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ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE CONSTRUCTIONS IN UKRAINIAN

The refinement of the idea presentation, clarity and logic of the text can be achieved by adhering to syntactic norms in different styles of modern Ukrainian. Syntactic rules in professional language are consistent with their rules. This research deals with definitions of active and passive voice constructions in Ukrainian language, introducing the qualification of direct and indirect subject, as well as examining the formations of indirect subject, indicating its belonging to the class of animate/ inanimate objects.

Keywords: active construction, passive construction, direct subject, indirect subject, impersonal forms ending -no, -to, passive participle, verbs ending -sia, indefinite-personal sentence.

Януш Олег, Тесленко Наталія, Шашенко Світлана. Активні і пасивні синтаксичні конструкції в українській мові.

Стрункість викладу думки, чіткість і логічність тексту досягається дотриманням синтаксичних норм у різних стилях сучасної української мови. У професійному мовленні синтаксичні норми відповідають своїм правилам. У роботі дано визначення активним і пасивним конструкціям української мови, введено кваліфікацію прямого і непрямого суб'єкта, розглянуто утворення з непрямим суб'єктом із зазначенням його приналежності до класу істот/ неістот.

Ключові слова: активна конструкція, пасивна конструкція, прямий суб'єкт, непрямий суб'єкт, безособова форма на -но, -то, пасивний дієприкметник, дієслово на -ся, неозначено-особове речення.

Relevance of the researched topic. In order to express ideas correctly and for their adequate perception of extra-linguistic reality is an important way of reflection of the process, which may occur when using active and passive voice constructions. The Ukrainian language has a long tradition of influencing the Russian-speaking environment on the processes of the Ukrainian as it is. The syntactic special features of the Ukrainian are based on the historical traditions of the language, which are related to the way the linguistic reality is represented by lexical, grammatical and syntactic means of Ukrainian language. Active and passive constructions of the Ukrainian, and more precisely, the way the subject is put into the text, becomes important to preserve the identification features of Ukrainian language that is to distinguish it from Russian.

Formulation of the problem. The nature of the text construction in business speech has its own peculiarities. One of the basic requirements for sentences of any type in business speech is to «clearly and meaningfully express great volume and complex content. The sentence should be holistic and is to convey information in all the complexity of dependencies and relationships» (Matsiuk & Stankevych, 2005, p. 211–214). Professional language texts reflect the links between subjects and concepts of professional activity. Different types of semantic connections require the usage of different constructions to avoid tautological and template formations. Template formations lead to the occurrence of chancellery and the active use of the latter is allowed only in limited written forms of official business style, and serving them in unusual contexts virtually impossible to create meaningfully accurate tests that may convey all the complexity of the depicted objects and phenomena. Professional language is based on combination of different styles. In addition to the official business style there are non-fiction, scientific, and epistolary business ones. The mentioned styles require a variety of forms of expression being the characteristic feature of the culture of speech, the richness and development of a particular language, which is the main means of written and oral professional speech.

Analysis of recent researches and publications. The question on syntax of active and passive constructions in Ukrainian language has been studied in linguistics on the example of different styles of language. In Ukrainian linguistics active study of verb usage began in the late twentieth century. The comprehension of the verbal resultant semantics in the system of aspectological classification was presented in the paper «Theoretical grammar of the Ukrainian language. Morphology» by Anatoliy Zagnitko (Zagnitko, 1996). Lydia Tsymbalista characterized main types of passive constructions in the texts of belletrist style, determined the lexical load on each of the syntactic constructions and compared them with the passive constructions in German, having noted that in German and in Ukrainian these constructions «differ by formal categories, however, they have common semantic features» (Tsymbalista, 2018, p. 164), also she comparatively disclosed separate participle and impersonal passive constructions with German parallels (Tsymbalista, 2016, p. 2). Recently scholars have begun to research different styles of professional speech. The question of active and

passive voice constructions in professional speech was under consideration of Michael Ginsburg (Ginsburg, 2014). The author, basing upon the research of linguists of the early twentieth century, observed in particular the usage of two-part and three-part passive structures, submitted criteria for the distinguishing of active and passive constructions in the Ukrainian, and took up to the study formations with verbs ending -no, -to and provided recommendations for the use of different syntax constructions (Ginsburg, 2018, p. 13). As for recommendations on the use of transitive and intransitive verbs in professional speech or constructions we can find in works by Zoriana Matsiuk and Nina Stankevich (Matsiuk & Stankevych, 2005), Anzelika Popovych, and Lyudmila Marchuk (Popovych & Marchuk, 2017). Elena Lavrinets worked out a comparison of the transformational link of different types of active and passive voice (Lavrinets, 2010).

Presentaton of the main material. Formation and usage of different constructions should be appropriate, consistent with grammatical, syntactic and semantic structure of the text, as well as with the norms of the Ukrainian language in general. In professional speech various constructions are often used interchangeably: personal and impersonal sentences, active and passive voices of language, adjective phrase and subordinate signifier of the clause, adverbial turn of speech and subordinate adverbial clauses, etc. (Lavrinets, 2010). These constructions have grammatical difference, but lexico-semantic similarity too, so it is possible to use one or another phrase as interchangeable. In their application consideration should be paid to the context, form and/or type of document, the meaning of the opinion presented, etc. For example, impersonal clauses are often used in reports, messages, and instructions, where it is important to emphasize on the actions: *measures taken*. Regarding the usage of active and passive syntactic structures the following is common to be under consideration: Passive voice is used when the fact of the action is more important than the indication on the person who made the action (*payment is guaranteed*), Active voice is to be used when the indication on the person is important and it is necessary to specify expression of the idea. The question of the use of these structures is debatable today; linguists are developing recommendations for the use of active and passive phrases in different styles of the Ukrainian language.

Active and passive constructions are two different ways of transmitting the idea by means of a particular language bearing in mind the same transient extra linguistic reality. There must be two participants in the process: the subject and the object. Thus, the semantic (in-depth) structure of a sentence that reflects transient process has three terms: subject, predicate, and object. In professional texts subjects there may be animate creatures (including persons) and inanimate objects (natural, technical or social). In order to formulate the idea by linguistic means, the semantic structure of the sentence must be conveyed by a certain syntactic (superficial) structure: the predicate is defined by the verb and by the actants or doers of the action (subject and object) are represented by the other articles of sentence: as subject and object. Between the

semantic and syntactic structures of sentence there is the same dialectical relation as between the content and the form, that is one semantic structure can be represented by several syntactic structures in particular language. The two basic options relate to which certain article of semantic structure performs syntactic function of the subject: the subject or object, and the two options reflect different views of the linguistic reality situation and thus differ not so much in the content determined by the sum of meanings of the tokens and the relation between words, but by many other factors that focus on a particular action, phenomenon, or object. In addition, each of these two options can be implemented by different language means. When choosing language means, the speaker takes into account the constraints caused by the particular language and the circumstances of communication. To compare these two main variants and their sub-variants, let us consider basic constructions that encompass main articles of the clause and objects (Ginsburg, 2014, p. 4).

A triple part active construction is the way of the clause composition implemented in most languages of the world in which the subject performs its main syntax function, predicate is a transitive verb, the meaning of which is implemented by a direct object being the name of the object, for example: *бізнес створює робочі місця (business creates job positions)*. Therefore, active constructions are characterized by the coincidence of semantic subject with grammatical subject, and thus they are as natural as «living speech, where the subject together with its action formulate the center of the message» (Nepiyvoda, 1997, p. 259). Also, they are used to describe such processes in professional texts where it is essential to specify the subject for a specific action or process. In the case where an object and its attribute are important, the use of a passive construction becomes motivated, where the subject takes on to the position of the indirect object and the object itself is implemented in the syntax function of the subject. According to V. Grechko, due to this transformation the syntactic rank of the subject decreases and the object increases (Grechko, 1984, p. 76). In traditional grammar, a three-part passive construction is the way of constructing a sentence in which the subject, expressed in the form of the plural pronoun, performs the syntactic function of the indirect object, and the object, expressed in the form of the nominative case being the subject in this clause. Passive constructions are derived from active ones, for example: *An entrepreneur concluded a contract* – an active construction*, credit conditions are defined by the contract* – a passive construction.

From the formal point of view, both structures are constructed correctly in terms of subordination and control. The semantic view of these clauses emphasizes precisely the reflected processes of extra-linguistic reality. The subject of active construction is the person, and the object is the thing that is influenced by the person. In passive voice we can observe an indirect subject that denotes inanimate entity bearing formal construction effect.

Let us take into consideration some clauses of the Ukrainian language that do not name the subject directly, that is one may be passive or may not be formally represented at all. We distinguish sentences without specifying the direct subject.

1. Sentences with verbs ending on -sia. In contemporary Ukrainian language we observe the uncertainty of the status of verbs with the postfix -sia. Historically, this postfix indicates an action done over the subject. With the development of the use of reverse verbs different semantic connotations become their features, which unequally characterize the relationship between the subject and the object of action, which allows to distinguish the following: a) reverse action verbs; b) reciprocal verbs; c) indirect-reverse verbs; d) common-verse verbs; e) active-objectless verbs; e) passive-qualitative verbs (Pliusch, 2005, p. 232). N. Shcherbiy uses much broader classification of reflexive constructs based on the reflection index. Passive reflexive verbs were identified as so-called reflexive passive voice (Scherbiy, 2014, p. 186). Some linguists point out that in modern Ukrainian, there are almost no passive verbal forms with postfix -sia to indicate the present and other meanings of time (tense). After all, the personal verbal forms with the postfix -sia indicate the pre-result state, which is not observed in the Ukrainian language. Kateryna Horodenska believes that those from the Ukrainian passive constructions should be removed those, «which include verbs of imperfect apect with postfix -sia, which have traditionally been considered a typical means of forming passive forms for transitive verbs of the imperfect aspect. It is stipulated by the fact that in the syntactic system of the Ukrainian language mentioned passive constructions, as opposed to other Slavic languages, occured on the extreme periphery» (Horodenska, 2001, p. 13).

The triple-part passive construction, which we may confirm, is beyond regulatory norms of use. «Impersonality» (Tsymbalista, 2014, p. 163) or «neutral passivity» (Pliusch, 2005, p. 122) is understood as article not requiring the definition of doer of action (Pliusch, 2005, p. 112). Consequently, the correct implementation of syntactic forms with verbs ending -sia is that of a construction with missing subject. In some cases, one may assume that passive subject is used to detalize certain specifications or a quality of the subject, rather than the subject as it is: *Економічні терміни не однозначно розуміються фахівцями-економістами і представниками інших галузей (Economic terms are not clearly understood by experts-economists and representatives of other industries).* Linguists recommend avoiding such constructions in Ukrainian, but they can be used where it is necessary to focus on the qualities or functions of the passive subject (as for the above-mentioned clause, it is «specialist-economists and representatives»), which is most often expressed in comparison clauses.

In Ukrainian texts, «the passive correlate is the predicatively used passive participle of perfect or imperfect aspects, which is qualifies as an analytical syntactic verb with the meaning of the result state, which is the consequence of the performed action. For example: *the system is created by experts – system created by experts.*

2. **Indefinite-personal clauses** are predominant in the syntax of professional speech: *The main essential subsystems of the world economy on the second level are usually **considered** as…* Such sentences do not contradict the recommendations of the language culture, and precisely in the uncertainty of the subject of action is the advantage of the uniqueness of the indefinite-personal sentences, which are used with almost the same frequency and stylistic function in all styles and genres of language being interstyle constructions. These sentences do not need to specify the subject, and its indication is often unnecessary, which is just to complicate both the nomination and perception, as well as to encumber the construction. For comparison: ***Scientists/ experts / practitioners*** *generally consider the following essential subsystems of the world economy on the second* level like…

3. Clauses with passive participles. E.g.: *Ukrainian hryvnia **was recognized** as one of the most beautiful and harmonious currencies in the world by the International Financial Bank's Aesthetics Commission in 2008.* The above example shows that there is passive subject called «aesthetics commission», which today is defined by linguists as a non-normative entity (Ginzburg, 2018). Passive participle sentences that serve as the grammatical basis of sentence should be used without specifying indirect subject. In that case, when the subject information is important, it is necessary to use active construction, compare: *The International Financial Bank's Aesthetics Commission in 2008 recognized the Ukrainian hryvnia as one of the most beautiful and harmonious currencies in the world. / Ukrainian Hryvnia in 2008 **was recognized** as one of the most beautiful and harmonious currencies in the world. This was the conclusion of the International Financial Bank's Aesthetics Commission.*

4. The verbs ending -yo, -to*(ukr)* in modern Ukrainian linguistics are qualified by unalterable forms that have semantic and syntactic differences. The unchanging forms ending -no, -to, which are formed from passive participles, are intended to communicate the effect communicatively, its result. They also form the grammatical center of a single-part sentence, being always subjectless predicates. Semantically, these forms do not require the presence of the action doer; syntactically, they become the main part of monosyllabic sentence. Today, these verbs are regarded as resultative (Holotsukova, 2016, p. 76), in semantics of which there is a «message about the completed effective action» (Grechko, 1984, p. 76), «efficiency» (Horodenskaya, 2001, p. 13). For example: *Для механізації цієї теорії розроблено алгоритм добору даних і під рахунків (To mechanize this theory, an algorithm for selecting data and calculations was developed).*

Predictive forms ending -no, to are known to have a long-standing tradition of usage and constitute specific feature of Ukrainian syntax. The views of Ukrainian linguists on the functioning of constructions with predicative forms ending -no, -to have opposite nature in Ukrainian language. In condition of using passive construction in the form of future tense as a predicative, the passive participle should be replaced with verbal link, or it is to replace these passive constructions with indefinite-personal

sentences. Forexample: *зауваження будуть враховані* або *зауваження врахують* (замість *зауваження буде враховано*), *робота буде завершена* або *роботу завершать* (замість *роботу буде завершено*). *(Comments will be taken into account (instead of A comments will be taken into account), work will be completed (instead of work to complete).* Other linguists observe within predicative forms ending -no, -to «decline of temporality» and assume to use verb-like «primitive-type» connections like *work is completed*, but their presence is compulsory in more structurally complex sentences, which goes about a few events that is necessary to relate with the past or future tenses. For example: *An experimental study has been conducted to develop methods for solving this problem – Therefore, an experimental study will be conducted to develop methods for solving this problem.* The majority of modern linguists support the second position. Accordingly, sentences with predicative forms ending -no, -to without verbal links have the meaning of present performance *(something has already happened at the time that concerns the expression).* Zagnitko A. P. developed semantic classification of verbs, where he individually defined the verb with the meaning of result (Zagnitko, 1996, p. 221–222), Holotsukova and Dievlova define them as the final stage of the resultativeness (Holotsukova, 2016, p. 171). For example: *An experimental study has been conducted to develop methods for solving this problem.* The following constructions are quite common in scientific texts today: *The main method for comparative analysis of enterprises was the method of strategic analysis* (Lavrinets 2012, p. 3–4).

It is worth paying attention on the absence of the subject in such tenseless and non-personal constructions. Verbs ending -no, -to indicate the effectiveness (e. i. resultativeness) of the action and is not related to the doer of the action.

The common tradition of using in Ukrainian language is that the action is taken into context without the subject being indicated. Moreover, the subject must neither be active nor passive. The development of the use of different tokens in Ukrainian professional language forms somewhat different view on the implementation of passive constructions. The historical closeness of the Ukrainian language to the active implementation of subject-object relations in expression has led to the avoidance of the use of the indirect subject in passive constructions, especially in constructions when this indirect subject is a person. However, usage of passive voice can be often observed in sentences where the indirect subject is inanimate one: such a sequence is defined by instruction; its validity is determined by conference approval.

Conclusion. Moving the subject to a minor position in the sentence is characteristic feature of belles-lettres language. It is common in many European literary languages. Three-part active and passive constructions contain the same information, but differ only in their view of the transient process for linguistic reality caused by the syntactic functions performed by subject and object. The content of Ukrainian passive constructs is the condition of an object caused by the influence of the subject. As the Ukrainian literary language is much closer to the national

(people's) language, where the doer of the action is in the center, the passive triple-part constructions are not peculiar to it, and usually submits the state impersonaly. Thus, when the speaker wants to emphasize on the subject and the process he is performing, he uses triple-part active constructions, and when he wants to focus on the process (actions/events) and its result or on the object and its features (state), it generally omits the subject from the sentence (Holotsukova, 2016, p. 1–3). In many cases it is not necessary to name the subject at all: it is known to the reader from the preceding sentences, or it inaccurately identified or not known at all. Without naming it, the speaker provides a sentence of generality. Such impersonality is peculiar to professional texts. For this reason, the most common in modern Ukrainian literary language are incomplete two-part active and passive structures, which can be easily formed with three-part ones omitting of the subject. These constructions consist of two parts (predicate and object), which are required to maintain the readability of the expression. Binomial active constructions are the nucleus of indefinite-personal sentences. In two-part passive constructions, the question of the naturalness/ unnaturalness of instrumental case for the Ukrainian language is not to be raised at all.

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