subject - Direct Object - Indirect Object - Verb.²

- (2) Word order is quite free in Turkish. The unmarked order is Subject-Direct Object - Verb, however, depending on the emphasized element in the sentence the order may vary. The emphasized element is placed preverbally in general. Stress plays an important role in word order as well and it usually falls on the focused element in the sentence which is preverbal as in

Adam topu oğlana attı.
 'The man threw the ball to the boy.'

Adam oğlana topu attı.
 'The man threw the ball to the boy.'

Topu oğlana adam attı.
 'The man threw the ball to the boy.'

Examples:

Ahmet kitabı bana verdi. (Subject Topic)
'Ahmet gave the book to me.'

Herkes yeni rejimi benimsedi.
'Everybody accepted the new regime.'

Müslümanlar bayramda kurban keser.
'Muslims sacrifice sheep on religious holidays.'

In marked cases, the focus which conveys new information in the sentence is placed preverbally as in

Kitabı bana Ahmet verdi. (subject Focus)
Bayramda müslümanlar kurban keser.
*Yeni rejimi herkes benimsedi.*³

The fact that an indefinite noun phrase (subject or object) never occurs initially in the sentence supports the claim that the topic is placed initially in Turkish, Initial position for the indefinite noun phrase results in ungrammaticality as in

**Bir çocuk kitabı size getirdi.*⁴
'A boy brought the book to you.'

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- (3) The direct object or the indirect object may be focused and the stress accompanies the focused element.

Ahmet bana kitabı verdi.
'Ahmet gave me *the book*.'

Ahmet kitabı bana verdi.
'Ahmet gave *me* the book.'

- (4) However, an indefinite, but specific agent can be used in an agent phrase as it conveys new information as in

Ahmet'i bir Fransız öldürdü.
'A *Frenchman* killed Ahmet.'
specific

Ahmet bir Fransız tarafından öldürüldü.
Ahmet was killed by a Frenchman.
specific

* Ahmet *kitap* size getirdi.
'Ahmet brought a book to you.'

Li (1976; 465) asserts that "the topic, but not the subject must be in sentence initial position and that this may be explained in terms of discourse strategies. Speech involves serialization of the information to be communicated and the topic which represents the discourse theme should be introduced first."

In general, a topicalized noun phrase tends to be definite. Definiteness implies prior information of some sort and is intimately connected with old information. An indefinite noun phrase cannot be the topic, so it is pushed down as far as the preverbal position in the sentence as in

Kitabı size *bir çocuk* getirdi.
'A boy brought the book to you.'

Ahmet size *kitap* getirdi.
'Ahmet brought a book to you.'

In such cases, a passive sentence such as *Ahmet öldürüldü* 'Ahmet is killed.' is often preferred to *Ahmet'i birisi/bir adam/vb. öldürdü*. 'Someone/A man/etc. killed Ahmet. An indefinite noun phrase does not convey new information either, it is neutral as to the information load it carries. This is observed in the fact that an indefinite agent cannot occur in a *tarafından* phrase in a passive sentence introducing new information. Observe the following examples:

Ahmet	* birisi		
	* bir adam	tarafından	öldürüldü
Ahmet was killed by	someone		
	a man		

If the topic-focus distinction is realized through word order, then what is the function of the passive in Turkish? Consider the following sentences:

1. Ödülü sanatçıya *müdür* verdi.

'The director gave the prize to the artist. / It was the director who gave the prize to the artist.'

2. Ödül sanatçıya *müdür tarafından* verildi.

The prize was given to the artist by the director.

In both sentences the logical subject is focused. In the first sentence, *müdür* 'the director' is the focus, thus it is placed preverbally. As the English translation reveals, it conveys new information which is contrastive. In the second sentence, the action of giving is emphasized, and *ödül* 'The prize' is the topic, what is being talked about. The agent phrase conveys new information.

Thus, word order seems to be related to the problem of focusing, whereas the passive may be used for topicalization as in the following examples:

Şu ev yakında yıkılacak.

'That house will soon be pulled down.'

Sözleşmenin şartları iki ayrı kağıda yazıldı.

'The conditions of the agreement were written on two separate papers.'

Araba satıldı.

'The car is sold.'

THE NOTION OF PERSPECTIVE TAKING

According to Macwhinney (1976), topic selection is related to the notion of perspective taking. The speaker must actively construct himself in the role of the logical focus⁵ in order to expand a proposition. The speaker is best able to construct propositions by assuming the perspective of the logical focus, and the hearer is best able to process propositions by first assuming the perspective of the logical focus. The logical focus is usually active, dominant, and potent. The speaker assumes the perspective of the logical focus, and the hearer is best able to process propositions by first assuming the perspective of the logical focus as it is easier to take the perspective which is active, dominant, animate, and potent just like the language user. He (1976: 28) asserts that it is not enough for a non-Agential element to be 'given' to trigger passivization. "Rather, passivization requires either a direct linguistic stimulus or some perceptual conditions which make it difficult to assume the perspective of the Agent." We note that the passive is triggered in Turkish in cases where the agent is unknown or when the speaker identifies most closely with a non-agent and when the agent is known but of negligible importance, and so on. In such cases, perspective taking shifts from the agent to another element in the sentence as it is difficult to assume the perspective of the agent in the above mentioned cases.

The passive may be triggered when the agent is *unknown* as in

Ahmet öldürüldü.

'Ahmet is killed.'

Başbakan öldürülmek istendi.

'The prime minister's assassination was desired.'

Bisikletim çalındı.

'My bicycle was stolen.'

Dolandırıldık

'We were robbed.'

The agent may be known, but may be of negligible importance as in

(5) Logical focusing is topic in Macwhinney's term, however, the notion of logical focusing attempts to go beyond the notion of givenness by specifying the conditions under which one of several pieces of information which are given to the speaker and presumed given to the hearer are selected as the single logical focus.

Madem ki bir defa haftalık yazılmıştır, haftalık verilmelidir. MŞE p. 33

'As the word 'weekly' appears in the agreement, it must be paid weekly.'

Boşalan binlikler elekçi oğlanlarından birinin eline tutuşturularak meyhanecinin evine gönderilmişti.

R.H.K. p. 72

'The emptied bottles were given to one of the gypsy musicians and he was sent to the tavern owner's house.'

Genç profesör kendi köyünde küçümseniyor, sözlerine önem verilmiyordu. A. Nesin p. 381

'The young professor was underestimated in his own village and his words were not taken seriously.'

...Yatık Emine, kovulmamak, dışarı atılmamak için her şeye razı, kendini seyret-tiriyordu. R.H.K. p. 13

'... Yatık Emine, in order not to be thrown out, accepted everything, kept quite.'

When the agent is *already mentioned*, that is, when the topic is already established as in

Yeniçerilerin ayaklanmaları...*devlet* çok zor durumlara sokmuştur. O kadar ki, zaman zaman saraydaki altın ve gümüş eşya eritilip maaşlar ödenmiştir; Bedestende ki yetim mallarına zorla *el konmuş, sattırılmış, sağlanan* gelir peşin maaş almadan sefere çıkmamak kararındaki Yeniçerilere *dağıtılmıştır*. I. Cem p. 193

'The *state* was put into a difficult position by the revolt of the Janissaries, to such an extent that from time to time, the gold and silver in the palace was melted down in order to pay their salaries; the possessions of the orphans in Bedesten were confiscated and sold, and the resulting money was handed out to the Janissaries who were determined not to go on expeditions without first being paid.'

In the above sentence, *devlet* 'state' is the agent however, the passive is used to emphasize the action after the topic is established.

Jespersion (1925) has stated that the passive is used when the agent is *self-evident* from the context. Sinha (1974, 533) points out that this rule is similar to one of the Gricean 'cooperative principles' which asks the speaker to make his contribution

as informative as is required. In some contexts, an active sentence may tell the hearer more than is required, repeating what is already evident and makes it less preferable than its passive counterpart. The following sentences illustrate this point from Turkish.

Ocağa talim ve terbiye görmemiş kimseler kaydedilmiş ve gün geçtikçe ocak bozulmuştur. İ. Cem p. 193

'Those who had no training or education were registered to the corps and the corps became disorganized by time.'

Yeniçerilerin maaşları o deftere göre verildi....

Ocaktan eksilenlerin isimleri bildirilip defterden silinmezdi, bu isimlere ait hüviyet vesikaları alınıp satılırdı. İ. Cem p. 194

('The salaries of the Janissaries were given according to that roll... the names of those who died were not taken out of the roll, identification cards were bought and sold.')

The agent is obvious in both sentences, it is *devlet*, 'the state'.

The passive may be used to avoid the mention of the subject because it may be embarrassing or impolite. Kartunnen (1973;164) has stated that "instead of playing it straight and making an explicit assertion about the person in question, the speaker may beat around the bush and leaves it up to the listener to make the obvious inference by using the passive voice". Also if the speaker does not want to make a direct statement about himself and prefers an appearance of generality, he uses the passive as in the following examples:

İçeri çamurlu ayaklarda girilmemeli.

'You/One/They should not come in with dirty shoes.'

Bu yük sırtta taşınmaz.

('It is impossible for anyone to carry this parcel on his back.')

Bir vakittir sesin duyulmadı.

('You were not heard from for a while.')

Ona denildiği günler oldu ki.. MŞE p. 51

('There were days when he was told...')

OBJECTIVITY IN FORMAL LANGUAGE

The passive is used widely in written language. The infrequent use of the passive in spoken language may be attributed to the fact that the whole sentence is rarely repeated in speech, usually the focused element and the verb are repeated as in the following examples:

Topu oğlana kim attı?
'Who threw the ball to the boy?'

Adam attı.
focus

'The man did.'

Ayşe sana ne verdi?
'What did Ayşe give you?'

Çantamı.
focus

'My bag.'

The frequent use of the passive voice in written language in Turkish is noteworthy. It is widely used in scientific books and newspapers. This seems to be related to the fact that it is necessary to establish objectivity in such written discourse. Rommetveit (1968; 265) asserts that 'the frequent use of the passive voice in written research reports in the early days of experimental psychology, for instance, is hardly entirely unrelated to the serious and deliberate attempts at establishing the young discipline as an objective study. A deletion of the agent constituent may, when the agent happens to be the experimenter and the writer, yield a portrayal of the events in the laboratory in which subjective components are backgrounded. It sounds in a way more 'objective' to say 'The rat was put in the obstruction box.' rather than 'I put the rat in the obstruction box.'. The former version will gear the reader's attention more toward the rat and rat's behavior than towards the psychologist's behavior toward the rat'.

The passive is very commonly used in newspapers and textbooks to establish objectivity, thus the writer's feelings are backgrounded. Sentences below taken from a history textbook and a daily newspaper illustrate this fact clearly.

Bu devirde Türk donanması çok kuvvetli bir disiplinle yönetiliyordu.
'During this period the Turkish Fleet was being ruled with strong discipline.'

Medreselerde pozitif bilimler okutuluyordu.
'Sciences were being taught in the Moslem Schools of Theology.'

Kanuni zamanında yeni medreseler yaptırılıyordu.
'During the reign of Kanuni, new Moslem Schools of Theology were being built.'

Bu isyanlara ilk isyancılardan birinin isminden ötürü Celâli hareketleri adı verilir.
'These rebellions are called Celali Rebellions after the name of one of the first rebels.'

THE AGENT PHRASE IN THE PASSIVE

In a passive sentence, the agent is expressed in an adverbial phrase, the agent plus the postposition *tarafından* 'by'. However, the use of an agent-phrase in passive sentences is not common at all. Most of the passive sentences in Turkish do not have an agent phrase. In personal passive constructions, in which an underlying agent is present, the agent may be overtly expressed when it conveys new information as in the following examples:

Batılı taklidi bir yaşama düzeni... belirli zümreler tarafından benimsenmektedir.
İ. Cem p. 258

'A way of living copied from the West is being favored by a certain group.'

Hadise uzmanlar tarafından inceleniyor.

'The incident is being examined by experts.'

1939'da İş Bankası grubunun skandallarıyla ilgili dosyalar hazırlanacak, fakat...
namuslu kanat tarafından gün ışığına çıkartılmayacaklardır.

İ. Cem p. 303

'In 1939, the files concerning the scandals of the İş Bank Group will be prepared,
but they will not be revealed by the decent group.'

Fakat kadın başka başka adamlar tarafından sık sık uyandırılmaya alışık olduğundan
R.H.K. p. 25

'But since the woman was so used to being woken up by different men...'

A *tarafından* phrase may also be used to emphasize the agent as in the following examples:

Çalığışu, geniş bir okuyucu kitlesi tarafından benimsendi.

'Çalığışu was admired by a wide group of readers.'

Devlet tarafından çiftçiye her türlü yardım yapılırdı.

'All manner of aid was given to the farmers by the state.'

Yemek listeleri hergün saray ahçısı tarafından onayına sunulur.

'The menus are presented for his approval by the palace cook everyday.'

Impersonal passive constructions do not take an agent phrase since there seems to be no underlying agent in such constructions. The following impersonal passive sentences with agent phrases are unacceptable.

* Burada herkes tarafından rahat yaşanır.

here everybody by comfortable live - pass - 3r-pr

* California'da şarapçılar tarafından iyi şarap yapılır.

'Good wine is made in California by wine-makers.'

As we noted earlier word order takes care of focusing in Turkish. What is focused is placed preverbally. The infrequent use of the *tarafından* phrase in passive constructions may be related to this fact since it is generally accepted that the *tarafından* phrase conveys new information, that is, the focused element.

It has been observed that pronouns do not occur in agent phrases. As they are anaphoric elements, they do not introduce new information. This provides support for the observation that a *tarafından* phrase is used when the agent conveys new information. Because of this, the following sentences with *tarafından* phrases are ungrammatical.

Ahmet	{	* benim	}	tarafından vuruldu
		* senin		
		* onun		
Ahmet was shot by	{	(me)	}	
		(you)		
		(him)		

In the same manner, a reflexive pronoun is not acceptable in a *tarafından* phrase.

* Ahmet kendisi tarafından vuruldu.

(Ahmet was shot by himself.)

Since *Ahmet* and *kendisi* are coreferent elements in the above sentence, such a sentence cannot undergo passivization.⁶

The *Tarafından* phrase is the most common way of expressing the agent in a passive sentence. However, some other ways of expressing the agent are possible although they are not very widely used.

A generic or plural agent may be expressed with the adverb making suffix *ce* in the following examples:

Çocuğun okula gönderilmesine evce karar verildi.

It was decided by the household that the child would be sent to school.'

(6) Traditionally, this morphology is considered to reflect the unmarkedness of the 3rd person singular. In the absence of any subject to trigger verb agreement, the verb goes into the least marked form. This unmarked morphology seems to be used to mark the verbs of agentless sentences in many languages.

Sınıflarda sigara içilmesi *idarece* yasak edildi.

'It was decided by the administration that smoking would not be allowed in classrooms.'

Emlak Kredi Bankasının Ulus'taki Genel Müdürlük binasına *kimliği saptanamayan kişilerce bomba konmuş*...

'A bomb was placed in the buildings of the Head Office of the Emlak Kredi Bank at Ulus by persons as yet unidentified.'

Other words such as *arasında* 'between', *kaleminden* 'in the words of', *resmen* 'officially', may be used to express the agent in passive sentences as in the following examples:

... İslahat Fermanının esasları Ali Paşa ile İstanbul'daki Fransız ve İngiliz sefirleri *arasında* kararlaştırılmış...

The principles of the Improvement Firman had been settled between the French and English Ambassadors in İstanbul and Ali Pasha.'

Toplantının başlangıç tarihi yarın *resmen* ilan edilecek. (yetkili organ veya kişi(ler) tarafından)

The date of the beginning of the meeting will be announced officially tomorrow.' (by the authorized organ or person s)

All the above words seem to be stylistic variants of the postposition *tarafından* 'by'.

Impersonal Passive:

The term.

Although passivizability is restricted to transitive verbs in many languages as in English and many other IndoEuropean languages, passive constructions may be formed from intransitive verbs as well in some languages. Traditionally, the use of the passive with intransitive verbs has been described as 'impersonal'. The term 'impersonal' is suggested by the fact that in passive constructions which are formed from verbs that do not take an object, there exists no subject and the verb is marked in 3rd person singular morphology. Such passive constructions are commonly used in Turkish as in the following examples:

Burada rahat yaşanır.
'One lives comfortably here.'

İstanbul'a bu yoldan gidilir.
'This is the road one takes to İstanbul.'

Bu saatte gelinir mi?
'Can one come at such an hour?'

Bütün gece dansedildi.
'There was dancing all night long.'

VERBS IN IMPERSONAL PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

Impersonal passive constructions are not restricted to verbs that do not take an object in Turkish. Impersonal constructions can be formed from verbs that take an object as well. Such constructions are similar to personal passive constructions in that they have a derived subject; however, there is no agent implied in such constructions, and the verb is marked in 3rd person singular morphology 7 as in:

Dükkanlar saat sekizde açılır.
'Shops are opened at eight.'

California'da iyi şarap yapılır.
'Good wine is made in California.'

Bu su içilmez.
'This water is not for drinking.'
'this water should not be drunk.'

In such sentences no agent that takes an active part in the action of the verb is implied. We have evidence supporting this observation in the fact that none of the above sentences occur with agent phrases.

* Burada halk tarafından rahat yaşanır.
('here people by comfortably live-pass-3r pr. pl:)

* Dükkanlar sahipleritarafından saat sekizde açılır.
(Shops are opened at eight by the owners.)

(7) Such dummy pronouns exist in French German, English, and some other languages. On in French as in

On parle Anglais

'They speak English/ English is spoken.'

Man in German as in

Man spricht Englisch.

'They/One speak (s) English.'

They, One in English as in

They speak English in india.

In Spanish, the reflexive pronoun may be used to express such agentless sentences. The verb is in the 3rd person singular with the reflexive pronoun *se* as its object, but no subject is expressed and none is understood, and semantically such constructions can be interpreted as passives. The reflexive pronoun *se* is often used in place of the formal passive, as the formal passive is considered lengthy and confusing, thus it is rarely used and its place is usually taken by the reflexive form. However, it always occurs only the verb in the 3rd person.

Examples :

Eso se hara facilmente.
'that will be easily done.'

Aqui se habla español.
'Spanish is spoken here.'

* California'da şarapçılar tarafından iyi şarap yapılır.
(Good wine is made in California by wine-makers.)

* Bu su kimse tarafından içilmez.
(this water anybody by drink-pass-3rd pr.)

Such impersonal constructions do not seem to be related to active sentences with generic, definite, or indefinite agents.

Herkes }
Onlar } orada rahat yaşar(lar).
Birisi }

Everybody / They / Someone live (s) comfortably there.'

Herkes }
O } California'da iyi şarap yapar.
Birisi }

Semantically, these 'impersonal' passive sentences seem to correspond to agentless sentences with dummy pronouns in some languages.

AGENTLESS SENTENCES

Sentences with dummy subjects in some Indo-European languages (English, French, German) have passive interpretations. There exists no such 'dummy-pronoun' in Turkish. A passive construction is often preferred to express such agentless sentences. In the examples given below, the second sentence in each pair is more commonly used to express agentless sentences.

1. California'da iyi şarap yaparlar.
'They make good wine in California.'

2. California'da iyi şarap yapılır.
'Good wine is made in California.'

1. Dükkanları saat sekizde açarlar.
'They open Shops at eight.'

2. Dükkanlar saat sekizde açılır.
'Shops are opened at eight.'

1. Aksaray'a nereden giderler?
'How do they/people go to Aksaray?'
2. Aksaray'a nereden gidilir?
'Which road is taken to Aksaray?'

In the active sentences, it seems that a certain group is implied, whereas in the passive no such implication is present.

Therefore, we see that an important function of the 'impersonal' passive constructions is to make agentless sentences possible.

Examples:

Dairesinde görülebilir.

'He can be seen in his office.'

Bu saatte gelinir mi?

'Can one come at such an hour?'

Buraları oturulur bir yer değil. MŞ p. 67

(This place is not fit for anybody to live in.)

One cannot live in such a place.

Yaşanmış yaşanmıştır. S. Faik p. 178

(What has been lived has been lived.)

'Let by-gones be by-gones.'

Böyle mi konuşulur? S. Faik p. 151

'Can one talk this way?'

Impersonal passive constructions may express an action done together in some cases. Such sentences have a notion of reflexivity at the same time.

Examples:

Hükümet memurlarınca adetti; akşam üstü kalemden çıkanlar eczanede toplarılar, memleket işlerine dair sonu gelmez dedikodular yaparlardı. Kaymakamın yolsuz icraatı, hususi hayatı hep burada konuşulur, kasbanın olup biten işleri hep burada öğrenilirdi.

R.H.K. P. 16

'It was a custom of the civil servants of the state to collect at the chemists' after work in the evening, and talk over the eternal questions of the country. The tricks of the governor and his private life were all discussed here, whatever had happened in the village was all to be learned here.'

Kahvelerini daha yeni ismarlamışlardı ki, yeni reis ile candarma kumandanı nüfus müdürü, daha bir kaç kişi daha geldiler. Hep birlikte oturuldu. Biraz hoşbeşten sonra dünkü mektep sözü açıldı.

MŞE p. 50

They had just ordered coffee when new judge came in accompanied by the gendarme officer, the director of the census office, and some other men. They were all seated together. After a little friendly chat, yesterday's subject of the school was opened.'

Nihayet karar verildi. Asım da beraber gidecekti, üzerindeki bu elbise hemen satılacak, yerine cübbe, sarık mintan alınacaktı; şayet para artarsa o da yolda sarfolunacaktı. R.H.K. p. 156

Atlast the decision was taken. Asım would go along with them, this suit he was wearing would be sold at once and replaced by a gown, a turban and a shirt, if there was any money over, it would be spent on the journey.

As has already been pointed out the passive is used widely in written language, particularly in scientific books and newspapers. Impersonal passive constructions are used in formal expressions in the same way.

Such constructions may be underlyingly imperatives as in the following examples:

Sigara içilmez.

'No smoking.

(Lit. Cigarette smoking is not done.)

Park edilmez.

'No parking.'

Bu kapıdan çıkılmaz.

'No exit.'

Pazarlık edilmez.

'No bargaining.'

Kapıda durulmaz.

'No standing at the door.'

Girilmez.

'Do not enter.'

As the English translations reveal, such constructions are underlyingly imperatives. 'Sigara içilmez' implies 'Do not smoke' or 'Smoking is not permitted'.

Such sentences do not seem to be related to corresponding active sentences. It is evident that the sentence *Kapıda durulmaz* is not derived from *Hiç kimse kapıda duramaz*.

In some contexts, appropriate or possible state is expressed with the impersonal passive construction as in the following examples:

Bu su içilmez. (Deny, 1941)

('this water drink-pass-not-3rd pr.')

'This water is not for drinking.'

Buradan çıkılır.

'Exit.'

Bu memlekette yaşanmaz.

'One cannot live in this country.'

Zevklere müdahale edilmez.

'Nobody has the right criticize another person's taste.'

Impersonal passive constructions are also used in notices and public announcements, again as an expression of the formal style.

Examples:

Tezgahtar aranıyor.

(A) shop-assistant (is) needed.'

İngilizce konuşulur.

'English (is) spoken.'

İs garanti edilir/edilmez.

'Work (is) warranted/not warranted.'

Eski kitap alınır ve satılır.

'Old books (are) bought and sold.'

Anahtar yapılır.

'Keys (are) made.'

Para bozulmaz.

'We do not change money.'

These impersonal passive constructions are derived from the corresponding active forms. The following active and passive pairs of sentences are synonymous, but the passive forms are preferred to the active forms in formal style.

Biz/Bu işyeri tezgahtar arıyor.

'We/This shop needs a shop-assistant.'

Tezgahtar aranıyor.

'(A) shop-assistant (is) needed.'

Anahtar yaparız.

'We make keys.'

Anahtar yapılır.

'Keys (are) made.'

An agent phrase is permissible with some verbs in such constructions as in the

(8) Passive constructions are used to express the same Phenomenon in English as in Help (is) 'spoken here

work warranted.

old books are bought and sold.

Be is usually deleted in such experssions.

In the same way in placards and notices in which the reflexive 'is employed in Spanish, the meaning is usually passive as in

Aqui se habla español.

'Spanish is spoken here.'

following examples:

Tecrübeli öğretmen tarafından İngilizce dersleri verilir.
'English lessons are given by an experienced teacher.'

Tanınmış bir firma tarafından Pazarlama Müdürü aranıyor.

'Marketing Director (is) needed by a well-known firm.'

Middle-Passive:

Verbs in the Middle - passive:

Some action-process verbs such as *kat-* 'add', *kap-* 'catch', *sık-* 'annoy', *üz-* 'worry', etc. become process verbs by the addition of the passive suffix, *-il/-*. In as in *katıl-* 'join', *kapıl-* 'be tempted', *sıkıl-* 'be bored', *üzül-* 'be worried'. These verbs do not have a passive meaning, they have a reflexive meaning as in the following examples:

Ahmet bu olaya çok üzüldü.

'Ahmet was very sorry about this incident.'

Düşman hızla geri çekilmeye başladı.

'The enemy began to withdraw at full speed.'

Ama sanmam ki oda bunları yaptığı için üzölsün

'But I do not think that he is sorry for what he has done.'

S. Faik p. 178

Bu işe çok sıkılıyorduk.

'We were very much annoyed by this matter.'

The suffix *-il* is semantically identical with the reflexive pronoun *is* such verbs. The following pairs of sentences seem to be synonymous.

Ahmet bu olaya çok üzüldü.

'Ahmet was very sorry about this incident.'

Ahmet bu olaya kendini çok üzdü.

'Ahmet let himself be overconcerned by this incident.'

Düşman hızla geri çekilmeye başladı.

'The enemy began to withdraw at full speed.'

Düşman hızla kendini geri çekmeye başladı.

'The enemy began to withdraw itself at full speed.'

It has been observed that reflexive verbs formed in this way do not have reflexive forms with the normal reflexive suffix *-In*. Forms such as * *atın* * *kesin* * *üzün* etc. are not found in the language.⁹

The suffix *-ll* expresses a process, a change of state or condition rather than a reflexive meaning in some other verbs such as *yayıll-* 'spread (intr)', *kesil-* 'stop, cut off', *gömül-* 'be buried, be baked in', *bozul-* 'break (intr), be by the subject again, however, it occurs by itself as in the following examples:

İçeride bir müddet, tanınan bu sesin verdiği bir korku ile herşey sustu, sanki taş kesilmişlerdi.

R.H.K. p. 67

'Everything inside stopped for a while, it was as if they were stunned by the fear caused by this well-known voice.'

Ankara, mor, kokulu bir gecenin içine gömülmüştü.

S. Faik p. 170

'Ankara had been cloaked in a violet and fragrant night.'
... *Aulu eskiden taş döşemeliymiş, fakat bozulmuş,...*

MŞE p. 82

...*Formerly, the yard had been paved with stone, but it was now in bad condition.'*

The Middle vs. The passive:

Verbs which acquire a middle meaning with the addition of the passive suffix *ll* such as *katıl-* 'Join', *üzül-* 'be sad', etc. may also be used with the passive meaning of the verbs in such cases as in the following pairs of examples:

1. *Liralar serptildiği, tabancalar boşaltılıp kamalar çekildiği, kanlar döküldüğü de olurdu.*

R.H.K. p. 67.

(9) There are certain forms with the suffix *-In* such as *çekil* withdraw *çekin-* 'hesitate'; *tutul-* 'Fall' in love vs. *tutun-* 'hold' grup. Such forms are not synonymous and one of the form has developed an idiomatic meaning.

'There were times when liras were scattered, pistols were emptied, daggers were drawn, and blood was shed.'

2. *Düşman hızla çekilmeye başladı.*

'The enemy began to withdraw at full speed.'

In sentence 1, the context makes it clear that *çek-il* 'be pulled' is the passive form of the verb *çek-* 'pull. In sentence 2, it is clear from the context that *çek-il* 'withdraw' has a reflexive meaning.

In the same way, the middle and the passive meanings are evident in the following examples:

Atlılar hızla ileriye *atıldı*. (Middle)

'The horse-men threw themselves forward in full speed.'

Yatık Emine kovulmamak, dışarı *atılmamak* için herşeye razı oluyordu. (Passive)

'Yatık Emine, in order not to be thrown out, accepted everything

Ocağa talim ve terbiye görmemiş kimseler kaydedilmiş, ve gün geçtikçe ocak *bozulmuştur*.

(middle) İ.Cem p. 193

'Those who had no training or education were registered to the corps and the corps became disorganized by time '.

Üniversiteyi kapatma kararı Danıştay tarafından *bozuldu*. (Passive)

'The decision to close the University was stopped by the Supreme Council.'

Sonra birden tekrar karanlığa, daha koyu, daha kapanık bir karanlığa gömüldüler. (Middle)

R.H.K. p.27

'Then, suddenly they were cloaked again in darkness, a deeper, denser darkness.'

Ayşe Hanım belki başka bir yerde gömülmüştür. (Passive)

S.Faik p. 113

'Perhaps Ayşe Hanım has been buried some other place.'

...hastane memuru Yatık Emine'ye mi tutulmuştu ? (Middle)

R.H.K. p.17

...had the civil servant in the hospital fallen in love with Yatık Emine?'

Biri diğere bir arabacının çalınan atlarının Tarsus'ta tutulduğunu hikaye ediyordu. (Passive)

MŞE p. 82

'One was telling the other that the stolen horses of a coachman were caught in Tarsus.'

In some cases , the meaning of the verb indicates the middle or the passive interpretation as in the following sentences where the middle and the passive meanings occur in the same sentence.

Rüzgar kesildiği halde bile dayanılmaz bir soğuk bastırvermişti.
(middle) (passive) S.Faik p. 148

Although the wind had stopped, all of a sudden an unbearable cold made itself felt.'

Bu taşlar birbirinden dantela gibi işlenmiş, ince altın tellerle bir kavis
(Passive)

çizerek ayrılıyor, yüzüğün halkasına yine bu tellerle bağlanıyordu.
(Middle) (passive) (middle)
S.Faik p. 27

'These stones had been set in a half circle held together by slim threads of gold which also joined it to the ring itself giving the effect of lace.'

Nevin onlar hakkında düşünmeye koyuldu. Ama yine de eski halinde fazla bir değişiklik görülmedi. (Passive)

(passive)
S.Faik p. 27

'Nevin began to think about them. But still not much change was seen in her behavior.'

The middle or the passive meanings cannot be clarified out of context in some cases. Ambiguity arises in such sentences as in the following examples:

Ama kapı kapanmıştı, zorladı mı açıldı. S. Faik. p. 180

'But the door was closed, it opened was opened when he forced it.'

Yüzükoyun ve sırtüstü kum üstüne serilmiş olanların yalnız yüzlerine baksanız, ya dişleri sökülüyor, ya kolları burkuluyor, ya karınları yarıyor sanırsınız. F.R. Atay p. 9

'If you looked only at the faces of those lying on the beach, you would think that either their teeth were being pulled out, their arms being twisted, or their bellies being split.'

Ayağım burkuldu.
'My leg was sprained.'

In the above examples it is not clear out of context whether the action is performed by an underlying agent or not.

DEPONENT VERBS

Verbs which take the passive suffix - II but have a middle meaning are process verbs in general. However, some of these verbs such as atıl- 'throw oneself forward', sarıl - 'embrace', katıl - 'join', çekil - 'withdraw', etc. are action verbs, that is, they express an action.

Lyons (1968; 317) has pointed out that such verbs which take the passive suffix but are active in meaning exist in Greek and Latin. He cites the Latin verb sequor 'I follow' which has an active meaning despite its passive form. Such verbs are called 'deponent' verbs.

Examples :

Küçük kız annesine sıkıca sarılmıştı.

'The little girl had embraced her mother tightly.'

Atlar hızla ileriye atıldı.

'The horses threw themselves forward at full speed.'

Hepimiz odalarımıza çekildik.

'We all retired to our rooms.'

Bu üstün vasıflarından dolayı Atatürk büyük bir lider sayılır.

'Atatürk is considered a great leader because of his extraordinary qualities'

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