

Difficulties Confronting Students with Passive Voice Constructions in Arabic and English

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Abstract:

This study is concerned with the issue of the difficulties facing learners of Arabic and English in dealing with passive voice constructions. The study began with classifying the passive voice in the language in general. Then it explored and identified all the types of linguistic structures used in constructing the passive voice in the Arabic and English languages. A theoretical study of the passive voice constructions in the two languages was conducted. Constructions through which the passive voice case can be achieved were discussed on both of the syntactic and semantic levels. The similarities as well as differences in the case of the passive voice constructions in Arabic and English were also highlighted. The study paid special attention to pointing out the difficulties with these constructions, including confusing them with other constructions, such as the case of the “active voice.” Finally, the study reached important results regarding the problem in question, and some suggestions, solutions, and recommendations were presented to learners, translators, and researchers.

Keywords: (problems, passive voice, Arabic language, English language).

المشكلات التي تواجه الطلاب مع تراكيب
المبني للمجهول في اللغتين العربية والانكليزية

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المخلص:

تعنى هذه الدراسة بمسألة الصعوبات التي تواجه متعلمي اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية في التعامل مع تراكيب المبني للمجهول. حيث بدأت الدراسة بتصنيف المبني للمجهول في اللغة بشكل عام ومن ثم استكشاف و تحديد أنواع التراكيب اللغوية المستخدمة في بناء المبني للمجهول في اللغتين العربية و الانكليزية. وتم اجراء دراسة نظرية لتراكيب المبني للمجهول في اللغتين موضوع الدراسة. جميع أنواع التراكيب التي يمكن من خلالها تحقيق حالة المبني للمجهول جرى

مناقشتها على المستويين النحوي والدلالي. كما وتم تسليط الضوء على أوجه التشابه وكذلك الاختلاف في حالة المبني للمجهول في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية. وأولت الدراسة اهتمام خاص بتأثير الصعوبات مع هذه التراكيب و منها الخلط بينها وبين التراكيب الأخرى مثل حالة "المبني للمعلوم". وأخيراً توصلت الدراسة إلى نتائج مهمة بخصوص المشكلة موضوع البحث وتم تقديم بعض الاقتراحات والحلول والتوصيات للمتعلمين والمترجمين والباحثين.
الكلمات المفتاحية: (المشكلات، المبني للمجهول، اللغة العربية، اللغة الانكليزية).

1. Introduction:

Passive voice is an important grammatical phenomenon in English and Arabic, nonetheless it is expressed differently in the two languages. English and Arabic belong to different language families. Their inflectional and derivational morphemes differ greatly. On the basis of this significant difference, this study assumes that passive voice constructions represent a problem for language learners and a special problem for those who aim to translate them from English to Arabic or vice versa.

The problem under investigation is to be dealt with by means of exploring passive voice constructions in English and Arabic. As for Arabic, types of passive voice constructions in Arabic will be investigated. A short survey of the morphology of these constructions is to be presented. Syntactic features relating to word order, agentivity, and transitivity are also to be taken into consideration. Use of Arabic passive voice constructions will be illustrated through use of authentic examples. English passive voice constructions are to be dealt with in the same manner.

Reference grammar books of the two languages are to be consulted and authentic examples of passive voice constructions of the two languages will be provided. Arabic passive voice constructions will be supplied with English translations and transliteration so as to be easily understood by non-Arab learners. Finally, to further serve the aim of the study a comparison between passive voice constructions in the two languages is to be conducted.

The study hopes to contribute to a better understanding of passive voice constructions in Arabic and English particularly by learners, researchers and translators.

2. Voice:

The main purpose of this study is investigating difficulties that learners, researchers or translators may face in handling passive voice constructions in Arabic and English. However, it will be helpful to have a glance at the type of the grammatical category to which passive voice constructions belong i.e. voice. Traditionally, the passive voice has been studied under the rubric of voice. Voice is defined as a grammatical category that explains sentence or clause structure, with reference to verbs, to express the way by which sentences may alter the relationship between the subject and object of a verb without changing the meaning of the sentence. The main distinction is between active voice and passive voice as exemplified respectively by *Our neighbour bought our house.* and *Our house was bought by our neighbour.* The speaker's choice of either of the two types of voice is affected by certain factors i.e. emphasis or style. The facts reported in a sentence in the passive voice are the same as that in its Active counterpart. Contrasts in voice maybe realized with verb inflection, word order or the use of special auxiliaries besides the use of verbs of reflexive meaning (See Quirk et al, 1985:159; Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002:57; Crystal,2003:495; Newson et al, 2006:72). Employment of one or more of the voice contrast methods may differ from one language to another. Arabic realizes difference in voice by verb inner inflections while English uses syntactic in addition to morphological changes.

3. Passive voice Constructions:

This section is devoted to conducting a theoretical study of the passive voice constructions in Arabic and English on both the syntactic and semantic levels.

3.1 Passive voice Constructions in Arabic:

The doer of the action of the Arabic passive sentence is not present when it is not known or preferred not to be mentioned. Arabic uses two types of constructions to express passive voice. The first is الفعل المبني للمجهول *álfi?l álmábny lilmájhul* (Passive Verb) and the other is اسم المفعول *'ism máf?ul* (The past participle).

3.1.1 Passive Verb الفعل المبني للمجهول *álfi?l álmábny lilmájhul*:

In Arabic, transforming active voice sentences into passive voice is a morphological process. It involves the form of the verb as well as the form of its object. The word order remains unaffected. The passive voice verb-form is

created by altering the vocalization of the active verbs and this rule is applicable for all types of Arabic verbs. The passive voice in the Perfect is achieved by adding *kásrás* to the middle radicals and *dámmás* to every other vocalized radical. In the Imperfect, the present prefixes receive *dámmás* and *fáthás* follow on the second radicals.(see: Ibn?áqeel,1985:113/2; Ibn Hishâm 1985:317; Ibn As-Sárräj,1988:77/1; Az-Zámákhsháry ,1993:291/1; Al-Wárräq, 1999:277/1; Ibn Jiny, undated: 260; Al-Mubárád, undated:100/1), e.g.

Perfect

Active voice

Passive voice

دَرَسَ *dárásá* studied → دُرِسَ *durisá* was studied
 شَرِبَ *sháribá* drank → شُرِبَ *shuribá* was drunk
 حَسُنَ *hásuná* became fine → حُسِنَ *husiná* was made fine
 دَحْرَجَ *dáhrájá* rolled → دُحْرَجَ *duhríjá* was rolled
 احْتَفَلَ *ihťáfálá* celebrated → أُحْتَفِلَ *uhtufilá* was celebrated

Imperfect

Active voice

Passive voice

يَدْرُسُ *yádrusu* studies → يُدْرَسُ *yudrásu* is studied
 يَشْرَبُ *yáshrábu* drinks → يُشْرَبُ *yushrábu* is drunk
 يُحْسِنُ *yuhsínu* becomes better → يُحْسَنُ *yuhsánu* is made better
 يُدَحْرَجُ *yudáhríju* rolls → يُدَحْرَجُ *yudáhráju* is rolled
 يَحْتَفِلُ *yáhtáfílu* celebrates → يُحْتَفَلُ *yuhtáfálu* is celebrated

As is previously mentioned, the active-passive transformation in Arabic is characterized by initial *dámmá*; *kásrá* follows in the Perfect and *fáthá* in the Imperfect. Nonetheless, a hollow perfect verb with ألف *lif* (if it is not of six radicals) receives some extra changes. The ألف should be altered into ياء *yâ* and all the preceding vocalized radicals should receive *kásrás* (Al-Anbâry, 1995:98; As-Syoty, undated:313/3; Al-Wárräq, 1999:278/1) , e.g.

Active voice

→ Passive voice

باعَ *bâ?á* sold → بِيَعُ *biee?á* was sold
 قَالَ *qálá* said → قِيلَ *qieelá* was said
 اقتادَ *iqťádá* led → اِقْتِيَدَ *iqťieedá* was led
 اجتاحَ *ijťáhá* overcame → اِجْتِيَحَ *ijťieehá* was overcome

It is worth mentioning here that the above-mentioned verbs would normally be converted into passive voice as (اجنّوح 'qtuwdá, اقنّود 'quwilá, قول 'buee?á) (بيع 'jtuwhá). The Arab grammarians' justification of such diverted transformations is avoiding a heavy syllable i.e. the meeting of *kásrá* with a long vowel (Al-Anbâry, 1995:98; As-Syoty, undated:313/3; Al-Wárrāq, 1999:278/1).

A glottalized hollow Perfect verb with ألف consisting of six letters is to be converted into passive voice as follows: first, the middle ألف should be changed into ياء . Second, the first (the *hámzá*) and third radicals receive *dámmás*. Third, all radicals before the ياء should receive *kásrás* (ibid), e.g.

Active voice → Passive voice

إِسْتَأْتَبَ 'istátáâbá asked someone to repent → أُسْتَتَيْبَ 'ustutieebá was permitted to repent

إِسْتَمَّاحَ 'istámáâhá asked someone's permission → أُسْتَمِيحَ 'ustumieehá was asked for permission

Trilateral hollow perfect verbs when attached to subjective pronouns are to be changed into passive voice as follows: first, if the trilateral in the Active begins with *dámmá*, that *dámmá* should be changed into *kásrá* (Al-Wárrāq, 1999:277/1; Al-Ashmuny,2005:378; Al-Afghâny, 1994:52; Al-Mubárad, undated: 52/4), e.g.

Active voice → Passive voice

سَمَّتُهُ *sumtuhu* I offered it for sale → سِمْتُ *simtu* I was offered something to buy

قَدْتُ *qudtu* I led → قِدْتُ *qidtu* I was led

رَمْتُ *rumtu* I aspired → رِمْتُ *rimtu* I was aspired

In opposition, if the trilateral Perfect verb starts with *kásrá*, it should go into passive voice by altering the initial *kásrá* into *dámmá* (ibid), e.g.

Active voice → Passive voice

بِعْتُهُ *bi?tuhu* I sold it → بُعْتُ *bu?tu* something was sold to me

نَلْتُهُ *niltuhu* I got it → نُلْتُ *nultu* I was enabled to get something

ضَمَّتُهُ *dhimtuhu* I oppressed him → ضُمْتُ *dhumtu* I was oppressed

The reason that the Arab grammarians give for such diverted process is to distinguish the passive voice forms their Active counterparts(See: Al-Wárrāq, 1999:277/1; Al-Ashmuny,2005:378; Al-Afghâny, 1994:52; Al-Mubárad, undated: 52/4).

Imperfect hollow verbs with (ي, و) are to be changed into passive voice by converting these radicals into أَلْف (ibid), e.g.

Active voice → **Passive voice**

يَقُولُ *yáquwlu* says → يُقَالُ *yuqâlu* is said

يَسْتَتِيبُ *yástátieebu* forgives → يُسْتَتَابُ *yustátâbu* is asked to forgive

يَبِيعُ *yábiee?u* sells → يُبَاعُ *yubâ?u* is sold

يَسْتَطِيعُ *yástátee?u* is able → يُسْتَطَاعُ *yustátâ?u* is enabled

Intransitive verbs, generally, have no passive voice forms since they do not have objects. Nevertheless, an Intransitive verb may well turn into passive voice if it is followed by a prepositional phrase, an adverb, or an infinitive (S?eed,2004:52), e.g.

1. نِيَمَ عَلَى السَّرِيرِ *Neemá ?lâ álsáreeri* The bed was slept on.

2. أُحْتَفِلَ كَبِيرًا *Uhtufilá 'ihtifâlun kábeerun* A great celebration was held.

3. أُحْتَفِلَ يَوْمَ الْخَمِيسِ *Uhtufilá yáwmu álkhámees* A celebration was held on Thursday.

Verbs in the Imperative mood are never made passive voice. Additionally, verbs like أَحْمَرَ *hmárá* became red, مَاتَ *mâtá* died, تَكَسَّرَ *tákásará* broke up, مَرَضَ *máridhá* became ill, تَقَاتَلَ *táqátálá* fought, اِنْتَشَرَ *ntáshará* spread, اِخْشَوْشَنَ *khsháwsháná* became tough, تَضَارَبَ *tádhârabá* hit and هَرَوْلَ *hârwálá* trotted often designate a state or condition that is confined to the subject, therefore; they are usually used in the Active Voice. With such verbs, passive voice meaning is theoretically understood. On the other hand, there are certain Arabic verbs that are often used in passive voice i.e. تُوفِيَ *tuwfyâ* died, سُلَّ *sulá* got tuberculosis, ثُلِّجَ صَدْرُهُ *thulijá šádráhu* be delighted, جُنَّ *juná* got mad, شُدِّهَ *shudihá* got astonished, أُغْمِيَ *ugmiyá* fainted, عُنِيَ *uniyá* got concerned, زُكِمَ *zukimá* caught flue, هُزِلَ *huzilá* got thin.

(See: Ibn As-Sárrāj,1988:77/1; Aziz,1989:268; Al-Wárrāq,1999:278/1; Wright,1996:51; Haywood and Nahmad,1965:142; Al-Ashmuny,2005:378; Socin, 2007:33).

3.1.2 Passive Participle أَسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ 'ism máf?uwl :

Arabic uses another type of constructions to express passive voice. This construction is known as اسم المفعول 'ism máf?ul (passive participle). This construction occurs in nominal sentences. It is derived from a verb in the passive voice. It designates that the noun it governs is undergoing or having undergone an action or a temporary state. It does not express a process or any idea of time or permanent state(See: Az-Zámákhsháry, 1993:291/1; Ibn Hishâm 1994:457; Ibn Jiny, undated: 260; Al-Mubárád, undated:100/1).

4. مُكْرَمٌ أَخُوكَ mukrámin ákhwuká Your brother is honoured.

5. مَدْعُوٌّ جَارُكَ mád?win jâruká Your neighbour is invited.

Grammarians of Arabic exclude adjectives taking the form of máf?wl but describing permanent states from being passive voice constructions. Adjectives of this type are known as الصفة المشبهة álsifá álmushábáhá i.e. مُدْمَرٌ mudámár demolished, مَضْرُوبٌ mádhruwb be hit, مَقْتُولٌ máqtwl be killed.(ibid).

اسم المفعول is formed from a trilateral passive voice verb on the form of مَفْعُولٌ máf?wl, e.g. مَحْفُوظٌ máhfwuz is kept, مَنْصُورٌ mánšwur is backed up, مَكْتُوبٌ máktwub is written. From verbs other than trilateral, اسم المفعول is realized by changing the Present prefixes (ت, ي, ن, أ) with the syllable مُ mu followed by fáthá on the pre-final radical, e.g. مُرْتَبٌ murrátáb tidy, مُسْتَمْلِحٌ mustámláh is found pretty, مُسْتَخْرَجٌ mustákhraj is drawn out, مَبِيعٌ mábee? is sold). اسم المفعول is analogous with passive voice verbs on both the syntactic and semantic levels. It brings the noun it governs into the Nominative case according to the following conditions:

a. When it is preceded with الـ (Al-Gálâyny,1944:182/1).

6. المَحْرُومَةُ أَمْتَعْتُهُ حَضَرَ Álmáhzwmatu ámtu?áthu hádhrá. The one whose luggage is packed has come.

b. When it is preceded with interrogative (ibid).

7. أَمْفَهُومٌ دَرَسُ الْعُلُومِ؟ ' máfhwumun dársu ál?ulwm ? Is the science lesson understood?

c. When it is preceded with negative (Al-Gálâyny,1944:182/1).

8. مَا مَزْرُوعَةٌ حَدِيقَةُ الْمَنْزِلِ mâ mázruw?átun hádiqátu ál-mánzili. The garden of the house is not cultivated.

d. When it is followed by a noun governed by an adjective (ibid).

9. أَعْجَبَنِي خَطِيبٌ مَوْجِزٌ قَوْلُهُ 'jábány kháteebun muwjázun qáwluhu. I admired a

speaker whose speech is concise.

e. When it describes a temporary state (ibid).

10. الدارُ مُغْلَقٌ بَابُهُ. *ál-dâru muġlâqun bâbuhu*. The house has its door closed.

g. When it functions as predicate, e.g:

11. أخوك مُهَذَّبٌ أَخْلَاقُهُ. *ákhwuká muháthâbátun* Your brother is well-mannered.

Additionally, there are four irregular forms of **أَسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ** that don't follow the **أَسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ** form i.e. **فَعِيلٌ** (جريح *járeeh* wounded), **فِعْلٌ** (طحن *tíhn* grinded), **فَعْلٌ** (جلب *jálb* bringing) and **فُعْلَةٌ** (أكلت *uklá* a meal). Moreover, **أَسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ** may share اسم الفاعل in some irregular forms like (**مُخْتَارٌ** *mukhtâr* chosen) and (**مُشَادٌ** *mushâd* taken to the extreme) (Al-Afgâny, 2004:177).

Finally, and as is the case with a verb in the passive voice, **أَسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ** is mainly derived from transitive verbs. Yet, it is possible to derive **أَسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ** from intransitive verbs with help of using some instruments such as the prepositions **بـ** *b* by/with, **في** *fy* in, **فوق** *fáwq* on and **على** *ála* on (ibid), e.g.

12. الفراشُ مَنْوَمٌ فَوْقَهُ. *álfirâshu mánwmun fáwqáhu* The bed is slept on.

13. الأرضُ مُتَسَابِقٌ عَلَيْهَا. *ál'rdhu mutásâbuqn ? áleehâ* The land is raced on.

3.1.3 The Subject Deputy **نائب الفاعل** *Nâ'ib Al-fâ?il* :

Arabic sentences have their verbs assigned to nouns i.e. subjects (Seebáwáh, undated:21/1), therefore; omitting the subject in a passive voice construction paves the way to the object of the verb to take the role of the absent subject. Arab grammarians call the object that replaces the absent subject **نائب الفاعل** *Nâ'ib Al-Fâ?il* (Al-Anbâry, H1415:95). This rule is quite true for nouns that are built for verbs in the passive voice as well as to those that are built for **أَسْمُ الْمَفْعُولِ** (see: Seebáwáh, undated:41-46/1, Ibn Hishâm'1985:312; Al-Gálâyny,1944:246\2). Originally, the object of the Active verb takes the accusative case, however; it has to be in the nominative case when it replaces the subject of the passive voice verb.

Transitive verbs that affect two or three objects take the first object to be in the nominative case and leave the others in the accusative case (Seebáwáh, undated:43/1), e.g.

14. مُنِحَ الْفَقِيرُ ثَوْبًا. *munihá ál-fáqeeru tháwbán*. The poor has been offered a

dress.

15. أُعلِمت الأمر واقعاً *U? limtá ál-ámrá wâqi?án.* I was informed the matter was settled.

3.1.4 Agentive Passive:

It is worth mentioning here that the majority of traditional Arab grammarians state that when the Subject is mentioned, the sentence should go to the Active Voice (Az-Zámákhsháry ,1993:291/1; Ibn Jiny, undated: 260; Al-Mubárád, undated:100/1). Yet, in recent literary Arabic, we often meet passive voice constructions whose semantic agents are mentioned with the use of some prepositions like (مِنْ طَرَفٍ *min táráfi* by, مِنْ جَانِبٍ *min jânibi* by , مِنْ قِبَلٍ *min qibáli* by). Such constructions are found, specifically, in the language of newspapers and mass media, e.g.

16. أنشئ الجسر من قِبَلِ الحكومة. *unshi'á ál-jisru min qibáli ál-húkuwmáti.* The bridge was built by the government.

17. ألغى العقد من طَرَفِ الشَّرِكَةِ. *ulgíeeá ál-?qdu min táráfi ál-shárikáti.* The bond was cancelled by the company.

Contemporary grammarians of Arabic describe a passive voice construction whose semantic agent is mentioned as an inexperienced translation or mere imitation of some foreign languages, i.e. European languages. (See: Haywood and Nahmad,1965:142; Aziz,1989:268; Wright,1996:51;).

3.1.5 Uses of Passive Voice in Arabic:

Generally, Arabic passive voice constructions do not mention the doer of the action. However, these particular constructions are used in certain situations which Arab grammarians sum up by the following:

a. The doer of the action is generally known i.e. When God is designated as the doer of the action.

18. توفي المصاب. *tuwfyá álmušâbu.* The injured died.

b. The doer of the action is of some high rank and we do not wish to associate his name with certain deeds.

c. The doer is unknown.

19. سُرِقَ البيت. *suriqá álbáeetu.* The house was robbed.

d. We do not wish to name the doer for some reason of another i.e. fear of him or for him.

20. قُتِلَ اللصُّ *qutilá álišu*. The thief was killed.

e. We wish to direct the receiver's attention to the person or thing affected by the act.

21. أَنْقَذَ الْوَلَدُ الصَّغِيرُ *'unqithá álwáládu ášágeeru*. The little boy was saved.

f. The deed is more important than the doer.

22. (وَإِذَا حُيِّئْتُمْ بِتَحِيَّةٍ فَحَيُّوا بِأَحْسَنَ مِنْهَا) النساء: ٨٦ When a greeting is offered you, meet it with a greeting still more courteous.(Ali,1989:206)

g. We like to be brief.

23. هُزِمَ الْعَدُو *huzimá ál?dw* The enemy was defeated.(Al Gálâyny,1944:247/2)

h. Passive voice is sometimes used for poetic purposes (As-Syoty, undated:58/1), e.g.

24. مَنْ طَابَتْ سَرِيرَتُهُ حُمِدَتْ سِيرَتُهُ *mán tâbát sáreerátihi húmidát seerátihi* He who is good-intentioned is well reputed.

3.2 Passive Voice Constructions in English:

English passive voice is characterized by the state where the grammatical subject is the recipient or goal of the action designated by the verb. Grammarians of English describe passive voice as a way of phrasing the sentence so that the subject does not refer to the person or thing responsible (directly or indirectly) for the action. The active-passive transformation involves two clause elements; the active subject becomes the passive voice agent and the active object becomes the passive voice subject. The process of forming passive voice occurs at both the syntactic and the morphological levels. In other words, it involves differences in positions of sentence elements and differences in the form of the verb, e.g.:

25. I sold my car two weeks ago. (Active voice)

26. My car was sold two weeks ago. (Passive voice)

Mentioning the performer of an action in passive voice is optional. English allows the appearance of the semantic subject with the use of the preposition *by*. In such a case, the semantic subject is less important than the receiver of the action or the action itself (See: Praninskas, 1975:297; Quirk et al,1985:159; Burton-Roberts,1997:136-138; Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002:27; Crystal, 2003:339; Newson et al, 2006:72)

27. The detective was murdered by the butler. (Quirk et al,1985:159)

28. She is respected by the men. (ibid:160)

3.2.1 Passive Voice With BE

The verb phrase in the passive voice involves two elements: BE the normal auxiliary and the past participle the lexical element. The auxiliary represents the finite part that conveys tense and aspect. The past participle is the non-finite part that conveys the lexical meaning (Quirk et al,1985, 163; Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002:17; Crystal, 2003:339), e.g.:

29. I'm not often invited to parties. (Murphy,2004:84)

30. We were a woken up by a loud noise during the night. (ibid)

31. The letters might have been sent to the wrong address. (ibid:85)

32. The room is being cleaned at the moment.(ibid)

33. The room will be cleaned later. (ibid)

3.2.2 Passive Voice With GET:

English uses another method to realize passive voice, viz. GET and the past participle. GET is used instead of BE though it is not, by most syntactic criteria, an auxiliary at all. The get-passive tends particularly to be restricted to informal English and to constructions without an expressed animate agent (Praninskas, 1975:298; Quirk et al,1985:160):

34. The cat got run over (by a bus). (Quirk et al,1985:160)

35. James got beaten last night.(ibid)

36. The story eventually got translated into English.(ibid)

3.2.3 Voice Constraints:

English has certain voice constraints on the finite part of the verb phrase in the passive voice. Transitive verbs are generally either Active or passive. Intransitive verbs and copula that have no objects have no passive voice counterparts. Additionally, some transitive verbs viz. "middle verbs" at least in some senses cannot take the passive voice form (Quirk et al,1985:162; Burton-Roberts,1997:138; Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002:58), e.g. :

37. The dress becomes her. (Quirk et al,1985:162)

38. John resembles his father. (ibid)

39. Will this suits you? (ibid)

40. She was annoyed with them. (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002:58)

41. I am worried about Edward. (ibid)

42. My teachers are pleased with my progress.(ibid)

In opposition, there are some verbs and verb constructions that their proper use is confined to passive voice only, e.g.

43. John was reputed to be a good teacher. → *They reputed him to be a good teacher.

44. John was said to be a good teacher. → *They said him to be a good teacher.

45. He was born in Tübingen. → * His mother bore him in Tübingen.

46. The wanted man fell in water and was drowned. → The wanted man fell in water and *someone drowned him.

3.2.4 Central Passive:

Grammarians of English grade passive voice constructions according to the meaning and function of the *past participle* component of the verb phrase. passive voice constructions are classified as central when the *past participles* have pure verbal properties, i.e. unique correspondents Active constructions (Quirk et al,1985:167).

47. **Active:** Charles Dickens wrote many novels. (ibid:17)

48. **Passive:** Many novels were written by Charles Dickens.

49. **Active:** Manchester United beat Liverpool at Old Trafford. (ibid:18)

50. **Passive:** Liverpool were beaten by Manchester United at Old Trafford.

51. **Active:** The Rambert Dance Company won the country's largest arts prize, the Prudential Award. (ibid:18)

52. **Passive:** The country's largest arts prize, the Prudential Award, was won by the Rambert Dance Company.

3.2.5 Adjectival Passive:

English has two types of passive like constructions. Those constructions represent stative passives rather than dynamic. The first are known as semi-passives that have their past participle components bear both verbal and adjectival properties. On the one hand, they are verb-like in having proper active counterparts(Quirk et al,1985:168), e.g.:

53. We are encouraged to go on with the project. → The results encourage us to go on with the project.

54. They were interested in history. → History interests them. (Crystal, 2003:339)

On the other hand, the *past participles* elements of such constructions have certain adjectival properties(Quirk et al,1985:168). These properties are summarized by Greenbaum & Nelson(2002:58) as follows:

a. They can be modified by (very, rather, so, too....etc.), e.g.:

55. She was very annoyed with the bad news.

b. They can occur with a linking verb other than be, e.g.

56. She became worried after she heard the bad news.

c. They can be linked with another adjective, e.g.

57. She grew angry and worried when she heard the bad news. (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002:58)

The second type of adjectival passive voice constructions that grammarians of English recognize are those that have *past participles* but have no active correspondents nor have the possibility of having agent addition. The only sign recommending such constructions to be considered like passive are their superficial form. Some grammarians define them as pseudo-passive. (Quirk et al,1985:169), e.g.:

58. The building is already demolished.(ibid)

The construction *be + -ed participle* in (58) denotes a resultant state rather than the act designated by the verb. The auxiliary *be* is copula rather than passive auxiliary.

3.2.6 Uses of Passive Voice in English:

The most common reason of using the passive voice in English is to avoid referring to the doer of the action. However, the performer of the action may be not mentioned for one or more of the following reasons:

a. When the identity of the performer is unknown (Praninskas, 1975:298), e.g.

59. Bill's slide rule was made in Germany.

b. When it is felt preferable not to mention the identity of the performer (ibid), e.g.

60. She told that her English was satisfactory for the university work.

c. When we wish to emphasize the active object (Praninskas, 1975:298), e.g.

61. Quizzes are given regularly.

d. The doer of action may be not mentioned because it is known already (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2002:27).

62. The decision has already been taken.

e. When it is felt to be tactless to mention the doer (ibid).

63. The refrigerator door has not been properly closed.

f. Passive voice tends to be heavily used in formal scientific writing (ibid).

64. Traces of anthrax were revealed by the tests.

4. Comparison of Passive Voice Constructions in Arabic and English:

1. Arabic Passive voice comprises two types of constructions; الفعل المبني للمجهول (Passive Verb) and اسم المفعول (The past participle).

2. In Arabic, transforming active sentences into passive voice is a mere morphological process. The word order remains unaffected. In English, forming passive voice affects both the syntactic and the morphological levels.

3. Generally, Arabic Intransitive verbs are not used in passive voice constructions except when they are followed by a prepositional phrase, an adverb, or an infinitive. Similarly, English has certain restrictions on verbs occurring in the passive voice. Intransitive verbs and copula that have no objects cannot take the passive voice. Additionally, verbs that are known as “middle verbs” in some senses cannot occur in the passive voice.

4. English has some sentences that look like passive voice sentences, but their *past participle* elements are adjectives and not parts of passive voice verbs. Similarly, Arabic plainly excludes adjectives describing permanent states from being passive voice constructions i.e. الصفة المشبهة .

5. Both Arabic and English never allow verbs in the Imperative mood to take the passive voice forms.

6. There are some Arabic verbs that are often used in passive voice, e.g. تُوفِي *tuwfyâ* died, سُلَّ *sulá* got tuberculosis, تَلَّجَ صدره *thulijá šádráhu* be delighted , جُنَّ *juná* got mad, شَدِهَ *shudihá* got astonished, أُغْمِيَ *ugmiyá* got fainted, عُنِيَ *uniyá* concerned, زُكِمَ *zukimá* caught flue , هُزِلَ *huzilá* got thin. English, on the other hand, have certain verbs used in passive voice i.e. be deducted, be reputed, be born, be drowned.

7. Some of the Arabic passive voice verbs usually have their English counterparts used in the active voice only viz. تُوفِي tuwfyá died, يُمكن yumkin it is probable, يُحتمل yuhtámál it is possible, زُكِمَ caught flue .

8. Some Arabic verbs do not have passive voice forms but have passive voice meaning. They designate a state or condition that is confined to the subject, e.g.: احْمَرَ ḥmárá became red, تَكَسَّرَ tákásará broke up, مَرَضَ máridhá became ill, تَقَاتَلَ táqátalá fought, انْتَشَرَ 'ntáshará spread, اخشوشن 'ksháwsháná became tough, تضارب tádhârábá hit and هرول hárwálá trotted.

9. Arabic has four irregular forms of اسم المفعول that don't follow the مفعول form i.e. فَعِيل (جريح) , فَعْل (طِخْن) , فَعْل (جَلَب) and فُعْلَة (أَكَلَة) . Moreover, اسم المفعول may share اسم الفاعل in some irregular forms like مُشَاد and مُخْتَار .

10. Arabic does not allow the doer in passive voice constructions to be stated. English has two types of passive voice constructions agentive and non-agentive.

11. Passive voice constructions, in both Arabic and English, are used when the doer of the action is unknown or preferred not to be mentioned for some reason or another.

5. Conclusion:

The study concludes that the difficulties that learners of Arabic and English may face in using passive voice constructions lie in the following areas:

1. Translating agentive passive voice constructions from English into Arabic.
2. Dealing with the Arabic verbs that do not have passive voice forms but have passive voice meaning.
3. Arab learners may have some confusion in dealing with English sentences that look like passive voice sentences, but their *past participle* elements are adjectives and not parts of passive voice verbs.
4. English language speakers learning Arabic may face problems in dealing the Arabic passive voice verbs that usually have their English counterparts realized in active voice viz. تُوفِي tuwfyá died, يُمكن yumkin it is probable, يُحتمل yuhtámál it is possible, زُكِمَ caught flue .

5. Foreign learners of Arabic may face a possible problem of with the irregular forms of **أسم المفعول** that don't follow the **مفعول** particularly those that resemble **اسم الفاعل** in form.

6. Recommendations:

In order to help learners, translators and language users in general overcome problems with passive voice constructions in Arabic and English, the study recommends the following:

1. Learners and translators of Arabic should be aware that Arabic does not allow the doer in passive voice constructions to be stated. English agentive passive voice constructions should be converted into active when they are translated into Arabic.
2. Learners and translators of English should be aware that English has some constructions that look like passive voice, but their past participle elements are adjectives and not parts of passive voice verbs.
3. Attention should be paid to the Arabic verbs that do not have passive voice forms but have passive voice meaning.
4. Attention should be paid to some of the Arabic passive voice verbs that usually have their English counterparts in Active voice.
5. Learners and translators should be aware that passive voice is realized in English and Arabic in a very different way i.e. verb "to be" is an essential component of passive voice constructions in English; whereas, its counterpart "يكون" is not used in Arabic passive voice constructions.
6. Learners and translators of either language of Arabic or English have to be well acquainted with semantic and the syntactic features of each language.

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List of Transliterations Keys

no.	Arabic	English	Example	no.	Arabic	English	Example
1	ء	‘	احتفال ‘ihtifāl	19	ع	?	باع bā?á
				20	غ	g	مُغلق muglāq
2	ا	â	جار jâr				
3	ب	b	شرب sháribá	21	ف	f	ألف ‘lif
4	ت	t	توفي tuwfyâ				
5	ث	th	ثوب tháwb	22	ق	q	قال qâlá
6	ج	j	جار jâr	23	ك	k	Sháriká شركة
7	ح	h	منح munihá	24	ل	l	قال qâlá
8	خ	kh	خميس khámees	25	م	m	مات mâtá
9	د	d	Sáeed سعيد	26	ن	n	من min
10	ذ	th	أنقذ ‘nqithá	27	هـ	h	هرول hárwálá
11	ر	r	درس dárásá	28	و	w	ولد wálád
12	ز	z	زيم zukimá	29	ي	ee/y	يُدرُس Yádrusu
13	س	s	سمت simtu				
14	ش	sh	شرب sháribá	31	ـ	á	درس dárásá

15	ص	š	مُصَابٌ mušābu	32	ـ	i	بيع biee?á
16	ض	<u>dh</u>	mudhmárá مضمره				
17	ط	t	طَرْفٌ táráfi				
18	ظ	<u>z</u>	مَحْفُوظٌ máhfwez				

