The Passive Voice in Urdu: A Syntactic Investigation and Transformational Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores passive structures in Urdu language. It aims to understand their syntactic configuration and how to convert active sentences into passive ones. Limited research exists on Urdu's passivization compared to English. The research questions focus on the structure of passive sentences in Urdu and the necessary modifications for passivization. A qualitative research methodology is used, analyzing written texts and daily conversations of native Urdu speakers. The literature review compares Urdu's passive structures with English, including the standard "be" passive and less common "get passive" and "have passive." Findings show that Urdu passives use the auxiliary "*Gaya*" and the agent can be explicitly mentioned using "from-PP" rather than "by-PP." The paper also covers passivization in imperative sentences, using "*ja:*" and "*cha:hi:e*" morphemes. Moreover, voice neutrality is examined, showing that passive and active sentences in Urdu often convey the same event with similar agent-patient relationships. The study's conclusive remarks on passive construction in Urdu have the potential to ignite future research in this domain. The paper contributes to the knowledge of passive constructions in Urdu which can significantly impact translation accuracy and interpretation between Urdu and English. This research also adds to the big picture of how languages work.

Keywords: Passive Transformation, Passive Construction Urdu Passive, Urdu Syntax

1. INTRODUCTION

Language has significant importance in human affairs. It serves as a fundamental pillar of communication and social cohesion. It facilitates the exchange of ideas, emotions, and knowledge and shapes cultures, traditions, and identities. Language is essential in nearly all aspects of human life. It plays a vital role in the complexity and richness of human interactions (Sirbu, 2015). All languages, including English and others, have specific structures to convey messages. The two common structures found in languages worldwide are Active and Passive structures (Myhill, 2003). This study analyzes the syntactic configuration of Passive structures in the Urdu language. While English passivization has been extensively studied, more research needs to be conducted to analyze Urdu's passivization and various passive structures found in English syntax. This study aims to bridge this gap by analyzing Urdu's written and spoken passive structures.

This research study will undertake a syntactic analysis of passive transformation in the Urdu language. The main goal of this research is to look carefully into passive construction in Urdu. It is not confined to textbook rules. Instead, it also looks at real people's use of language in everyday conversations. It aims to understand how and why Urdu active and passive sentences are put together. The study intends to get a better idea of the language structure of Urdu. It will also discuss how Urdu passive construction differs

from other languages like English. This understanding could be beneficial for people who study languages. It will also be beneficial for anyone interested in learning more about Urdu.

The research holds both theoretical and practical significance. Syntactic analysis of Urdu passive voice sentences will enlighten the scholarship about the structural complexities of this language. This knowledge can help teach Urdu and translate it into other languages, such as English. This understanding enriches linguistic theory. Also, it has practical implications for language teaching and translation. This research can also be a helpful starting point for other studies on Urdu grammar.

1.1. Problem statement

Urdu grammar books do not focus enough on the structure of passive sentences. It is obvious that passive sentences are common in Urdu, but there needs to be more knowledge about the syntax of these sentences. This research aims to look into Urdu passive sentences. It intends to figure out the rules and patterns of passive construction of Urdu. The study hopes to provide a better understanding of Urdu passive sentences to improve language teaching and translation.

1.2. Research Questions

1. What is the syntactic configuration of passive structures in the Urdu language?
2. What modifications are required to convert an active sentence into a passive one in Urdu?

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research Design

This study uses a qualitative research design. It aims to gain an in-depth understanding of passivization in the Urdu language. The qualitative research method is used because it can explore complex phenomena. This approach involves a detailed analysis of the syntactic structures of passive sentences in Urdu.

2.2. Research Philosophy

The researcher thinks it is essential to understand how people interpret and use language in their everyday lives. Language is dynamic and can change depending on the context and the speaker. Therefore, the researcher focuses on understanding how Urdu speakers use passive sentences in their contexts.

2.3. Data Sources

Data for this paper is collected from multiple sources. The aim is to ensure that very common sentences are gathered for analysis. Written texts, including literature, newspapers, and online resources, are analyzed to explore formal language usage. Spoken language data is collected from natural conversations among native Urdu speakers.

2.4. Measures

The primary measure for this study is the syntactic structure of passive sentences in Urdu. The focus is on figuring out where the subject, object, and verb go. Qualitative measures are used to catch the complex meanings conveyed through passive constructions.

2.5. Data Collection Process

The researcher follows a systemic plan to collect written and spoken language examples. Written texts are collected from a diverse range of sources. Spoken language data is obtained through audio recordings of everyday conversations. The researcher then transcribes and analyzes the collected data. The analysis focuses on examples of passive constructions to identify patterns, variations, and grammatical principles involved in Urdu syntax.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Urdu belongs to the Indo-Aryan language family. Initially, it was called Rekhta. It became known as Urdu during the Mughal Empire. Rekhta is a word borrowed from Turkish, which means "army," and is still used in Urdu. Various languages influenced Urdu. Turkish and Persian are the most important ones which impacted Urdu during the Mughal period. Other influential languages include Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi, and Sanskrit (Naz & Mahmood, 2022).

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. It is widely spoken across South Asia. It is well known for its beauty and poetry. The syntax of Urdu is very important for its elegance and expressiveness. Urdu typically follows a Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) word order, unlike English and other similar languages. It is essential to know the basic components and rules of Urdu syntax to create and comprehend meaningful sentences (Naz & Mahmood, 2022).

In Urdu, sentences usually start with the subject, the object, and the verb. For example, "I read a book" follows this pattern: "میں کتاب پڑھتی ہوں". However, Urdu is flexible. One can change the order to emphasize things or to add different meanings. Sentences are usually in the SOV(Subject+Object+Verb) order; however, questions can have the verb at the beginning. In casual talk, sentences typically start with the subject (Butt et al., 2022).

Passivization in English involves using "be" and the past participle form of a verb (e.g., "The door was closed by him"). It emphasizes the receiver of the action or when the doer is unknown. Animate agents, like people, often perform actions in passive sentences (Yule, 1996). The standard form for constructing a passive sentence in English is as follows:

Subject + auxiliary verb "be" + past participle form of the main verb + optional agent (by + doer of the action)

For example:

1 (a). Active Voice: "Aliza reads the book."

1 (b). Passive Voice: "The book is read by Aliza."

In this passive construction, "is" is the auxiliary verb "be" in the present tense, "read" is the past participle form of the main verb "read," and "by Aliza" shows the optional agent or the doer of the action. The agent can be omitted if it is not relevant or unknown. Passivization is a common grammatical feature in English (Mahara, 2009). It is used in various contexts to shift the focus of a sentence from the doer of the action to the receiver or the object of the action.

There are also two less commonly used passive voice constructions in English: the "get passive" and the "have passive." These passive forms are not as common as the standard passive voice formed with the auxiliary verb "be" (e.g., is, am, are, was, were) followed by the past participle of the main verb.

I. "Get Passive": The "get passive" is a variation of the standard passive voice. It uses the verb "get" followed by the past participle of the main verb to form passive constructions. For example:

2 (a). Standard Passive: "My car was stolen last night."

2 (b). Get Passive: "My car got stolen last night."

The "get passive" is often used in informal or colloquial contexts. It is more common in spoken English than in written English.

II.   "Have Passive": The "have passive" uses the verb "have" in combination with the past participle to form passive structures. It is less common than the standard "be" passive. It usually emphasizes a sense of possession or responsibility for the action. For example:

3(a). Standard Passive: "My wallet was stolen on the bus."

3 (b). Have Passive: "I had my wallet stolen on the bus."

The "get passive" and the "have passive" are considered less formal and less frequently used in writing or formal speech (Collins, 1996). In most formal contexts, the standard "be" passive is preferred for clarity and simplicity (Hasegawa, 1968).

Understanding passivization in English is closely connected to the distinction between transitive and intransitive verbs. The significant difference between transitive and intransitive verbs is that of taking an object. Transitive verbs can take both direct and indirect objects. Intransitive verbs do not take objects. In the passive voice, the subject of the active voice sentence becomes the object (Fiktorius, 2019). For example:

4 (a). Active: Ali writes a letter.

4 (b). Passive: A letter is written by Ali.

Bhatt (2003) is of the view that passive voice in Urdu can be formed both with transitive and intransitive verbs. However, intransitive unaccusative verbs (verbs with no external agent and no direct object) do not typically allow for passive voice formation. Davison (1982) also contends the same about Urdu-Hindi Passive constructions. Bhatt (2003) adds that passives of passives (i.e., double passives) are not grammatically allowed in Urdu language. For example;

5 (a). "Party Main Khob Kebab Khaey Jaen-gy"   (Passive)

(A lot of Kebabs will be eaten at the party)

5 (b). "Party main Khaey Jaen-gy"   (double passive)

(Will be eaten at the party)

According to Kidwai (2022) Urdu has analytic passives formed by employing the morpheme "jaa." This morpheme exhibits inflection for tense and aspect, while the main verb adopts the perfective form. The agent's presence is optional, and if overtly expressed, it assumes the instrumental case.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
4.1. Syntactic Configuration of Passives in Urdu
This section discusses two main aspects of passives in Urdu: syntactic structures and the treatment of agents. Unlike active sentences, passive structures in Urdu typically do not include agents. In a passive construction, the sentence's action originates from the subject and is transferred to the object. However, the

newly derived subject does not phonologically manifest in the sentence. It means that the agent (the 'doer' of the action) is not explicitly mentioned in the passive construction. For example;

6 (a). "Mujhay Daraya Gaya"   (I was intimidated)

مجھے ڈرایا گیا

However, the active sentence of the above sentence will be like;

6 (b). "Osne Mujhay Daraya" (He scared/intimidated me)

اس نے مجھے ڈرایا

        A more detailed syntactic description becomes necessary when considering passives that include realized agents. The projection rules for an active sentence can be formulated as follows:

In an active sentence, we have the combination of:

   i.   NP1: The first noun phrase representing the grammatical subject.

   ii.   NP2: The second noun phrase representing the object of the sentence.

   iii.   V: The verb of the sentence, indicating the action or state.

   iv.   Aux: An auxiliary verb, if present, used to form different tenses or aspects.

Together, these components form a complete active sentence in Urdu like this.

        (i) "NP1 + NP2 + V + Aux"

Applying this projection rule to 6 (a), we get 7 (a);

7 (a). "Osne (he) + Mujhay (me) + Daraya (scared)"   (He scared/intimidated me)

اس نے مجھے ڈرایا

NP1   NP2   V+ Past (Aux)

        However, in passive constructions, the focus is on the object and its transformation into the subject, with a tendency to omit explicit agents. This omission is characteristic of most passive sentences in Urdu. The Passive sentence 1 can be represented as (ii);

        (ii) "NP2 +V+ Aux."

The projection rule will give the following structure 7 (b);

7 (b). Mujhay (me) + Daraya (intimidated) + Gaya (was). (I was intimidated)

مجھے ڈرایا گیا

NP2   V   Aux (passive)

7 (b) shows that "Gaya" is added as an auxiliary in passives.

        In Chomsky's X-bar module, the relationship between the headword (X) and the complement (WP) is represented using specific notations (Ali, 2021). In English, the notation is expressed as follows:

(iii). "X' → X (WP)"

This notation indicates that the headword (X) takes the compliment (WP) to its right side in English. However, the situation is different in Urdu, which is a right-branching language. The complement (WP) appears to the left of the headword (X), and this relationship is represented as:

(iv). "X' → (WP) X"

Thus, in Urdu, the complement comes before the headword in the syntactic structure, unlike in English, where the complement comes after the headword.
For example;
8. "Osne Zaid Ko Daraya" (He intimidated/scared Zaid)

اس نے زید کو ڈرایا.

NP1   NP2   V

When using the X-bar module paradigm for the passive structure, we obtain the following projection rule:

(v) "NP2 + V (passive participle) + (Aux)"

In (v), we observe that NP2 is the complement of the passive verb V at the deeper level of the sentence. When NP1 moves to the adjunct position, the subject slot is empty. To fill this vacant subject position in the passive structure, NP2 moves to become the subject. In other words, NP2 takes on the role of the subject in the passive construction after NP1 has moved to a different position. In active sentences, as in 7 (a), the complement of V NP2, "Mujhay" (me), is to the left because Urdu is written from right to left. If 7 (a) is transcribed in Urdu, it will appear as (9).

9. "Osne Mujhay Daraya."   (He scared/intimidated me)

اس نے مجھے ڈرایا

10. "Daraya Osne Mujhay"   (He scared/intimidated me)

ڈرایا اس نے مجھے

The auxiliary "Gaya" is not used in Urdu active sentences. However, the auxiliary "Gaya" is included in passive sentences, similar to English. This "Gaya" auxiliary is a distinctive marker and can be recognized as "Be" passives in Urdu. It can be of two types: agentive, involving a mentioned agent, and non-agentive, where the agent is not specified. The most common and straightforward type among these passives is the agentless passive construction. Let's examine the following examples.

11 (a). "Main Apki Madad Karunga."   (I will help you)

میں اپ کی مدد کروں گا

11 (b). "Apki Madad Hojaegi"   (You will be helped)

آپکی مدد ہوجائیگی

In sentence 11 (a), the sentence's subject has a phonological realization. However, when we change the sentence to the passive voice, this subject becomes silent or "disappears" from the sentence, i.e., gets a null position. Let's consider;

12 (b). "Azaan De Ja Rahi."   (call to prayer is being given)

اذان دی جا رہی ہے

Its active sentence will be;

12 (a). "Imam Azaan De Raha Hai."   (The imam is giving the call to prayer)

امام اذان دے رہا ہے

4.2. Agentive Passives in Urdu

In Urdu passives, the phonological realization of the agent is also possible, viable, and fits grammatically. For example;

13 (a). "Main Ne Ghalat Button Dabaya."   (I pressed the wrong button)

     NP1   NP2   VP

میں نے غلط بٹن دبایا

13 (b). "Ghalat Button Dab Gaya."   (The wrong button pressed/ the wrong button was pressed)
    NP2   VP

غلط بٹن دب گیا

However, in this passive construction, there is an option to include an explicit or overt agent, and it is done as shown in the following example.

14 (a). "Mujh Se Ghalat Button Dab Gaya."   (I have pressed the wrong button)
    NP1   NP2   VP
مجھ سے غلط بٹن دب گیا
14 (b). "Ghalat Button Mujh Se Dab Gaya"   (I have pressed the wrong button)
    NP2   NP1   VP
غلط بٹن مجھ سے دب گیا

In sentences 14 (a) and (b), the agent "NP1, i.e., Mujh Se" (I), is positioned differently in each sentence. In 14 (a), the agent is placed at the beginning of the sentence, and in 14 (b), it appears in the middle after the patient. Both structures show that the agent "Mujh Se (I)" is now the main focus of the sentence, and it is in the passive form, taking on the action of pressing the patient "the button."

The key distinction between the two structures lies in topicalization. In 14 (a), the agent "Mujh se" is the sentence's topic, receiving special attention. On the other hand, in 14 (b), the patient "Ghalat Button" has been topicalized, making it the central point of focus in the sentence. Sentence 14 (a) can be illustrated using the tree diagram (1), displaying how the words and phrases in the sentence are organized hierarchically.
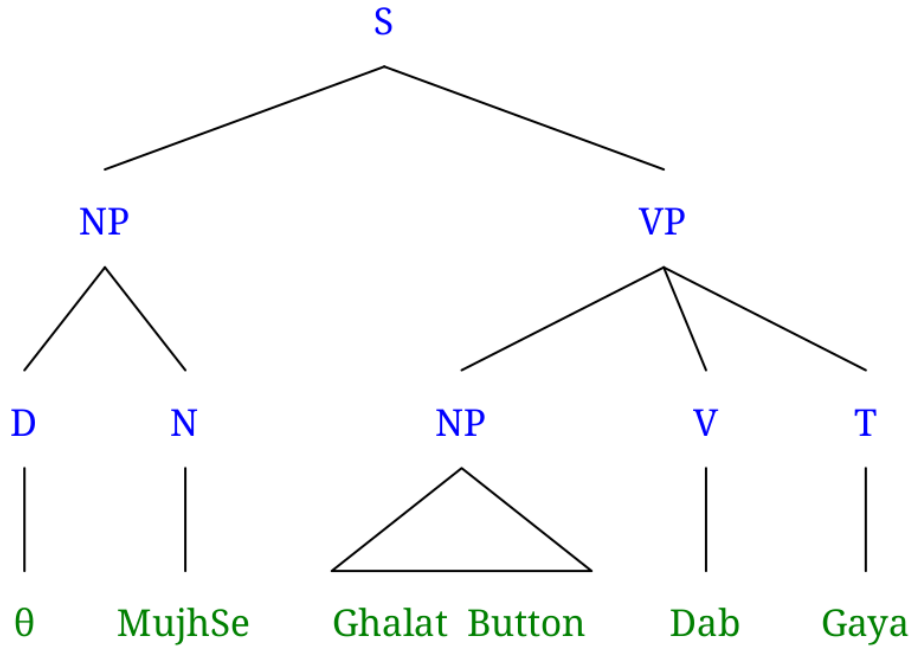
Diagram: 1

Consider the following passive sentence;

15 (a). "Darwaza Khula Chorra Gaya."   (The door was left open)

      NP2   VP

      دروازہ کھلا چھوڑا گیا

The corresponding active structure would be;

15 (b). "Main Darwaza Khula Chorr Gaya[1]"   (I left the door open)

      NP1   NP2   VP

      میں دروازہ کھلا چھوڑ گیا

There can be an agent in the passive constructions. Like;

15 (c). "Mujh Se Darwaza Khula Reh Gaya."   (The door was left opened by me)

      NP1   NP2   VP

      مجھ سے دروازہ کھلا رہ گیا

Or

15 (d)   "Darwaza Mujh se Khula Reh Gaya."   (The door was left opened by me)

      NP2   NP1   VP

---

[1] In Urdu, it is acceptable to write the sentence as simply "Chorra" without adding "Gaya." Both structures are grammatically valid in the language.

The difference between the agentive 15 (c) and 15 (d) is that of topicalization. In 15 (d), NP2 has been brought to the starting position in order to focus on the "door" instead of "by me" in the case of 15 (c).

The examples, such as 14 (a) and 15 (c), suggest that agentive Urdu passives involve an agent expressed through a "from-PP" (prepositional phrase) rather than a "by-PP." In these constructions, the agent's source or origin is indicated using the preposition "from" rather than "by." However, they are translated as "by-PP" into English. This distinction highlights the diverse ways Urdu can form passive sentences. It offers various options for expressing agents and emphasizing different aspects of the action.

Agent movement occurs in Urdu for various reasons. It includes emphasizing the focus or action of the agent within a sentence. When the agent is stated at the beginning of a sentence, the focus shifts to the agent. It shows that the agent is primarily responsible for the action described. On the other hand, when the agent is placed later in the sentence, the focus shifts to the action itself. It draws attention to the action rather than the agent. This word order suggests numerous expressions. It thus impacts the overall meaning and interpretation of a sentence.

Observations from listening to native speakers confirm that such word order variations are common in Urdu natural language use. Native speakers usually use agent movement in Urdu syntax in order to convey different types of meaning. They use it to get specific communicative goals. This observation aligns with the concept that agent movement is a regular and accepted practice in Urdu language usage. So, agent movement in Urdu has a pragmatic function.

Considering the following examples;

16 (a). "Kam Khatam Kia Gaya."   (The work was done)

16 (b). "Bakar ne Kam Khatam Kia"   (Bakar finished the work)

    NP1   NP2   VP

بکر نے کام ختم کیا

In sentence 16 (b), NP1 serves as the agent, and NP2 functions as the complement of the verb phrase (VP). NP2 is the patient, which receives the action of the verb "finishing." As a right-branching language, Urdu's complement NP2 "Kam" comes before the main verb "Khatam."

When the sentence undergoes passive transformation, NP1 moves to the object position and becomes a silent or null NP (not explicitly mentioned). At the same time, the complement of the verb "Khatam" shifts to the subject position to fill that slot and become the new subject of the passive sentence. This transformation changes the sentence's focus, making the previous agent (NP1) less prominent and putting the former complement (NP2) in the spotlight as the subject.

Also, the auxiliary "Gaya" (T) in this example is observed to appear to the right of the passive participle "Khatam Kia" within the VP. This indicates that the passive auxiliary is part of the VP constituent, as illustrated in the tree diagram (vii).
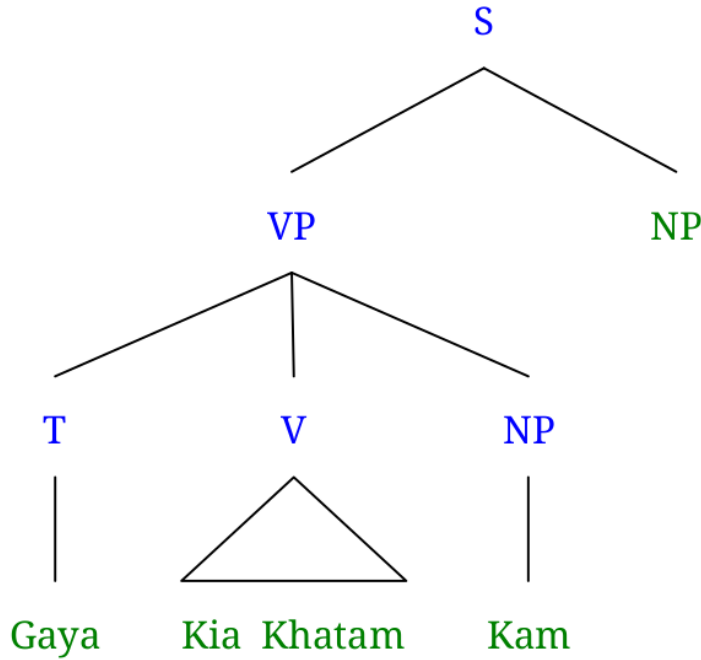
Diagram: 2

We can see in the tree diagram (2) that In Urdu, as a right-branching language, complements like "Kam" come before their head verbs, such as "Khatam Kia." This contrasts with English, where compliments typically appear after their head words.

4.3. Analytic Passives in Urdu

The Urdu language also has analytic passives (Bhatt, 2003). They are formed by using the morpheme jaa. The "jaa" morpheme used in Urdu's analytic passives carries information about tense and aspect. This morpheme is thus inflected accordingly. At the same time, the main verb in such constructions is in the perfective form. Whether or not to include the agent who performs the action is up to the speaker. If the agent is mentioned, it takes the instrumental case (Kidwai, 2022). Consider the following active sentence.

17 (a). "Ali ne Ahmed Ko Pakra"

علی نے احمد کو پکڑا

(Ali caught Ahmed)

The corresponding passive structure will be;

17 (b). "Ahmed Ali se Pakra Gaya"

احمد علی سے پکڑا گیا

(Ahmed was caught by Ali)

However, the "Jaa" morpheme is not specific to passive structures. It is also used as the main verb "go" and a light verb (LV) in Urdu (Kidwai, 2022; Kidwai, 2024). For example;

18. "Ali Jaa-raha hai."   (used as the main verb "go")

علی جا رہا ہے

(Ali is going)

19. "Umar Su Gaya."   (LV)

عمر سو گیا

(Umar fell asleep)

20. "Wo Sab Chalay Gaey.   (LV)

"وہ سب چلے گئے"

(They are all gone)

4.4. Passivization in Urdu Imperatives

Imperative sentences are sentences that tell or ask someone to do something. They are like commands or requests, giving directions or expressing desires for action. For example, "Please close the door" or "Go to bed" are imperative sentences. Following are examples in Urdu language.

21 (a). "Gharebon ki madad karo."   (Help the poor)

غریبوں کی مدد کرو

21 (b). "Baith Jao."   (Sit down)

بیٹھ جاؤ

Imperative sentences in Urdu are passivized by adding both the past participle-ya: and the passive auxiliary verb *ja: +y:* at the end of the root verb. Consider the following example;

22 (a). "Darwaza Band Karo."   (Close/shut the door)

دروازہ بند کرو

Its corresponding passive structure will look like this;

22 (b). "Darwaza Band Ki*ya* Ja:*y*."   (The door should be closed)

دروازہ بند کیا جائے

Similarly;

23 (a). "Khana Banao."   (Cook/make food)

کھانا بناؤ

Its corresponding passive will look like this;

23 (b). "Khana bana*ya* Ja:*y*."   (Food should be made/cooked)

<div dir="rtl">کھانا بنایا جائے</div>

In Urdu, when an imperative sentence includes advice or suggestions, it can be transformed into the passive voice by adding "*ana: cha:hi:e*" at the end of the root verb. For example;

24 (a). "Hamesha Sach bolo."   (Always speak the truth)

<div dir="rtl">ہمشہ سچ بولو</div>

Its passive sentence would be like this;

24 (b). "Hamesha Sach Bol:*na Cha:hi:e*."   (One should always speak the truth)

<div dir="rtl">ہمیشہ سچ بولنا چاہیے</div>

4.5. Voice Neutrality

Voice neutrality means passive and active sentences convey the same event with similar agent-patient relationships. The passive and active forms convey the same event or action in a given context and portray the exact relationships between the agent (doer of the action) and the patient (receiver of the action). Postal (1976) discussed this phenomenon. Palmer (2014) coined the term "voice neutrality" to describe this phenomenon. He highlighted that the meaning remains consistent regardless of whether the sentence is in the active or passive voice. Similarly, the thematic relations in the sentences remain the same. For example;

25 (a). Peter broke the window.

25 (b). The window was broken by Peter.

In sentence 25 (a), Peter acts as the agent of carrying out the action to break the window. The same happens in its corresponding passive sentence 25 (b), where the window receives the same action of breaking carried out by Peter.

If we analyze 25 (a) and 25 (b) in the Urdu language. It will look like;

26 (a). "Peter ne kherki toor di."   (Peter broke the window)

<div dir="rtl">پیٹر نے کھڑکی توڑ دی</div>

26 (b). "Kherki toor di gai."   (The window was broken)

<div dir="rtl">کھڑکی توڑ دی گئی</div>

In both cases, the window received the action of being broken. Thus, there is no change in Peter's role in both active and passive constructions.

While voice neutrality holds true in many cases between passive and active sentences, there are exceptions as noted by Chomsky (1957). He provides examples where the semantic equivalence breaks down:

27 (a) "Everyone in the room knows at least two languages."

27 (b) "At least two languages are known by everyone in the room."

While the active sentence 27 (a) keeps the languages non-specific, the passive sentence 27 (b) specifies the two languages. It thus causes a distinction between the two constructions. To verify the validity of the given examples in Urdu, consider 28 (a) and 28 (b).

28 (a). "Kamray main har banda kam az kam dou zabanain bolta hai."

(Everyone in the room speaks at least two languages)

کمرے میں ہر بندہ کم از کم دو زبانیں بولتا ہے

28 (b). "Kam az kam dou zabanain kamray main boli jaati hain"

(At least two languages are spoken by everyone in the room)

کم از کم دو زبانیں کمرے میں بولی جاتی ہیں

The passive structure here renders the two languages as definite. However, the definiteness determination may heavily rely on the stress placed on the word "dou" (two). The reason is that tone holds significant importance in Urdu for conveying the sentence's intended meaning.

5. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study suggest that Urdu passive constructions shift the focus from the subject to the object. The syntactic configuration of passive constructions in Urdu shows that the derived subject does not manifest itself phonologically in the sentence. These passives emphasize the focus on the object's transformation into the subject. In active sentences, components like NP1 (grammatical subject), NP2 (object), V (verb), and Aux (auxiliary verb) combine to form a complete structure. However, in passive constructions, the focus shifts to the object, which becomes the subject. Then, an auxiliary verb, "Gaya," is added to make the passive voice (Kidwai, 2022).

In Urdu, Passive sentence actions are conveyed without explicitly mentioning the agents involved in the action. However, there is the possibility of including an explicit agent in the passive construction. The examples show that agents can be expressed through prepositional phrases ("from me"). Also, they are positioned differently within the sentence for emphasis. This omission of agents is a defining characteristic of Urdu passive construction. This characteristic differentiates the passive from the active sentences. It is also observed that Urdu passives usually use the auxiliary "Gaya" to facilitate structural transformation. This property shows a fundamental difference from English passive constructions (Kidwai, 2024).

The findings also looked into the analytic passives in Urdu. These passives are formed using the morpheme "Jaa." It carries information about tense and aspect. It explains that the inclusion of the agent in analytic passives is optional. Thus, it gives speakers flexibility in expressing passive constructions.

Regarding imperative sentences, they can be transformed into the passive voice by adding specific morphemes and auxiliary verbs. Another critical aspect of the findings is that of voice neutrality. It refers to the consistency in conveying the same event and maintaining agent-patient relationships between active and passive sentences. Voice neutrality holds true in many cases. However, exceptions are there when semantic equivalence breaks down. This emphasizes the complexity of language structures in Urdu.

Comparative analysis of Urdu passive structures with English passive structures shed light on the difference between the two languages. In English, passive constructions generally include explicit agents.

However, Urdu passives frequently omit such agents (Maroof & Zafar, 2023). It suggests that Urdu passives emphasize the action itself rather than its performer. Understanding this can help translators know about Urdu syntax's complexities more effectively. This, in turn, enhances language comprehension.

The comprehension of passive structures is important for learners and users of Urdu. It is incredibly vital for those engaged in language learning and education. Language learners can increase their proficiency in constructing and comprehending different sentence types once they understand passives' syntactic configuration. This understanding enables learners to express ideas effectively. This knowledge also allows language users to make sentences that convey subtle nuances in meaning. Speakers and writers can manipulate focus by using passive constructions efficiently. For example, passive voice provides a concise and focused expression when the agent of an action is irrelevant. On the other hand, the active voice may be preferred where the agent's identity is important. Thus, this understanding develops the communication skills of the learners.

Knowledge of passive constructions in Urdu also holds practical implications for translation and interpretation tasks. Translators and interpreters come across passive sentences in source texts. They must accurately convey their meaning in the target language. A good understanding of passive structures enables translators to produce faithful and idiomatic renditions. It helps them preserve the intended message.

This discussion of passive constructions in Urdu also highlights the importance of linguistic typology. Comparison of Urdu syntactic configuration with that of other languages provides an understanding of universal principles of grammar. Such Comparative studies of passive constructions across languages also increase our knowledge of language teaching methodologies. Therefore, this study contributes to the broader discourse on linguistic diversity and universality.

6. CONCLUSION

Due to its syntactic complexities, passive transformation is a subject of considerable debate within linguistic circles. Different from English, Urdu shows a highly limited usage of passive constructions. English has a wide range of passive sentence structures, but Urdu has a different level of variety. Both English and Urdu have more similarities than differences in their passive sentence structures. They both use a similar method to form passive sentences, involving changes in word order and adding specific markers. However, one notable distinction is that in Urdu, passive sentences often do not explicitly mention the agent (the doer of the action). The sentence's action is transferred from the subject to the object, and the newly derived subject does not manifest itself phonologically. On the other hand, in English, the agent is sometimes included in the sentence. Urdu and English construct passive sentences using passive participle and a specific auxiliary verb. In Urdu, the common auxiliary is "Jaa" (alternatively "Gaya" in accordance with tense or aspect), whereas in English, "Be" is used for the same purpose. These auxiliary verbs are essential components in creating passive structures in both languages.

The syntactic difference between English and Urdu is evident in their sentence structures. English typically follows the Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) order, while Urdu uses the Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order. This distinction in word order affects the way sentences are constructed and understood in each language. In Urdu, a right-branching language, the complement comes before the headword. It contrasts with English, where the complement follows the headword.

Moreover, in Urdu, tone plays a vital role in adding meaning to specific structures. Different tones add extra meaning and depth to the language's sentences and expressions. Passivization of imperative sentences in Urdu is achieved by adding "*ya:*" and the passive auxiliary "jaa" at the end of the root verb. Furthermore, imperative sentences with advice or suggestions can be passivized by adding "*ana:*" "*cha:hi:e*" at the end of the root verb. Lastly, the concept of voice neutrality shows that, in most cases, passive and active sentences in Urdu convey the same event and maintain similar agent-patient relationships. However, some exceptions may arise. These exceptions cause distinctions between active and passive constructions based on context and stress in Urdu.

Based on the findings of this paper, it is recommended that the pragmatic implications of passive transformations in Urdu be explored further. How passive constructions are perceived and understood in different contexts needs to be investigated. It will be helpful for better language usage. It is also essential to look into the pedagogical implications of teaching passive transformations in Urdu. Comparative studies between Urdu and other languages with similar syntactic features, such as Pashto, could enlighten scholarship on cross-linguistic variations in passive constructions. Further research into passive transformations in Urdu can offer an understanding of language structure, usage, and cognition.

7. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH

This paper tried to touch on every aspect of Urdu's structural analysis of passive transformation. However, there are several limitations. Firstly, this study focuses on syntactic elements. It does not explore the semantic or pragmatic dimensions of passive constructions. Future research can consider this in order to get a comprehensive understanding of passive transformations in Urdu. Secondly, the scope of this study is limited to standard Urdu. Variations across different dialects are not examined. Looking into the structures of regional varieties and dialects of Urdu can help researchers get a better idea of this phenomenon. Thirdly, the sample size of examples analyzed in this study is relatively small. A broader corpus-based analysis could provide more insights into passive transformation in Urdu. Larger datasets and quantitative methods could offer more statistically comprehensive findings. Fourthly, this study focuses on the structural aspects of passive transformation. It does not address sociolinguistic factors that can influence language use. Future research could explore this aspect as well.

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