

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

# TRANSLATION OF THE PASSIVE VOICE FROM ENGLISH INTO BOSNIAN/CROATIAN/SERBIAN

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## ABSTRACT

The passive voice is generally overused in English, hence the need to investigate how it translates to other languages, B/C/S in particular. It is also widely used in academic and business English in order to make the text diplomatic and objective, as it is preferable for business. The aim of this paper is to determine whether passive in business English texts remains intact after translation to B/C/S, and whether it plays a more central role in English or in B/C/S. After gathering data from 30 different academic articles related to economics, 63 passive structures were selected and analyzed. Subsequently, a comparison was made between them and their B/C/S counterparts in order to determine how many were translated literally to B/C/S, how many preserved the voice but changed the form, and how many samples changed both voice and form. It was discovered that 17 samples were translated literally to B/C/S, 25 retained their voice but changed the form, and 21 samples retained neither voice nor form. Based on the results obtained we have come to an expected conclusion that passive is not as present in B/C/S as it is in academic and business English, thereby it plays a more central role in English than it does in B/C/S. Interestingly, there were two examples where voice transformation was reversed, the B/C/S passives became English actives. We find such occurrences unusual, as the passive voice is typically more common in English than in B/C/S.

**Keywords:** Passive voice, academic English, business English, B/C/S, translation, economics



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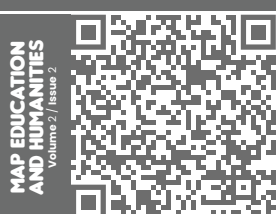
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## Introduction

Voice is one of the grammatical categories that most languages have, but its use is determined by a set of different rules in each language (Khaldi & Moulay, 2015). As it is usually known, passive is used a lot in English when compared to other languages, as well as B/C/S. Thus, regardless of the language, the passive voice certainly presents a great challenge for translators especially if the SL and TL have very different sentence structures, linguistic features, and rules of grammar. However, the use of passive has been very evident in academic English, business register in particular, especially in the last few decades when it has become more popular to use it, than it was before. Regarding the specific translation of English passive voice into B/C/S, there is a widespread idea, or a hypothesis that English passive voice is not always retained in B/C/S. At first thought we might not consider this to be true, because both English and B/C/S belong to the same Indo-European group of languages, hence they share a very similar sentence structure, as well as linguistic features such as voice. Nevertheless, after gaining some experience in translation, we might say that English can largely be literally translated to B/C/S. However, Dolakova (2016) proposed that, if we take a look at formal announcements, headlines, press reports, advertisements, scientific writing, we can notice that they are very often written in passive, whether in English or in B/C/S. So, on second thought, we might start suspecting the hypothesis above and questioning whether English passive voice always translates to B/C/S passive, or sometimes to B/C/S active voice.

In examples below a few cases of the influence of the passive voice that were proposed by Bovee and Thill (2007, p. 131) are presented. In examples 1a and 1b we can notice that passive makes the sentences less lively and energetic.

(1a) Reception preparations have been undertaken by our PR people for the new CEO's arrival.

(1b) Legal problems are created by this contract

On the other hand, if we compared those with the sentences in 2a and 2b, which are written in the active voice, we can witness the opposite. Specifically, the active voice makes the sentences sound stronger.

(2a) Our PR people have begun planning a reception for the new CEO.

(2b) This contract creates legal problems.

However, the next two pairs of examples (see 3a, 3b and 4a, 4b), show us the instances in which the use of passive is preferred. This is especially typical in situations when we are trying to be diplomatic, or trying to focus our attention on problems/solutions, rather than the people making them, the agents.

(3a) I recruited seven engineers last month.

(3b) Seven engineers have been recruited last month.

(4a) You lost the shipment.

(4b) The shipment was lost.

Therefore, the passive voice, being one of the linguistic features in most languages globally, presents a major challenge for translators. According to Khaldi and Moulay (2015) there is a greater tendency in English to use passive when compared to all other languages, B/C/S included. Thus, while translating, the same rules should not apply to all languages, because the rules that underline the use of passive in English do not apply the same way to the use of passive in other languages. Hence, they claim that a passive sentence in English should be translated the same way only if there is no other solution for it. For example, a sentence in 5a could not be written in active voice, since the stone itself is not the agent and cannot be the subject of the sentence.

(5a) He was hit by a stone.

Nevertheless, we should always check whether the TL we are translating into tolerates a particular sentence in both voices or not. And if it does we should opt for the one that sounds more natural. Reference to Beekman and Callow (1974) reveals that translators usually tend to translate voice automatically, passive to passive and active to active even when it sounds completely unnatural in TL. They and many others advocate that it should not be a 'mechanic transformation of the text from one language into another, but a well-thought-out process' (Beekman & Callow, 1974, p. 46). This view is also supported by a translator Jiri Levy (1969) who claims that an SL and a TL are not straightforwardly symmetric. The two differ in their linguistic devices,

thus they cannot be used mechanically. Furthermore, turning to Baker (1992, p. 103) one finds that "languages that have a category of voice do not always use the passive with the same frequency", supporting the very same idea that when it comes to voice translation cannot be mechanical. Additionally, Nida (1964) rightly points out that the issue of voice and its translation is of great importance since there are languages that do not possess this category at all. Accordingly, it is obvious that literal or mechanic translation is definitely not an option there. It follows that such target languages require translation of all passives into actives, as there is no other option.

The use of passive in academic English has never been more discussed (Dolakova, 2016). Somehow, analyzing voice in numerous academic articles has become a very attractive and interesting activity for many linguists worldwide. The increased interest in investigating the passive voice in academic texts could have been caused by the increased use of passive itself, which mostly indicates focusing more on the action, rather than the agent. Moreover, there are other situations when it is advisable to use the passive over the active voice, since the choice of voice seriously affects the tone of the overall sentence (Beekman & Callow, 1974). Most commonly, it is used when the agent is not known, when we wish to avoid it on purpose, or when it is already obvious from the context of the sentence, hence there is no need to mention it. Furthermore, if the subject of the sentence is new information to be revealed, the authors tend to put the whole sentence into passive, so that the subject comes at the end (Bovee, & Thill). The most common reason why passive is present in the academic register, more specifically the business, legal, technical, and especially scientific register is because in such fields there is an effort to put emphasis on the process, or the achievement, not the performers themselves (Dolakova, 2016). Regarding the SL and TL of the current research, the former is English and the latter is Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. Accordingly, the term B/C/S (Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian) is used for the TL throughout the paper.

The issue of English passive voice, its use and translation to other languages, as well as its transformation to the active voice in the process of translation has been addressed and investigated by a significant number of researchers so far. According to Sim (2011), an important reason why passive is so common in business is because there is a fundamental need to sound diplomatic and more

objective by avoiding personal pronouns. Although, in the early beginnings of 20th century, authors who used passive constructions were condemned for doing so, because there was a standard belief that passive made people's works weak, dull, cowardly, bureaucratic, and dishonest (Sim, 2011). Even though this belief is not as powerful as it used to be, it is still present even nowadays. Many authors of business textbooks advocate the use of active over passive in our writing. The reason behind this lies in the attempt to avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding. Sim (2011) also claims that using passive is sometimes utterly necessary, but it should be avoided as much as possible since it can make the work ambiguous, unclear, or overly impersonal. Besides her, there are also other authors who oppose to using the passive voice in business writings. Interestingly, what makes them avoid passive is the belief that the usage of verb "to be" plus the passive verb makes the whole sentence less energetic, and thereby less attractive. On the other hand, they hold the view that active verbs make the text more energetic and the readership more likely to believe in what the author is saying (Rentz, Flatley, & Lentz, 2011).

Besides its translation, this paper will also investigate the significance of the passive voice in academic English, with special focus on one specific register, business English. Furthermore, since business English is very widely used in many different spheres of life and science, one field of business that will be the focus of this investigation is economics. Hence, the examples used for this particular investigation were taken from abstracts of academic articles on business topics from the science of economics. In addition to that, all of the articles used were written either in English or B/C/S. The paper comprises two main parts, a theoretical and a practical one. The introductory part offers an insight into the theory of the passive voice in general, and in academic and business English in particular, as well as the process of its translation throughout recent history. The following chapter presents the overview of relevant studies and theoretical approaches concerning translation of the passive voice from English into other languages. The theoretical part is thereby completed, providing the background for the analysis of the research sample. The practical part consists of three sections, the methodology, the results, and the discussion where the results are interpreted. The practical part is followed by a concluding chapter, which wraps up the whole paper, as well as a small chapter on the limitations of the study. Therefore, it can be said that

this particular piece of work is a corpus-based, academic research paper, basing its analysis on the data gathered from academic articles on various topics from the science of economics.

## Literature Review

Whether passive is preferred by authors or not, the fact that it is still being widely used by authors of business texts is undeniable. Therefore, translation of those texts comes with an additional challenge – how to translate English passive voice into your own language? Whether it should be in passive or active, or should it be completely neglected, skipped? One of the problems translators are faced with is their lack of knowledge about differences between languages, their grammatical structures and stylistic features (Khaldi & Moulay, 2015). Another important reason why English passive voice sometimes cannot be translated into passive voice in TL, is because the function of passive is different across languages. Hence, for example Baker (1992) points out that the main function of passive in Japanese is to express adversity, to report unfortunate events. Consequently, a Japanese speaker would say 'I was rained on' instead of 'It rained on me' (p. 107). Even though this particular situation seems natural, the Japanese consider it unpleasant, so they use the passive voice while describing it. Bearing in mind the differences in function of voice in different languages is the key to a good translation of passive. To sum it all up, it is important for translators to keep in mind that a few different factors need to be taken into consideration before translating the passive voice. Since it is a widely accepted fact that automatic translation ought to be completely avoided, Monika Baker proposed the three most important factors that need to be considered in order to achieve it: frequency of the use of passive and active voice in both SL and TL, their stylistic value in different text types, and their functions (1992, p. 109). When it comes to translating passive structures from business English, many specialists believe that passive is overused in economic texts, making their translation even more challenging (Sim, 2011). In other words, translators are faced with more difficulties related to grammar, rather than vocabulary.

In order to produce a good and fluent translation, translators ought to be aware under what conditions it is obligatory to change the voice of sentences, hence changing the voice in the translation process is a must (Alinejad, 2013). English language is famous for its high frequency of passive

use and it is even criticized for its overuse. Therefore, as Alinejad (2013) suggests, translators should always tend to opt for the active voice, unless the sentence really warrants passive, since the active voice sounds stronger. He conducted a research by investigating the change of voice in the book *Pride and Prejudice*. He analyzed its translation to Persian and came to a rather interesting discovery. Namely, after gathering data and obtaining results, he discovered that 94% of English passive sentences were translated to Persian active sentences. Thus, according to him, the change of voice is obligatory under three conditions: meaning-orientation, form orientation, and fluency (2013). However, there were a few sentences where voice change was not conditioned in any way, but simply seemed more natural, since the main goal of translation was making the translated text fluent for the readership.

The category of voice itself has distinctive realizations in different languages. For example, languages that belong to the same language family, like English and B/C/S, tend to have a similar use of voice, while languages that belong to different language families, like English and Arabic, usually display a greater discrepancy in their use of passive voice. According to Rosenhouse (1988), while English is known to make an abundant use of passive verbs (especially in scientific texts), Arabic is known to avoid passive forms. The choice of passive over active voice entirely depends on the textual function of a verb in a particular language (Halliday, 1970). It has been discovered that most English passive verbs are being rendered into Arabic active verbs in the process of translation. Such rendering is expected due to the fact that Arabic does not favor passive forms, except for situations when the agent is unknown or obvious, which directs the attention of the reader/hearer to the person affected by the act (the patient) (Wright, 1975). This view is also supported by Moulay (2015) in his master thesis on translation of the passive voice, where he confirms that Arabic does not use too much passive, which can even make some English sentences untranslatable. Furthermore, Arabic tends to avoid mentioning the agent, so it rarely employs agentive passive sentences. Thus, when translating from English into Arabic, an Arab translator tends to "shift the English passive sentence into a corresponding active one in Arabic", or if that is not an option, they simply translate the passive sentence word for word into an agentive Arabic sentence (Khalil, 1993, p. 69). According to a research by Khafaji (1996) who investigated Arabic translation alternatives for English passive forms, it has been discovered that

only 25% of all English passive forms preserved their voice in translation. Even though Arabic is obviously not in favor of passive forms, it is not to be understood as a passive-avoiding language. Actually, its rich morphology and relatively free word order allow for various alternatives to express passivity (Khafaji, 1996).

Besides Japanese and Arabic, it is interesting to observe the translation of passive from English to Slavic languages, as they come from the same language family, Indo-European. For example, Čupić and Klanjčić (2015) investigated Croat students' reluctance to use passive voice in their L2 English classroom. Namely, the Croatian language "favors" the active voice because it seems more natural both in formal and informal discourse, and also because the order of an active sentence (subject-verb-object) seems more common and natural. This structure of a transitive sentence is typical in the majority of Indo-European languages, hence, it is exactly what makes students reluctant to use the passive, as it is often perceived as artificial due to its "reverse order". Therefore, the active sentence is perceived as more direct, clear, natural and concise, thus constantly gaining ground (Čupić & Klanjčić, 2015). Croatian is an inflectional language, while English is analytic. This basically means that, in English, the passive is very often a requirement, while in Croatian it is a choice among several (Hoey & Houghton, 2001, p. 47). Although there is an ongoing tendency toward using the active voice, the passive voice is an essential grammatical category with straightforward syntactic features and formation rules that can be acquired easily. In her graduation thesis named *Interpreting -ing Forms and Passive Structures from English into Croatian*, Srakić (2014) attempted to analyze different ways in which students mostly tend to translate the English passive voice during simultaneous translations. While translating, the one structure that was their first choice was the verb + "particle se", as it was expected since it is one of the two generic grammatical passive forms in Croatian. The second choice for the English passive structures was a Croatian active structure, and the third was the auxiliary "to be" + 'passive verbal adjective (past participle)', without an agent. The third passive structure, although quite common in Croatian, was generally preferred when students were not sure they understood the original, hence they opted for the active voice or a noun instead, as a safer option. An interesting thing these student interpreters employed was rendering an agentless passive into an agentive active voice whenever the agent was not originally named, but

it was known. Changing the voice and naming the agent was a clever way to avoid the unnecessary use of passive voice in their target language (Srakić, 2014).

Even though the presence of English has been explored so far (Dubravac, 2016; Dubravac, Berdarević-Čeljo & Bećirović, 2018; Brdarević-Čeljo & Dubravac, 2022; Dubravac, 2022) and its influence on B/C/S has been analysed (Dubravac & Skopljak, 2020; Skopljak & Dubravac, 2019) its presence in business register has been investigated in few inquiries (Dedović-Atilla & Dubravac, 2022; Ribo & Dubravac, 2021). Therefore, this study will further our understanding of the relationship between English and B/C/S but with the focus on the translation of passive structures in academic articles related to economics. After providing some theoretical background on the topic of the passive voice, its general and specific use in business English, its translation, and change to active voice, the following parts of this study will present the methodology, results, discussion and conclusion, as well as the limitations and references. Therefore, with the help of the gathered data and obtained results, as well as their analysis, the following research questions are going to be successfully answered:

- RQ1 – Are English passive structures from academic articles related to economics always translated as passive structures in B/C/S as well?
- RQ2 – Does the voice change require a change of form too?
- RQ3 – Does the passive voice play a more central role in English or in B/C/S?

## Methodology

The practical part of the paper comprises three sections and starts with the chapter on methodology. The sources used for gathering the data for the investigation were academic articles related to economics, originally written either in English or B/C/S, but each with two versions of abstract, both English and B/C/S. The number of articles used was around 30, half of them written in English, and half in B/C/S. While gathering the necessary data, there was also an effort to pick out articles of interesting and attractive titles. Therefore, the articles in question tackled many economic issues and phenomena from economic thoughts and concepts in the

Qur'an and the Bible, presenting them as sources of information for economic behavior, to the representation of women in the business and its impact on the economy or a particular company's profitability. Furthermore, a few of the topics dealt with foreign investment, export and import, but they also analyzed the student-employment interaction, as well as youth unemployment. Additionally, a significant number of articles covered tourism and its link with the economic crisis, or, more interestingly, some of them compared the difference between the taxes in Croatia and the European Union. The articles used in this research were all up to date, hence some of them investigated new, modern ways of doing business, like online purchasing, with specific focus on online consumer behavior. Since academic English is a very broad concept, used widely across many different fields of science, the field of business and economics was chosen as the basis for this study. The economics is, in a way, a science of business, hence it mostly uses academic language as the means for conducting business, as well as writing about it. Interestingly, even though the academic articles are related to economics, thereby the texts belong to business English, the majority of the examples gathered actually belong to the academic, while a minority to business English. Nevertheless, after picking out the most interesting articles, the attention was put on their abstracts by looking for the examples of passive forms in them. After the examples were detected they were extracted and then compared to their counterparts in the B/C/S abstracts, in order to see how passives were translated. The aim was to see whether English passive examples were translated as B/C/S passives or actives. Furthermore, there was also an attempt to see which were translated literally and which were not. Upon detection, extraction, and comparison of the SL samples with their TL counterparts, a thorough analysis was done in order to classify all of the examples into three groups. To illustrate the difference better, all three groups are presented in the three tables. The first one includes all of the passives translated literally to B/C/S, without any voice or form change, the second table includes the passives translated indirectly where the form was changed but the voice retained, while the third table shows examples of English passives translated as B/C/S actives, which implies retention of neither voice nor form. The chapter on methodology is followed by a chapter on results.

## Results

After a thorough inspection of 30 English abstracts and their comparison to their B/C/S translations we came across a few dozen passive constructions. However, not all of them are presented in this study for the reasons of repetition and potential ambiguity. Therefore, 63 samples are exemplified in the tables below, divided into three groups. The first table shows examples of English passive structures translated as B/C/S passive structures. What is more, besides bearing the same voice in both languages, these examples had literal translations too.

Table 1 presents 17 examples where, through the process of translation, English passive voice was retained. More specifically, passive constructions preserved their passive voice in B/C/S as well. Furthermore, besides sharing the same category of voice, these 17 examples also present instances where literal translation was applied to the whole predicate, both in the choice of vocabulary, as well as verb tense and number. Although the central focus was on the predicate of the sentence, many examples included the subject or object as well. Accordingly, it is obvious that the examples above were identical in both languages with regards to voice and form - subject, predicate and object.

After presenting the first group of samples where literal or direct translation was applied, as well as passive voice retained, the following table also presents examples where passive was retained after translation. However, the one feature that differentiates these two groups of samples is the fact that, in the second group, the literal translation was not applied to the whole expression. In fact, a change of form occurred.

From the table above, it can be seen that a significant proportion of passives from the whole corpus retained their passive voice in B/C/S as well. However, despite sharing the same voice, these examples differed in some other linguistic characteristics like verb tense, number, and choice of vocabulary. This means that English passive examples did not have literal translations to B/C/S due to certain differences in their formation of the predicate, as well as the subject and the object, if included. Of course, beside the change of form, the change of voice did not occur.

**Table 1.**

*Literal translation of passive voice samples from English into B/C/S*

English passive voice samples	B/C/S passive voice samples
Activities are motivated	Te su aktivnosti motivirane
Discussion is enriched	Diskusija je obogaćena
Health policy should be created and evaluated	Zdravstvena politika se treba stvarati i evaluirati
The survey study was conducted	Provedeno je istraživanje
Survey was conducted	Istraživanje je provedeno
Barriers have been identified	Identificirano je 14 prepreka
Desk research method was applied	Primijenjena je metoda analize sadržaja
This problem was analyzed	Ovaj problem je analiziran
Special attention was given	Posebna pažnja posvećena je
The results gained	Rezultati koji su dobiveni
It will be determined	Će se utvrditi
Were conducted	Provedene su
Examples which were identified	Primjerima koji su identificirani
Was accepted	Potvrđena je
Limitations will be suggested	Će se predložiti ograničenja
Can be found	Se mogu naći
Primary research was conducted	Provedeno je preliminarno istraživanje

**Table 2.**

*Indirect translation of English passive voice into B/C/S passive voice*

English passive voice samples	B/C/S passive voice samples
Were analyzed	Je provedeno
It can be argued	Može se reći
Attention was given	Se pažnja posvećuje
Were selected	Je odabran
Special attention was given	Posebna pažnja posvećena je
Was analyzed	Je ispitana
Is based on the hypothesis	Se temelji na hipotezi
Companies which are characterized by	Tvrtkama za koje je procijenjeno
Solutions are sought	Rješenja se traže
This was tested on the example	Ovakvo upravljanje ispituje se na primjeru
Was based on	Temelji se na
Based on The Big Five Model	Temeljeći se na Big Five modelu
Must be viewed through	Mora se promatrati
It is assumed	Pretpostavlja se
A survey-based approach was employed	Rabila se anketa
Business experience is gained	Se iskustvo odvijanja posla stječe
Is also studied	Se nastoje sagledati

Are examined and analyzed	Se istražuju i analiziraju
Empirical research was conducted	Empirijsko istraživanje provodi se
Model is built on the idea	Temeljem te ideje razvijen je model
A programming system which is being tested	Programski sustav koji je u fazi testiranja
Is based on	Temeljila se na
Are also analyzed	Također se analiziraju
Are examined	Analiziraju se
What is also related to	Što se odnosi i na

After presenting examples where English passive voice was retained after translation, the following table presents us with examples where English passive voice was not retained after translation to B/C/S. When compared to the examples above (see Tables 1 and 2), the examples below (see Table 3) present the greatest transformation of English passive voice, since it ceased to exist after the translation process.

Furthermore, the voice change entailed the change in the formation of the expression as a whole, the subject, the object, and most importantly, the predicate, as it carries the voice of the sentence. A few examples show us the difference in the choice of words as well, most commonly in the process of forming subjects and objects. Therefore, table 3 presents 19 examples which retained neither voice nor form after translation from English

**Table 3.**

*Translation of English passive voice into B/C/S active voice*

English passive voice samples	B/C/S active voice samples
Were listed on the Zagreb Stock Exchange	Su kotirale na Zagrebačkoj burzi
Sizeable efforts are invested	Stvaraoci ekonomske politike ulažu značajne napore
Benefits that can be recognized and utilized as marketing opportunities for manufacturers	Prednosti koje proizvođači mogu prepoznati i iskoristiti u marketinšku svrhu
Quoted banks	Bankama koje kotiraju na burzama
Is based on a complex system	Predstavlja složen sustav
A serious analytic approach is deemed necessary	Proizilazi potreba za ozbiljnim analitičkim pristupom
In part 2 - BI system is portrayed as	Drugi dio prikazuje BI sustav
Each student is given	Svaki student treba dobiti
Students' attendance is tracked	Treba evidentirati dolazak na nastavu
Such behaviors are seen as	Tako poslovanje smatraju
Any regulation policy needs to be carefully adapted	Svaku regulacijsku politiku treba pažljivo prilagoditi
The significance of this research is reflected in	Značaj ovog istraživanja je u tome
That need to be developed	Koje treba razvijati
38% of EU financial services was exported	EU je predstavljala 38 posto izvoza
A conclusion will be presented	U zaključku
Is positively correlated with	Pozitivno korelira sa
It is suggested that	Upućuju na
Question that should be asked is	Trebalo bi postaviti ovo pitanje
Obtained by restaurant managers	Koje su ispunili menadžeri restorana
Part 3 presents the conclusion	U trećem dijelu se donosi zaključak
Paper elaborates on	U članku je prikazana

to B/C/S. Additionally, the last 2 examples present us with the reverse change of voice, from English active to B/C/S passive. Accordingly, the data indicate where a major transformation took place, with special regard to the passive voice, and how it changed through the process of translation.

## Discussion

After gathering the data, analyzing it, and obtaining the results of this corpus-based, academic research paper, the results are going to be further analyzed and discussed. Namely, since B/C/S fall under the category of Slavic languages, which further on fall under the category of Indo-European languages, where English is included as well, it is easy to ascertain that B/C/S and English belong to the same language family. Bearing this in mind, it is natural to assume that these languages would have very similar sentence structures, rules of grammar, and all other linguistic characteristics. Even though B/C/S grammar is a little more intricate than English grammar, both the SL and the TL are, in fact, quite similar in their linguistic characteristics. Accordingly, we can assume that translation from English to B/C/S and vice versa usually does not present the greatest challenge to the translators. However, if we take into account the number of passive examples used in this research, which was 63, and the number of samples that translated literally into B/C/S, which was 17, this figure came quite as a surprise. Given the great similarity between B/C/S and English, it would be most natural to expect this number to be even higher. On the other hand, owing to the fact that English is analytic and B/C/S is an inflectional language, such differences in the use of passive are expected (Čupić & Klanjčić, 2015). Furthermore, the reason for the discrepancy lies mostly in the fact that English verb tenses and B/C/S verb tenses are not always aligned, since English has more of them. This phenomenon was already proposed by Hoey and Houghton (2001) who explained in a simple manner that in English passive is very often a requirement, while in Croatian it is a choice among several. Besides grammar, the reason why such a small amount of passives was translated literally could have to do with the specific register from which they were gathered. It could be that the field of business and economics usually require different tenses and forms in these two languages, hence the disparity and mismatch. Subsequently, this discovery is in accordance with the fact that passive is overused in English (Rosenhouse, 1988), but especially in business articles and the academic register as a whole (Sim, 2011).

With regards to the chosen register of the present study, which was business English, once again, it is important to point out that even though the articles are related to economics and belong to business English, many examples really belong to academic English, since academic articles are analyzed. If we move further on to the second group of business English passive examples and their B/C/S translations we can see that it included the largest number - 25, took up more than one third of the examples gathered. The process of translation did not affect their voice, it remained the same. However, it did affect their form, either the tense, the word choice and order, as well as the number. Additionally, the most important reason for the frequent change of form and not voice lies in the fact that passive is expressed in two ways in B/C/S. Accordingly, a significant proportion of samples was translated as *se* passive, which is, besides the periphrastic passive ('to be + past participle'), the second most typical passive construction in B/C/S. Consequently, the samples with *se* passive in B/C/S retained the voice, but changed their form. The results above serve as proof that business language is used in similar contexts in both English and B/C/S, but through the process of translation there is a constant effort to make every expression sound as natural to the target language as possible. Thus, the English and B/C/S passive voice examples differ in their forms, for the purpose of making the translation readable and fluent for the targeted readership. These findings are in accordance with the findings by Alinejad (2013), who also discovered that, while translating from English to Persian, one of the causes of voice change was simply the need to make the translation as natural as possible. Therefore, in order to adjust the translated text with the TL as best as possible, both in Persian and in B/C/S the change of voice was preferable, not essential. After discussing the first two groups of examples, there comes the third and most interesting one. To be more specific, one third of examples, 21 to be exact, went through a major transformation in the process of translation. Not only was their form changed, in the manner of either tense, number, or vocabulary, but another one of their linguistic characteristics changed as well, the voice. Namely, some of the B/C/S translations ought to have been written in active instead of passive voice, because that was the only right choice, for example the expression "quoted banks - bankama koje kotiraju na burzama". This phenomenon is somewhat similar to the one discovered by Moulay (2015) in his research about the passive voice in translation from English to Arabic. Even though

such occurrences of inevitable change from passive to active are way more common in Arabic, as the Arabic prefers the active voice (Khafaji, 1996), they are sometimes also present in B/C/S as well. Therefore, an attempt to translate such examples with the passive voice would only puzzle the readership, since they would probably have difficulties comprehending what the author was talking about. Also, as Bovee and Thill (2007) proposed, the active voice makes the sentence sound stronger and more energetic, which has been proved by the examples above (see examples 6a and 6b).

(6a) ...were listed on the Zagreb Stock exchange.

(6b) ...su kotirale na Zagrebačkoj berzi.

On the other hand, some of the examples could have been translated with both voices, but the translator simply deemed active voice to be more acceptable in a particular context. For example, the expression in 7a was translated as (see 7b), while it would also be grammatically correct to translate it as (see 7c).

(7a) Such behaviors are seen as...

(7b) Takvo poslovanje smatraju...

(7c) Takvo poslovanje se smatra...

Nevertheless, considering the overall context of the text and especially the sentence in which this particular expression was included, the translator considered it more natural to change its voice from passive into active. This idea supports the view of Dolakova (2016) who claims that the passive voice is a linguistic feature most languages have, but are determined by a different set of rules in each language. It also supports the view of Jiri Levy (1969) who claims that SL and TL are not symmetric, they differ in their linguistic devices, thus they cannot be translated mechanically. In light of this thought, it is of great significance to mention, once again, that 21 out of 63 business English passive examples in this research were translated as B/C/S active examples, which proves the theories of previous authors to be true. Moreover, there were two rather interesting examples shown in Table 3, where English active voice was translated as B/C/S passive voice. In the examples 8a, 8b, and 9a, 9b we can see that a change of voice did occur through translation, but the process was reversed.

(8a) Paper 3 presents the conclusion.

(8b) U trećem dijelu se donosi zaključak.

(9a) Paper elaborates on...

(9b) U članku je prikazana...

## Conclusion

At the very closing of this research paper the three major research questions ought to be answered in order to conclude the topic. In an attempt to answer the first research question, inquiring whether English passive structures from academic articles related to economics were always translated as passive structures in B/C/S as well, we should use the results gained in this research. Namely, we could see that the majority, or around 66% of English passive examples retained their voice in translation to B/C/S. However, one third, or around 33% of the examples did not preserve the same voice in B/C/S in translation process. Hence, it is easy to conclude that English passive structures are not always translated to B/C/S passive structures, nonetheless in the majority of instances they are. Bearing in mind the fact that one third of the passive examples above translated to active examples, we endeavored to find reasons for the change of voice. For some of these examples the process of translation definitely required the voice change too, for the purpose of making the translation fluent and aligned with the grammatical rules of the TL. However, for some examples the voice change was not essential, but simply deemed necessary by the translator in order to make the translation more natural to the readership. Moving on to the second research question, inquiring whether a voice change implies a change of form too, we must take a look at the numbers again. Only 17 out of 63 examples preserved both voice and form through the process of translation. On the other hand, 25 examples preserved their voice, but changed their form. Lastly, in 21 examples of voice change, the change of form was evident as well. Consequently, the voice change was present in exactly 46 samples, which presents almost two thirds of the overall number of samples. Therefore, it can be stated that in the majority of instances, a change of voice does entail a change of form as well, which answers the second research question. Very often it happened that a certain English passive construction retained its voice in B/C/S but changed its form, regarding tense, number, vocabulary, etc. This fact supports, again, the previous-

ly mentioned theories by famous translators that an SL cannot be translated mechanically to TL, but according to the set of grammatical rules of the target language, in order to make the translation fluent and natural (Baker, 1992; Beekman & Callow, 1974; Levy, 1969). Hence the need for the change of form. Regarding the third and last research question inquiring whether passive voice plays more central role in English or in B/C/S, after considering the results obtained, it can most surely be concluded that the passive voice definitely plays a more central role in English than it does in B/C/S. This discovery is not at all surprising since it is well-known that passive is overused in the English language, as well as the business language of economics, and generally the academic register. Specifically, it is preferred in business language in order to sound more diplomatic and objective, hence its prevalence in English over other languages. Therefore, some may assume that any B/C/S passive construction must be translated to English as a passive construction too. In contrast, through this study, we were able to come across two examples that are presented in the discussion part, where English active voice was translated as B/C/S passive voice. A change of voice did occur through the process of translation, but the process was reversed. Turning to Alinejad (2013) and his criticism of the overuse of passive in English, it can be deduced that this preference of a particular linguistic feature in English poses a serious challenge for translators. Therefore, he rightly points out that we should always go for active instead of passive while translating, unless a particular sentence warrants a passive construction. All in all, it can be concluded that this research proves to be in favor of the widespread hypothesis, mentioned in the introduction, that not all English passive constructions take form of B/C/S passive constructions too. On the other hand, some of them actually are completely transformed with regard to the linguistic characteristic of voice, whereby it changes from passive to active. In conclusion, even though B/C/S and English belong to the same family of languages, which makes them very similar in sentence structure, rules of grammar, and general linguistic characteristics, they still differ in their use of the passive voice to a significant extent.

## Limitations

Regarding possible limitations of the study, an important point ought to be noted for the purpose of making this piece of work as comprehensible as possible to the general readership. In the process of laying ground for this research and thor-

oughly searching for adequate sources, we came across one limitation. Despite the great number of academic articles and books, which incorporate business English on numerous topics from the vast field of business, we lacked their translations to B/C/S. Since there was a lack of academic articles related to economics written in English with translations to B/C/S, the only parts we could work with were their abstracts, but still, plenty examples of the use of the passive voice were found. However, regardless of the limitation, the research has proved to be successful and hopefully useful to future researchers willing to do further investigation on the topic of the passive voice and its use in both English and B/C/S, as well as the way it 'behaves' in the process of translation. Speaking of future investigations, and with an aim to enrich the knowledge about the passive voice and its use in the B/C/S language, the same research could be conducted in other fields of science. Not only business and economy, but natural sciences like medicine, chemistry, or social sciences like architecture, psychology. Of course, more evidence would be needed for that particular research. Additionally, the results could be compared to the ones obtained by the current research in order to compare and contrast the frequency of the passive voice across different fields of science.

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