Passive Constructions in Modern Standard English and Modern Standard Turkish: A Contrastive Analysis

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Abstract

The paper aims to describe the function of the passive voice in Modern Standard English and Modern Standard Turkish. Passivisation is an important grammatical process that occurs when a sentence's structure shifts from an active to a passive form by altering the verb form and making the direct object the passive sentence's subject. Both English and Turkish feature active and passive formulations, with the passive in both languages created by transitive and ditransitive verbs. The current paper will adopt a contrastive analysis to identify the variations and parallels in passivization between Modern English and Modern Standard Turkish. Moreover, the results of the current paper are helpful in the language teaching process.

Keywords: passivisation, contrastive analysis, foreign languages, teaching process

1. Introduction

The main goal of contrastive analysis is to find similarities and differences in specific areas. In the current paper, the contrastive analysis focuses on finding the areas of similarities and differences between Modern English and Modern Standard Turkish in the area of passivisation. Contrastive analysis was formulated by Fries in 1945 and developed by Lado in 1957. It focuses on comparing the structures of two or more languages to find the areas of differences to facilitate the learning process. Brown (2000) remarks that "the principal barrier to the second language system is the interference of the first language system with the second language system" (p. 208). Accordingly, teachers of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and their students should be aware of the areas of differences and similarities between first language and foreign language to avoid committing mistakes. Likewise, Stockwell, Brown, and Martin (1965) go side by side with this trend. They state that the main source for predicting the areas of difficulty is the interference between the native language and the target language. Yildiz (2016) remarks that "contrastive analysis compares and contrasts the similarities and differences between the mother tongue and the target language to detect prospective difficulties language learners may encounter" (p. 58). Error analysis scrutinizes the learners' errors to shed light on their in-process interlanguage system. The importance of contrasting is always stressed among languages, remarking that mindfulness techniques are shifting from one culture to another (Al-Ghammaz et al., 2024; Hamidish & Arewat, 2021). To fully comprehend a foreign language, learners should be familiar with the differences and similarities between a first language and a foreign language (Abd-Rabb., Zalloum., & Al-Wahsh, 2024). This facilitates the learning process.

English and Turkish passive voice is used in written and spoken forms when the subject of the sentence is unknown, when its use is unnecessary, or when it is very well known. Sometimes the subject of the passive voice is deleted when the focus is on the event of the sentence (Alkam, 2023). Khalil (2010) remarks that the early Arab grammarians focus on the deletion of the doer of the action in the passive form when the speaker/writer wants to hide his/her identity. Turkish and English passive forms may be agentive or agentless. In Turkish, we form the passive by adding certain suffixes to the root. We can obtain the root of the word in Turkish by deleting *mak/mek* as follows:

izlemek (the infinitive form) "to watch"

izle (the root of *izlemek*) "watch"

To form the passive, add "n."

izlenmek ("to be watched")

a.   ***Ben film izledim.***

I + film + *izle* ("watch") + *di* (past suffix) + *m* (personal suffix/I)

I watched a film.

b.   ***Film izlendi***

Film + *izle* (watch) + *n* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

The film was watched.

Note that, from the examples stated above, the suffixes (-*mek* and -*mak*) are used for the infinitive form of the verb, according to vowel harmony rules.

The passive form in English is formed in diverse ways, one of which is made up of a "be" verb followed by a past participle as follows:

John speaks English.

English is spoken. (agentless present passive)

English is spoken by John. (agentive present passive)

2. Sound Systems of Modern Standard Turkish

The phonemes of Modern Standard Turkish are sorted as follows: *a*, *b*, *c*, *ç*, *d*, *e*, *f*, *g*, *ğ*, *h*, *ı*, *i*, *j*, *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *o*, *ö*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *ş*, *t*, *u*, *ü*, *v*, *y*, and *z* for a total of 29 letters. It also uses both upper and lower cases of these letters. Furthermore, Turkish uses the same punctuation marks as the English language does.

Table 1. Turkish consonant phonemes (adapted from Göksel and Kerslake, 2006, p. 3)

		Place of Articulation						
		Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Palato-alveolar	Alveo-palatal	Palatal	Glottal
Stops	VI	*p*		*t*			*k*	
	Vd	*b*		*d*			*g*	
Fricatives	VI		*f*		*s*	*ʃ*	*ɣ*	*h*
	Vd		*v*		*z*	*ʒ*		
Affricates	VI				*tʃ*			
	Vd				*dʒ*			
Nasals		*m*			*n*			
Laterals					*r*	*l*		
Approximants						*j*		

Modern Standard Turkish has eight vowels with two positions of tongue height: high and low as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Modern Standard Turkish vowel phonemes (Adapted from Göksel and Kerslake, 2006:9)

	High		Non-high (mid and low)	
	Rounded	Unrounded	Rounded	Unrounded
Front	*ü*	*i*	*ö*	*e*
Back	*u*	*ı*	*o*	*a*

3. Sound System of English

English spelling does not reflect its pronunciation. The phonemes and letters of a word fail to correspond. The word "pen" contains three phonemes corresponding to the three letters; however, the word "chin" / *tʃɪn*/ contains four letters but three phonemes. English has a total number of 24 consonants as follows:

Table 3. English consonant phonemes (Adapted from Roach, 1991)

		Place of Articulation							
		Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Palato-Alveolar (Post-Alveolar)	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Manner of Articulation	Plosive	p b			t d			k g	
	Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ			h
	Affricate					tʃ dʒ			
	Nasal	m			n			ŋ	
	Lateral				L				
	approximant	w				r	j		

English has a 12-vowel system with three degrees of tongue height: high, mid, and low. Table 4 illustrates the English vowels:

Table 4. English vowels (Adapted from Yule, 2001)

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
	ɪ		ʊ
Mid	e		o
	ɛ	ə	ɔ
Low	æ	ʌ	a

4. Vowel Harmony in Modern Standard Turkish

Vowel harmony is a process relating to phonology that specifies what vowel will appear. Jeretic (2022) defines vowel harmony as follows: vowel harmony depends on the nature of the preceding vowel. If the preceding vowel is in the back, the following one should be in the back. If the preceding vowel is in the front, the following one should be in the front. Göksel and Kerslake (2006:21) state that "vowel

harmony is a phonological process that determines what vowel will appear in all but the first syllable of a word. In roots with more than one syllable, the sound vowel harmonizes with the first one."

Examples

kabak (narrow)

etek (skirt)

evler (houses)

The Turkish language is an agglutinative language, meaning that it attaches its grammatical information to the end of a root word according to the vowel harmony rule. Abushihab (2014) states that, "If the vowels in the root are formed in the back of the mouth, ɑ/æ/, undotted i /ə/, o/ɔ:/ , and u /ʊ/ as in *araba* /æræbæ/ (car), we add – ***lar*** (plural suffix) to make *arabalar* (cars). If the vowels are made in the front of the mouth (e /e/, i /ɪ/, ö /əʊ/, and ü/y/), we add – ***ler*** to *ev* (house) to make *ev**ler*** (houses), and likewise, there are *bankalar*/bænkælær/ (banks) but *otobüsler*/ɔ:tɔ:bysler/ (buses)" (p. 7). It is known that a suffix is sometimes preceded by a buffer letter such as "y" for smooth pronunciation. It is used between two vowels as follows:

Gitmeyiz

go   (get) + negative suffix (*-me*) + buffer sound (*-y*) + personal suffix stands for (we) *(-iz)*

(Notice that "y" is inserted between two vowels.)

We do not go.

As a result of vowel harmony, only the following sequences are permissible in Modern Standard Turkish words:

"a" can only be followed by "a" and "ı."

"o" and "u" can only be followed by "a" or "u."

"e" and "i" can only be followed by "e" or "i."

"ö" and "ü" can only be followed by "e" or   "ü."

5. Passivisation in Modern Standard Turkish

In MST, passive markers are inserted into active verbs to make them passive. Usually, passive markers are added between the root and tense marker as follows:

c.   ***Ozcan çantayi götürdü***

Ozjan + çanta (bag) + y (buffer sound) +   götür (take) + dü   (past letter)

Ozjan took the bag.

d.   ***Çanta götürüldü***

Bag + *götür* (take) + *ıl* (passive suffix*)* + *dü* (past letter)

The bag was taken. (agentless sentence)

e.   ***Çanta Ozjan tarafindan götürüldü***

Bag + *Ozjan* + *tarafindan* (by) +   *götür* (take) + *ıl* (passive suffix) + *dü* (past suffix)

The bag was taken by Ozjan. (agentive sentence)

Other examples:

a.   **demek (to say)**

denilmek

de (say) + *n* (buffer sound) + *il* (passive suffix) + *mek* (to)

to be said

b.   **kırmak (to break)**

kırılmak

kir (break) + *ıl* (passive suffix) + *mak* (to)

to be broken

c.   **oturmak (to sit)**

oturulmak

otur (sit) + *ul* (passive suffix) + *mak* (to)

to be sitting

d. *s ürmek* **(to lead)**

    s ür ülmek

    s ür (lead) + *ül* (passive suffix) + *mek* (to)

    to be led

The passive suffixes are added to simple roots and changed according to vowel harmony. The passive suffixes: *n*, *in*, *n*, *un*, *ün*, *il*, *ıl*, *ul*, and *ül* are inserted into root verbs according to the following rules:

a. If the root ends with a vowel, n is inserted as a passive suffix as follows:

    1. *okumak* (to read)

       okunmak (to be read)

    2. *yıkamak* (to demolish)

       yıkanmak (to be demolished)

    3. *izlemek* (to watch)

       ızlenmek (to be watched)

b. If the root ends with a consonant, *il, ıl, ul,* and *ül* are inserted based on the vowel harmony rules stated above as the following examples:

    1. *a çmak* (to open)

       a çılmak (to be opened)

    2. *d ökmek* (to pour out)

       d ök ülmek (to be poured out)

    3. *oturmak* (to sit down)

       oturulmak (to be sit down)

    4. *etmek* (to make)

       edilmek (to be made) (Note that "t" is changed to "d" because it follows a vowel)

c. If the root ends with "*l*," in, ın, un, and ün are inserted according to the vowel harmony rules as the following examples:

    1. *bulmak* (to find)

       bulunmak (to be found)

    2. *silmek* (to erase)

       silinmek (to be erased)

    3. *b ölmek* (to divide)

    4. *b öl ünmek* (to be divided)

6. Turkish Passivisation from Transitive Active Sentences

Like English, any active sentence in Turkish with an object can mostly be subjected to the process of passive voice. The object of the sentence is moved to the subject in the passive voice as follows:

a. ***Ahmet bah çeyi sulamış***

    Ahmet + bah çe (garden) + *y* (buffer letter) + *sula* (irrigate) + *mış* (past suffix)

    Ahmed irrigated the garden.

b. ***bah çeyi sulanmış***

    bah çe (garden) + *y* (buffer letter) + *sula* (irrigate) + *n* (passive suffix) + *mış (past)*

    The garden was irrigated.

c. ***Ben şiir okuyor.***

    Ben (I) + *şiir (poem* + *oku* (read) + *yor* (progressive suffix)

    I am reading the poem.

d. ***Şiir okunuyor.***

    Şiir (poem) + *oku* (read) + *n* (passive suffix) + *u* (buffer sound) + *yor* (progressive suffix)

The poem is being read.

e. **Hoca beni sordu.**

Hoca (teacher) + *beni* (me) + *sor* (ask) + *du* (past suffix)

The teacher asked me.

f. **Beni soruldum**

Ben (I) + *sor* (ask) + *ul* (past suffix) + *du* (past suffix) + *m* (personal suffix)

I was asked.

g. **Öğretmen   defterinizi görecek.**

Öğretmen (teacher) + *defter* (notebook) + *inizi* (your) + *gör* (see) + *ecek* (future suffix "will")

The teacher will see your notebook.

h. **Defteriniz görülecek.**

defter (notebook) + *iniz* (your) + *gör* (see) + *il* (passive suffix) + *ecek* (future suffix "will")

Your notebook will be seen.

i. **Usta,babamın arabasini tamir ediyor.**

Usta (workman) + *baba* (father) + *m* (my) *in* (possessive suffix) + *araba* (car) +   *tamir ed* (repair) + *yor*   (progressive suffix)

The workman is repairing my father's car.

j. **Babamın arabasi tamir ediliyor.**

baba (father) + *m* (my) *ın* (possessive suffix) + *araba (car)*+ *tamir ed* (repair*) + *il* (passive suffix) *yor* (progressive suffix)

My father's car is being repaired.

As noted from the examples above, there are two types of past tense in Turkish. Turkish definite past tense (*Görülen Geçmiş zaman*) is eyewitness tense, and it states that something happened in the past. The definite past tense morpheme *-dı* applies to verbs, and it has eight allomorphs: *-dı*, *-di*, *-du*, *-dü*, *-tı*, *-ti*, *-tu*, and *-tü* They are based on the vowel harmony rule stated above. Unlike the first type, the indefinite past tense (*Öğrenilen Geçmiş zaman*) is used for hearsay and reporting. It is used when the event has not been eyewitnessed personally and for stories and jokes. Turkish also adds the indefinite past tense morpheme −*mış*, which has four allomorphs (−*muş*, −*mış*, − *miş*, and −*müş*), to the verbs based on the vowel harmony rule.

7. Turkish Passivisation from Ditransitive

A ditransitive verb is a verb that takes two objects. One of them is called a direct object and the other is an indirect object. Like English, Turkish allows a passive process from ditransitive verbs. In the passive process, one of the two objects becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the other one remains an object as in the following examples:

a. **Kitaplar öğrencelere verdim**

Kitap (book) + lar (plural suffix) + öğrence (student) +ler (plural suffix) +e (prepositional suffix/ to) +ver (give)+ di (past suffix) +m (personal; suffix /I)

I gave the books to the students.

This active sentence could be changed to a passive sentence in two ways because it has two objects: *kitapler* (books/direct object) and *öğrenceler* (students/indirect object).

b. **Öğrencelere kitaplar verildi.**

Öğrence (student) + *ler* (plural suffix) + *e* (to) + *kitap* (book) +*lar* (plural suffix) + *ver* (give) +*il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

The students were given the books.

In this passive sentence, we put *Öğrenceler* (students) the indirect object as its subject. We can put the direct object *kitaplar* (books) as the subject of the passive sentence as follows:

c. **Kitaplar Öğrencelere verildi.**

Kitap (book) + *lar* (plural suffix) + *Öğrence* (student) + *ler* (plural suffix) + *e* (to) + *ver* (give) + *il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

The books were given to the students.

In modern Turkish, the plural suffixes (*-lar*) or (*-ler*) are based on vowel harmony rules.

d. **Ben çocuğa balon verdim**

Ben (I) + *çocuk* (child) + *ğ* (k is changed to soft ğ because it is between two vowels) + *a* (to) + *balon* (balloon) + *ver* (give) + *di* (past suffix) + *m* (personal suffix)

I give the child a balloon.

As stated above, there are two ways to passivize the sentence because it has two objects: *çocuk* (child) as an indirect object and *balon* (balloon) as a direct object.

e. **çocuğa balon verildi.**

 çocuk (child) + *a* (to) + *balon* (balloon) + *ver* (give) + *il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

 The child was given a balloon.

f. **balon çocuğa verildi.**

 balon (balloon) + *çocuk* (child) + *a* (to) + *ver* (give) + *il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix).

 A balloon was given to the child.

g. **Ahmet mektubu kardişine Verdi.**

 Ahmet (Ahmed) + *mektub* (a letter) + *kardiş* (brother) + *ine* (possessive suffix for "his") + *e* (to) + *ver* (give) + *di* (past suffix)

 Ahmed gave his brother a letter.

This active sentence in Turkish has two objects: the direct object *mektub* (a letter) and the indirect object *kardiş*/ brother. As stated above, there are two ways to passivize the sentence:

h. **mektubu Ahmet kardişine verildi.**

 mektub (a letter) + *Ahmed* + *kardiş* (brother) + *ine* (possessive suffix + *e* (to) + *ver* (give) + *il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

 A letter was given to Ahmed's brother.

i. **Ahmet kardişine mektubu verildi.**

 Ahmet (Ahmed) + *kardiş* (brother) + *ine* (possessive suffix) + *mektub* (a letter) + *e* (to) + *ver* (give) + *il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

 Ahmed's brother was given a letter.

We can categorize the Turkish passive voice into two types: the agentive passive voice and the agentless passive voice. If we emphasize the agent of the sentence, the agent should be inserted in the passive sentence, thereby creating an agentive passive voice sentence. Here, we use the construction of *tarafindan* (by) followed by the agent as follows:

j. **Hırsız polis tarafından yakalandı.**

 Hırsız (thief) + *polis* (police) + *tarafından (*by) + *yakala* (catch) + *n* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

 The thief was caught by the police.

k. **Kitap hocamiz tarafından telif edilmiştir.**

 Kitap (book) + *hoca* (teacher) + *miz* (our) + *tarafından* (by) + *telif ed* (write) + *il* (passive suffix) + *miş* (past suffix)

 The book was written by our teacher.

l. **Kitap onlar tarafından yazılacak**

 Kitap (book) + onlar (them) + tarafından (by) + yaz (write) + ıl (passive suffix) + acak (future suffix)

 The book will be written by them.

m. **Kitap Mehmet tarafından bulundu**

 Kitap (book) + Mehmet + tarafından (by) + bul (find) + un(passive suffix) + du (past suffix)

 The book was found by Mehmet.

The construction *tarafından* (by) may be inflected in different forms as follows:

n. **Kıtap tarafımdan okundu.**

 Kıtap (book) + *tarafımdan* (by me) + *oku* (read) + *un* (passive voice) + *du* (past suffix)

 The book was read by me.

o. **Bu kağıt tarafımızdan imzalanmiştır.**

 Bu (this) + *kağıt* (paper) + *tarafımızdan* (by us) +*imzala* (sign) + *n (passive suffix) +   miş* (past suffix)

 This paper was signed by us.

p. **Kitap tarafınızdan getirildi.**

 Kitap (book) + *tarafınızdan* (by you) + *getir* (bring*) + il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

The book was brought by you.

q. ***Kitapler taraflerindan getirildi.***

Kitap (book) + ler (plural suffix) + *taraflerindan* (by them) + *getir* (bring) + *il* (passive suffix) + *di* (past suffix)

The books were brought by them.

8. Passivisation in Modern English

There are two voices in Modern English (ME): active and passive. Kurtoğlu (2006) states that "the passive voice of a verb simply means the form of the verb used when the subject is being acted upon rather than doing something" (p. 34). Passivisation is a grammatical process in which the structure of the whole sentence changes without affecting the meaning. Abushihab (2014) states that passivisation is "a term used in the grammatical analysis of voice, referring to a sentence, clause, or verb form where the grammatical subject is typically the recipient or goal of the action denoted by the verb" (p. 36). Passive voice is used in English in written and spoken forms.

Passive voice is mostly used when the subject of the sentence is unknown, unnecessary, or when it is very well known. Ahmed (2022) remarks that passivisation is considered a type of fronting, where the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence as follows:

John reads the book. (Active)

The book is read (by John) (Passive)

Crystal (1991) categorizes the passivisation in English into two categories:

1. Agentive passive: passive constructions that take an agent, as in the following example:

    He was kicked by the dog.

2. Agentless passive: the sentence does not have a performer as follows:

    The city is industrialized.

9. Properties of Passive Constructions in English

Like Turkish, the process of passivisation in English passivizes most of the active sentences with an object, as the following example shows:

John broke the window.

The window was broken. (Agentless Passive)

The window was broken by John. (Agentive Passive)

Unlike Turkish, passivisation in English uses the object of the active sentence as the subject of the passive sentence, and the subject of the active may be demoted to the object of the preposition, as shown in the following example:

Ali opened the door of the room. (Active Sentence)

The door of the room was opened by Ali. (Passive Voice)

Unlike Turkish, the process of changing the active sentence to the passive in English needs the change of sentence order. Look at the following example in Turkish:

a. ***Ali dersi yazdı. (Active Sentence)***

    Ali + dersi (lesson) + *yaz* (write) + *dı* (past suffix)

    Ali wrote the lesson.

b. ***Ali   tarafından dersi yazıldı. (Passive Sentence)***
    Ali + tarafından (by) + *dersi* (lesson) + *yaz* (write) + *ıl* (passive suffix) + *dı* (past suffix)

    The lesson was written by Ali.

Note that in the example above, changing from active to passive in Turkish does not require a change in the word order.

10. Passivisation of Transitive Verbs in English

Like Turkish, most active sentences that have objects can be passivized in English. The passive process in both languages is constructed if the verb assigns an agent role to its subject and a patient role to its object. The patient is defined as the person or the thing that is affected or acted upon by the action expressed by a verb. The object is shifted to the subject as shown in the following examples:

Ali reads the letter. (Active sentence)

The letter is read   (Passive sentence)

Emeksiz (2015) stresses that" passivisation is a process of reducing transitivity and agency; therefore, it enables the authors to hide as agents and make the reader focus on the subject matter" (p. 13). It is noted that some transitive verbs like *belong, have (own), like, lack, resemble, and suit* express low transitivity, and the subjects of these verbs are not agents. They do not have real agents. Such verbs cannot

be passivized in English. Look at the following examples:

Selma likes her cat.

This sentence cannot be made passive. We cannot say:

Her cat is liked.

More examples are stated below about the transitive verbs that cannot be passivized:

1. Sami belongs to this group.
2. This paragraph lacks coherent sentences.
3. They have three houses.
4. He strongly resembles his brother.
5. This jacket really suits me.

Mattia-Vivies (2009) states that transitive verbs like resemble, have, mean, fit, weigh, etc., have a stative value. They are used statively. Even though the structures syntactically belong to active sentences that are transformed into passive ones because they have objects, they are not passivized. She adds that all transitive verbs stated above function as a "be" verb, and some of them could even be replaced by it.

11. Passivisation of Ditransitive Verbs in English

Some verbs are categorized as having double objects: direct objects and indirect objects. Such verbs can be passivized in both objects. Each object may be moved to the subject position as follows:

Ali gave Samia a gift.

This active sentence could be passivized in two ways. First, we put the indirect object (Samia) as the subject of the passive sentence.

Samia was given a gift. (by Ali)

The second way is to put the direct object (a gift) as the subject of the passive sentence:

A gift was given to Samia. (by Ali)

The example stated above shows that the active sentence that has two objects (direct and indirect) is made into the passive in two ways. One of the two objects becomes the subject, and the other remains the object. Alen (1992) states that the personal object (the patient) is usually made the subject of the passive sentence when the verb of the active sentence takes two objects like *give, send, show, lend, pay, promise, refuse, tell, offer,* etc., as in the following example:

Julia gave John a lot of money.

It is passivized as follows:

a. John was given a lot of money (by Julia).

b. A lot of money was given to John (by Julia).

Verbs of senses such as see, hear, feel, watch, and notice are followed by two forms: the present participle and the infinitive without "to" as follows:

c. Elizabeth saw the boy play football.

d. Elizabeth saw the boy playing football.

Such sentences can be passivized as follows:

e. The boy was seen playing football. (by Elizabeth).

f. The boy was seen to play football. (by Elizabeth).

12. Comparison and Contrast between Modern Standard Turkish and Modern English

From the above discussion about passivisation in Modern English and Modern Standard Turkish, we can conclude the following major points:

Unlike English, Modern Standard Turkish is an agglutinative language. Voice in Turkish is indicated by affixation:

Kesmek (to cut) Active

Kesilmek (to be cut) Passive

In this passive process, the passive affix (*il*) is added to change the verb to a passive form. In Modern English, we insert the auxiliary verbs to form the passive.

Cut (active)

To be cut (Passive)

Unlike English, Modern Standard Turkish allows passivisation from intransitive verbs as follows:

Buraya girilmez

Buraya (here) + *gir* (enter) + *il* (passive suffix) + *mez* (no)

No entrance

Just like Modern Standard Turkish, English allows passivisation from ditransitive verbs as follows:

English

John gives his brother a gift. (Active sentence with two objects: direct and indirect)

His brother is given a gift.

(or)

A gift is given to his brother.

Turkish

Kitaplar öğrencelere verdim

Kitap (book) + *lar* (plural suffix) + *öğrence* (student) + *ler* (plural suffix) + *e* (prepositional suffix/to) + *ver* (give) + *di* (past suffix) + *m* (personal suffix)

I gave the books to the students.

This active sentence in Turkish can be passivised as follows:

***Öğrencelere kitaplar verildi. il* (Passive Suffix)**

The students were given the books.

In this passive sentence, ***Öğrenceler*** (students) is put asthe indirect object as its subject.

kitaplar Öğrencelere verildi. il (Passive Suffix)

The books were given to the students.

The direct object *kitaplar* (books) is put in this sentence as the subject of the passive sentence.

Unlike Turkish, English passive in all its types is much more frequently used because a passive construction is mostly used when the agent of the active sentence is not known or is kept unknown on purpose. In both languages, passive sentences could be agent or agentless.

Unlike Turkish, the process of passivisation in English is based on putting the object of the active sentence as the subject of the passive one, and the subject of the active sentence may be moved to the object of the prepositional position (by + object) as follows:

Sami breaks the window.

The window is broken by Sami.

In Turkish, changing an active sentence to a passive one does not need the change in word order as follows:

Hoca beni sordum (active)

Hoca (teacher) + *beni* (me) + *sor* (ask) + *du* (past suffix) + *m* (personal suffix/me)

The teacher asked me.

The passive form of the sentence stated above is as follows:

Ben soruldum

Ben (I) + *sor* (ask) + *ul* (passive suffix) + *du* (past suffix) + *m* (personal suffix/I)

I was asked.

As the example stated above shows, there is no change in word order in Turkish passive sentences. The passive suffix (*ul*) is added to the root of the verb of the above sentence.

13. Conclusion

Modern Standard Turkish is classified as an agglutinative language because the words are formed through a series of smaller morphemes to express compound ideas as follows:

Burada durulmaz

Burada (here) + *dur* (stop) + *ul* (passive suffix) + *maz* (negative suffix)

Do not stop here.

Accordingly, Turkish is a head-final language. This characteristic made Turkish sentences SOV, where the verb is positioned at the end,

whereas Modern English is classified as SVO. Turkish and English have active and passive construction. In English, the passive is formed by inserting auxiliary verbs before the verb, which is shifted to the past participle as follows:

The gift was given to Ali.

In Turkish, the passive suffixes *n*, *in*, *ɪn*, *un*, *ün*, *il*, *ɪl*, *ul*, and *ül* are inserted into the root as follows:

Yapɪlacak

Yap (made) + *ɪl* (passive suffix) + *acak* (tense marker, will)

will be made

The process of passivisation in Turkish is a morphological process because the passive is formed by inserting affixes as stated above.

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