

**TYPES OF ENGLISH PASSIVE VOICE AND FORMS OF
PASSIVIZATION AT HEADLINE NEWS FOUND IN COLUMNS IN
WWW.TIME.COM : A TYPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

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ABSTRAK

Nengsih, Arfina Dewi. 2012. "Types of English passive voice and forms of passivization at headline news found in columns in *www.time.com*: a typological analysis". *Skripsi*. Padang: Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. FBS. UNP

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi tipe-tipe pasif bahasa Inggris dan bentuk-bentuk proses pemasifan yang muncul pada berita-berita utama pada setiap kolom yang terdapat pada *www.time.com* berdasarkan analisis tipologi. Metode yang digunakan dalam melakukan penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif yang digunakan untuk menggambarkan suatu masalah dengan jelas berdasarkan data yang akurat. Sumber data adalah kalimat pasif yang muncul pada berita-berita utama yang terdapat pada setiap kolom pada *www.time.com*. Penulis memfokuskan pada identifikasi tipe-tipe pasif dan proses pemasifannya pada kalimat pasif tersebut serta menentukan ada atau tidaknya agen pada kalimat pasif tersebut.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 6 tipe pasif pada bahasa Inggris. Dari tipe pasif yang ditemukan, tipe personal pasif yang paling mendominasi diantara tipe pasif yang lain. Sedangkan bentuk pemasifan yang paling dominan adalah *copular be + past participle*, dari 6 bentuk cara pemasifan yakni sekitar 54,38%. Serta 22 kalimat yang memiliki agen (*backgrounding*) dan 92 kalimat yang tidak memiliki agen (*foregrounding*), yakni sekitar 80,70 % dari 114 data yang diperoleh. Hal ini membuktikan bahwa tulisan bahasa Inggris didominasi sekitar 80% oleh *agentless* (Dixon, 1991: 298).

Selain itu, kata modal (auxiliary) yang ditemukan pada data tidak hanya kata modal *have* tapi juga *will*, dan *can*. Serta, preposisi yang ditemukan tidak hanya *by* tapi juga preposisi *for* dan *from*. Bentuk pemasifan tersebut diperoleh dengan mengkonstruksikan masing-masing data berdasarkan teori Valin dan Foley dan Dixon. Terakhir, secara tipologi bahasa Inggris termasuk kedalam kelompok bahasa polisintesis dan dalam ketatabahasaannya termasuk kedalam struktur SVO atau elemen subjek, prediket dan objek.

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The Researcher

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Problem

Human beings use sentences to describe or to inform their ideas for someone else. Theoretically, a sentence is a unit of words that shows a complete idea. In expressing ideas, the sentence can be formed in active and passive. The forms have same meaning semantically. Moreover, subject, verb, and object are elements which are contained in a sentence. Semantically, each of those elements has difference purposes to deliver the idea. In addition, to see the relationship between subject and verb in meaning is called as voice.

Voice or diathesis concerns in structure issue but its transitivity is for semantics. Furthermore, voice represents about the meaning between the subject and object (Shibatani in Kulikoo and Vater, 1998:117-118). Actually voice is very challenging to be studied. This case plays in grammar and semantics study as well. The studies on voice phenomena have been becoming important and challenging topics in grammatical and semantic fields (Jufrizal, 2008). It is caused by the case that voice a phenomenon is linguistically seen as the grammatical- semantic interferences.

Generally, in expressing ideas are not only formed in active and passive, but also in middle voice. They are included in structural linguistics. The active is used to describe about the subject or initiator of action does action or activity. Those elements are used to arrange expressions which have meanings. In addition,

the active voice is used to express the topic of its subject who does the action(s). However, the passive, especially in English, is not an automatic transformation of an active voice.

The passive voice is very important in English. Formally, written English, has more than 80 percent of passive are agentless (Dixon, 1991:298). The object of an active sentence is the subject of the corresponding passive sentence. But, the passive voice is not a derivative of active voice (Wang Yuan- Yin: 2010). Based on this Dixon's theory dominantly gets agentless.

Besides, the passive sentence should be understood semantically and pragmatically. It often needs pragmatics meaning to catch the meaning based on the context and the socio- cultural. In addition, the meaning in semantics can be different in all over time. It means that people sometimes use the same word to give different meanings. As what Cowie (2009:3) says that what words mean is the same words to mean different things.

English is a nominative accusative language and grouped in polysynthetic or incorporating as morphological type. According to Comrie (1989:45) Incorporation refers to the possibility of taking a number of lexical morphemes and combining them together into a single word such as; the lexical morpheme *swim* and *suit* are compounded together to give *swimsuit*, *head- ache* becomes *headache*.

Moreover, English has its own constructions to express the topic (in passive) grammatically. As morphological, it has process of affixisation in the

words but not all, such as in participle verbs *go- gone, take- taken, write- written, etc.* Rarely, those examples use suffix *(-en)*.

Moreover, English is an accusative language beyond morphological and syntactic level. The relation between a transitive verb and its object involves an intransitive construction with a subject, a copula like verb *be* or *get*, and a participial form of the verb are forms in process of passive or passivization (Dixon, 1991:298). Then he adds a passive clause may include an NP, introduced with *by* corresponding to the transitive subject. Below are the examples:

(Taken from *www.time.com*, Saturday, March 19, 2011):

- *Before the historic Japanese catastrophe changed the cable- news conversation, Libya was careering toward an American overreaction.*
- *The peripheral importance of Libya was bloated by several factors.*

Here, the first sentence is an active sentence, while the second sentence is passive. This is also introduced by using *by* to the transitive subject *several factors*.

Through this study, the writer classified the language based on its grammatical or structure. That is known as typology. In addition, Smith (in Jufrizal, 2007:2) determines a language based on genetic, typology, and area. Hence, this research analyzed the types of English passive voice and forms of passivization typologically to see the grammatical processes and strategies that generate passive construction.

Passivization has some particular terms in its constructions depend on their basic function or to emphasize the position of agent in a sentence, foregrounding and back grounding passive. These theories are adopted from a functional

typology of voice proposed by Foley and Van Valin (see in Shopen, 2007: 422). Foregrounding passive is necessary to highlight the [-A] argument; typically, foregrounding passives make the [-A] argument topic. Meanwhile, the function of back grounding passive is in a sense the core function of passive: to remove the [+A] argument from prominence in the clause. It means that a passive sentence has no agent or agentless [-A] it is called as foregrounding, meanwhile if the sentence has agent called as back grounding. Those constructions led to analyze the process of passive sentence at headline news that found in columns in *www.time.com*.

So far, the research about passivization is rare to be researched. Commonly, other researchers take data from printed media such as; newspaper, magazine, and novel. That is why the writer wants to analyze the types of English passive voice and forms of passivization through media online, especially in *www.time.com*.

This site is one of famous sites in the world. It has partnership with CNN which is located in New York City, United States of America. This site was established on March 1999. There are fifteen columns in this site, such as; home, politics, world news, arts, health, science, arts, travel, photos, business, tech land, video, specials, magazine, and newsfeed. Besides, in serving news, the site provides several main parts of news such as; headline, news body and lead. Here, the writer focused on headline news.

In addition, headline news contents about the most important news in every edition. Sometimes it tells about politics, economy, life phenomenal and

other topics. Hence, the writer tries to find passive sentences to be researched to know the forms its process through typological analysis as the object of this research. Among kinds of news, this study just concerns to take data from headline news.

Therefore through this study, it can be an inspiration for readers to know and improve the knowledge in linguistics, especially in typological analysis that may give information on passive cross linguistically. In addition, it is in order to know about the classification or group of a language based on its structure or grammar.

In short, the reasons why the writer is interested to analyze this research are; first, the study about passivization is not many done or rare. Then, the writer is interested to use the Dixon's theory that states English passive has dominantly agentless. The last but not at least, online media as source of data is for giving contribution in technological literate. Hence, the passivization is still less observed by others and an interesting topic to be developed.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The passivization is useful for knowing the agent(less) in a sentence. It may effect in internal and external factors of linguistics study. In internal factors are likes syntax, semantics, and psycholinguistics for external factors.

Semantically, passive can be studied based on its literate meaning, volitional and non- volitional. Those are convinced in consciousness and unconsciousness meaning. As Jufrizal (2008) states volitional and non- volitional

properties of the passives should be interpreted by involving extra- linguistic functions of the clause.

Furthermore, passive voice can be also studied in psycholinguistics study. Here, it is finding the relationship between the mind of the child and the grammar, especially in passive. As Steinberg (2001: 388) states that children learn to comprehend the complexity underlying negative sentence, question sentence, sentence with relative clauses, passive, etc. By the process of guessing the meaning of the unknown speech construction, only then the child can take note of how such meaning are expressed in speech.

It means that through speech the children will try to catch the meaning for example, when the children often hear someone else says “no” negative words, so they can form a thought in particular of negative function easily, such as *no money, no candy*. It is like to form the passive. Basically they can more understand if they are known with their environment.

It has some topics deal with passivization which can be analyzed such as; word order in passive, semantic roles and syntactic relation, the passivization in typological analysis, passive voice in discourse modes, volitional and non-volitional in passive construction and typology of pivots. Hence, in this research the writer focused on types of English passive voice and forms of passivization at headline news through typological analysis which found in *www.time.com*.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

This study is the types of English passive voice and forms of passivisation which deals with syntax and semantics. English likes another languages has rule

or grammatical in using. Through the typology, the language can be classified based on its original structure. Moreover, this is classified into two types of process agentive in order to identify the agent(less) as typology, they are foregrounding and back grounding passive.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The problem of this study can be formulated as follows: What are the types of English passive voice and forms of passivization at headline news found in columns in *www.time.com*: *typological analysis*.

1.5 Research Questions

In this study, it has two main points of the problems that want to be discussed. The problems are;

1. What are the types of the English passive voice which appear at headline news found in columns in *www.time.com*?
2. What are the forms of passive sentence found in headline?

1.6 Purposes of the Problem.

This research has some purposes to be achieved. It is in order to give current information from the data got from passive sentence. The purposes are;

1. To identity the types of English passive voice which had been appeared in *www.time.com*
2. To describe the process of passive and identify the forms of passive sentence.

1.7 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research finding is going to be expected in giving information about the constructions of passivization at headline news in columns in *www.time.com*. Then, for the writer expects that this research can give contributions to linguistics study, especially typology and in technological literate. In short, the writer hopes that this research can enrich the knowledge for the writer and readers.

1.8 The Definition of Key Terms

In preparing this research, it is important to explain about the key terms as follows:

1. Passivization is the process in constructing of passive.
2. Typological analysis is a procedure to collect data in classification of language into types according to the structural features or grammar.
3. Time.com is one of magazine online to comparable the written magazine.
4. Headline news is news article containing current information or update news and it is different from other articles in that type faces (form).
5. Voice is the way to see the relationship between subject and verb in meaning.
6. Foregrounding is a term to highlight non-argument. It is for knowing the agentless position in a sentence.
7. Backgrounding is to see the core function of passive. It is for knowing the agent position in a sentence.
8. Oblique is a term to indicate a subject in active sentence change to be an object in passive. In the other word, it is neither a subject nor an object.