Teacher: Aisha Mashi
Group: 361
Name of Students:
Eaman Saad Al-Enzi
Haneen Ali AL-Zobidy
Mona Yahy AL-Kaby
Hend Ali AL-Khamedy
Asmaa Faleh AL-Enzi
Asmaa Naser AL-Balawi
Haifa Awad AL-Atwi
Eidah Swelem AL-Atwi
Fatemah Hoseen AL-Ammari
Sara Ahmad AL-qaithi
Amenah Solaiman AL-hoiti
Reem Thaher AL-Emrani
Passive Voice in English and Arabic

The passive voice can appear two types of constructions depending on the mention of the agentive and agentless. On the other hand passive voice in Arabic has only on agentless structure. From this little difference of not having agentive passive in Arabic, some mistakes are done while translating such type of sentence.
The passive voice in English is formed by combining a form of the verb “to be” with the past participle of transitive verb. It is overall structure and it is contrast with active voice probably following two models:

1-Object from of “to be” with past participle + ”Agentless”

EX: The project was finished in 1995.

2-Object+a from of “to be” with past participle + ”Agentive”

EX: the project was finished by the government in 1995.

The following are examples to show constucture from active voice to passive in different tenses.
Simple tens:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active voice</th>
<th>Passive voice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I <strong>eat</strong> an apple</td>
<td>An apple <strong>is eaten</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To eat</strong> an apple</td>
<td>An apple <strong>to be eaten</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John <strong>will eat</strong> an apple.</td>
<td>An apple <strong>will be eaten</strong> by john.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John <strong>can eat</strong> an apple</td>
<td>An apple <strong>can be eaten</strong> by john.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I <strong>ate</strong> an apple.</td>
<td>An apple <strong>was eaten</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I <strong>have eaten</strong> an apple.</td>
<td>An apple <strong>has been eaten</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John <strong>had eaten</strong> an apple.</td>
<td>An apple <strong>had been eaten</strong>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progressive Tense:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am eaten an apple.</td>
<td>An apple is being eaten.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I was eating an apple.</td>
<td>An apple was being eaten.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above mentioned examples show the grammatical aspect of constructing a passive voice sentence depending on the tense of the active voice one. And as we read the examples we see that some are agentless where the agentive is dropped.

Now we come to our point of interest which is how to translate agentive or agentless passive sentences from English to Arabic.

We will make simple explanation of passive voice in Arabic in the coming lines to focus on translating passive from English to Arabic as from Arabic to English.

For the point now let’s try this example and translate to Arabic:

- The window was broken

  (passive voice English) كسر الشباك

  The window was broken by Zaid.

  Active voice Arabic) كسر زيد الشباك
Structure of passive voice in Arabic

Arabic passive has only one form which is agentless. Unlike English which has agentive and agentless structure. The forming of a passive sentence comes from an active sentence by dropping the subject, putting the object in the place of the subject with some change in the coinage of the verb. Like the following example.

أكلت سلمى الوجبة
أكلت الوجبة

Translation from English passive to Arabic and vice versa.

Since Arabic does not allow the agent to appear on the surface structure if the passive voice, we will face some problems while translation agentive passive from English to Arabic.

Arab translators have two options with agentive passive sentence. They either shift or transpose the English passive sentence in to a corresponding Arabic active sentences or translate the for word in to an Arabic passive sentence in which agent is not suppressed.
Examples:
1- A hundred men were killed at the hand of the police.
ـقتلت قوات الشرطة مئة رجل
2- The letters will be mailed by the secretary.
ـسترسل السكرتيرة الرسائل
3- We have been helped by our good neighbors.
ـقدمت لنا المساعدة من قبل جيراننا الطيبين
4- The collected research in animals and patients strongly suggests that the medication should be well tolerated.
ـتشير نتائج الابحاث التي أجريت حتى اليوم على الحيوانات ثم على المرضى بقوة الى إن الدواء يمكن تحمله.
Let’s try some Arabic sentences to translate into English:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic Sentences</th>
<th>English Sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>أرسلت لي هدية.</td>
<td>A gift was sent to me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>أحسن صنع اللحم.</td>
<td>The meat is well done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>أين أخذ؟</td>
<td>Where was he taken?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>يقال إن المرأة تعيش أطول من الرجل.</td>
<td>It is said that women live longer than men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>أحسنت صنعا.</td>
<td>Well done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لم تفهم.</td>
<td>It was not understood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>أستعيد الحق.</td>
<td>The right had been taken back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>لقد اختير المتحدث.</td>
<td>The speaker has been chosen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Passive voice is used when the focus is on the action. It is not important to know who or what is performing the action. Arabic passive voice is agentive and agentless. Some difference between these two languages appears while translating passive voice, so we have to pay much attention to both syntactic and semantic processes while translating.

References
A Style