



THE ABILITY TO USE PASSIVE VOICE SENTENCE WITH THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF ENSINO BÁSICO 3º CICLO

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ABSTRACT

Once people exist, there has been a local language to be used to express their ideas, feeling, and thoughts to communicate with each other. In addition, language is an instrument for human beings to use for communicating with each other in social living. The objectives of this study are: (1) to find out whether the Grade Students of EBC 3º Ciclo can use Passive Voice and (2) to know their Level of Ability. The method that was used in his study was Normative Survey Method. This method was employed to clarify the problems of the study and describe the result of the study. The subject of the study was 20 students of second Grade Students of EB 30 Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen. In collecting the data, the writer used the test in the form of 40 optional tests. Based on the result of the conducting research with the Second Grade Students of EBC 3º Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen were able to use Passive Voice. The students' level of Ability to use Passive Voice is 6,2 which is classified as the Average Level according to the standard of measurement that is being used in the EBC 3º Santo Arnold Jansen.

INTRODUCTION

The foreign language teaching and learning process in every school is quite difficult to be acquired and understood habitually by the foreign language learners from the teachers to be able to use practice in the natural setting where learning occurs.

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However, there are first and second-language acquisitions that always happen spontaneously and naturally consciously acquired by the human being mindset.

Moreover, Hornby (1995), language is the key factor in the success of humanity in creating and preserving culture, without language and the ability to use it well to convey ideas and traditions, it is quite difficult to actualize and preserve traditions and beliefs. Bruegel (1563) said that human language is unique in comparison to other forms of communication, such as those used by non-human animals. Communication systems used by other animals such as bees or apes are closed systems that consist of a finite, usually very limited, number of possible ideas that can be expressed.

In contrast, human language is open-ended and productive, meaning that allows humans to produce a vast range of utterances from a finite set of elements, and to create new words and sentences. This is possible because human language is based on a dual code, in which a finite number of elements that are meaningless in themselves (e.g., sounds, letters, or gestures) can be combined to form an infinite number of larger units of meaning (words and sentences).

If the English language is used in effective communication with meaningful units, the learners must learn and understand well about the grammar. The passive voice is one of the English grammatical common in many languages which is the grammatical subject that expresses the theme or patient of the main verb – that is, the person or thing that undergoes the action or has its state changed. This contrasts with active voice, in which the subject has the agent role. The example: "The tree was pulled down", the subject (the tree) denotes the patient rather than the agent of the action. Typically, in passive clauses, what is usually expressed by the object (sometimes another argument) of the verb is now expressed by the subject, while what is usually expressed by the subject is either deleted or indicated by some adjunct of the clause. Thus, turning an active verb into a passive verb is a valence-decreasing process "transitive process", because it turns transitive verbs into intransitive verbs.

The use of passive voice allows speakers to organize stretches of discourse by placing figures other than the agent in the subject position. This may be done to foreground the patient, recipient, or other thematic role. It may also be useful when the semantic patient is the topic of ongoing discussion. The passive voice may also be used to avoid specifying the agent of an action.

Thomson and Martinet (1986: 263) state that Passive Voice is formed by putting the verb “to be” into the same tense as the active verb and adding the past participle of the active verb. The subject of the active verb becomes the “agent” of the passive verb. The agent is very often mentioned, when it is mentioned it is preceded “by” and placed at the past participle verb. The learners should give great attention to some important elements, such as the tense and verb. In English, the adverb time influences the verb. English has two kinds of verbs namely regular and irregular verbs. So, it requires great attention and carefulness from the students. If foreign language learners need to speak and write English well, he/she must be able to use active and passive voice unfortunately, based on direct observation, many students often find it difficult to use passive voice sentences, but they would prefer to use active voice sentence than passive. This is why, their ideas which are expressed in writing or speaking skills are mostly mistaken and meaningless.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Baron (1989: 17-22) defined that passive voice is used to show interest in the person or object that experiences an action rather than the person or object that acts. In other words, the most important thing or person becomes the subject of the sentence. Sometimes we use the passive voice because we don't know or do not want to express who acted.

The passive voice is used to create thoughtful emphasis, especially in non-fiction. Here is an example: “The battle was won, but the war was lost.” The point of this sentence is not to offer direct details of the battle, which often the reader already knows, however, it gives expression to the sense of futility. The passive voice is also used as a polite defense to avert blame and accusation and to avoid responsibility.

Instead of being direct, “The children broke all the furniture while you were gone,” which may be the obvious truth, it could be said, “All the furniture was broken while you were gone.” Aside from grammar exercises in school, the use of the Passive Voice is quite restricted and seldom used in vernacular speech. I advise against using it outside of the prescriptions I have offered here.

Veit (1986:179) said that the verb can occur in either the active or passive voice. The difference between the two voices is best described in terms of meaning. When a verb is active, the subject of the sentence acts. When the verb is the passive voice, the

subject receives the action as in the following examples: Maria ate the apple (Active Voice). The apple was eaten by Maria (Passive Voice).

These two sentences can describe the same event and communicate the same information as the following description. In sentences (a) the subject Maria acts on the apple that she is the one who did the eating apple and (b) the subject apple receives the action that it did not but got eaten example:

1. John prefers soft drinks (active no auxiliary verb)
Soft drink is preferred by John (passive, auxiliary verbs be with the participle verb).
2. Tomas and Antonio are preparing the old car (Active, with Progressive Auxiliary).
The old car is being repaired by Tomas and Antonio (Passive, with Progressive Auxiliary).

Thomson and Martinet in their book "Practical English Grammar" (1983: 254) say the form of Passive Voice as (1) By putting the verb to be in the same tense as the active verb and adding the Past Participle of the active verb. Example: We keep the book here (Active), the book is kept here (Passive); (2) Auxiliary + past participle is combination are made passive voice. Example: you must shut the door (Active), The door must be shut (Passive); (3) The passive gerund is being + past participle. Example: I remember my father taking me to the zoo (Active), and I remember being taken to the zoo by my father (Passive).

Walker, E & Elsworth (200:43-44) manifested that Passive Voice describes what happens to people or things often as a result of actions by other people or things. And it often indicates that what happens is more important than who is responsible. For example:

Active: Simon has painted the house (the speaker is talking about Simon and the house)

Passive: The house has been painted (only the house is being discussed and not the Person who painted it.

Form of Passive Voice

Present	Noun/pronoun + <i>is/are</i> + past participle.		
	The cars	are	taken abroad
Past	Noun/pronoun + <i>was/were</i> + past participle.		
	The cars	were	taken abroad

Present perfect	Noun/Pronoun	+has/have been	+ past participle
	The cars	have been	taken abroad
Future	Noun/pronoun	+ will be	+ past participle
	You	will be	met at the station

The rules for choice of tense are the same in the passive as they are for Active sentences as in the following example:

- 1) Active: we clean the rooms every day
Passive: The rooms are cleaned every day
- 2) Active: Someone has given him a lot of money
Passive: he has been given a lot of money
- 3) Active: The police arrested two hundred people
Passive: two hundred people were arrested

Murphy, R. (1998: 41- 42) illustrated that we use an active verb to say what the subject does as the following example: "My grandfather was a builder. He built this house in 1989". We use a passive verb to say what happens to the subject. "This house is quite old. It was built in 1989".

Azar (1989:153) demonstrated that the passive voice may be used to describe an existing situation or state as in the example; "now the door is locked". No action is taking place. The action happened before. There is no "by phrase" The past participle function as an adjective. When the passive form expresses an existing state rather than an action, it is called "stative passive". Often stative passive verbs are followed by prepositions rather than "by". Example:

- 1) The door is old (old and green are adjectives. They describe the door).
- 2) The door is green.
- 3) The door is locked (locked is a past participle. It is used as an adjective). It describes the door.

While Azar, (1993:120) also pointed out that the object of an active verb becomes the subject of the passive verb. Example:

Active: Mary helped the boy
Passive: The boy was helped by Mary

Two sentences have the same meaning. Only the transitive verbs can be followed by an object in the passive voice form. However, it is not possible to use intransitive verbs

such as happen, sleep, agree arrive go come to be followed by an object in the passive.

Example:

Active: An accident happened

Passive: (none)

Passive can also be constructed by using get and models.

1) Using "Get"

Get may be followed by a past participle function as an adjective and describe the subject. The passive with the Get is common in spoken English but is not often appropriate in formal writing. Example:

Stop working because I got tired.

They are getting married next month

I got worried he came too late

2) Using Passive voice with "modals", Let us see the example below. Example:

Tomas will be invited to the party

May I be excused from the class?

Nelson (1958: 335) explained that English verbs have two voices such as the normal active voice and the passive. He adds an explanation that the passive voice forms consist of some forms of auxiliary "be" with the past participle form of the verbs. Another form is "got" as an auxiliary and past participle as the following example:

be – passive

- He is killed

- The house was built

- The work has been done

get – passive

he gets killed

the house got built

the work has got done

METHOD

This study is to know about the student's ability to use passive voice sentences and their level of ability. To conduct the research, the writer applied for this research is the qualitative method where the writer will administer the tests item of Passive Voice to second-year students. The subject of the study is the second-year students of Ensino Básico 3^o Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae, Bobonora municipal. The instrument of the study is a test. The total number of Test Items used by the writer is forty (40) numbers of multiple-choice tests of passive voice. The test was directly conducted in the classroom. Then, the students' answer sheets were

collected to be corrected to mark the scores based on the each of students' answer sheets. The students' scores were tabulated and calculated the student's percentages based on the formula that is established by Arikunto (1997, p. 25) below:

$$\frac{A}{B + C} \times 100\%$$

The result of the student's scores was analyzed and described based on the standard of measurement that is being used in the local school of Ensino Básico 30 Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae.

DISCUSSIONS

The writer analyzed the result of research as shown in the table below about the student's Ability to use Passive Voice.

Nu	Students' codes	Scores
1	NTDRS	7,0
2	CM	7,0
3	FC	7,0
4	TTPP	7,0
5	VKSB	6,8
6	IDADP	6,5
7	DPM	6,5
8	NSCDC	6,5
9	MDC	6,3
10	IP	6,3
11	EDSP	6,3
12	FRC	6,0
13	EM	6,0
14	ADS	6,0
15	CVM	6,0
16	CCT	5,8
17	OSM	5,3
18	OM	5,0
19	NG	5,0
20	HR	4,8

Total	123,1
Average	6,2

Table 1. Presents the Student's Score from 40 Numbers of Multiple-Choice Tests

The result of 40 numbers of multiple-choice tests by the 20 Second-grade students of Ensino Básico 30 Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae got a total score of 123.1 divided by 20 respondents is 6, 2. It is based on the standard of measurement that is being used in the Ensino Básico 30 Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae, the score 6,2 is classified as Average Level.

Nu	Standard of Measurement	Frequency	Level of Ability	Percentage (%)
1	9.5 – 10	-	Excellent	
2	8.5 – 9.4	-	Very Good	-
3	7.5 – 8.4	-	Good	-
4	6.5 - 7.4	8	Fairly Good	40
5	5.5 - 6.4	8	Average	40
6	4.5 – 5.4	4	Below Average	20
7	3.5 - 4.4		Poor	
8	2.5 - 3.4	-	Very poor	
9	1.5 - 2.4	-	Bad	
10	0 – 1.4		Very bad	
Total		20		100

Table 2. Presents the Distribution of Student's Level of Ability

Based on the table above, it is calculated and described the result of the whole test is 40 % or 8 students were at good and Average Levels. So, the table is indicated that the Second Grade Students of Ensino Básico 3^o Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae were able to use passive voice. And we need to recommend that this result of the research will be one of the references for the next thesis writer to conduct the study deeply with some types of innovative methods to improve the quality of English language teaching and the learning process that occurs in class, especially Passive voice.

Table 1 presents the Second Grade Student of Ensino Básico 30 Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae got a total score of 123.1 divided by 20 respondents 6.2.

However, based on the standard of measurement, which is being used in the local respective school, the score of 6.2 is classified as Average Level.

Therefore, this level of average is indicated the ability of the Second Grade Students of Santo Arnold Jansen was able to use the passive voice. Table 2 presents the distribution of students' Ability Level of using English passive voice as the following description;

- 1) There were no students who got excellent, very good, or good scores.
- 2) Eight students or 40% got scores of 6.5 – 7.4 at the level of good in using passive voice.
- 3) Eight students or 40% got scores of 5.5 – 6.4 at the level of average level in using comparison degrees.
- 4) Four students or 20% got scores of 4.5 – 5.4 at the below-average level in using passive voice.

This is why, based on the standard of measurement, the 20 of Second Grade Students of Ensino Básico 3^o Ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae got a score of 123,1 divided by 20 respondents becomes 6,2 which is classified as average level in using English passive voice.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the result of this research, can be concluded that:

- 1) Based on the total score from 20 respondents by the Second Grade Students of Ensino Básico 3^o ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae got 123.1 divided to 20 respondents is 6.2. So, it is concluded that the Second Grade Students of Ensino Básico 3^o ciclo Santo Arnold Jansen Atabae were able to use English Passive Voice.
- 2) The level of ability in using English passive voice is **6.2** which is classified as Average Level.

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