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**PASSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS IN ENGLISH AND THEIR TRANSLATION
EQUIVALENTS IN BOSNIAN/CROATIAN/SERBIAN/PASIVNE
KONSTRUKCIJE U ENGLISKOM JEZIKU I NJIHOVI PRIJEVODNI
EKVIVALENTI U BOSANSKOM/HRVATSKOM/SRPSKOM**

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Abstract

Grammatical equivalence is hard to achieve in translation when the source language and target language differ in the use of certain grammatical features. Such is the case of the passive voice in English and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. Since there is a general belief that the passive voice is not characteristic for B/C/S, this paper aims to investigate passive voice constructions which can be used as translation equivalents for the English passive. With contrastive analysis as the main method of the research, the paper examines examples from the chosen corpus to answer the research question: what constructions are the most common translation equivalents in B/C/S for the English passive and passive-like constructions. The research is based on the hypothesis that translators tend to avoid the passive voice in B/C/S and use the strategy of changing it to the active voice which proves to be the main conclusion of this research.

Key words: passive, active, voice, translation strategies, corpus analysis

Sažetak

Gramatička ekvivalencija je teška za postići u prijevodu kada se izvorni jezik i ciljni jezik razlikuju u korištenju određenog gramatičkog svojstva. To je slučaj s pasivom u engleskom i bosanskom/hrvatskom/srpskom. Obzirom da se generalno vjeruje da pasiv nije karakterističan za b/h/s, ovaj rad ima za cilj da istraži pasivne konstrukcije koje mogu da se koriste kao prijevodni ekvivalenti za engleski pasiv. Uz kontrastivnu analizu kao glavnu metodu istraživanja, rad ispituje primjere iz odabranog korpusa s ciljem odgovaranja na istraživačko pitanje: koje konstrukcije su najčešći prijevodni ekvivalenti u bosanskom/hrvatskom/srpskom za engleski pasiv i njemu slične konstrukcije. Rad je zasnovan na hipotezi da prevodioci/prevoditeljice teže ka izbjegavanju pasiva u bosanskom/hrvatskom/srpskom i koriste strategiju promjene pasiva u aktiv što se ispostavlja kao glavni zaključak ovog istraživanja.

Ključne riječi: pasiv, aktiv, kategorija stanja, strategije prevođenja, analiza korpusa

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1 Introduction

Grammatical equivalence is hard to achieve in translation because of the differences in grammars between languages. The focus is often put on transmitting the meaning. Such process of translation changes grammatical constructions present in the source text in order to adapt the construction to the nature of the target text and retain the conveyed meaning of the construction.

There is no complete equivalence in translation. However, translators must possess knowledge of grammatical constructions both of the source and the target language. This knowledge will help them to succeed in transferring the meaning of the source construction through the most similar construction available in the target language. However, grammatical features might not be used in grammar systems of target languages or might have limited use in it. One such feature is the passive voice.

The passive voice is a common construction in the English language. With its different passive and passive-like constructions, the English language poses a challenge to Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (referred to as B/C/S in this paper) translators because passive voice constructions are less frequent in B/C/S. The reason for choosing this construction for this research is the fact that there are no straightforward constructions that can be used as translation equivalents for the English passive. However, there are certain types of passive constructions in B/C/S as well that can be used as translation equivalents, only, we cannot say that they are literal translations of the English passive construction.

The aim of this paper is to present different types of the passive and passive-like constructions in English and to investigate different types of passive voice constructions in B/C/S that can be used for translating the English passive. To observe translation strategies employed when encountering the passive voice, the paper examines the passive and passive-like constructions in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

The paper as a descriptive study is divided into 6 chapters. *Introduction* precedes the second chapter *Theoretical background* which in its first subchapter gives initially basic information about the English passive, its structure and use. This subchapter provides information on the existence of different types of the passive and passive-like constructions in English: *Bare passive*, *be-passive*, *get-passive*, *Mediopassive*, *Adjectival*

passive, and *Other types of passive*. The subchapter on examination of the passive voice in English is concluded with an explanation of the importance of the passive voice in *Information packaging: Passive*. The second subchapter of *Theoretical background* elaborates *Passive voice in B/C/S*. Three parts of this subchapter present different passive constructions: *Participial passive*, *Se passive*, and *Adverbial passive*. The subchapter ends with *Common translation doubts with B/C/S passive voice*.

The chapter on theoretical background ends with *Grammatical equivalence in translation* where translator's strategies and approaches for translating grammatical constructions is being discussed. Methodology used for this paper is described in the third chapter *Methodology and materials*. This chapter also describes the process of the corpus analysis. Sixth chapter *Analysis and results* includes corpus analysis, results of the comparative analysis and the discussion of the results. This chapter is followed by *Conclusion*.

The research question of this paper is:

- What are the most common strategies used by translators when translating English passive to B/C/S?

The paper is based on the hypotheses that translators tend to avoid passive voice structures when providing B/C/S translation equivalents because the active voice is preferred in B/C/S.

2 Theoretical background

The way speakers distribute information along the sentence affects the process of understanding that sentence construction. The speaker's choice of particular construction depends on their aim to emphasize certain information carried by the sentence elements. One such construction is passive sentence. English speakers choose between the active or passive voice depending on which information they want to mark as significant. Yet, the passive voice is not always clear-cut because several types of passive-like structures can be found in English. Despite being less frequent than in English, passive voice constructions established their use in B/C/S and function as translation equivalents when encountering the English passive in the process of translation.

The term voice refers to “a system where the contrasting forms differ in the way semantic roles are aligned with syntactic functions” (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1427). The distinction between the active and passive voice is based on the positioning of semantic roles with regard to the functions in the sentence.

- (1) Oswald assassinated Kennedy.

ACTIVE

- (2) Kennedy was assassinated by Oswald.

PASSIVE

(Pullum &Huddleston, 2002, p.1427)

Example (1) is an active sentence where the position of the subject is filled by *Oswald* with its semantic role of an agent. Example (2) is a passive voice sentence where the subject *Kennedy* receives the semantic role of patient.

The two examples are examples of active and passive constructions proper in English. However, the distinction is not always so clear. While the *be*-passive is the most common passive construction, there are passive-like constructions where the passive is not so easily recognized. Pullum (2014) states that there are seven types of passive in English: *be*-passive, *get*-passive, bare passive, adjectival passive, prepositional passive, embedded passive, and concealed passive.

Despite the passive voice being a less frequent construction in B/C/S than in English, it is present through different grammatical structures. The passive is not common in B/C/S

primarily because their grammar systems, unlike English, contain seven cases that imply the semantic role of the element of the sentence. Additionally, B/C/S contain the passive verbal adjective that behaves like adjectives marked by gender, case, and number while its meaning implies passive quality rather than active (Riđanović, 2012, p. 336).

Different grammatical structures and their frequency in English and B/C/S lead to differences in the use of the passive in these languages. The passive voice, a very frequent structure in English, gives a lot of trouble to translators who have to determine which B/C/S structure would retain the expressed passivity.

2.1. *Passive and passive-like constructions in English*

The English passive is formed through the process of externalisation of the object from the verb phrase of the active sentence:

- (3) a. My father gave me this watch
- b. I was given this watch by my father. FIRST PASSIVE
- c. This watch was given me by my father. SECOND PASSIVE

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1432)

The example above contains a ditransitive verb with two passive counterparts. Therefore, (3) b. is called the first passive because of the externalisation of the indirect object, whereas the second example (3) c. is named the second passive where the direct object has been externalised. The terms for the two passive counterparts of ditransitive verbs originate from the canonical order in which indirect and direct objects appear in the active sentence. They differ in their use in British and American varieties of English. The first passive is more common in both varieties, while the second passive is rare in American English and even has limited use in British English (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1432). Prepositional paraphrasing is more common than the second passive:

- d. This watch was given to me by my father.

In (3) a., the active sentence contains indirect object *me* and direct object *this watch*. In (3) b. the indirect object *me* has been externalised out of the VP and becomes the subject of the passive sentence. In (3) c. the direct object *this watch* is externalised to a position of the subject of the passive voice. However, it is not obligatory for the English passive to have the internalised *by*-phrase:

- (4) The plan was carried out before the end of the year.

(Riđanović, 2007, p. 299)

The English language makes a distinction between the short and long passive. The difference is in the internalised element *by*-phrase which contains the agent of the action which is being performed over the subject of the sentence. The passive sentence which contains the *by*-phrase is called the long passive, and the passive construction where the *by*-phrase is omitted the short passive. Due to this lack of the *by*-phrase in the short passive, the formation of its active counterpart is troubling:

- (5) a. My surfboard was stolen by Pat. LONG PASSIVE
b. Pat stole my surfboard.
- (6) a. My surfboard was stolen. SHORT PASSIVE
b. (Someone?) stole my surfboard.

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1428)

Since the short passive does not contain the agent of the action within the *by*-phrase, there is no accurate active counterpart and the subject in the active counterpart of the short passive must be added. Hence, the active counterpart gives information that does not originally exist in the short passive (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1428).

Ward & Birner (2004, p. 139) provide an argument for us to stop assigning the semantic role of the agent to the noun phrase (NP) in the *by*-phrase. By observing only passive sentences with the logical subject in the *by*-phrase they have concluded that passive construction with an NP in the *by*-phrase does not have to be “agentive passive”:

- (7) The mayor’s present term of office expires on January 1. He will be succeeded by Ivan Allen Jr...

(Brown Corpus in Ward & Birner, 2004, p. 139)

In example (7) Ward & Birner (2004, p. 139) state that *Ivan Allen Jr.* is not an agent since in many cases the NP in the *by*-phrase does not have to be a semantic agent who is operating an action. This agrees with the fact that there are different semantic roles that the subject takes in the active sentences, such as the external cause, instrument, and recipient.

- (8) a. The avalanche destroyed several houses.

- b. Several houses were destroyed by the avalanche.
- (9) a. The computer has solved the problem.
- b. The problem was solved by the computer.

(Quirk & Greenbaum, 1999, p. 210)

In example (8) a., the subject *The avalanche* carries the semantic role of the external cause since it expresses an unwilling cause of the action. Hence, the subject in the *by*-phrase in the passive counterpart in (8) b. is not carrying a semantic role of an agent. A similar situation appears in example (9) a. where the subject *The computer* is an instrument used by a certain person *to solve the problem*. The subject carries the semantic role of the instrument and cannot be carrying a semantic role of an agent in the *by*-phrase of the passive counterpart in (9) b.

This implies that the passive constructions with the *by*-phrase are not necessarily “agentive passives”. The *by*-phrase is not a necessary element of the *be*-passive or any other kind of passive with evidence from research showing that *by*-phrases are more often omitted than present (Leech et al., 2009, p. 145).

After the externalisation of the indirect or direct object, the process of creating a passive voice from an active sentence continues on the verb. The verb of the passive sentence appears in the past participle form and is joined by the appropriate tense of the auxiliary verb *be*:

- (10) a. A team of detectives is investigating the crime.
- b. The crime is being investigated by a team of detectives.

(Greenbaum & Nelson, 2009, p. 225)

In (10) a., it can be seen that the active sentence is in the present continuous simple. Its passive counterpart (10) b. contains auxiliary verb *be* in the present (is) and –ing form of the verb *be* (*being*) which carries the meaning of the continuous which is in the active contained in the –ing form of the verb *investigate*. Two forms of the auxiliary *be* are followed by the participle form of the verb *investigate*. The process of transforming active verb phrase to a passive counterpart has been completed.

The process of the formation of the passive voice structure is often confusing for learners of English as a foreign language and might depend on the type of passive. Despite the

central *be*-passive being the most frequent passive construction, the importance of the other types of passive should not be neglected.

2.1.1 Bare passive, *be*-passive, and *get*-passive

The passive which contains a subject and past participle, but does not have an auxiliary verb, which marks tense, is called the bare passive.

- (11) a. He saw Kim [mauled by our neighbour's dog].
b. The guy [mauled by our neighbour's dog] is in intensive care.

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1430)

The bare passive has no overt subject. In example (11) a. *Kim* is the object of the verb *see* and is the object of the main clause. *Mauled by our neighbour's dog* is a bare passive without an auxiliary and functions as a catenative complement. In (11) b. *The guy* is the subject of the main clause *is in intensive care* making *mauled by our neighbour's dog* a passive clause which is a modifier of the NP *The guy*. These clauses are always non-finite because they contain only the past participle form of the verb (Pullum, 2014, p. 1430).

Adding a catenative verb with its different inflections to the bare passive creates extended passives the *be*-passive and *get*-passive. They are called extended passives because verbs *be* and *get* are added to the bare passive. Essentially, *be* and *get* are catenative verbs which take a bare passive clause as their complement. This means that *be* and *get* do not carry any meaning but only function as dummy verbs whose role is to carry the tense contained in the active (preterit or present) and to indicate the passive voice (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1443).

The *be*-passive is the most neutral and the most common type of passive in the English language. This is because the main verb *be* is followed by the past participle. Its subject is most often internalised in the verb phrase and the simple process of externalisation of the NP from the *by*-phrase brings us to the active counterpart. The meaning remains unchanged. The process could be seen as two NPs exchanging places without any change in the meaning:

- (12) a. Everyone in the department admires Anne's scholarship.
b. Anne's scholarship is admired by everyone in the department.

(Pullum, 2014, p. 2)

However, the auxiliary *be* is not a must for every passive clause. Some passive clauses can take *get* instead of *be*. The intransitive verb *get* appears as a substitute for the auxiliary verb *be* in forming the *get*-passive. The *get*-passive is almost identical to the *be*-passive: the intransitive verb *get* is followed by a past participle and optional *by*-phrase:

- (13) a. A journalist photographed Marie.
b. Marie was photographed by a journalist.
c. Marie got photographed by a journalist.

(Pullum, 2014, p. 4)

Pullum and Huddleston (2002, p. 1442) summarize the differences between the *be*-passive and *get*-passive in four main points:

- *Get*-passive is more common in informal style.
- *Get*-passive appears only with dynamic verbs:
(14) It was/got* believed that the letter was a forgery.
- *Get*-passive is more common in an agentive interpretation of the subject:
(15) She managed to get transferred to the finance department.

The *get*-passive is often used when there is some agentivity by the subject in doing the action. In (15) *She* must have done something to get herself transferred, the implication is that she took an active role in this promotion.

- *Get*-passive is characteristically used in expressing adversity or benefit.
(16) a. My watch got stolen.
b. My letter got published.

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p.1442)

The *get*-passive is used when it carries the feature of some negative or positive situation for the subject. Despite the possibility for the *get*-passive to be used for beneficial situations, there is a certain tendency for the intransitive verb *get* in this type of sentence to be used with main verbs which express negative and undesirable results, such as *arrest*, *kill*, *infect*, etc., though some exceptions to this may be found (*He got promoted*.) (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2009, p. 77). Data from the research conducted by Leech et al. (2009, p. 157) have shown that the *get*-passive still mainly carries the meaning of adversity. The *get*-passive is possible to appear with positive connotations, but the same

data is claimed to be the proof that this very young type of passive construction will likely still not be able to replace the *be*-passive because of its characteristic non-neutral semantics (Leech et al., 2009, p. 157).

2.1.2. *Mediopassive*

While the *get*-passive uses a different copula verb unlike the central *be*-passive, the mediopassive is different grammatically and semantically from the *be*-passive and *get*-passive because the VP does not denote the voice. In the mediopassive (also called the middle voice), a sentence is syntactically active but semantically passive (Kemmer, 1993, p.1). The voice in the mediopassive is marked by an additional sentence element such as adverb of manner, modal modification, and negation. Most research in generative syntax (for example, Levin: 1993; Fagan: 1988, 1992¹) claims that this type of construction is ungrammatical without modification and that modification makes the mediopassive a more acceptable construction in its usage (Hundt, 2014, p. 92). However, more recent research (Hundt, 2006, 2007) has shown that lack of modification in the mediopassive is only a pragmatic constraint but not grammatical. The mediopassive construction contains an intransitive verb and the subject carries the semantic role of the patient.

- (17) a. Wax dolls could be bought quite cheaply a few years ago, but are now fetching higher prices.
b. Wax dolls sold quite cheaply a few years ago, but are now fetching higher prices.

(Leech et al., 2009, p. 159)

In example (17) a. the passive form of the verb *buy* can be replaced by the active form of the verb *sold* to create a mediopassive sentence. With the verb *buy* in *could be bought*, the agent has certain activity in buying. Agent prepares the money to buy the book which gives the buyer an important role as an agent. With verb *sell* in (17) b., the responsibility is on the publishing industry and simply depends on the quality of books and whether they will attract the public attention for purchasing the item (Leech et al., 2009, p. 159).

¹ As cited in Hundt, M. (2014). Books that sell – mediopassives and the modification ‘constraint’. In Hundt, M. (Ed.), *Late Modern English Syntax* (pp. 90 – 109). Cambridge University Press.

2.1.3. Adjectival Passive

Because of its form, the past participle form of the verb is very often hard to distinguish from adjectives. Passive participles had been thought to possess adjectival properties until Wasow in 1977² argued that there are two types of passives, i.e. adjectival and verbal. Both the verbal passive and adjectival passive appear as complements for the verb *be*, making the difference between the two categories ambiguous.

- (18) a. The window was broken by vandals. VERBAL
b. The window was broken. AMBIGUOUS: verbal or adjectival

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1439)

It is important to say that adjectival passives are referred to as passives only in their derivative sense. Sentences that contain the adjectival passive are not passive sentences, they are complex-intransitive constructions. These constructions simply have adjective phrases in the position of the predicative complement. So it is not the sentence that's the adjectival passive but the adjective phrase which functions as a predicative complement (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1436). Hence, sentence construction (18) b. with the adjective phrase *was broken* is not a passive clause.

- (19) The channel *got blocked*.

(Leech et al., 2009, p. 154)

Because of this ambiguity, example (19) can be interpreted in different ways. In the first interpretation, *blocked* would be observed as a participle form of the lexical verb *block* with the verb *get*. The alternative to this interpretation is that *blocked* is an adjective with the verb *get* functioning as a copula³ verb (Leech et al., 2009, p. 155). The difference between the verbal and adjectival passive can be made when observing their syntactic features.

Unlike verbs, adjectives can be modified. If an adjective is gradable, the adjectival passive can easily be modified by degree adverbs such as *very* or *too* or some other type of

² As cited in Levin, B., & Rappaport, M. (1986). The Formation of Adjectival Passives. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 17, 623–661. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4178511>.

³ „The verb *be*, when used to bind together the subject and its attribute into a proposition, is called the copula (Quirk et al., 1989).“

premodification. Many adjectives also take the prefix *un-* when forming their antonyms. The prefix *un-* can appear on verbs as well, but in this situation, it gives a new meaning to verbs (Adjectival: *The letter was still unanswered.* and Verbal: *He untied his shoes*) (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1437). What differentiates adjectival predicative complements from the bare passive as a complement for the verb *be* or *get* in the passive is that it can appear with other verbs such as *seem*, *look*, and *remain*. If *be* or *get* cannot be substituted by these verbs, the passive is commonly the verbal passive (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1437):

- (20) a. *The kitchen window seemed broken by the thieves.

Verbal: not possible with other verbs than be

- b. They seemed very worried.

Adjectival: possible with other verbs than be

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1437)

With Leech et al.'s (2009, p. 155) argument that passives usually “have eventive interpretations, may be accompanied by a prepositional *by*-phrase denoting the agent role and typically do not denote lasting states”, we come to Pullum’s and Huddleston’s (2002, p. 1437) conclusion that adjectival passives always have a stative meaning.

The ambiguity between the verbal and adjectival passive is very present in *get*-passive constructions. Determining the status of *married* in *get married* is often the subject of linguistic discussions. Pullum & Huddleston (2002, p. 1441) observe it as a verbal passive:

- (21) a. They *are hoping to get married* by the bishop. VERBAL

- b. They *are getting married* at the week-end. ADJECTIVAL

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1441)

Pullum & Huddleston (2002, p. 1441) observe example (21) b. as adjectival due to its similar features to *engaged* which is always adjectival despite the fact that *married* is not possible with the verb *become* while *They became engaged* is possible. But they define (21) a. verbal because of the obvious agent contained in *by the bishop*. Hence, their conclusion is based on the fact that the verbal use contains some implicit or explicit agent while the adjectival does not.

2.1.4. Other types of the passive in English

- Prepositional passive

- (22) a. My mother approved of the plan.
b. The plan was approved of by my mother.

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1433)

In example (22) a., the underlined NP *the plan* is in the active sentence the object of the preposition. In the passive counterpart, the NP is the subject. In *approved of*, the PP *of* is a verb complement. In the passive voice this preposition *of* is left without a normally obligatory NP complement *the plan*.

- (23) a. The plan was approved of by my mother.
[verb + preposition]
b. The committee didn't face up to these problems.
[verb + preposition + preposition]
c. The organisers seems to have lost sight of the main goal.
[verb + NP + preposition]
d. My hat has been sat on.

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1433)

The prepositional passive is separated into two types. In the first type, the verb or verb idiom determines a specific preposition (Examples (23) a. and (23) b.). The second type (Example (23) d.) includes a preposition which is not as constrained as the preposition in the first type. It uses prepositions that are not determined by the verb or verbal idiom and they have a locative meaning (Example (23) d.). Prepositional passives where an object NP appears between the verb and the preposition are only possible with idioms, such as in (23) c. where the NP *sight* appears between the verb *lost* and preposition *of* (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1433).

- Concealed passive

- (24) The house needs painting.

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1200)

The past participle seems to be an indispensable part of passive constructions. Yet, there is one type of the passive sentence called the concealed passive which takes a verb in the

form of a gerund-participle instead of a past participle, notably with verbs *need*, *require*, *deserve*, and *want* (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1999). The example in (24) can be turned into the ordinary passive *The house needs to be painted* and this formulation shows the passive character of the concealed passive. *Need* can also take a past-participial bare passive predicative complement in Scottish English as well as certain US dialects: *My hair needs washed* (Trudgill & Hannah, 2017, p. 99).

- Embedded passive

The embedded passive is the name for the clause which is embedded in active sentences. In this type of passive, the main clause verbs with causative, inchoative, and perception meanings are complemented by past-participial VPs, i.e., a subjectless bare passive. The active and passive counterparts slightly differ in their meaning because of the focus and viewpoint.

- (25) a. The government had the police investigate the case.
b. The government had the case investigated by the police.

(Pullum, 2014, p. 62)

2.1.5. Information packaging: Passive

Links between elements of the text which the hearer understands are referred to as coherence. Coherence of discourse depends on the way information from the already existing context and the new utterance has been linked. Their interconnection affects the way the listener comprehends the utterance. These links are achieved and indicated through cohesive ties which include formal elements of grammar and lexis (Hasselgard et al., 2011, p. 377).

One of the ways to affect the coherence and the process of understanding sentence information is to use non-canonical structures. These structures do not use the canonical order of an English sentence and with their different order of syntactic elements mark the status of information contained by these constituents. Thus, the positioning of sentence units is the speaker's decision of how they want to create the informational process of the discourse (Ward & Birner, 2004, p. 153).

Positioning of information in English depends on two principles: the "old/new" principle and the end-weight principle. According to the end-weight principle, the more complex

sentence units tend to be positioned at the end of the text or sentence. The “old/new” principle includes positioning new information for the hearer after information considered to be already familiar. From this principle of information packaging arise two different types of constructions: preposing (canonically postverbal sentence constituents take preverbal positions) and postposing (canonically preverbal sentence constituents take postverbal positions). Both of these constructions contain discourse-new or hearer-new information in the postposed position. There are also non-canonical structures in which the process of argument reversal changes the position of two arguments, i.e., the preposed constituent provides information that is at least as familiar as the information of the postposed constituent. This means that this construction “poses a relative rather than absolute constraint on the information status of the displaced constituents”, meaning that newer information must not be contained in the preposed constituent (Ward & Birner, 2004, p. 169). One such construction is the passive sentence.

The constraint which appears in the long passive is that the internalised NP in the *by*-phrase must not be less familiar in the discourse:

- (26) a. The mayor’s term of office expires next month. [She will be succeeded by George Hendricks.]
b. George Hendricks will take office next month. [*The current mayor, Angela Cooke, will be succeeded by him.]

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1444)

In (26) a. subject *she* is discourse-old information since it has been mentioned previously and refers back to the NP *the mayor* in the previous sentence. The NP in the *by*-phrase *George Hendricks* is discourse-new information. In (26) b., the NP *the current mayor* is discourse-new information since it has not been previously mentioned. The NP *him* internalised in the *by*-phrase is discourse-old information and refers back to the subject of the previous sentence *George Hendricks*. Because of this new-old structure of information in (26) b., this passive sentence is seen as wrong, and the active counterpart *He will succeed the current mayor, Angela Cooke.* should be used (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1444).

Because of this constraint of information positioning in the long passive, there are three patterns that can be used for information packaging of the internalised NP in the *by*-phrase

and the subject: old/new; old/old; new/new; but new/old pattern is eliminated by this constraint.

The short passive does not have the *by*-phrase and its internalised NP, so this constraint is not applied to it. Because of the lack of the internalised NP, the subject is not required to be less known than the internalised NP and can be both old and new:

- (27) a. I was going to show you my new car [but it was stolen].
[old]
- b. Didn't you hear the news? [A shop-keeper downtown was shot last night].
[new]

(Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1445)

The short passive is used when the speaker does not know the agent of the clause. It is often used when the speaker wants to avoid identifying the agent which is why it is often used in formal style of speech in registers such as in the language of governmental institutions and scientific language (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1446).

For a long time, passive sentences have had a bad reputation in the world of writing. The passive is often seen as a feeble and dull construction which should be avoided in writing, especially creative writing. However, Pullum (2014) tries to convince the world of linguistics otherwise reminding everyone that no piece of writing can be classified as good or bad based on the presence or absence of the passive, referring to some writers who have been awarded for their works including George Orwell. Pullum (2014, p. 73) admits that there is a constant decline in the use of the passive in English, but there is no writer who has completely abolished using this construction in their writing. The passive is similar to other types of non-canonical structures, in that it can be dynamic and find its place in the discourse if the writer sees this grammatical construction as fitting for the expression of their thought.

2.2. *Passive voice in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian*

The English language uses passive constructions to give prominence to the object of the active sentence. Inflected languages like Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (B/C/S) can create this prominence through inflections that imply the case of the word. Positioning the object at the beginning of the sentence is not a requirement for forming a passive sentence in

B/C/S and this is why people often think that there is no passive voice in B/C/S. It is true that B/C/S can do without the passive voice, but there are constructions used to indicate it (Riđanović, 2012, p. 355).

Predicates open places in the sentence for other sentence elements. The ability to create space for other sentence elements is called the atomicity of verbs. This feature is subdivided into left atomicity and right atomicity, whereby the left atomicity includes the verb opening a position only for one sentence unit which carries the meaning of the agent of certain action. The right atomicity allows the verb to open one, two, or more places for other sentence elements. Some verbs have zero atomicity because they do not open any place for other sentence elements. The feature of atomicity is related to the feature of transitivity. Transitive verbs possess the feature of atomicity while intransitive do not. The feature of transitivity determines the possibility for verbs to be used in passive constructions (Piper et al., 2005, p. 610). Transitive verbs in B/C/S are further divided into real and unreal transitive verbs. The difference between the two is in the case of the object they take:

- (28) Da li slušaš muziku? (*Are you listening to the music?*)
(29) a. Razgovaraju o tom filmu. (*They are talking about that movie.*)
 b. Mašu vojničkim kapama. (*They are waving with their army caps.*)
 c. Mislim samo na nju. (*I only think of her.*)

(Piper et al., 2005, p.610)

Example (28) contains a real transitive verb because this type of a transitive verb (*slušati*) opens the place for the direct object in the accusative case without a preposition which is the case with *muziku*. Examples (28) a., b., and c., are sentences with unreal transitive verbs because their objects are not in the accusative case without a preposition. The object of an unreal transitive verb comes in some other case with or without a preposition.

In B/C/S transitive verbs can open positions for a direct object and indirect object. In sentences where the verb opens positions for two or three sentence elements, the direct object comes before the indirect object:

- (30) Ana plaća poklon bratu čekom. (*Ana is paying the gift for her brother by cheque.*)

(Piper et al., 2005, p. 610)

This order of sentence elements is favoured in B/C/S because of the preferred active sentence over the passive construction. Most often, the passive is used when the “doer” of the action is unknown or irrelevant. This is why, just like in English, the passive in B/C/S is believed to appear more in the description of events in newspapers, scientific writing, and the language of politics. However, again like in English, this belief might not be correct since it can be found in other styles of language as well (Mrazović & Vukadinović, 1990, p. 134). The belief that passive is more frequent in formal language might be well-accepted because of the prepositional phrase *od strane* which appears in certain sentences and can sometimes sound like unnatural in B/C/S. In a passive sentence, the prepositional phrase *od strane* (sometimes just *od*) followed by the noun-headed structure in the genitive contains the subject of the active sentence:

- (31) a. Grad je potpuno razoren od strane neprijateljskih snaga. (*The city was completely destroyed by enemy forces.*)
b. Đaci su kažnjeni od (strane) Školskog odbora. (*The students were punished by the teacher.*)

(Riđanović, 2012, p. 356)

The prepositional phrase *od strane* is a translation equivalent for the English *by*-phrase. However, *od strane* is not as frequently used in B/C/S as a *by*-phrase in English because *od strane* is not commonly used with animate agents. However it does sound more natural B/C/S only when it appears in the administrative register and with a limited number of verbs outside this register, which is exactly the case with example (31) a. (Riđanović, 2012, p. 356). Example (31) b. contains an animate agent in the prepositional phrase *od strane* and seems to be an unacceptable sentence in B/C/S. On the other hand, its English equivalent is a perfectly grammatical correct passive construction.

A limited use of the prepositional phrase *od strane* in the passive voice discourages translators from opting for passive constructions when translating the English passive to B/C/S. Other passive constructions in B/C/S are often forgotten as available options for

expressing the passive voice. These are the participial passive, *se* passive, and adverbial passive.

2.2.1. Participial passive

Piper and Klajn (2013, p. 184) also refer to this passive as the adjectival passive. The participial passive is formed from the passive participle, i.e. passive verbal adjective joined by the appropriate form of the verb *be*:

- (32) a. Nena je skuvala ručak. (*Granny has made the lunch.*)
b. Ručak je skuvan. (*The lunch has been made.*)

(Piper et al., 2005, p. 624)

Verbal adjectives are considered to be hybrid forms in B/C/S because they retain certain features of adjectives and certain features of verbs. Like adjectives, they have features of gender, number, and case, and like verbs they have features of transitivity and aspect (Silić & Pranjković, 2005, p. 197). There are two types of verbal adjectives: active verbal adjective and passive verbal adjective. Their names suggest the type of sentence constructions they take part in.

Adjectival qualities are more noticeable in the passive verbal adjective than in the active verbal adjective. Because of the presence of verbal and adjectival features, the passive verbal adjective is similar to the English participle in its possible ambiguity (Riđanović, 2012, p. 336). It has been discussed previously in 2.1.3. that English has the adjectival and verbal passive. However, the adjectival passive is not a construction but only an adjective phrase in the position of a predicative complement. The passive verbal adjective is used to form complex verbal forms and passive sentences in B/C/S.

The difference between adjectives and the passive verbal adjective is that the latter must come after the NP it refers to with an adverbial:

- (33) a. Karte kupljene za večerašnju predstavu mogu se vratiti na blagajnu. (*Tickets purchased for the tonight's show can be returned at the box office..*)

PASSIVE VERBAL ADJECTIVE

(Piper et al., 2005, p. 625)

- b. Kupljene karte mogu da se vrate na blagajni. (The purchased tickets can be returned at the box office.)

ADJECTIVE

The participial passive contains a copula verb with various tense inflections. It can appear with or without the prepositional phrase *od strane*, depending on the verb in the sentence, as explained before. It does not have to indicate the agent in the passive sentence.

- (34) a. Doktorica je pregledala dječaka. (*The doctor has examined the boy.*)
b. Dječak je pregledan. (*The boy has been examined.*)

(Jahić et al., 2000, p. 262)

Active sentence (34) a. contains the agent and patient of the action. Its passive equivalent in (34) b. contains an externalised object *dječak* from the active sentence. The agent *Doktorica* is omitted in the passive counterpart.

2.2.2. *Se passive*

This type of passive includes the short form of reflexive pronoun *sebe*, i.e. *se*. Jahić et al. (2000, p. 286) classify this *se* as a reflexive particle in Bosnian, while Mrazović and Vukadinović (1990) and Piper et al. (2005, p. 624) in Serbian and Croatian refer to it as the enclitic form of reflexive pronoun *sebe* in Serbian and Croatian. This is why Piper et al. (2005) and Piper and Klajn (2013) call this type of passive construction the pronoun passive. Riđanović (2007, p. 301) also mentions this *se* as a particle which in this type of construction has a passive meaning, which is only one of its plenty meanings and possible uses in Bosnian.

The particle *se* is joined by the active form of the verb with its appropriate inflections. This type of passive is most commonly used for the 3rd person singular and plural with the subject in the nominative case:

- (35) Knjiga se brzo rasprodala. (*The book was quickly sold out.*)

(Piper et al., 2005, p. 622)

The agent of the *se* passive construction is usually omitted. When the agent of the *se* passive sentence is retained, prepositions with the spatial meaning like *kod*, *na*, *u* are used (Piper et al, 2005, p. 624):

- (36) a. Odluke donosi Savet.
b. Odluke se donose na Savetu.

(Piper et al., 2005, p.624)

While Jahić et al. (2000) mention only the *se* passive and participial passive, Mrazović and Vukadinov (1990) also mention the neutral passive construction, and Piper et al. (2005) also mention the adverbial passive construction.

The neutral passive is related to the *se* passive because it also contains a reflexive particle/pronoun *se*. The difference is that it appears with the verbs that do not take a complement in the accusative case because the agent is obviously a human being (Mrazović & Vukadinov, 1990, p. 134).

(37) U ovoj sobi se spava. (*This room is being slept in.*)

(Mrazović & Vukadinov, 1990, p. 134)

2.2.3. Adverbial passive

The adverbial passive includes a predicate which implies that there has been a change of place of the patient which takes up the subject position in a passive construction.

(38) a. Knjiga je na čitanju kod Pere Perića. (*The book is being read by Pero Perić.*)

b. Knjigu čita Pera Perić. (*Pera Perić is reading the book.*)

(Piper et al., 2005, p. 625)

In the adverbial passive, agent is most commonly expressed in an NP introduced by the preposition *kod*. This is a consequence of the passivization of the active sentence whose patient is not in its common position (Example (38) b.). This sentence requires that its passive counterpart contains verbal noun preceded by the preposition and auxiliary verb as part of the predicate (Piper et al., 2005, p. 623). In (38) a. passive sentence contains the auxiliary verb *jesam* joined by the preposition *na* which introduces the verbal noun *čitanju* and the agent *Pere Perića* introduced by the preposition *kod*.

2.2.4. Common translation mistakes with B/C/S passive voice

In his overview of English grammar, Riđanović (2007) discusses some common mistakes when comparing passive structures in English to B/C/S:

(39) a. The bridge was built in 1950.

b. Most je izgrađen 1950.

(Riđanović, 2007, p. 298)

Example (39) shows a great difference between the English passive and B/C/S passive. The passive sentence in B/C/S uses the present tense to express the passive in the past. The auxiliary verb *biti* in its appropriate form (in this case *jesam*) is followed by the passive verbal adjective *izgrađen*. The English passive sentence (39. a.) uses the past tense of auxiliary *be* and participle to refer to the event from the past. It is important to remember that the present tense of the verb is used to refer to past events in B/C/S passive.

- (40) a. They are expected to arrive at London airport at 11 a.m.
b. Očekuje se da će sletiti na aerodrom u Londonu u 11 ujutru.

(Riđanović, 2007, p. 305)

Example (39) a. is a passive construction which is not familiar to B/C/S. English has one type of construction where the verbs of opinion (*consider, believe, think, say, etc.*) are followed by the *to* infinitive: *He is believed to...* This type of construction is translated to B/C/S by using the *se* passive. What often confuses B/C/S speakers is that if they were asked to translate (39) b. back to English, they would probably produce the sentence *It is expected that they arrive at London airport at 11 a.m.* This sentence is a literal translation because a B/C/S sentence contains the verb with the particle *se* for the passive followed by its complement object clause whose grammatical equivalent in English is a *that* clause. Speakers are confused by the impersonal *očekuje se* in the B/C/S sentence. This impersonal tone in English is present also in this construction verb of opinion + *to* infinitive and dummy *it*.

- (41) a. This subject has not been dealt with before.
b. Nije se prije govorilo o ovoj temi.

(Riđanović, 2007, p. 305)

It has been mentioned in 2.1.4. that in the prepositional passive, the preposition can be left without its obligatory NP complement due to the process of passivization. While English prepositions in the passive can stand alone, this is not possible in B/C/S. These prepositional complements in B/C/S active sentences are the unreal object of the verb because they come in a case other than the accusative: *Oni razgovaraju o jučerašnjoj proslavi.* (*They are talking about yesterday's celebration.*)

2.3. Grammatical equivalence in translation

Different languages have different grammar. Grammar systems are formed around the morphology and syntax of one language. The morphology refers to word formation, and syntax includes the way sentence or clause elements which are available in a certain language have been positioned in order to achieve certain grammatical choices. The passive construction in English is achieved by a syntactical choice because the order of sentence elements is disrupted to create certain relationships between them (Baker, 2018, p. 95). On the other hand, in B/C/S passive structures also include morphological manipulation of sentence elements such as case, gender, and number, to indicate the passive voice.

Grammatical categories which are present in all languages and used in similar ways are hard to find. For example, B/C/S belong to Slavic languages, but Slavic languages and English belong to the Indo-European group of languages. This leads to certain similarities between these languages. Yet, they are different enough to make the job of translation difficult. While in B/C/S different types of inflections are used to signal different grammatical features such as tense, case, person, etc., English contains a significantly smaller number of inflections in its grammatical system.

Grammatical structures which are present in the source text (ST) but not possible in the language of the target text (TT) can lead to changes in information transmitted to the reader or listener. The change of information might even appear in the form of omitting some information contained in certain sentence elements in the ST because the language of TT lacks an appropriate grammatical structure that could be used as a translation equivalent. This might imply that the information that could be omitted in the translation process is optional. However, in practice optional information is very rare and its importance in the ST cannot be ignored, which means that translators must work on finding structures that would be able to convey that information in TT (Baker, 2018, p. 98).

As mentioned before, the passive is a frequent structure in English especially in the scientific and administrative register. It has influenced other languages to use the passive voice in this register as well, including B/C/S where passive voice with the prepositional phrase *od strane* has limited use in this type of register. This means that there should be

no problem when translating English sentences from this register to B/C/S. Therefore, English and B/C/S are similar in their limited use of passive constructions.

- (42) a. The decision was passed by the City Council.
b. Ta odluka je donesena od (strane) Gradskog vijeća.

(Riđanović, 2012, p. 356)

The passive voice in English is used to omit the agent and put focus on the patient of the verb. This does not have to be the function of the passive construction in all languages. Passive constructions in B/C/S are used when the agent is not important, or when the structure wants to mark the importance of the object of the verb. However, as noted before, while English forms a different type of construction to signify the importance of the object, the case can be used in B/C/S to indicate the same grammatical feature.

The most important thing for the translator then is not to translate construction literally but to search for available constructions in the language of TT that could retain the information expressed in ST. Translators should not simply replace the passive structure in ST with the passive structure in TT, but find construction that functions in TT the same way construction in ST functions (Baker, 2018, p. 122). This theory of retaining the nature of the target text is summarized in the words of Nida and Taber (1982, p. 4):

“To communicate effectively one must respect the genius of each language. Rather than bemoan the lack of some feature in a language, one must respect the features of the receptor language and exploit the potentialities of the language to the greatest possible extent. [...] Rather than force the formal structure of one language upon another, the effective translator is quite prepared to make any and all formal changes necessary to reproduce the message in the distinctive structural forms of the receptor language.”

3 Methodology and materials

This paper connects the field of translation with the field of linguistics by using contrastive analysis as a primary method for the research. Contrastive analysis is “a linguistic study of two languages aiming to identify differences between them in general or in selected areas” and it contains a certain measure that is observed during the analysis (Hoey & Houghton, 2001, p. 46). When it comes to this paper, the measure is grammar;

in particular, the passive and passive-like sentence constructions in English and B/C/S will be compared.

This research is a corpus-based study. Corpora are bodies of text; instances of language in spoken or written use which will be observed in research (Kenny, 2001, p. 50). Corpus of this paper consists of four editions of the novel *How to Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. One edition is in English, the remaining three are translated editions:

- Bosnian translation: Lee, H. (2015). *Ubiti pticu rugalicu* (Lj. Šćurić, Trans.). Šahinpašić. (Original work published 1960)
- Croatian translation: Lee, H. (2020). *Ubiti pticu rugalicu* (Lj. Šćurić, Trans.). Znanje. (Original work published 1960)
- Serbian translation: Li, H. (2015). *Ubiti pticu rugalicu* (M. Mladenović, Trans.). Laguna. (Original work published 1960)

It should be noted that the Bosnian and Croatian editions have the same translator. However, both translations have been adapted to the Bosnian or Croatian standards. This novel has been chosen as a representative of English because it contains both Standard English and a variety of dialect from the southern parts of the United States. The process of collecting the constructions from the corpus consisted of reading through the original text in English, finding the passive and passive-like constructions, and finding their translation equivalents in the target text in different translated editions. After extracting passive constructions from the source text and their translation equivalents, they were analysed in terms of their structure.

4 Analysis and results

At the beginning of the paper, the aim of this paper has been defined. The aim was to investigate which B/C/S constructions are used as translation equivalents for the English passive and passive-like constructions. This chapter begins with the contrastive analysis of the examples of the English passive from the source text and translation equivalents from B/C/S. After that, the results and findings of the analysis will be discussed, followed by the discussion of certain limitations of the study.

4.1. Analysis

This part includes the analysis of the passive and passive-like sentence constructions which we considered to be interesting to be analysed in terms of their translation equivalents in B/C/S. The original text in English will be referred to as OT, the Bosnian translation equivalent as BT, Croatian translation equivalent as CT, and Serbian translation equivalent as ST.

(1) OT: Dill was encumbered by the chair, and his pace was slower.

BT: Dill je nosio stolicu, pa mu je korak bio sporiji.

CT: Dill je nosio stolac pa mu je korak bio sporiji.

ST: Dill je bio opterećen stolicom, pa je napredovao sporije.

Example (1) contains a clause that is a typical *be*-passive with a *by*-phrase. The clause contains the auxiliary *be* in the past with the past participle. The grammatical subject is *Dill* and an NP from the *by*-phrase *the chair* carries the role of the logical subject since it is in certain sense acting upon *Dill*. BT and CT differ on the lexical level, but the choice of the structure to replace the passive in the OT is the same. The translator used the auxiliary verb *je* followed by an active lexical verb. This means that the translator changed the passive English clause to an active one in BT and CT. In the BT and CT active clause, *Dill* receives the semantic role of an agent who is acting upon *the chair (stolicu/stolac)* by carrying it and the chair now becomes an object of the clause.

ST on the other side retained the passive meaning of the grammatical subject *Dill*. ST used a passive verbal adjective with the auxiliary verb *je bio*, meaning that ST used the participial passive construction. In ST, *the chair* continues to have a certain weight which encumbers *Dill*, while in BT and CT the passive voice has been lost.

(2) OT: Calpurnia's message had been received by the neighbourhood.

BT: Susjedi su primili Calpurinijinu poruku.

CT: Susjedi su primili Calpurinijinu poruku.

ST: Komšiluk je dobio Kalpurinijinu poruku.

Example (2) is also *be*-passive. All three translated editions approached the passive construction in the same manner. The passive voice is changed to the active voice in translation. The grammatical subject of the English active sentence *Calpurnia's message*

becomes the object of the passive sentences in B/C/S. The NP from the *by*-phrase becomes the subject in translation equivalents. However, it should be taken into account that with verb *primiti/dobiti* the grammatical subject of the active sentence *susjedi/komšiluk* receives a semantic role of a recipient, not the role of an agent.

(3) OT: The old fire truck, [killed by the cold], was being pushed from town by a crowd of men.

BT: Stara vatrogasna kola, onesposobljena hladnoćom, gurala je iz grada grupa muškaraca.

CT: Stara vatrogasna kola, onesposobljena hladnoćom, gurala je iz grada grupa muškaraca.

ST: Stari vatrogasni kamion, koji je onesposobila hladnoća, iz pravca grada gurala je gomila ljudi.

Example (3) is interesting because it contains a bare passive construction within the passive sentence. The bare passive appears as a non-finite clause which provides additional information about the grammatical subject *The old fire truck*. This bare passive is translated in the form of reduced relative clause functioning as a postmodifier for *Stara vatrogasna kola* in BT and CT. The bare passive in English is a past participle without an auxiliary verb. The construction in BT and CT is also a passive verbal adjective without the auxiliary verb *biti*. Since we have already mentioned the similarity between the English past participle and the B/C/S passive verbal adjective, it can be claimed that the passive-like construction has been retained in BT and CT translation as well. ST used a non-restrictive relative clause. The bare passive has been changed to active, i.e. auxiliary verb *je* followed by the active verbal adjective form of the verb *onesposobiti* (*onesposobila*). It could be said that the passive voice of the bare passive in this clause has been retained better in BT and CT.

When it comes to the passive sentence in (3), this is a *be*-passive construction. All three translations have agreed upon translating this passive sentence with the active voice. Since B/C/S have cases, the order of syntactic elements did not have to be changed. The order of syntactic elements is mostly like the one in the English sentence. However, because of the change to the active voice, the grammatical subject of the translated

sentences is the NP which in the passive English sentence appears in the *by*-phrase: *a crowd of men*, i.e. *gomila ljudi/grupa muškaraca*.

(4) OT: Don't you know you're not supposed to even touch the trees over there?

You'll get killed if you do!

BT: Zar ne znaš da ne smiješ čak ni dotaknuti ta stabla? Poginut ćeš!

CT: Zar ne znaš da ne smiješ čak ni dotaknuti ta stabla? Možeš umrijeti!

ST: Zar ne znaš da ne trebaš čak ni da pipaš to drveće tamo? Nastradaćeš budeš li to radila!

Example (4) is a *get*-passive construction. Here, the *get*-passive voice is part of the conditional sentence which contains the pro-form *do* which might complicate things for translators. The three translations used three different structures for this example. BT and CT translations omit the conditional and the pro-form *do*. ST retained both the conditional and the pro-form. ST uses *budeš li* which is conditional construction in B/C/S and *to radila* as a translation for the pro-form *do*.

CT contained the modal meaning of possibility by adding the verb *moći*. However, the focus of our observation is the *get*-passive. All three translations managed to retain the meaning of adversity carried by the *get*-passive in the English sentence. As mentioned before, *get* is often used for agentive actions which might have unfortunate consequences. The following example also contains the *get*-passive, but there is no agentivity assigned to the grammatical subject.

(5) OT: — he just gets passed around from relative to relative, and Miss Rachel keeps him every summer.

BT: ...samo ga prebacuju od rođaka do rođaka, a Miss Rachel ga dobije svakog ljeta.

CT: ...samo ga prebacuju od rođaka do rođaka, a Miss Rachel ga dobije svakog ljeta.

ST: ...da jednostavno ide od rođaka do rođaka, a da gospođa Rejčel vodi računa o njemu svakog leta.

It could be claimed that the passive voice in ST in example (5) has been completely lost. The lexical choice of the verb *ide* for *get passed around* implies in ST that the subject *he*

(Dill) is an agent in *moving from his relative to relative*, which is not the case. *He just gets passed* in the *get*-passive implies that he is being “tossed around” without his will. In BT and CT the translator changed the sentences from the passive to active, but *he* (*ga* in translation) does not have the semantic role of the agent unlike in ST. Therefore, BT and CT seem to be better translation equivalents despite the fact that the translator again opted for changing the passive sentence into an active sentence.

(6) OT: Doors opened one by one, and the neighborhood slowly came alive.

BT: Jedna po jedna vrata su se počela otvarati i susjedstvo je postepeno oživjelo.

CT: Vrata su se jedna po jedna počela otvarati i susjedstvo je postupno oživjelo.

ST: Jedna po jedna vrata su se otvarala, i komšiluk je polako oživeo.

Example (6) is a mediopassive construction. The grammatical subject *doors* is not an agent of the verb *opened*. All three translations used *se* passive construction in B/C/S. It has been formerly explained that *se* passive is considered to be a mediopassive construction in B/C/S. Because of that, it is a perfect choice for the translation of the English mediopassive. Both the English mediopassive and *se* passive have grammatical subjects receiving the semantic role of the patient. The agent in the mediopassive is unknown but the implication is that there was human action upon the grammatical subject since it is inanimate and cannot act on its own. Hence, *doors*, in example (6) cannot be opened without humans acting upon them. BT and CT also contain the verb *početi* (to start) which in this use has to be followed by the infinitive. The translator chose to add the verb *početi* to emphasize the start of the doors opening and the manner in which they opened: *one by one*.

(7) OT: But there came a day, barely within Jem’s memory, when Boo Radley was heard from and was seen by several people, but not by Jem.

BT: No došao je dan, kojeg se Jem mutno sjećao, *kad je nekoliko ljudi čulo i vidjelo Booa Radleya; ali Jem nije bio jedan od njih.*

CT: No došao je dan, kojeg se Jem mutno sjećao, *kad je nekoliko ljudi čulo i vidjelo Booa Radleya; ali Jem nije bio jedan od njih.*

ST: Ali došao je jedan dan, koga se Džem jedva sećao, *kada je Bua Radlija čulo i videlo nekoliko ljudi, ali ne i Džem.*

One of the passives in the English text in example (7) is the prepositional passive:

Boo Radley was heard from (...) by several people, but not by Jem.

We've mentioned that there are two types of the prepositional passive: the first and the second prepositional passive. The example above is the first prepositional passive because the verb determines the preposition and there is no NP interfering between the verb and the preposition. The English passive clause also contains *by*-phrase. The translators applied the method of changing the passive voice into the active voice in the translation equivalents. The NP from the *by*-phrase in the English passive becomes the grammatical subject of the translation equivalents. The predicate of the translated sentences consists of the auxiliary verb *je* and the active verbal adjective form of the verb *čuti* (*čulo*). This construction in translation does not indicate any passivity assigned to the grammatical subject *Boo Radley* in OT. ST takes advantage of cases in B/C/S and preposes the object *Bu Radli* which makes it at least similar to the order of syntactic elements in the passive English sentence.

(8) OT: You got anything [needs readin' I can do it]...

BT: Ako imate nešto [što vam treba pročitati], mogu vam ja...

CT: Ako imate nešto [što vam treba pročitati], mogu vam ja...

ST: Ako imate nešto [što treba da s' čita], mogu ja...

The passive-like construction in example (8) is the concealed passive. Concealed passive comes with the gerund-participial rather than past participial form of the verb. The passive voice of the construction is easily noticed when we rewrite it as *You got anything [that needs to be read]....* The sentence in OT is marked by the Southern dialect. BT and CT are not marked by dialect.

When it comes to the concealed passive and its translation, ST chose *se* passive, and since the *se* passive is a passive construction, the translation managed to keep the passive voice. BT and CT use a bit more literal translation; the verb *trebati* (*need*) followed by an infinitive. The translator in ST seems to have made a better choice because they used the *se* passive construction from B/C/S and tried to retain some indication of the existing dialect by using the shortened form of *se* with an apostrophe: *s'*.

(9) OT: Maycomb's proportion of professional people ran high: one went there [to have his teeth pulled](...).

BT: U Maycombu je bilo mnogo stručnjaka: tu se dolazilo izvaditi zub (...).

CT: U Maycombu je bilo mnogo stručnjaka: tu se dolazilo izvaditi zub (...).

ST: u Mejkomu je bilo srazmerno mnogo ljudi od struke: ljudi su išli onamo da im se vade zubi (...).

The underlined construction in example (9) is the embedded passive. The embedded passive comes with the verbs of causative and inchoative meaning. The causative *have* construction is formed from *have* + object + past participle (*have his teeth pulled*). This construction in this example appears in the infinitival clause functioning as an adjunct of purpose. BT and CT translate the construction with the infinitive + object (*izvaditi zub*). ST translates it with the *se* passive (*se vade zubi*). To determine which of the translations made a better choice in terms of retaining the passive voice, the clause should be observed in its complete form: *...one went there to have his teeth pulled*.

The neutral passive in B/C/S, as well as its similarity with the *se* passive, has been explained before. BT and CT used the neutral passive which is also a construction with the particle/pronoun *se* used for situations where the agent is obviously a human. Thus, BT and CT managed to use the passive construction on the level of the clause which contains the verb *dolazilo* with the infinitive *izvaditi* as its complement. On the other hand, it could be said that ST managed to retain the passive voice exactly where it is present in the OT because the embedded passive is replaced by the *se* passive in the dependent purpose clause [*da im se vade zubi*], making the construction of the translated sentence more similar to the structure in the OT.

(10) OT: It was rumoured that she kept a CSA pistol concealed among her numerous shawls and wraps.

BT: Pričalo se da među brojnim šalovima i ogrtačima skriva pištolj.

CT: Pričalo se da među brojnim šalovima i ogrtačima skriva pištolj.

ST: Govorkalo se da među brojnim šalovima i pokrivačima drži sakriven konfederacijski pištolj.

Some verbs in English are restricted to their passive form, like the verbs *rumour* and *repute*. Such verbs require a complement, an infinitival or a declarative content clause (Pullum & Huddleston, 2002, p. 1435). This is the case in example (10) where *that*-clause follows the passive form of the verb *rumour*. In this example, dummy *it* carries the

neutrality of the sentence. The neutrality is present in translation equivalents in the use of the *se* passive construction and by marking the main verb *pričalo/govorkalo* with neuter gender. The three translation equivalents managed to retain the neutrality of this construction by choosing the *se* passive construction form B/C/S. In example (11), the verb *rumour* takes an infinitival clause as a complement:

(11) OT: The Barber ladies were rumored to be Republicans, having migrated from Clanton, Alabama, in 1911.

BT: Govorkalo se da su republikanke jer su 1911. godine došle iz Clantona u Alabami.

CT: Govorkalo se da su republikanke jer su 1911. godine došle iz Clantona u Alabami.

ST: Za gospođice Barber govorkalo se da su republikanke, koje su 1911. doselile iz Klentona u Alabami.

Besides the complement, the difference between (10) and (11) seems to be in grammatical subjects of the main clause: dummy *It* and *The Barber ladies*. The dummy *it* featured the neutrality of the sentence. Hence, the *se* passive with no overt subject seems to be an appropriate choice for translation. However, in example (11) the grammatical subject is obviously the object of the rumours. BT and CT make no difference in translating constructions in (10) and (11) and did not feature the grammatical subject *the Barber ladies* in translation. ST retains the subject with the preposition *za* which makes it seem that this rumour is characteristic and applies to *the Barber ladies*. While BT and CT seem to use impersonal sentences, ST used a more personal approach by retaining the subject *the Barber ladies* in the form of the preposed object *za gospođice Barber*.

4.2. Results

The aim of this paper was to show how passive and passive-like constructions in English are translated to B/C/S and which passive constructions in B/C/S can be used as translation equivalents. The paper investigates the passive voice and translation strategies employed to transfer it to the target language. The paper did not discuss any changes related to tenses since it would require further analysis of the verbs. The focus of the paper was the feature of voice.

The research is based on the 139 passive and passive-like constructions found in the English text. The most frequent passive construction in the source text is the *be*-passive with 92 occurrences. It is followed by 21 other types of the passive which include the prepositional passive, embedded passive, and concealed passive. Seven instances of the mediopassive and *get*-passive and 12 examples of the bare passive have been found. The passive constructions found in the source text are presented in Diagram 1.

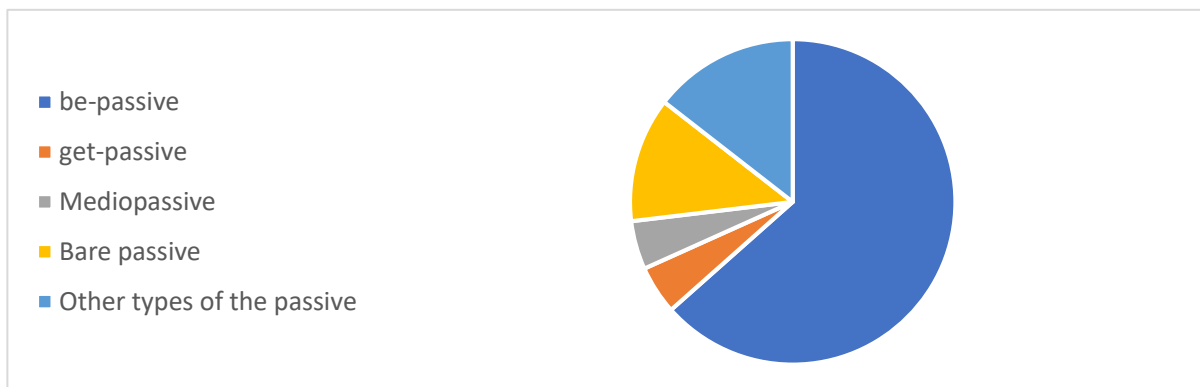


Diagram 1 Passive constructions in the English text

Table 1 shows the quantity of passive constructions in BT, CT, and ST. In the Bosnian and Croatian translation 68 active voice sentences have been used as the translation equivalents for the passive constructions. Out of 139 English passive sentences, 55 in BT and CT have used passive constructions from Bosnian and Croatian. The Serbian translation has used 60 active voice constructions as translation equivalents and 64 passive voice constructions. BT and CT used 13 other types of constructions as translation equivalents, while ST used 12 other types of constructions.

	Active voice	Adverbial passive	Se-passive	Participial passive	Other types of constructions	Total number of passive constructions
BT	68	0	22	36	13	55
CT	68	0	22	36	13	55
ST	60	0	26	41	12	64

Table 1 Quantitative representation of the constructions used as translation equivalents in BT, CT, and ST

This shows us that the BT and CT more frequently translated the passive voice constructions by changing it into the active voice. ST used more passive constructions as translation equivalents than the active voice sentences. ST also used more passive

constructions as translation equivalents than the BT and CT. We can see that changing the passive voice to the active is the most frequent strategy chosen by translators. Additionally, we can notice that the participial passive is frequently chosen by translators as an equivalent for the English passive since it appears in the ST 41 times and the BT and CT 36 times.

The research question was to determine the most frequent translation strategy for translating passive or passive-like constructions from English to B/C/S. After the quantitative and contrastive analysis of the corpus, it could be claimed that the most common strategy is changing the passive voice into the active voice in the target language. The active voice instead of the passive voice is the most common construction used in translating the passive voice in this corpus. The active voice was frequently used especially when translating *be*-passive constructions.

The *by*-phrase often appears with the *be*-passive and *get*-passive. Passive constructions in English have a *by*-phrase which contains a logical subject. The corpus analysis showed that the translators tend to avoid the translation equivalent of the *by*-phrase in B/C/S *od strane* followed by the noun or pronoun. The use of the prepositional phrase *od strane* is commonly used in the administrative register and with a limited number of verbs (Riđanović, 2012, p. 356). Since our corpus is a novel, the use of the prepositional phrase for translation of the *by*-phrase would not be appropriate in B/C/S. The translators might have used the strategy of changing the passive sentence to the active voice in order to avoid the literal translating the *by*-phrase. This provides an answer to our research question and shows us that translators very often chose to avoid the passive voice in B/C/S translation.

The second most common strategy was the use of the *se* passive in B/C/S translation. The *se* passive is one of the passive voice constructions in B/C/S. Thus, it could be claimed that the passive voice has been retained in this strategy because both the source text and target text contain passive structures. This corresponds to the findings that the *se* passive is the most common passive structure used in Croatian (Brdar & Knežević, 2010, p. 48).

Despite the well-spread opinion that the passive voice is not found in B/C/S, the grammar books and authors have agreed upon the existence of the passive voice constructions in B/C/S (Jahić et al., 2000; Mrazović & Vukadinović, 1990; Piper et al., 2005). Bosnian,

Croatian, and Serbian grammars differ in certain explanations. Some provide more different passive constructions and some observe the particle *se* in the *se* passive as a reflexive pronoun or a passive particle. However, its presence is undeniable, which helps us claim that translators have passive constructions in B/C/S that can be chosen as equivalents in the process of the translation of the English passive.

4.3. Limitations of the study

The main limitation of this study is that the translation of the novel in Bosnian and Croatian has been conducted by the same translator Ljiljana Šćurić. Due to this limitation, translation equivalents for BT and CT observed in the analysis had no difference or only a slight difference. The construction used for translating the passive was mostly the same in BT and CT. The differences between the two publications of the translation are present mostly on their lexical levels. Since the Bosnian translation was published in 2015, and the Croatian translation was published in 2020, the latter was adapted to the Croatian standard language.

Another limitation was the fact that Bosnian and Croatian translations were not marked by dialect. *To Kill a Mockingbird* takes place in the Southern region of the United States. The region is connected to the plot of the novel. Hence, the dialect in the speech of characters plays an important role in the novel which deals with the topic of racism. The research of equivalency when it comes to dialect is not a focus of this research, but it could be interesting to observe whether the passive voice is present in different dialects. The Serbian translation used certain linguistic elements to indicate different dialects.

Finally, it should be taken into account that we have not managed to find the B/C/S adverbial passive in B/C/S translations. Whether this is the case because translators chose other constructions, since the construction is less frequent in B/C/S, or because this type of the passive construction in B/C/S has a different use than the passive voice in English, should be further researched.

Since the passive seems to be more frequent in the administrative register both in English and B/C/S, further research should investigate the type of constructions used for translation equivalents in this register.

5 Conclusion

In this paper we examined form-based strategies used by translators in translating passive and passive-like constructions from English to Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.

The general belief is that passive constructions are avoided in writing. This paper showed that this is not the case since the chosen corpus is an awarded novel outside the administrative register, which is considered to be the register of passive constructions due to neutrality of this type of construction. We have seen that the passive voice appears in English in a variety of constructions and that it is very present in language use.

When it comes to B/C/S, the general presumption is that the passive voice is less spread than in English due to the limited use of certain passive constructions. After examining several B/C/S grammars, we have found passive voice structures that can be used when translating the English passive voice to B/C/S. The analysis showed that the main translation strategy used by the translators upon encountering the English passive by changing it to active in B/C/S. This proved our initial hypothesis that translators often choose the active voice in translation as a substitute for the English passive. However, other constructions such as *se* passive were very frequent as well.

Although the translators used different structures, translation equivalents remained in the nature of the target language. Taking that into consideration, we might conclude that the translation equivalents were adequate. All of this brings us to a final conclusion that passive voice has both in English and B/C/S unjustly received the role of an undesirable construction in the use of language.

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