

COMPARISON OF PASSIVE VOICE IN THE FRENCH AND AZERBAIJANI LANGUAGES

KAMALA KARIMOVA

Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku, Azerbaijan

ABSTRACT

The article has been devoted to the study of Passive Voice in the French and Azerbaijani languages belonging to different family groups.

The concept of Passive Voice which is introduced in the article, as a grammatical category of the verb has been one of the problems being in the focus of attention of the scholars, both from morphological aspect – in the level of the parts of speech, and from syntactic aspect – in the level of sentence members (subject, predicate, object etc.). Here in, we have made attempts to analyze the existing thoughts on the Passive Voice in both languages.

In the introduction of the article by dealing with the position of the verb occupied in both languages, with their self-belonging peculiarities and with the distinctive categories of other parts of speech, its main function in the sentence were given more attention. Just in this part the existing ideas linked with verb have been kept in the focus of attention as well.

In the main body of the article the thoughts and ideas of the linguists on the passive voice, have been generalized, brief analyses have been introduced, the ways of expression of the passive voice in both languages have found their reflection. In the article different viewpoints have been compared by the specimen from the literary pieces chosen from the original, the uttered different points of view and thoughts have been explained.

In the conclusion of the article it is spoken of the grammatical and semantic essence of the passive voice in both languages, its links with other grammatical categories, and the role of the passive voice of the verb in the communicative and actual-division from the study of syntactic aspect of the sentence.

In the article in the study of passive voice in the French and Azerbaijani languages, typological-comparative method of investigation has been used.

KEYWORDS: Passive Voice, Morphological Signs, Predicative Centre, Valency

INTRODUCTION

Verbs as in many languages are independent parts of speech in the Azerbaijani and French languages. This part of speech can be compared with nouns expressing names. That's why their quantity establishes a greater part of the word stock of the language. Verbs are as well classified as the words denoting, position, situation, when they are linked with action. There are a number of factors to separate this part of speech from the others:

- *their self-belonging, specific lexical-semantic meanings;*
- *morphological signs;*

- *syntactic functions;*
- *stylistic and phonetic peculiarities etc.*

In both languages as it is with other main parts of speech, verbs possess different grammatical categories. But one of the main factors distinguishing verbs from other parts of speech is that they have more categories than the other parts of speech because they possess the categories as transitive – intransitive, voice, aspect, negation, tense, form, person, number categories.

As we know in conveying a thought to the other people the first condition is that we have to set up a sentence which in itself contains such important elements as predicativity, intonation, modality, person etc. are linked with verb. The fact that the verb concentrates the features as being predicative centre and bearing information load, distinguishes the verb from other parts of speech (Huseynzadeh, 1973; Grevisse, 1980; Wagner, Pinchon, 1991).

The verb, by establishing the peak of the sentence, creates the basis of the communication and turns to the bearer of the category of predicativity. The verb, just in the formation of the sentence connects one syntagma with the other, acts as the centre for the formation of the sentence, as an organizing factor and as the peak of the sentence. L.Tenyer who brought the term of “valency” to linguistics for the first time, attached great importance to the verbs in setting up the basis of the sentence as “verbo-centrique”, which may serve to the affirmation of thoughts, of which we have mentioned. He also appreciates the valency as the quantity of octants of verbs as the quantity of subjects and objects, being able to govern verbs and considers that “the verb by playing central role in the structural syntax prevents other hierarchies among the other elements of the sentence, gathers them around itself and establishes the main peak-point of the sentence (Tesnière, 1959).

In the Azerbaijani linguistics, in spite of the fact that in grammar books exist a number of thoughts on the leading role, which it played in the formation of the sentence, A.Demirchizadeh was the first linguist, speaking of the thought of the domination of predicate in the sentence (Demirchizadeh, 1974).

V.fon Humboldt appreciated the undeniable role of verbs in the sentence like this: “*All the other parts of the sentence are like dead materials waiting for their unification, but only verb is a linking circle reflecting and scattering life*” (Humbolt, 1984). This unexceptional leading role of the verb in the sentence, did not remain in the form of conception at all and justified itself in practice. Thus, at present in a lot of linguistic works linked machine translation, predicate is taken as the peak of the sentence. As it is seen, the study of verb as both a part of speech and as a sentence member is in the limelight of investigation both in theoretical and practical literature.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Both in the French and Azerbaijani languages one of the grammatical categories of the verb is the category of voice. It is a complete grammatical category. Its activity, position and the role, which plays in speech appears on the ground of grammar structure. In both languages, there are distinctions of the category of the verb both in classification and in the ways of their expressions. Passive voice in the French language is formed by the analytic form and in the Azerbaijani language it is formed by the synthetic-agglutinative form.

In the French language Passive voice and other types of the verb expressed in verb forms in general, are grammatical categories, determining the link between the subject and object of the action. Among the French linguists,

there is differentiation of thoughts in this problem. Some of the linguists note only the existence of the active and passive voices, while the others mention the third type which they call pronominal type. In fact this mentioned type, though is named as “la voix réfléchie ou moyenne” (reflexive and middle type), (la voix réfléchie ou moyenne: pour d’autre on n’a là gu’un “cas particuliers de la voix active”) (Grevisse, 1980), Vagner R.L., J.Panshon and other French grammarians appreciate them as not pronominal type but as “reflexive” or “mutually-joint verbs” (*Y a-t-il lieu de considérer que les formes pronominales constituent par elles-mêmes une voix? Nous ne le pensons pas. Cette question ne viendrait pas à l’esprit s’il n’existait que des verbes pronominaux réfléchis ou réciproques (dans lesquels le pronom est complètement d’objet), puisque les uns et les autres admettent d’être tournés à la voix passive et que dans la pratique on peut très bien opposer à: Je me sers moi-même un temps passif, je ne suis bien servi que par moi*) (Wagner, Pinchon, 1991). Tamin J.G. distinguishes two types of the verb (active and passive voices) (Tamine, 1988), Grövis M. distinguishes three types (active, passive and pronominal) (Grevisse, 1980), but Russian linguists Referovskaya E.A. and Vasilyeva A.R. distinguish four types of the verb (active, passive, pronominal and causative types) [Referovskaya, Vasilyeva, 1964]. As we see, in spite of the fact that there are disputable thoughts on the types of the verb, in all these thoughts “passive voice” is in the centre.

In the grammar terminology, while characterizing the types and diathesis, some of the linguists expressing the terms as active and passive, explain them as “the doer of the action” and as “subjection to do the action”, increase the value of the verb in the system of octants, and in this way give advantage to the semantics of the verb (Muller, 2004).

The linguists studying active and passive voices in the French language also characterize them as transformations: “*Dans l’étude de la morphologie verbale, la tradition distingue les voix active et passive (on parle plutôt aujourd’hui de tournures actives et passives)... Pour passer de l’actif au passif, un verbe doit être transitif direct*” (Riegel, Rioul, Pellat, 1994). Traditionally studying the verb from the morphological point of view the verbs are separated into active and passive (today they are mostly called as active and passive transformations)...In order to transfer the active into the passive voice the verb must be direct and transitive.

In the Azerbaijani language the most productive period to be begun learning the category of voice of the verb belongs to the 50-60-ies of the XX century, and naturally it found its investigation in the study of ancient historical monuments. The first information on the category of voice is given in the famous work of Kashgari M. “*Divani-lügəti-it-türk*” (Alekbérova, 2009).

Mainly, the category of voice caused greater interest from typological aspect and in our country this theme has been investigated in English, German, Arabic, Persian languages in comparison with the Azerbaijani language (Modern Azerbaijani Language, 1980).

In the Turkic languages, including in the Azerbaijani language the classification of the types of the verb two principles are taken as a basis. The division basing upon the subject (doer of the action) and object (the thing on which an action) is carried out. The linguists basing upon this division, distinguish sometimes five types of the verbs (active, passive, reflexive, reciprocal, causative) (Huseynzadeh, 1973; Seyidov, 2000) and sometimes they divide the types of the verb even into six (active, passive, impersonal, reflexive, reciprocal-mutuality and causative) (Modern Azerbaijani Language, 1980).

The connection between the category of voice and the category of transitive of the verb exists in the Azerbaijani language, too. As to Seyidov Y. as the category of voice is built up on the branch of the category of transitive of the verb, it being an independent category, is in subordination to the category of transitive of the verb, it is a part of it. Besides he

considers that the category of voice shows itself as a category of specific features, possessing self belonging rules of transformation (Seyidov, 2000).

The voices of verbs – the attitude of object and subject to each-other may appear both in morphological and in the lexical ways, in which there is not any formal sign. When the voice of the verb is formed by lexical means, basing on the lexical-semantic meaning, it is necessary to act as to these meanings.

The influence of verbs on the object and subject, and influence of action on the object, on the ground of transition of action onto the object, they are divided into certain types (Zeynalov, 1975).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the article we deal with the category of voice of the verb, exactly speaking, concretely with passive voice and on its manifestation in both languages. In the Azerbaijani and French languages, belonging to two different language groups, the category of voice of the verb, particularly passive voice is investigated by typological comparative and descriptive research methods. Our main goal is to compare grammatical, semantic and syntactic characters of the passive voice. At the same time in the article we will compare the place of the passive voice in communicative approach and the ways of its expression in both languages.

FORMATION OF THE PASSIVE VOICE AND THE WAYS OF ITS EXPRESSION

Types of grammatical meanings of the verb indicate mutual attitude of the speaker (doer of the action + subject) to the object (a thing) on which action is done. As it is known to us, types of verbs as to the grammatical meanings are divided in both – French and Azerbaijani languages as to the lexical (semantic) meaning and as to the syntactic function and role in the sentence. Passive verbs indicate the attitude between the action and object and subject. In the passive voice being different from the active voice, the doer of the action is unknown. In both languages the work-action, expressed by the verb in the active voice refer to the grammatical subject of the sentence, but in the passive voice the subject of the sentence which is the doer of the action, changes its place with object. Thus, the word, being the subject of the sentence in the active voice, changes into executive object in the passive voice, but the indirect object changes into subject, in other words, real work in the sentence the real doer of the action (object of the sentence) is used as a grammatical object, but the real object is used as a grammatical subject. Namely, in the sentences expressed in the passive voice appears a structure with two subjects and two objects, i.e. one of the subjects is a semantic subject and the other one is a grammatical subject; also one of the objects is a semantic object and the other one is a grammatical object. The verbs in the active voice, while semantic subject and object complete each other, whereas the verbs in the passive voice we observe quite opposite of this. For e.g.:

In the sentence “*Yazıçı yeni bir roman yazdı*” during the transition into the passive voice this sentence becomes like this: “*Yeni bir roman yazıçı tərəfindən yazıldı*” and as we see, the grammatical object changes into both semantic and grammatical subject. During the transition of active voice into the passive one grammatical subject changes into the grammatical object:

- The semantics of the passive voice (voix passive) in the French language is mostly associated with the non-finite form of the verb called past participle. Compare: “*Une fille écrivant la lettre.*” – “*Məktub yazan qız.*” if here *participe présent* points to an active action, in the sentence “*La lettre écrite par une fille*”, “*écrite*” *participe*

passé indicates to an unknown action. In the French language besides *participe passé* this type of the verb is strengthened by the auxiliary verb “être” and this turns to a type of indicator of the same form, namely, the passive form. Also, “écrite” *participe passé* agrees as to the gender and number of the subject. But the executive object joins the sentence with the help of prepositions “par” and “de”.

For e.g.: *On comprend avec quelle joie la proposition fut acceptée et quelle devait être la confiance inspirée par une personne qui devinait ainsi d’un coup d’oeil les secrets intimes du coeur?* (P.Mérimée “Carmen”) – *Belə təklifin necə böyük sevinclə qəbul olunduğunu başa düşmək olar, ancaq burası var ki, ürəyin gizli sirlərinin bir baxışla tez bilən, başa düşən adama necə inanasan?* In this example “par une personne” is used as an executive object and by the help of the preposition “par” has been included into the rheme, indicating a new fact.

It is also necessary to mention that “être” presence of the auxiliary verb in the sentence does not indicate enough to let us know, if the same work is in passive voice or not. As we know some verbs in “*passé composé*” tense are formed by means of the auxiliary verb “être” and they are like passive voice by appearance.

For e.g.: In the sentence *Il est arrivé – O gəlib çatdı*, the verb “arriver” being in the past tense, in the active voice as well refers to the concrete subject. Though the number of such verbs is few, they are often used. The verbs linked with action belong to this group. For e.g.: *tomber, entrer, rester, aller, sortir, partir* etc. Such type of verbs by being intransitive, differ from the passive voice. It is necessary to note that it is impossible to use intransitive verbs in the passive voice. The verb must be transitive changing from the active voice into the passive voice. For this reason it is not always possible to change into the passive voice in the French language. Even there are a number of verbs though they are transitive and an object is used after them, but it is impossible to use them in the passive voice. Mainly, the verbs as *pouvoir, valoir* etc. are the verbs of this type.

- As to the generally pointed out rules passive voice, with proper ways can be formed not from the verbs in the active voice, but also from the pronominal verbs with passive meaning. In the French language the passive notion can be given not only by means of passive form, but at the same time, it can be given by the pronominal verbs with passive meaning and this type establishes a syntactic synonymy. In such constructions the responsible person (“*un agent responsable*”) is marked with objects, indicating relation, or it can be marked with adverbs. For e.g.: *Une dissertation se relit soigneusement. → Dissertasiya işi diqqətlə oxunulur.; Ça se mange avec des baguettes. → Bunlar çubuqlarla yeyilir.; Ces choses-là ne se font pas de gaieté de coeur. → Bu şeylər könül şadlığı ilə edilmirlər* (Delatour, 2004).

At the same time the emphasis of the thought draws the attention here. Another feature in these constructions is, that the mode of expression in such constructions, we may say, especially by being given in the present tense, serves to indicate some factors:

- to indicate more or less real truths having been turned into normative (*vérités générales*), *Le vin d’Alsace se boit frais. → Alzas şarabı sərin içilir.; Ça ne se dit ... → Bu deyilmir və ya belə deyilmir...; Ça ne se fait pas. → Bu edilmir və ya belə edilmir.; Ça ne se trouve pas sous le sabot d’un cheval. → Bu at durnaqlarının altında yerləşmir və s.*
- expression of characteristic, belonging to features (*des propriétés*) *La cathédrale de Strasbourg se voit (est visible) de loin. → Strasburq kilsəsi uzaqdan görünür.*

- limited habits at the time. *De mon temps les jupes se portaient plus courtes.* → *Mənim zamanımda yubkalar daha qusa geyilirdi (geyilərdi)* (Delatour, 2004).
- Passive voice can be expressed by “faire” + infinitif (infinitive) constructions as well: *Les forces de police ont fait évoquer la salle.* → *Polis zabitləri zalı evakuasiyaya aldılar.* As it is seen from the sentence, sometimes, during the translation the construction “faire + infinitif” being transformed, turn from passive into active voice.

In fact the verbs “faire” and “laisser”, as Referovskaya pointed out, serve to indicate the causative which is accepted by some of the French linguists (Référovskaya, Vassiliéva, 1964) This is adequate to the suffix “-dır⁴”, “t” in the Azerbaijani language. It is worth mentioning that all the causative of verbs very easily can change into the passive voice, For e.g.: *yaz-dır-il-maq.*

- In the construction “se faire”, “se laisser” + infinitif (infinitive) → the subject is always lifeless being.
 - expression “se faire” emphasizes the answerability (responsibility) of the subject: *Catherine s’est fait punir pour bavarder à l’école.* → *Katrin məktəbdə söhbət etdiyinə görə cəzalandırılıbdır.* (Delatour, 2004) As it is seen from the example “se faire + infinitif” is adequate to the passive voice in the Azerbaijani language. In this example “s’est fait punir” has been translated as “cəzalandırıldı” (was punished) which is adequate to the passive voice.
 - The passive meaning in the French language can also be given by the construction “se laisser” + infinitive and this emphasizes the passive meaning of the subject. The executive object coming after this construction serves to emphasize the new part of the information. See the example below: *Ne vous laissez pas décourager par ce mauvais résultat.* → *Bu pis nəticəyə görə ruhdan düşməyin (or özünüzi ruhdan düşməyə qoymayın).*
- In the French language the semantics of the passive can be expressed as non-finite forms of the verbs as well: *Il est formellement interdit de fumer dans le métro.* → *Metroda siqaret çəkmək qadağan edilib (or qadağandır);* *Il a été décidé de limiter la vitesse sur les routes.* → *Yollarda sürətin sərhədləndirilməsi qərara alındı və s.* (Delatoure 2004)

As it is seen from the translations, some of the verbs which can be used in the passive form, being used in special legal and administrative language, it is possible to say that subject completely disappears and the main goal here is the transition of the verb expressing the passive meaning into the information centre.

Observations made on the translations show that the passive constructions in the French language can be used in the Azerbaijani language not only as the verb having the passive form, but also it can be used as a verb in the reflexive form. For eg: *geymək – geyilmək* (passive) – *geyinmək* (reflexive) etc.

As it is known to us after the verbs in the passive form the doer of the action, namely the word used as a semantic subject, carries out the function of the executive object and this object are used with the prepositions “par” and “de”. These prepositions mainly are translated into the Azerbaijani language with the help of the word “tərəfindən” or “ilə”.

Before, approximately in the XVII and XVIII centuries the executive object was included into the sentence by means of the preposition “de” and was determined by “de qui”, “par qui”, “de quoi”, “par quoi” questions. For e.g.:

En un instant la table fut encombrés de plats et de bouteilles → *Stolun üstü bir anda ləzzətli yeməklərlə, içki ilə*

doldu (P.Mérimée “La Venus d’Ille”); *Le grand Saint François de Paule a été choisi de Dieu.* → *Böyük Müqəddəs Fransua dö Pol Allah tərəfindən seçilmişdi.*

But in the modern French language the preposition “*par*” is more used. We may say that the majority of the verbs are formed by means of the preposition “*par*”. During the translation we observed another feature as well. In the French language during the translation, the verb with the passive meaning is given in the active voice. This is more linked with the style of the translator. In fact, during such a transformation as prof. Ismayilov B.B. pointed out “though syntactic structure changes from the view of actual division no damage is given to the communicative division” see translations done by Shamil Zaman (Ismayilov, 2008).

- *J’étais recommandé à M. de Peyrehorade par mon ami M. De P.* → *Məni cənab dö Peroradın yanına dostım M. dö P göndərmişdi* (P.Mérimée “La Venus d’Ille”).
- *J’ai été emmenée par des bohémiens à Seville.* → *Qaraçılar məni Seviliyaya apardılar* (P.Mérimée “Carmen”).
- *Je fus présenté par lui à mon capitaine qui revenait à l’instant même d’une reconnaissance.* → *O məni kəşfiyyatdan yenidən qayıtmış kəpitana təqdim etdi* (P.Mérimée “L’enlèvement de la redoute”).
- *Les palissades avaient été brisée et la terre bouleversée par nos boulets.* → *İstehkamın ətrafına çəpər kimi düzülmiş ağaclar dağılmış, bizim atduğumuz qumbaralar torpağı yarıq-yarıq eləmişdi* (P.Mérimée “L’enlèvement de la redoute”).
- *En sortant de derrière l’espèce d’epoculement qui nous avait protégés, nous fûmes reçus par plusieurs décharges de mousqueterie qui ne furent que peu de mal dans nos rangs.* → *Sığındığımız divarın arxasından çıxarkən gülləbarana düşdük və bu bizim bölükdə cüzi miqdarda itgiyə səbəb oldu* (P.Mérimée “L’enlèvement de la redoute”).

In the majority of above-mentioned examples the verb with the passive meaning has been included into the speech with “*par*”. Besides, there are executive objects to be included into the speech by means of the preposition “*de*”, the inclusion of the executive objects into the speech, is associated with the semantics of the verb.

- After the verbs expressing feelings, senses: *Il est aimé de ses collègues.* → *O, həmkarları tərəfindən sevilir.*
- After the verbs *connaître, oublier, ignorer*: *Il est connu de tout le quartier.* → *O bütün məhəllə tərəfindən tanınır, or Onu bütün məhəllədə tanıyırlar.*
- After the verbs serving description: *être orne, être décoré, être rempli, être couvert, être plein, entourer* etc. *Les champs étaient couverts de rosées.* → *Tarlalar qızılgülərlə örtülmüşdü. Le chevelure, relevée sur le front paraissait avoir été dorée autrefois.* → *Alnında yuxarıya qatlanmış saçları ehtimal ki, nə vaxtsa qızilla zərlənibmiş* (P.Mérimée “La Venus d’Ille”). *Notre régiment était presque à couvert du feu des Russes par un pli de terrain.* → *Çala-çuxur bir yer bizi rusların atəşindən mühafizə edirdi* (P.Mérimée “L’enlèvement de la redoute”). *La redoute était de nouveau enveloppée de fumée.* (P.Mérimée “L’enlèvement de la redoute”) - *İstehkam yenə üstü-duman içində idi* (Ş.Zaman, tərcümə).

CONCLUSIONS

- The notion of the voices of the verb possesses wide and many-branched terminology. The Passive voice in

linguistics is linked with verbs. The Passive voice is a lexical-grammatical category expressing subject-object relations. Voice in grammar, being determined as a grammatical category, the verb possesses a central role in the structure of the sentence.

- The category of passive, being a grammatical category gives a possibility to consider the mutual contacts and mutual activities of elements of the same level such as morphological, syntax, lexical, semantic etc. from the view of functional aspect.
- Voice relations without depending on a typological system exist in all the languages. Here the possibilities of distinctive features without depending on the forms of manifestation of the differentiations may show themselves. The levels taking part in the formation of voice relations, in different languages possess distinctive possibilities of realization. For e.g.: in the Turkic language, including the Azerbaijani language, morphological elements play a main role in the establishment of voice relations.
- In both languages passive voice is also linked with transitive and intransitive categories of the verb. Transitive verb in the broad sense, being an indicator of contents of object relations, envisages the necessary “demand” of action to the object.
- In the French language the system of voice establishes the opposition between active and passive voices. In the Azerbaijani language the active voice of the verb is accepted as known but the passive voice is accepted as unknown form of the verb.
- Any thought given in the active voice for the sake of style according to the communicative or actual division, or from the view of description or special emphasis of the result of the carried out work, may be expressed in the passive voice.

REFERENCE

1. Demirchizadeh A. (1947) Modern Azerbaijani language. Baku, Maarif
2. Alekperova A. (2009) Historical development of category of type of verbs in Oghuz group of the Turkic languages
3. Huseynzadeh N. (1973) Modern Azerbaijani language, Baku, Maarif
4. Ismayilov B.B. Choice of Linguistic means in the realization of rheme (International scientific-theoretical journal), 2008, №3 (64), p.43-45.
5. Modern Azerbaijani language in three parts, II part (1980) Baku, Elm
6. Seyidov Y. (2000) Grammar of the Azerbaijani language. Morphology. Baku, Baku University
7. Zaman Sh. (2008) Prosper Merimen’s “Selected works” – translation. Baku, Sharg-Garb publication.
8. Zeynalov F.R. (1975) Comparative grammar of Turkic Languages. II Verbs. Baku, Publication of ADU
9. Delatour Y., Jennepin D., Léon-Dufour M., Teyssier B. (2004). “Nouvelle grammaire du Français”, Cours de Civilisation Française de la Sorbonne. Paris, Hachette.
10. Ismailov B.B., Grammaire française. Syntaxe I. Bakou: “Nourlan”, 2008

11. Gardes-Tamine. (1988) J. La Grammaire, 2 vol., A.Colin.
12. Grevisse M. (1980). Le bon usage, Duculot, Bruxelles, 11^{éd}.
13. Mérimée P. (1976). “Nouvelles”, 3^{ème} édition, Moscou, édition du Progrès.
14. Muller C. (2004) “Diathèses et voix en français” Interaction entre sémantique et pragmatique, Actes du XI Séminaire de Didactique Universitaire (Constanta, Université Ovidius, Association des Chercheurs en Linguistique Française), Editura ASE, București.
15. Référovskáia E.A et Vassiliéva A.R. (1964) Essai de grammaire française, cours théorique, M-L
16. Riegel M., Rioul R., Pellat J.-Ch. (1994). Grammaire méthodique du français, PUF.
17. Tesnière L. (1959). Eléments de syntaxe structurale, Paris, Klincksieck.
18. Wagner R.L., Pinchon J. (1991) Grammaire du français classique et moderne, Hachette, Université Paris.
19. Humboldt B. fon (1984) “Selected works on linguistics”. Moscow

