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The passive voice in English and Czech

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Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně a použila pouze uvedenou literaturu a zdroje.

V Olomouci dne 3.5.2020   Anna Petrůjová

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Introduction

If you study foreign language, you are not always aware of grammar niches and nuances until you start looking closely at selected grammar categories or start with translating. There are suddenly many differences between the native language and the target language.

One thing are rules that can be found in grammar books or dictionaries, another is the real usage in variety of situations. There are appropriate meanings to be expressed, stylistic rules to be followed, and finally, there is the beauty of the original language to keep if you translate. There is a possibility to use active or passive voice but the difference in meaning might be significant.

People might ask many questions while using passive voice, while making decision about correctness of the use or precision of the translation. This topic is difficult for all English language learners, particularly for students. The Czech language for example does not have all the passive forms English has, so there is confusion in their correct usage. Especially in writing essays or theses, students are uncertain about acceptable frequency of using passive forms. Using the passive voice for expressing stylistic differences might be complicated as well.

After studying this topic in a deeper way, it is quite interesting to discover new rules and possibilities. Working with variety of English texts makes you aware of these differences and gives opportunity for expressing things in more interesting way.

The theoretical part of this thesis brings passive voice overview – its types and characteristics, correct usage and meaning. Very important part of working with this topic is discovering new information about the passive voice in Czech, comparing it with English forms and studying comments of well-known Czech linguists.

The aim of the practical part of this thesis is to compare the use of the passive voice in three books different in style: a thriller, a war novel and an academic text – college psychology textbook. The aim is also to identify the passive forms in the texts, their types and the use depending on the particular situations. The main focus is to analyse the passive voice in English original and determine frequency of different types and forms of passives with a special attention to occurrence of agents. Another focus is to compare English texts with its translation into Czech and find out what equivalents are mostly used in the translation and why.

In the practical part the basic research results are discussed based on detail work with the three books. These books were selected with expectation to contain variety of texts to support the hypotheses.

A few hypotheses were stated to be verified. There is assumption about higher frequency of the passive voice in English generally, higher frequency in academic writing than in fiction literature, some forms will be more frequent in novels, some in

the study book. Many more passive forms are expected in descriptive parts of the novels than in dialogues. Finally translations of these selected texts into Czech language will contain less passive voice forms than the original English text.

After careful observation of the English originals and their translations, occurrences of passives are documented including the background situation, counted and sorted by several criteria stated in hypotheses, finally entered into tables to make their comparison easier. The summary of findings is supported by the graphic documentation.

Theoretical Part

1. Passive in English

1.1 Form

Voice can be defined as a feature of verbal form which characterizes sentences or clauses as being active or passive. (Conner, 1968, p.161)

Active form

Baker (1995, p.102), Svobodová (2015, p.219) and Kuzmová (2013, p.50) say that in active clauses, the subject of the sentence is the agent of the action and the direct object is a person or a thing that is somehow influenced or affected by this action.

Examples from Svobodová (2015, p.219):

"Peter wrote a letter."
"The letter was written by Peter."

Swan (2016, section 6, introduction) states that in most cases, the subject of an active verb is not expressed in the corresponding passive sentence. However, if the agent of the action needs to be named or emphasized, it is possible to do so by using the preposition by. (Hüllen, 1994, p.136)

"This house was built in 1486 <u>by Sir Jon Latton</u>."

Swan (2016, section 6, introduction) points out that meaning and grammar do not always go together. "Not all active verbs have active meaning for instance, if you say that somebody receives something or suffers, you are really saying that something is done to him/her." There are some verbs which are possible to use in both forms having similar meanings: for example *to worry/ to be worried*.

Swan (2016, section 6, introduction) also mentions that some English active verbs might be translated by passive or reflexive verbs on certain other languages.

Passive form

The passive is formed by using the auxiliary be in combination with the past participle of a transitive verb (a verb that can take a direct object). Marckwardt (1942, p.137) and Davy, Crystal (1973, p.137). The auxiliary be can be used in different tenses (Swan, 1982, p.458) as shown in Table I., placed in Appendixes (Swan, 2005, p.385).

Baker (1995, p.102) and Naughton (2005, p.160) remark that in passive clauses, the object of an active verb becomes the grammatical subject of the passive one and the agent may or may not be specified. The main function of the passive is to avoid specifying the agent and to give an impression of objectivity. This is not necessarily the function of the passive in all languages which have a category of voice (Baker, 1995, p.106).

The predicate with modal verbs and the future tense can also form the passive voice: (Hüllen, 1994, p.133)

"This work must be done by noon."

"A lot of money will be spent on education."

Davy, Crystal (1973, p.187) claim that other tense-forms tend not to occur (except in quotations, reported speech, etc.) but modal verbs are frequently used. In the popular press, there is the tendency to use the active voice rather than the passive.

1.2 Verbs

The passive refers to verb groups whose subject is the person or thing that is affected by an action. E.g. *Our dinner has been eaten by the dog.* With active verb groups the subject (person or thing) is doing the action, as in *The dog has eaten our dinner.* (Sinclair, 1993, p.603)

Passive voice can form only those verbs that stand with an object, that is a participant in the verbal action on which the verbal action is passed or which is affected by the verbal action. These verbs are transitive. On the other hand, verbs that do not form the passive voice are called intransitive, which actually do not need the object, they make sense even without him. (Dušková, 2012, p.258) (Tinková, 2013, p.117)

Examples:

Transitive: *To make sth. (to be made)* = udělat něco

　　　　　　To tell sb. (to be told) = říct někomu

Intransitive: *To stand* = stát

　　　　　　To last = trvat

The two intransitive sentences, types SI (subject + intransitive verb) and SIC (subject + intransitive verb + complement), are always active, and can have no passive transforms.

SI sentence: *The sun shines.*

SIC sentence: *The sun is a star.*

(Darbyshire, 1967, p.104,113)

A few transitive verbs are rarely or never used in the passive (Sinclair, 1993, p.604), Table II. (The table is also included in the Appendixes):

Elude	Flee	Have	Like	Resemble
Escape	Get	Let	Race	Suit

Nb. Some verbs, however, can be both transitive and intransitive:

To dance: *She was dancing all evening.* = Tančila celý večer. (passive cannot be used)

To dance sth.: *Lambada is danced all over the world.* = Lambada se tančila po celém světě (passive voice can be created)

(Tinková, 2013, p.117)

Many phrasal verbs which consist of an intransitive verb and a preposition can be also used in the passive (Sinclair, 1993, p.604):

"In some households, the man was referred to as the master."

"Sanders asked if such men could be relied on to keep their mouths shut."

Sinclair (1993, p.604) also adds that: "The preposition is still put after the verb, but it is not followed by a noun group because the noun group it applies to is being used as the subject."

<u>Verbs not used in the passive:</u>

Swan (2016, section 6, content 57) notes that not all verbs can have passive forms. Passive structures are impossible with intransitive verbs like die or arrive, which cannot have objects because there is nothing to become the subject of a passive sentence. Some transitive verbs too, are seldom used in the passive. Most of these are stative verbs (verbs which refer to states, not actions). Examples are fit, have, lack, resemble, suit.

"They have a nice house." (not- A nice house is had by them)

"My shoes do not fit me." (I am not fitted by my shoes)

<u>Verbs with two objects in the passive</u>

Many verbs, such as give, send, show, lend, pay, promise, refuse, tell, offer, can are followed by two objects, an indirect and direct object. These usually refer to a person (indirect object) and a thing (direct object).

Two structures are possible:

A. *She gave her sister the car.*

Verb + indirect object + direct object

B. *She gave the car to her sister.*

Verb + direct object + preposition + indirect object

A. Indirect object becomes subject of passive verb

Her sister was given the car.

B. Direct object becomes subject of passive verb

The car was given to her sister.

"The choice between the two passive structures may depend on what has been said before, or on what needs to be put last in the sentence."

(Swan, 2016, section 6, content 61)

The objects of prepositional verbs can become subjects in passive structures:

"We have looked at the plan carefully." -> "The plan has been looked at carefully."

With verbs like think, feel, believe, know, etc., the object + infinitive structure is rather formal and often unusual. However, the passive structure (e.g. *He is believed to be...*) is common, and often occurs in news reports:

"It is considered to be the finest cathedral in Scotland."

(Swan, 2016, section 6, content 62)

1.3 Sentence structure

The category of Voice is related to the distribution of the semantic roles among verbal arguments (sentence members). Verbs can take active or passive morphology. In traditional terminology the first of each pair of sentences is referred to as an active sentence, the second as a passive sentence. (Veselovská, 2009, p.126)

In the words of Leech, Svartvik (1994, p.260) there are certain relations between clause elements. One is the relation which makes it possible to change an active clause into a passive clause. The process when an active clause is changed into a passive clause, the object of the active clause is converted into the subject of the passive clause, is called the passivization. "Passivization has an effect on the distribution of the arguments of the verb and involves the instruction of the passive auxiliary be and an optional by-phrase." - Aarts (2011, p.93). Haegeman,Guéron (1999, p.199) point out that the passivization is possible only with transitive verbs.

Aarts (2011, p.96) say that not all noun phrases that follow the verb may become the subject of the passive. "Indirect objects share with direct objects the property that they can become the subjects of passive clauses." Gleason (1965, p.257) states that passive sentences are generally agnate to active sentences. "In a transformational grammar this provides a way to generate them." - Leech, Svartvik (1994, p.260). Leech, Svartvik (1994, p.260) claim that, therefore only those patterns which contain an object can be converted into the passive. The pattern with two objects. According to Gleason (1965, p.305) both, direct and indirect object, may become subjects trough a passive transformation. "The most familiar is the relation of the indirect object to a prepositional phrase."

Examples:

I´ll give you the report on Monday.

Has two passive forms:

"You´ll be given the report on Monday."

"The report will be given (to) you on Monday."

1.4 Uses of the passive

According to Hais (1981, p.154-155) and Lingea (2011, p.53-54) English uses the passive voice especially in these cases:

1.

A) The agent is vague, and then is not expressed at all, e.g. *"She was invited to lunch." "My watch has been stolen."*

B) Or is less important and thus retreats to a less important place in the sentence, in the first place in the sentence is then the person or thing affected by the verbal action. E.g. *"He was sent away by his father."*

    "He was refused admittance."

2. In one-member sentences of verbs with impersonal passive; the subject of passive phrase is the subject affected by the verbal action, e.g. *"This city was conquered." "A machine was used."*

3. By verbs associated with two objects, with an indirect personal object and with a direct object, the preference is given to the passive with a personal subject.

"He was given notice."

"She was promised a camera for her birthday."

4. Passive voice is also preferred when it is necessary to connect a sentence more logically to what precedes it and to avoid the frequent changing of subjects, i.e. for stylistic rather than grammatical reasons.

"When he was in hospital he used to be read to out of a book of short stories he had been given for his birthday."

"He must have been terribly disappointed when told that he was not wanted."

Moreover, passive voice with continuous tenses is created in the present tense to be + present participle. In English, the continuous form is very rarely used in passive.

"The bridges is being repaired."

"The bridge was being repaired."

In the future the passive voice use will, shall or the auxiliary verbs in the form of conditional which must have the auxiliary ´be´.

"The bridge will be repaired."

"The bridge will have been repaired."

(Hnük von Wicher, 1998, p.199)

As it was already mentioned by the passive form (1.1), the main function of the passive is to express the verbal action without an agent. The type of passive without the expressed agent is the so-called author's passive, i.e. the agent is the author of an article, a book, a described work, etc. The action itself is more important than its agent, often the agent is even unknown. (Hüllen, 1994, p.136) (Dušková, 2012, p.259,260)

The use of the author's passive is also characteristic for the professional style because in professional expression the attention is turned to the subject of the message, while the author's personality recedes into the background (Dušková, 2012, p.260). For this reason are passives without agent common for academic and scientific writing (Swan, 2016, section 6, content 67). It is therefore often applied in the instructions for use, advertising texts and newspaper headlines (Hüllen, 1994, p.136).

1.5 Types of passive

<u>Passives with and without agent</u>

Despite the fact that the subject of the active becomes the agent of the passive passives often occur without agents (examples a and b). The agentless passives are often used when there is no subject available for the active sentence because the agent is irrelevant or unknown. Moreover, they are considered as a useful device, especially right for not providing irrelevant or undesirable information. However, the agent may not be omitted if it provides an essential part of the information* (Palmer, 1988, p.78 and Tryml, 1999, p.83). Alexander (1989, p.244) says that the agent is used only when it is necessary to express who or what is responsible for the specific event or the recipient of the information has to know it.

(a) "The boy was killed."   *(b) "The thieves were caught."*

*"The ceremony was preceded by a minute´s silence." (The ceremony was preceded.)

Authors point out that the passives without an agent are ordinarily used in impersonal talking and writing styles (e.g. academic and technical language) when forms are the centre of consideration (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p.798-799, Eastwood, 1997, p.133, Leech and Starvik, 1994, p.330 and Conner, 1968, p.78,79):

*"The central heating system **has to be** regularly **maintained**."*

*"Vitamin tablets **should be taken** daily."*

In the active voice sentence the actor is presented first, followed by the action, and then the object of that action. In the passive voice sentence the order is reserved. In most cases, the subject of an active sentence is not expressed in the sentence using the passive form (Broughton, 1990, p.3). In a passive structure, if is needed to be said who does the action, usually the preposition by with a noun is used. This constituent is called the agent (the person or thing that does the action, or that causes what happens) which represents the subject of the corresponding active sentence. (Swan, Walter, 1997, p.177 and Swan, 1996, p.410)

Examples: *"All the trouble was caused by your mother."* (passive clause)

> *"Sir John Latton built this house in 1486."* —> *"This house was built in 1486 by Sir John Latton."* (active → passive)

In the words of Tyml and Gottheinerová (1994, p.112), in the passive clause the agent is expressed only if the speaker depends on it and emphasizes it (b). Usually in the passive clause the agent does not indicate. Passive clauses have usually the purpose of the agent to not be expressed, whether because it does not have that or the speaker deliberately does not want to express it and notes only an act (a).

(a) "Somebody invited me."

(b) "The firm chose that man."

Carter, McCarthy (2006, p.798) and Swan (1996, p.410) note that in a passive clause the agent expressions most regularly start with *by*.

Example: *"All the trouble was caused by your mother."*

"Pollution in cities is also caused by cars, lorries, big buses, trains."

In addition to the prepositions in passive clauses also uses the preposition with. The distinction of the two prepositions cause sometimes troubles. The preposition should indicate the agent, the direct cause and also the result of the activity. The preposition with denotes a means, a tool and also the state. There is not a link with by, if the agent is the indefinite or general subject (e.g., people, and man, someone) (Tryml, 1999, p.83, Tryml and Gottheinerová, 1994, p.112, Hais, 1981, p.150).

Example sentence: *"He was shot (by the policeman) with a rifle."* (Swan, 2016, p.111)

1.6 Variations of the passive

Be-passives

These passives are regarded to have an auxiliary be, which is according to the stylistic style considered as to be neutral. These passive can be considered as the main one and the most used because they consist of the auxiliary be and past participle which is the basic structure of passive clauses.

Be as an auxiliary verb can be replaced by verb get (get-passives follow below) or even by become. Example: *"I tried to find my way round London without a map and got lost. I became concerned when he had not come home by midnight."*

There are also cases where replacing the auxiliary be is not always possible, example:

"Several shots were heard." X *"Several shots got heard."*

(Hudleston and Pullum, 2005, p.245)

English created the possibility of stress that will occur/ is occurring/ has occurred to a certain state with help of linking verbs get and become in a passive phrase, comparison (Svobodová, 2015, p.226):

"By 2009 she was married and had two children." — *V roce 2009 už byla vdaná a měla dvě děti.*

"After she got married, her husband taught her to swim." — *Když se vdala, naučil ji její muž plavat.*

<u>Get-passives</u>

Many authors state that by passive structures there is also a possibility to replace the auxiliary be by the verb get and in particular, in the case of colloquial speech. On the basis of that the get-passives tend to be avoided in formal style, and they normally occur in constructions where there is no agent. They are often used when the speaker wishes to impute some responsibility for the situation being expressed to the subject of the clause. It is worth to mention that they are used in a connection of verbs (so-called dynamic verbs) that denote actions or events (Hudleston and Pullum (2005, p.245), Swan (2016, p.112), Huddleston and Pullum (2002, p.1429), Carter and McCarthy (2006, p.800), Alexander (1988, p.255), Dušková a kol. (2012, p.263), Tryml (1999, p.81), Aarts (2011, p.73)   and Leech and Starvik (1994, p.330)).

Example of a dynamic verb: *"A headmaster got stabbed a few weeks ago."*

Example of a replacement of be by get: *"Pat was bitten by a snake."- "Pat got bitten by a snake."*

Authors point out that get is also used when we do something to ourselves (I got dressed), we manage to arrange something in our own favour (She got elected) or something happens beyond our control (We got delayed). (Swan, 2016, p.112, Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p.800 and Alexander, 1988, p.255)

Many get + -en forms, however, can be treated as pseudo-passives since get can also be used, like become with adjectives (Palmer, 1988, p.90):

"He got/became angry."

"He got/became confused."

Be passives occur without agent less frequently than get-passives (Carter and McCarthy, 2006, p.798):

*"She has been a bit nervous ever since we **got burgled**."*

*"He **got conscripted** into the army and had to go to Belgium."*

<u>Passive Infinitives</u>

Although the infinitive is a noun, it is considered to be a verbal noun and according to some people who suppose that an infinitive cannot be a noun due to it has features of a verb (Conner, 1968, p.21). The English infinitive is a verb form consisting of a particle to (which stand in front of him, however, in some cases, is omitted) and the basic shape of a semantic verb (Kuzmová, 2013, p.58 and Flámová, 2009, p.17).

Examples of infinitives:

In the passive voice infinitive has the form of (to) be + participle (Tyml, 1999, p.82):

(to change) — to be changed

For the present infinitive is used the basic form of the verb. The present passive infinitive often expresses the relation to the future (Kuzmová, 2013, page.58):

"She hoped to be invited."

"He was surprised to be kept waiting."

For the past passive infinitive is used the form have been (Kuzmová, 2013, page.59):

"He is sorry no to have been invited."

"He is said to have been divorced three times."

Kuzmová (2013, p.59) and Flámová (2009, p.17) remark that the infinitive without to is used after auxiliary and modal verbs (but not after periphrastic forms), also after verbs let and make (přimět) in the active voice. After the verb help can be an infinitive with to or even without to:

"I saw him leave his house."

"I watched the man play football."

"I must make you study."

"Do not let him do it."

"Help me (to) move the table."

An infinitive that is derived from a passive finite verb clause will itself be passive (Klammer, Schultz, Della Volpe, 2010, p.370):

"I expect that all the calamari will be eaten before 7.00." (passive verb)

"I expect all the calamari to be eaten before 7.00." (passive infinitive)

After be is normally used the passive infinitive: *"These sheets are to be washed."* (not These sheets are to wash.)

The passive infinitives are used if we are thinking more about the action, or the person/thing that the action is done to: *"The carpets to be cleaned are in the garage."*

They are also used in case to express value judgements with verb like congratulate, encourage or avoid:

"You are to be congratulated."

"This behaviour is to be encouraged."

(Swan, 2016, p.168)

Passive Gerunds

A gerund is a verbal noun with the -ing ending. It is distinct from the infinitive because, instead of being the name of the verb, it is a name of the semantic referent of the verb (Conner, 1968, p.26). A passive gerund is formed with being which is followed by past participle. Their functions parallel those of the normal gerund, but they are not very common (Strang, 1968, p.173). It occurs in both the active as in the passive form (Kuzmová, 2013, p.54).

Examples: "*Present passive gerund: being asked.*"

"*Past passive gerund: having been asked.*"

"*Being named the winner is pleasant.*"

"*I do not like being asked silly questions.*"

Short and Long passives

Short passives can be equally called agentless passives because they do not contain a by-phrase whereas long passives they include a by-phrase. Short passives are more frequent in comparison with long passives (Hudleston and Pullum, 2005, p.243 and Huddleston and Pullum, 2002, p.1445). (See also agent and agentless passives mentioned earlier)

Examples: *"My surfboard was stolen by Pat."* (long passive)

"My surfboard was stolen." (short passive)

"The Project coordinating team approved the proposal." (active clause)

"The proposal was approved by the Project Coordinating Team." (passive clause)

The difference between a short passive and an active clause is that the information expressed in the subject of the active is omitted in the passive. The by-phrase includes subject from the active voice in the passive form. In active clause the object of the by-phrase becomes the subject of the sentence.

Medio-passives

There is a construction such as medio-passives that appears to have characteristics of both voices. The construction is presented by active verbs having passive meaning. The medio-passive category is contained within the verb category. They are grammatical only if the verb´s sense is a caused change of state. Lakoff (1977) has noticed, the referent of the subject must be primarily responsible for the sense of the mediopassive. There are only few words of this kind (Aarts and Meyer, 1995, p.132 and Alexander, 1988, p.243).

Following examples:

"This surface cleans easily."

"This wine is selling quickly."

Pseudo- passives

An example of a pseudo-passive might be difficult to find in a sentence because at first it might not have to seem to be an example of a passive due to authenticity that these passives have instead of the past participle the predicative adjective. Besides in terms of meaning their passive form corresponds to an active sentence. (Jacobs, 1995, p.165 and Quirk, 1985, p.169)

Examples: *"Juliet´s bet was empty, too, thought it had been slept in."*

"Someone has slept in my bed."

"My bed was slept in."

Semi-passives

There are some -en forms that appear to have corresponding actives, one of the example are semi-passive sentences that exhibit a verbal property as well as an adjectival feature. (Quirk, 1985, p. 196 and Palmer, 1988, p.87.)

Examples: *"He was embarrassed by her actions."*

"Her actions embarrassed him."

"He was embarrassed by her actions."

"He seemed embarrassed by her actions."

1.7 Passive x Adjectives (Verbal and adjectival passives)

A verbal adjective is an adjective which is derived from a verb and which incorporates the verb. Verbal adjectives are of two sorts: *present participle*, with the ending — ing, and *past participle*, with the ending -ed, (or any of several other shapes). Some words which end in -ed are not verbal adjectives but just adjectives. A word must incorporate a verb to be a verbal adjective. The -ed adjectives in the following examples do not incorporate verbs:

"Love is a many-splendored thing."

"The cow is a hollow-horned ruminant."

(Conner, 1968, p.144,145,152)

The verb be serves not only as a passive marker but also as a copula. This is a case of the complex-transitive construction where be takes a predicative complement (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002, p.1431 and Huddleston and Pullum, 2005, p.246). For this construction Huddleston and Pullum (2002, p.1431) use the term adjectival passives, while Quirk (2004, p.168) calls it semi-passives. (1) illustrates a possible ambiguity that arises between verbal and adjectival passives:

(1) *"The vase was broken."* (verbal or adjectival)

If the sentence is interpreted as a verbal passive, then broken is a verb which describes the event of breaking the vase. In the other possible interpretation broken acts as an adjective that describes the current state of the vase.

2. Passive in Czech

In Czech, the voice is also distinguished into active and passive. Here also applies that the active voice expresses what does the subject of the verb, the agent of the verbal action is therefore the subject of the sentence (*Dělníci vyrábějí stroje.*). Passive voice expresses the action, that is done by someone other than the subject of the sentence, here the agent is not the subject of the sentence (often is not even expressed). If there is a subject in such a sentence, it is the aim of the action (*Stroje jsou vyráběny.*). These statements are supported by several authors such as Styblík (2004, p.122), Sochrová (1996, p.49), Havránek, Jedlička (2002, p.104), Havránek, Jedlička (1988, p.235) and Kuzmová (2013, p.50).

According to several authors, Sochrová (1996, p.49,50), Havránek, Jedlička (2002, p.104,105), Havránek, Jedlička (1988, p.235,236,237,240), Styblík (2004, p.122) and Styblík, Melichar (1994, p.130) the passive voice is in Czech expressed by:

Periphrastic form, a form composed of the passive participles and the forms of the auxiliary verb být rarely bývat (*byl potrestán, je trestán, je bit*), expresses the state and the result of the action.

The reflexive form, a verb form composed of the forms of the verb itself and the dual form of the reflexive pronoun, se or si (*obilí se mlátí, zpívalo se celou noc*), expresses repeated action, activity.

Rosa (1991, p.191) points out that „Czech does not have passive verbs which form a particular conjugation. Instead, it uses circumlocution with the verb *jsem* or *bývám* be and the past participle according to gender, number and person.“

Hais (1981, p.151) states that in Czech and other languages, the passive voice can be formed as a rule only with transitive verbs (verbs with a object in the 4th case).

2.1 Use of passive forms

There are some differences in the use of both forms of the passive.

In Czech, the passive relation is often expressed by the reflexive form (Tryml, Gottheinerová, 1994, p.421). The reflexive form of the verb is a means of expression of the passive in the common spoken language and for expressing a passive in the present tense almost the only possible form of the passive voice is the periphrastic. (Havránek, Jedlička, 1988, p.237,238).

Havránek, Jedlička (2002, p.105) notes that a reflexive verb shows activity and is particularly with verbs of imperfective. A reflexive verb expresses the passive voice as a rule only by a factual subject, e.g. *Okna se myla*. By a personal subject has a reflexive verb different meaning, especially by the subject of the 1st and 2nd person. (Indicates the action which returns to the subject,1. and 2. person, *myji se, myješ se* etc.)

Rosa (1991, p.192) remarks that: „If the participle se is added to transitive (active) verbs they are made intransitive (passive) e.g. *volám* (I call), *volám se* (I am called), *jmenuji* (I name), *jmenuji se* (I am named, my name is). Such passives are very common in the third person, e.g. *volá se, jmenuje se* (he is called, is named, his name is).“

However, Styblík (2004, p.122) and Styblík, Melichar (1994, p.130) mention that the verb with a reflexive pronoun se seems to also have a different meaning, therefore it is only used to express a passive if there is no misunderstanding. E.g. *Pokusy se prováděly* and *Pokusy byly prováděny* mean the same, but the expression *Voják se vyznamenal* (Soldier distinguished himself means that the soldier distinguished himself (by his action), not that he was honoured (for his action).

In the words of Sochrová (1996, p.50) the reflexive passive is considered to be more lively, is used in general regulations and instructions, e.g. *These medicines are used ...* (Těchto léků se užívá...), *The dough is poured into the mold.* (Těsto se nalije do formy.)

Styblík (2004, p.122) and Styblík, Melichar (1994, p.130) remark that, where the periphrastic and the reflexive forms can be used, it is preferable to use the reflexive verb in common expression. (př. *Staví se tam nový dům*, this expression is more appropriate than *Je tam staven nový dům*.)

The periphrastic passive is referred to express the action, especially in written expressions: *Objednávky bylo/ jsou/ budou vyřizovány postupně.* (Orders were / are / will be processed gradually.) The periphrastic form is also referred to express the resulting state (i.e. the state as a result of the previous action), especially in written expressions: *Všechny programy byly/ jsou / budou aktivovány.* (All programs have been / were / are / will be activated.)

To express the state, understood as a property of the subject, the nominal constructions with copula is used. Between the following pairs of sentences is a difference in meaning. *Včera byla jednání uzavřena (= včera jednání skončila, byla ukončena) x Včera byla jednání uzavřena (= včera byla jednání uzavřená, včera se konala neveřejná jednání).*

Pravdová, Svobodová (2014, p.381)

Sochrová (1996, p.49,50) and Havránek, Jedlička (1988, p.237,238) note that in periphrastic form penetrates the importance of the state as a result of the action, it is therefore common especially with verbs of perfective *(byli pochváleni, knihy byly vydány ve velkém nákladu)* - periphrastic form often has the book character, it is frequent especially in written expressions (professional or journalistic style).

E.g. *Obchody se otvírají v 9 hodin. Porada se pečlivě připravovala. Žáci byly přijati. Zranění byli ošetřeni.* (Shops open at 9 o'clock. The meeting is carefully prepared. Students were recruited. Injuries have been treated.)

(Havránek, Jedlička, 2002, p.105 and Havránek, Jedlička, 1988, p.238)

Havránek, Jedlička (1988, p.238) states that the agent is rarely expressed (its attenuation is one of the signs of the passive). If it is expressed, it is usually only in the periphrastic form of passive, either in the 7th case or only with the personal agent of the action (in the prepositional case) e.g. *Byl trestán, pokárán, peníze byly vyplaceny pokladnou*. Because the agent is usually not expressed by the reflexive form of the passive, it is necessary to use a passive periphrastic form, even where otherwise the reflexive form would be more common. (e.g. *Nejen korespondence Němcové byla vydána Mil. Novotným, ale též je vydávána Mil.Novotným.*)

2.2 Translation

In addition, according to Hais (1981, p.152) and Lingea (2011, p. 55) the passive voice is translated into Czech:

A) Likewise by passive voice, by the periphrastic form: *Many paintings were destroyed by the fire.* - Mnoho obrazů bylo zničeno ohněm.

Or by the reflexive form of the verb: *English is spoken all over the world.* - Anglicky se mluví všude ve světe.

B) By active voice, especially in cases when the agent is expressed by a indefinite subject: *He wanted to know why Robert had been given the reward.* - Chtěl vědět proč Robert dostal tu odměnu.

3. Comparison

To compare these two languages, they both have two verbal voices - active and passive. From the above statements, it is clear that in English the passive voice occurs much more than it is in Czech and is even used in many cases in which is not possible to be used in Czech. It is also a way to change the position of sentence elements and thus affect the overall meaning of the sentence. These statements have been supported by Hais (1981, p.150, 154), Tinková (2013, p.115) and Kuzmová (2013, p.50).

Examples:

I have been offered a job. - Nabídli mi zaměstnání

The job has been offered to me. - To místo nabídli mně.

I was given a book. - Dostal jsem knížku.

The book was given to me, not to her. - Tu knížku jsme dostal já, ne ona.

In Czech, there are two types of the passive. Whereas in English, there is just one type which corresponds to the Czech periphrastic passive voice. It consists of the appropriate form of the verb be and the participle of the passive voice the main verb (Dušková, Bubeníková, Caha, 1959, p. 155). Many English sentences expressed by the passive voice are in Czech expressed by the active voice. Reflexive Czech sentences are translated in English by a passive (Kuzmová, 2013, p.50).

Examples:

- periphrastic passive voice: Staré domy jsou opravovány. - *The old houses are repaired.*

Type: *My curiosity has been aroused.* - Moje zvědavost byla vzbuzena. (Comparison: *Something aroused my curiosity.* - Něco vzbudilo mou zvědavost.) is quite similar to the Czech type. (Dušková, 2012, p. 366)

- reflexive passive voice: Staré domy se opravují - *Old houses are repaired.*

Football is played in all over the world. (Fotbal se hraje na celém světě) (Kuzmová, 2013, p.50)

Type: *You will be laughed at.* - Budou se ti smát. (Comparison: *They will laugh at you.* - Czech has no equivalent. (Dušková, 2012, p. 366)

It is worth to note that, the Czech sentence sounds in the active voice (because of the free word order) as well as when the English sentence is in the passive voice (Tinková, 2013, p.115 and Kuzmová, 2013, p.50).

Czech - free word order:	subject	predicate	subject
Active voice:	*Tu hru*	*napsal*	*G.B.Shaw*
English-fixed word order:	subject	predicate	object
Passive voice:	*The play*	*was written*	*by G.B.Shaw*

While in Czech the passive voice is used most often only when the subject is unknown, in English the passive voice is much more common and its main function is to get the subject on the first place in the sentence. In the active voice, English can have in the sentence only the subject on the first place (Tinková, 2013, p.115 and Kuzmová, 2013, p.50). This is largely related to the lack of endings in English and the reinforcement of the English word order, for if the basic requirement is the word order that the subject can only stand before a certain verb, this must be allowed to ease in the formation of the passive because only in this way any name before the verb can be made a subject (Hais, 1981, p. 154). Such a fixed word order is given because English does not know the inclination (case and endings) and the only way to distinguish the subject from the object is the position in the sentence (Tinková, 2013, p.115)

The peculiarity in the English language is that the subject can become any object of the active phrase, thus the indirect object and prepositional (Hnük von Wicher, 1998, p.197). The English passive is always two-member, i.e. contains a subject. The one-member Czech passive has no equivalent in English. Against Czech one-member sentences, English has two-member sentences with an expressive subject that corresponds to various Czech cases (except accusative and nominative) (Dušková, 2012, p.265).

The passive voice in English is very similar to Czech, where passive phrases do not express agents. Either is unknown or the speaker deliberately does not want to express the agent and notes only act. If the agents are to be expressed, the preposition by that indicates the agent, means, tool or status is used (Hnük von Wicher, 1998, p. 197). In English, the passive with the auxiliary verb be does not distinguish expression of action and state, the action or the state of the verbal form results mostly from the

context. Unlike English, in which the action and the state are expressed by various aspect. (Dušková, 2012, p. 262)

The passive in English is formed in three following steps in comparison with Czech:

From verbs that have a direct object (corresponding to the Czech 4. case)

In this type is a complete match with Czech:

Active voice: *He translated the article*. - Přeložil článek.

Passive voice: *The article was translated. -* Článek byl přeložen.

From verbs associated with two subjects, direct and indirect (corresponds to 4th and 3rd case). Unlike Czech, the subject of the passive phrase may also be an indirect subject (=Czech 3rd case) These phrases are in English very abundant.

Active: *They gave him a special reward*. - Dali mu zvláštní odměnu.

Passive: *He was given a special reward. -* Dali mu zvláštní odměnu.

From the verbs associated with the preposition (this type also does not exist in English). The subject of the English passive phrase becomes the subject of the active phrase, while the preposition stays with the verb:

Active: *People of the flies spoke about that event. -* Lidé o té události hodně hovořili.

Passive: *That event was much spoken about. -* O té události se hodně mluvilo.

(Dušková, Bubeníková, Caha, 1959, p. 156-157)

Summary

The theoretical part gives an overview of a grammatical category of voice, especially passive one - its forms, associated verbs, sentence structure, its use, types and variations, with the comparison with Czech language. Ways of the passive voice translation into Czech language are also discussed.

Practical Part

Introduction

This part of the bachelor thesis brings the results of the research. The aim was to compare occurrences of the active vs. passive voice constructions depending on the type of selected book.

The following books were chosen for the research: Life after Life (novel) by Kate Atkinson, The Black House (thriller) by Peter May and Introduction to Psychology (15th edition, psychology, study book) by Ernest Hilgard and Richard C. Atkinson.

Around fifty pages from each book were analysed and examples were sorted and compared.

The aim of the research is:

- To analyse the passive voice in English original, and determine frequency of different types of passives.

- To identify the uses of different types and forms.

- To analyse the occurrence of agents.

- To compare English texts with its translation into Czech and find out what equivalent is mostly used in the translation and why.

Hypotheses:

1. The frequency of the passive forms will be generally higher in English than in Czech.

2. The frequency of the passive voice will be higher in academic writing than in fiction literature.

3. The past tense passives (past simple and past perfect) will be more frequent forms in the novels; the present tense passives will prevail in academic writing.

4. The frequency of the passive forms will be higher in descriptive parts and explanations than in dialogues.

5. Translation into Czech language will contain less passive voice forms than the original English text.

Methodology

The research part is based on the theoretical part of theses, passive forms, types and specifics in their use.

Two works of fiction and their translations into Czech were selected. One of them a war story, the second one a thriller. The third book used in the research part is an academic text - a college textbook – introduction into psychology.

About fifty pages from each book were selected randomly, so if we summarize findings and get to conclusions, it is based on these short samples only.

After careful observation of the English originals and their translations, occurrences of passives were wrote down (including particular number of pages), counted and sorted by several criteria. These criteria are based on *Hypotheses* and *Aim of the research* - see above.

The research work was done manually but it had some advantages – the careful first-hand experience and observation of the situation in which the passives were used. Each passive was documented including the background situation to create material for judging the use of the particular passive, especially its translation into Czech.

The passives were entered into tables to make the comparison easier. To make it clear and easier for a reader, the graphic documentation is used in the summary of findings.

4. Research

As was mentioned in hypotheses, the passive voice will prevail in English texts. However, the active voice is the main voice used in all situations and types of writing, so we will pay attention to the proportions. In all the researched books the active voice was used more frequently than I expected. It will be discussed later how the use depends on particular situation.

Firstly, each book will be commented separately, later the findings will be compared and concluded.

A. Life after Life (novel) by Kate Atkinson

This novel describes times of the World War II. Ursula and her friends and neighbours live their everyday lives surrounded by real war problems and incidents. There are lots of dialogues from the present life as well as stories about relatives and friends. In dialogues, there would be probably less passives (and mostly present or and present continuous passives). In past-time stories past and past perfect passives were expected.

In this novel, the active voice dominates. There are pages without a single occurrence of passives (e.g. pg. 313, 315). The average occurrence of passive forms is 1.8 % per page (Table IV.). On some pages only one to three passive forms are used compared with much higher occurrence of active forms: for example on the page 312 there is only one passive compared with twenty-six of actives or on the page 219 there are two passives compared to forty-one actives and so on. The Table III. shows the overall number of active voice and passive voice in the selected part. (See Appendixes, Table III. and IV.)

Passives

The passive voice is used in almost all tenses, but since most of the story is told in past tense, so past simple, past continuous and past perfect forms predominate (See Appendixes, Table IV.):

Time of a war when one <u>was surrounded</u> by an immense amount of sudden violent death LL 331), the odds <u>were</u> quite <u>changed</u> and it was impossible <u>to be protected</u> from anything (LL 332). Teddy <u>had been shot</u> down near Berlin (LL 606), he <u>had been taken</u> to hospital (LL 606). His mother and sister <u>had been killed</u> (LL 532).

Passives with agent and without agent

Both types of passives can be found in the text. Agent phrases are used mostly in chapters where stories are being told. Listeners know each other, so the involved persons can be named:

- *"Emil was passed between cellar occupants..." (LL 330)*

- *"She was surprised to recognize him..." (LL 339)*

- *"She was galvanized into action..." (LL 332)*

Generally, passives mostly appear without an agent. They are called ´agentless passives´ bringing our attention to process – what happened, what is done, what is significant. In this text, most cases describe the situation, its background, bring additional information about what people think, feel or say.

In the analysed text, 80.85% of the sentences are expressed without an agent. (See Appendixes, Table IV.)

We often do not know who or what caused the situation might be not important, it is irrelevant, or the agent is clear from the context.

- *"...the flat was rented..." (LL 312)*

- *"He was dressed and bulked out with nappies."* (LL 317)

It is often obvious (or we can guess based on the context) who caused what happened:

- *"The dog ... was dragged reluctantly down the stairs."* (LL 330) - The Millers did it.

- *"Some other parts of London just being blown out of existence."* (LL 337) - The German Army

- *"The nurse´s home had been bombed…"* (LL 319) - The German Army.

There are many impersonal passive constructions with reporting, announcing or state verbs. In reported speech we often do not want to mention the person whose words are being reported or we want to describe impersonal or general feelings.

All these examples show the typical situations in which the passive is agentless.

Very often a by-agent is used to add additional information.

- *"Ted´s been dropped in Piccadilly by the American army sergeant."* (LL 608)

- *"Her attention was caught again by Lavinia Nesbit…"* (LL 338)

- *"The shelter suit has been bought by Sylvia."* (LL 332)

Infinitives

In some constructions the passive infinitive is used. Both of examples has the form of *to + be + past participle*. The passive infinitives are used in case of thinking more about the action or the person/ thing that the action is done to. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> passive infinitives)

- *"The contents were to be divided among them."* (LL 539)

- *"...to be harried without rest by the bombs..."* (LL 330)

Gerunds

A passive gerund is formed with *being* which is followed by *past participle*. Passive forms of gerund are also infinitives used to focus on an action instead of who performed the action and to describe that the subject of the sentence is being acted upon. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> passive gerunds).

- *"But being bombed and shot at by the Germans is not good for you either."* (LL 328)

- *"The last part of the journey being accomplished in a donkey-cart."* (LL 319)

<u>Be-passives</u>

This passives are regarded to have an *auxiliary be* and *past participle.* A lot of examples of this type were found, mainly because this is the most basic form of passives. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> be-passives)

- *"Her attention was caught again..." (LL 338)*

- *"...how one was given the news..." (LL 531)*

<u>Semi-passives</u>

A group of mixed or semi-passives is represented by the sentences below, sentences that exhibit a verbal property as well as an adjectival feature. Semi-passive sentences are considered to be rather stative than dynamic. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> semi-passives and also the sub-chapter 1.7 Verbal and adjectival passives)

Because of adjectival properties of this class there are possibilities of coordinating the participle with an adjective, modifying the participle with quite, rather, very etc. and replacing be by a lexical copula such as feel or seem. (Quirk, 1985)

- *"...she was amazed to realized..."(LL 221)*

- *"Ursula was unconvinced by this vision..." (LL 326)*

Having an agent-expressing by-phrase is rare in such adjectival use of past participle, despite this fact, similar blends might occur.

As can be seen in the tables V. and VI., the previous expectations are verified:

• Passive forms are quite frequent in English, less frequent in the Czech translation. (See Appendixes, Table V.)

• The frequency of the passive forms is higher in descriptive parts and explanations than in dialogues. (See Appendixes, Table VI.)

There are 128 dialogues in the selected part of this book. Only in eight dialogues passive constructions were found:

- *"How many more knitted garments could be applied to the poor child?" (LL 333)*

- *"Being courted by a Red?", Maurice asked." (LL 322)*

It is worth mentioning that in most cases these dialogues are not about everyday situations, but there is again a description of war problems, what happened to participants´ relatives etc. It even more supports the idea of passives being used in commentaries and descriptive parts of texts rather than in dialogues.

- *"But being bombed and shot at by the Germans isn´t good for you either." (LL 328)*

- *"Is this to be life forever, she wrote to Teddy, to be harried without rest by the bombs?" (LL 330)*

B. The Black House (thriller) by Peter May

This novel takes place mostly on the remote Isle of Lewis off the coast of northern Scotland. A detective, inspector Fin McLeod, investigates the murder of a man who appeared to be his former schoolmate. Parts of the story describe present-day events (written in the 3rd person) and others tell the stories of Fin´s childhood (written in the 1st person). In the part we have selected, we follow the Fin´s childhood story. It describes guga hunters killing these birds during a hunting season on the island.

The novel is written in the past tense, mostly in active voice. There are pages without any single occurrence of passive voice (pg. 237, 248, 253 and many others). The occurrence of passives per page is 1.76% (See Appendixes, Table VIII.). For example, on the page 233 there is only one passive compared to twenty-six of actives or on the page 256 there are three passives compared to the number of thirty-two actives and so on. The table below shows the overall number of actives and passives in the selected part of the book. The Table VII. shows the overall number of active voice and passive voice in the selected part (See Appendixes, Table VII.).

Only approximately one-third of the story are dialogues (mostly short ones), shouting or orders (what should be done in the particular moment). The rest is the background description (countryside, weather) or detailed description of the hunting. Most passive forms are past simple (See the Table VIII. in Appendixes).

Passives

Interestingly, passives are used in a few situations very consistently, there is a pattern:

Passives are used in **description of the place**:*...layers of rock that appeared to have been cut into giant slices and tipped over (pg.235),...it was cut through by crackers and deep chimneys, and was transected in several places by ledges (pg.275).*

Passives used for **description of the feelings**:*...I was sickened by my task (pg.266), ...I was to be sorely disappointed (pg.239).*

<u>Passives used in **description of the activities**</u>:...*the birds were returned to the pot for a final half-hour (pg.276),...the careful cuts were made above the ribs (pg.273),...the gugas were split from end and the tail removed (pg.273).*

<u>Passives with agent and without agent</u>

Both agent and agentless passive constructions are used in the text. As we can see, agentless passive forms prevail (90% of cases without agent – See the Table VIII. in Appendixes). The agentless passives are often used when there is no subject available because the agent is irrelevant or unknown. Passive clauses have the purpose of the agent not to be expressed. (See the sub-chapter 1.5 Types of passive and see also the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> short and long passives)

Typical agentless phrases:

- *"Cigarettes were rolled and smoked."* (BH 220)

- *"I was startled."* (BH 216)

- *"Tins of sandwiches were opened!"* (BH 212)

By-phrases:

They are used to add either human or non-human agent.

- *"Fin was surprised by the quiet menace in Gunn′s voice at his side."* (BH 295)

- *"At first I was sickened by my task ..."* (BH 221)

- *"Unite-caked by guano which had been worn smooth by the wind and rain."* (BH 228)

<u>Be-passives</u>

As it was previously already mentioned, these passives are consisted of a form of *auxiliary be + past participle*. Most passives in the selected part of the book are be-passives, most often used in past simple (68%), Table VIII. in Appendixes. They are more literary than get-passives. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> be-passives)

- *"And she was gone, and we were left here on our own."* (BH 255)

- *"The floor was strewn with discarded nesting materials."* (BH 285)

<u>Get-passives</u>

There were also found some examples of get-passives; instead of verb *be* the verb *get* is used. The get-passives are more colloquial or expressive than be-passives. They are often used when the speaker wishes to impute some responsibility for the situation being expressed to the subject of the clause. Get is also used when we do something to ourselves and something happens beyond or control. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> get-passives) Here are the examples:

- *"We got soaked, too, as the sea broke again and again over the wall..." (BH 249)*

- *"We rubbed each other down and got dressed..." (BH 236)*

Infinitives

Here also appeared some constructions of the passive infinitive. Both of examples below has the form of infinitives *to + be + past participle*. Similarly to the previous examples of passive infinitive, these examples of infinitive were used under the same circumstances. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> passive infinitives)

- *"...to be replaced by the smell..." (BH 261)*

- *"It was to be used for emergencies." (BH 255)*

Gerunds

The gerund is formed with *being* which is followed by *past participle* presents an activity of the verb within the shape of a verbal noun. They were used similarly to the examples of passive gerund above. Passive forms of gerund focus on an action instead of who performed the action. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> passive gerunds)

- *"It would mean being separated from Marsaili for two whole weeks." (BH 236)*

- *"...and then being hauled on ropes up to the area..." (BH 268)*

Semi-passives

In this fiction were also found some of the examples of semi-passives. Similarly to examples in the first fiction book, here is also an example with a blend of by-phrase and the same properties are applied. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> semi-passives and also the sub-chapter 1.7 Verbal and adjectival passives)

- *"I was seriously depressed by now." (BH 243)*

- *"A punt was lowered on the gentle swell." (BH 254)*

Pseudo-passives

These passives describe state resulting from an agentless process and have active meaning. They mostly have a superficial form of verb + *-ed* participle which recommends them for a passive consideration. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> pseudo-passives)

- *"What happened was wholly unexpected." (BH 278)*

- *"I was to be sorely disappointed." (BH 239)*

As can be seen in the Table VII., an expectation about the frequency of passive and active forms is verified (See Appendixes, Table VII. and IX.):

‧ The frequency of passives is lower than in the previous book. The reason is that the selected text is a chronological story describing an everyday life of the hunters, so there is almost no reason to use passives; the active past tense is typical for this situation.

‧ The Table IX. refers to an expectation about a number of passives in English compared to Czech - passive forms are quite frequent in English, less frequent in the Czech translation.

Dialogues

Only ten pages out of 51 contain dialogues – respectively direct speech sentences. Some of them are not followed by any answer. They are very short; bring hunting instructions or questions to make contact with other people. There is not any occurrence of passive voice.

It supports our expectation about absence of passives in direct speech:

"I don´t want to go."

"Don´t be ridiculous, Fin!"

"Why don´t you want to go?"

"I just don´t."

"Go and make yourself familiar with the rock, boys…We´ll give you a shout when grub´s ready."

"Well, Finn, that's what we do." "Why?" ... "Why do you do it?"

(The Black House, p. 238, 239, 258 and 267)

C. Atkinson & Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology

This book differs significantly from the previous two. It belongs to different type of writing – academic texts. The book is intended for college students majoring in psychology, teaching, medicine and various other social disciplines. The main areas of psychology are covered: history and methodology of the field, the neurobiological foundations of human behavior, cognitive psychology, emotion and motivation, personality psychology, psychological development, social behavior, psychopathology and psychotherapy.

The textbook verified the expectations about scientific and journalistic texts we had. Compared with the two previous books, this is the only text where the passive voice clearly dominates. The text is very complicated bringing explanations and related research results. The active voice is mostly used for explanations, to ask research questions and describe processes. The passive voice brings summary of findings. The Table X. in Appendixes shows the overall number of active voice and passive voice in the selected part.

The occurrence of passives is 11.5% (Table XI. in Appendixes) per page – the higher occurrence was 19 passive forms on a page. The following passives are present in the text.

The main form was present simple passive, which was used in 40.44 %. As expected, the second highest group is past simple passives (See Appendixes, Table XI.).

Passives with agent and without agent

Mostly, passives appear without an agent. Both types of passives can be found in the text. The sentences without an agent predominate in 90.27 % (See Appendixes, Table XI.). In this text, most cases describe the situation, there is comprehensive overview of the psychological knowledge and research results. The agentless passives are often used when there is no subject available for the active sentence because the agent is irrelevant or unknown. Passive clauses have the purpose of the agent to not be expressed so usually the agent is not indicated (See the sub-chapter 1.5 Types of passive and see also the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> short and long passives)

Agentless phrases:

- *"...if what is originally perceived differs systematically from the objective world..." (IP 299)*

- *"...its capacity is very limited." (IP 281)*

- *"...items are examined..." (IP 282)*

Agent-phrases:

They are quite frequent in this type of the text. They are used to add mostly non-human agent.

- *"Retrieval processes can also be disrupted by emotional factors." (IP 315)*

- *"A process that is mediated by the hippocampal system." (IP 293)*

- *"...working memory and long-term memory are implemented by somewhat different brain structures." (IP 284)*

Be-passives

The passive auxiliary is normally *be*, so obviously it can be assumed to be the one most used and it is true that the be-passives prevail in this textbook (See Table X. in Appendixes). (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> be-passives)

- *"The context in which the word was spoken to find that concept." (IP327)*

- *"These remarkable facts were determined through experiments." (IP 326)*

Get-passives

The get-passives are present only in two cases which is not surprising because *get* is more typical for spoken parts of a text. Similarly to examples of these passives in the previous section, here the get was used to express something that happens beyond control and the speaker wished to impute some responsibility for the situation being expressed to the subject of the clause. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> get-passives) Here are the examples:

- *"She constructed an accompanying memory of the process by which her image of him got formed." (IP 306)*

- *"...are commonly read classic tales about children who get lost." (IP 312)*

The passive can also be sometimes formed using the verb become, instead of verb be or get.

- *"The process his patient became convinced." (IP 313)*

- "Their recollections often became distorted." (IP 313)

Infinitives

As well as in the two previous books, here the passive infinitive constructions occur as well. Both of examples below has the infinitive form *to + be + past participle*. Here the passive infinitives are also used in case of thinking more about the action or the person/thing that the action is done to. For the present passive infinitive often expresses the relation to the future. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> passive infinitives)

- "...such as a phone number that is about to be dialed..." (IP 285)

- "...therefore were likely to be transferred to long-term memory..." (IP 284)

Additionally, passive infinitive is used after modal verbs and other verbs requiring infinitive.

- "The sentence can be recognized." (IP 284)

- "Words can be combined into sentences." (IP 304)

Gerunds

Gerund has active and passive form, and is used for a creation of participles and passive voice. In this case, passive forms of gerund center on an activity rather than who performed the activity and to depict that the subject of the sentence is being acted upon. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> passive gerunds)

- "The first child being interviewed eventually recalled the false actions." (IP 304)

- "...such as being abducted and experimented on by aliens..." (IP 302)

Semi-passives

Here in academic book, there are some forms that appear to have corresponding actives, adjectival features. By these examples is also the possibility of a replacement of verb be and modified participle. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> semi-passives and also the sub-chapter 1.7 Verbal and adjectival passives)

- "Chimpanzee communication is impoverished." (IP 330)

- "It is oversimplified." (IP 323)

- "He was so tired of waiting." (IP 300)

<u>Pseudo-passives</u>

There are a few examples of pseudo-passives in the text. The pseudo-passive could be a verb construction that incorporates a passive form but either an active meaning. They have instead of the past participle the predicative adjective. (See the sub-chapter 1.6 Variations of the passive –> pseudo-passives)

- *"It is easily applied." (IP 334)*

- *"System is very low compared..." (IP 330)*

· The passive forms are quite frequent in English and even they are less frequent in Czech, in this type of text, there is the highest frequency in a comparison with the previous books (See Appendixes, Table XII.).

<u>Dialogues vs. Commentaries</u>

There were no examples of passive in dialogues. There were actually no dialogues at all.

5. Translation from English into Czech

It is always interesting to work with translated texts. In this paragraph will be commented translations of the three books and a comparison of them.

Translation can never be done mechanically. The target language has to be taken into account, its features should be respected.

Both languages, Czech and English, have the category of voice, but they do not use the passive with the same frequency. While passive constructions are felt as very natural in English, they are not very often felt neutral or appropriate in Czech. The translation has to respect the author´s meaning, to keep the emotional and stylistic level of the original. In the same time there are grammar rules to be respected.

<u>There are few major choices for the translator:</u>

· To preserve the English passive voice

· To replace the passive voice with active voice forms

· To use a reflexive form of the Czech passive voice

· To use the periphrastic form of the Czech passive voice

· To apply large variety of translations - expressions typically used in Czech in this particular situation etc.

Life after Life

The following figures indicate ways of translation used in the evaluated book. It is important to state that only a part of the book is worked with, so it cannot be generalized. Here are some results: Very rarely (4% in the selected text) passives are translated by using Czech passive forms. In most cases it is mostly in agentless situations where the Czech language uses these forms as well and feels them as neutral or stronger then active equivalents. …*bylo to úplně zničeno* is probably more dynamic than *zničili to.*

- He was shot in the leg while …	- Byl střelen do nohy zatímco…
- The navigator was shot down over the Ruhr	- Byl sestřelen nad Ruhrem
- it was completely destroyed	- bylo to úplně zničeno

· In 6% of cases, passives are translated by using reflexives. In the first two examples, the verb is only reflexive in Czech, so grammar plays its role:

- Teddy had been shot near Berlin	- Teddyho letoun se zřítil
- the contents were to be divided	- zařízení si měli rozdělit

· In another 6% of cases, passives are expressed by using general subject. As can be seen, similar as it is in English. It is the most natural way of translation:

- as if they had been pilfered from expensive reference books of art	- vypadaly, jakoby je NĚKDO vyškubl z drahých publikací o umění
- just how much was ONE expected to bear?	- kolik toho člověk může unést?
- It hardly mattered, she supposed, how ONE was given the news.	- I když nejspíš na tom nezáleží, jak se takovou zprávu ČLOVĚK doví.

· In 65% of occurrences passive forms are translated by using active forms. It is not surprising in fiction book translation:

- Miss Hartnell made it clear	- Slečna H. to vysvětli

- But being bombed and shot by the Germans is not good for you either	- Když tě Němci bombardují a ostřelují, taky to není zdravé.

· In the following examples, passives are translated in other various ways. It is done by using the most natural expressions possible in this situation in Czech:

- She was galvanized into action	- Okamžitě začala jednat
- The Nessbits were persuaded to rest their bones	- po usilovném naléhání …
	- okamžitě lehly popelem
- They were being destroyed	

The most widely used form of translation was the past tense (53.58%), See Table XIII. in Appendixes.

The Black House

As was already mentioned, most of this story is written in the past tense. It means that most passives are past tense passives. There are many forms a translator can use while translating and judging the situation in the original book.

Not very often English passives can be translated into Czech as passives. It is appropriate in cases when Czech language uses the passive in the similar way and it is felt as a correct expression:

… the remains were found (pg.260) – ostatky byly nalezeny – ne: ostatky se nalezly*;….pieces and sections were retrieved (pg.256)* – části byly sesbírány*; …were mounted on crude wooden tripods (pg.263)* – byly ukotveny hrubými dřevěnými trojnožkami.

In the English original passives are used to describe mostly objects, the way they were built, put or kept together. These descriptions remind us of specialized texts – manuals or directions. The passive forms correspond with the use in the Czech language.

Most often passives are translated using the active voice - the active past tense. As can be seen in the Table XIV. (See Appendixes), the periphrastic form is used as often as the reflexive one. The 48 occurrences out of 90 were translated by the past tense; it is 53.33% of the analysed text:

…he showed me how it was done (pg.270) – **ukázal mi**, jak to udělali; *…a punt was lowered* (pg.254) – **spustili** jsme člun; *…the tin box was kept (pg.276)* – plechová

krabice **zůstala** uložená; *...the fires were lit (pg.271)* – **rozdělali** jsme si ohníček; *...cigarettes were rolled and smoked (pg.264)* – **ubalil** jsem si cigarety;

Very many examples are agentless but the Czech translation adds an agent in the form "muži" or "někdo":

Boxes were passed hand to hand in a chain. (pg.256) – Menší bedny si muži podávali z ruky do ruky.

...another joint was lit and handed around. (pg.244) – někdo zapálil joint a nechal ho kolovat.

...great sheets of corrugated iron were recovered and unwrapped. (pg.257) – muži vytáhli široké pláty vlnitého plechu.

Only rarely agentless passives are translated without an agent:

...the job was almost done (pg.274) – práce byla u konce. It sounds better, more definitely than "ukončili jsme tu práci"

The selected part of the book describes a group of people working together side-by side all day long. Each step done by a particular person in important for the whole process – old-fashioned hunting. That is why there is a tendency to use agents.

However, there is a difference in the meaning I these two following examples:

...the fires were lit in the evening (pg.271) – muži si večer zapálili ohně a *...fires were lit in open-hearthered barrels to dry out rain-soaked walls (pg.258)* – ohně se rozdělávaly v nízkých sudech.

The first example means <u>in one particular situation</u>, the second example stresses that it was <u>usually, always, common in the past</u>. This is how a translator works distinguishing between present-time story and the past habits.

Psychology

The expectations for translation of this book were different than for the previous two novels. The scientific and journalistic style differ from the fiction texts in many ways. There is higher proportion of passives in the informative passages. There are not dialogues so there is no need for translator to pay attention to variety of stylistic levels. However, this type of translating requires to stay as close as possible to the original, keep the exact meaning. The translated text should be easy to understand. The passive voice is preserved more often than in novels, the periphrastic passives are preferred as they have more literal character. Passive voice is often preserved due to syntactic reasons. The active structure will force the translator to restructure the sentence, which might bring shift in a meaning.

In this selected part of the book can be found reflexive and periphrastic forms; past, present and future passives; there are infinitive and gerund and last but not least the alternative in the form of adjective. The most used form was the periphrastic one, which makes 56.02 % of translation, See Table XV. in Appendixes.

Summary of findings

Three books were analysed (two novels and a college textbook) and compared the frequency of the passive and active voice, passive types and forms and reason for their use. The last step in the research was to explore translation of the texts from English into Czech and evaluation of the used expressions.

Expectations stated at the beginning of the practical part of the thesis are verified and mostly met.

· The higher frequency of passives in English was expected because it is well-known that the passive voice is typical for English, naturally used in many more situations than in Czech. The results are shown in the Tables V., IX. and XII. and the comparison can be seen in the Figure I. and II., See Appendixes.

There was also an interest about the frequency of both voices used in selected texts. The research results show that the active voice clearly prevails because it is the main voice used in most situations, in all types of texts – especially in narratives, explanations, comments and dialogues. The active voice occurrence versus the passive in selected texts: 2062 vs. 94; 1814 vs. 90 and 3365 vs. 586. **It is 1.8%, 1.7% and 11.5% per page.** On some pages there are not any passives at all. As can be seen, the third book shows much higher occurrence of passives – as expected in academic writing. The Tables III.,VII. and X. show the results and the comparison can be seen in the Figure III., Figure IV. shows the comparison of the passive and active occurrence. In the Figure V. in attachments can be seen the overall occurrence of passives in both languages. (See the Tables and Figures mentioned above in Appendixes)

· Passives are typical for narrative parts, especially explanations or comments. They are very rare in dialogues, as has already been discussed. In the first novel there are only 8 dialogues containing the passive voice compared to 86 occurrences of passives in narrative parts (See Appendixes, Table VI.). The second novel does not have any occurrences of passives in dialogues. The reason is not only low number of dialogues, but the use of colloquial language where passives are generally absent. Of course, there are not any dialogues in the specialized text – the academic writing.

As it was expected, the passive voice is much more typical for academic writing. In the third book, college introduction to psychology, the occurrence of the passive voice is the highest of all the researched texts (See Table XII. in Appendixes). While the

active voice is used for explanation and basic information, the passives are typical for summaries, conclusions and experiment description.

・ It is assumed that some types of passives will prevail: present, past simple and past perfect. This was proved. As can be seen in tables and graphs, the past simple passive is the most frequent (Life after Life 51 occurrences, The Black House 61 occurrences and Atkinson & Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology 156 occurrences, Figure VI. in Appendixes); the second most used is past perfect passive (23-11-23). In the academic text there is present simple passive voice the most frequent – 237 occurrences. All is taken down in Tables IV., VIII. and XI., See Appendixes. The occurrences clearly depend on the type of text and the topic. In the first novel there are many stories told about the war: what recently happen, what was in the newspaper or in letters received from soldiers. The major part of the second novel are childhood memories. The second story is told in the past tense as well. It is told chronologically. For distinguishing between the present and the past, the author uses expressions like used to be or would be. The third book is written in present simple, so the number of occurrences is not surprising.

Past simple passives: Life after Life 54%, The Black House 68%, Psychology 27% of all occurrences.

・ Part of the research was to analyse the agent in passive forms used. Agentless passives clearly prevail in all books (Life after Life 98%, The Black House 89%, Atkinson & Hilgard's Introduction to Psychology 90% - values are given by the Tables IV., VIII. and XI. and Figure VII., See Appendixes. The stories told about the war and about the old-fashioned hunting where rules and procedures are followed and are more important than who provides them. In many cases it is clear from the context (no need to express an agent although often is known) – the German Army, the enemies, nameless masses. Often the agent is added using by or using the general human agent.

Expression of agent: Life after Life 81% without agent, The Black House 90% without agent, Psychology 90% without agent

・ Significant part of the research was evaluation of means used in translation from English into Czech. The hypotheses were mostly proven and expectations met. Passives are more typical for English, they fit in many situations, while Czech language requires many nuances, expresses statements in many different ways. It was expected that less passives will be in the translations into Czech language than in the English original. It is true as can be seen in the Tables V., IX. and XII. (See Appendixes). Translators avoid passive constructions in most situations and replace them with more appropriate forms felt natural in Czech – mostly active voice, periphrastic (Figure VIII. in Appendixes) and reflexive forms (Figure IX. in Appendixes), See also the Tables XIII., XIV. and XV. and Figure V. in Appendixes.

Sometimes grammar dictates the translation (transitive and intransitive verbs, only reflexive verbs etc.), in other cases the translator judges the situation. Passives are very rarely translated as passives – about 4% of cases from books. In these cases the Czech language has similar constructions. Passives are not used in translation of dialogues. The highest tendency to preserve passive constructions of the original can be seen in academic writing.

Conclusion

The aim of the thesis was to explore usage of the passive voice in selected English texts and compare it with the Czech translation. Texts were intentionally selected to show the expected diversity in usage of the passives in two novels (a war story and a thriller) and one college psychology textbook.

The theoretical part of the thesis brought an overview of the passive voice types, its specifics, and the typical use in English texts. The aim was to comment the variety of their types, some of them not present in the Czech language.

The second part of the thesis (the practical part) starts by detailed research work. This research is based on randomly selected approximately 50 pages of each text – academic writing vs. two novels. The aim was:

- to analyse the passive voice in English originals, and determine frequency of different types of passives

- to identify the use of different types and forms

- to analyse the occurrence of agents

- to compare English texts with its translation into Czech and find out what equivalent is mostly used in the translation and why.

Expecting many differences in the passive voice usage in these texts, the following hypotheses were stated and proven in most cases:

1**. The frequency of the passive forms will be generally higher in English than in Czech.** -- This assumption was proven. The passive voice is generally quite frequent in English texts, felt very natural. In this case it is used twice as often as in Czech translations (Figure I. and II. in Appendixes).

2. **The frequency of the passive voice will be higher in academic writing than in fiction literature.** -- This statement is true, as is shown in Appendixes, the passive voice is typical for academic writing, especially for summaries, conclusions and experiment description, as it was expected.

3. **The frequency of the passive forms will be higher in descriptive parts and explanations than in dialogues.** -- The passive voice is really rare in dialogues, much higher in descriptive parts and narrative parts of the texts.

4. **The past tense passives (past simple and past perfect) will be more frequent forms in the novels; the present tense passives will prevail in academic writing.**-- The past passives prevail (especially in two novels where memories of the past are frequent) closely followed by the perfect form of the passive voice (many past-time stories bring explanation of what was the reason of the situation, what caused them). However, **more past continuous forms were expected** to show the background of the story. Otherwise the hypothesis was proven and explained in the previous chapter.

5. **Translation into Czech language will contain less passive voice forms than the original English text.** -- Evaluation of translation from English into Czech brought expected results – translations contain much less passive forms than English originals. Preserving original passive forms in the translation into Czech is rare (around four percent).It is used mostly in situations where Czech expressions are similarly in the passive voice or the passive expressions are as natural as in English. All translators work mostly with replacements using active voice, periphrastic or reflexive form. In both novels this use is numerically quite similar, in the academic writing the periphrastic form is used three times more often. Sometimes other ways of translation are used, often expressions used typically in the Czech language in the similar situation.

As already stated, **most of the hypotheses were proven**. It supports what we have learned about Czech and English different systems of the passive voice and the typical use in both languages including the use depending on the style of the texts.

The weakness of this research is the limited number of pages selected from each book as well as the randomly selected part of the book. If we work with complete books, we probably could not see any difference in statistics in case of the academic writing, whereas there might be very many different findings in case of fiction books.

It would be quite interesting to compare two translations of the same novel (not available in this case). For larger variety of results, the third novel, modern and stylistically complicated, should be selected.

To sum it up, the research was very eye-opening and would be important for students to work on similar projects to understand deeper complicated parts of English grammar.

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Appendixes

Table I. Passive form in different tenses

Name	Construction	Example
Present simple	am/are/is + pp	English is spoken here.
Present progressive	am/ are/ is being + pp	Excuse the mess; the house is being painted.
Present perfect	have/has been + pp	Has Mary been told?
Past simple	was/were + pp	I wasn´t invited, but I went.
Past progressive	was/were being + pp	I felt as if I was being watched.
Past perfect	had been + pp	I knew why I had been chosen.
Future simple	will be + pp	You'll be told soon enough.
Future perfect	will have been -pp	Everything will have been done by Tuesday

Table II: Transitive words rarely or never used in the passive

Elude	Flee	Have	Like	Resemble
Escape	Get	Let	Race	Suit

Table III. The overall number of active and passive voice (Life after Life)

Passive voice	Active voice
94	2062

Table IV. The overall number of passives (Life after Life)

Past simple: 51	Short passives: 76

Past continuous: 3	Long passives: 18
Past perfect: 23	Be-passives: 51
Present perfect: 2	Semi-passives: 10
Future perfect: 2	
Infinitive: 7	
Gerund: 6	
= 94 examples on 51 pages	

Table V. A number of passives in English compared to Czech (Life after Life)

Passives in English	**Passives in Czech**
94	24

Table VI. The frequency of the passive forms in dialogues and descriptive parts (Life after Life)

Dialogues	**Descriptive parts**
8 examples	86 examples

Table VII. The overall number of active and passive voice (The Black House)

Passive voice	**Active voice**
90	1814

Table VIII. The overall number of passives (The Black House)

Past simple: 61	Short passives: 81
Past perfect: 11	Long passives: 9
Present perfect: 4	Be-passives: 61
Modals: 3	Get-passives: 3

Infinitives: 6	Semi-passives: 3
Gerunds: 2	Pseudo-passives: 2
= 90 examples on 51 pages	

Table IX. A number of passives in English compared to Czech (The Black House)

Passives in English	Passives in Czech
90	38

Table X. The overall number of passive and active forms (Psychology)

Passive voice	Active voice
586	3365

Table XI. The overall number of passives (Psychology)

Passives	
Past simple: 156	Short passives: 529
Past continuous: 2	Long passives: 57
Present simple: 237	Semi-passives: 22
Past perfect: 23	Pseudo-passives: 5
Present continuous: 5	Be-passives: 156
Present perfect: 24	Get-passives: 2
Infinitive: 36	Become: 6
Gerunds: 18	
Modals: 77	
= 586 examples on 51 pages	

Table XII. A number of passives in English compared to Czech (Psychology)

Passives in English	Passives in Czech
586	273

Table XIII. Translation of passives (Life after Life)

Reflexive form: 14
Periphrastic form: 10
Past tense: 57
Present tense: 5
Future tense: 1
Noun: 7

Table XIV. Translation of passives (The Black House)

Past tense: 48
Reflexive form: 18
Periphrastic form: 20
Noun: 2
Adjective: 2

Table XV. Translation of passives (Psychology)

Periphrastic form: 204
Reflexive form: 69
Present tense: 28
Past tense: 34
Future tense: 7
Noun: 41
Adjective: 12

Figure I: Overall occurrence of the passive in English
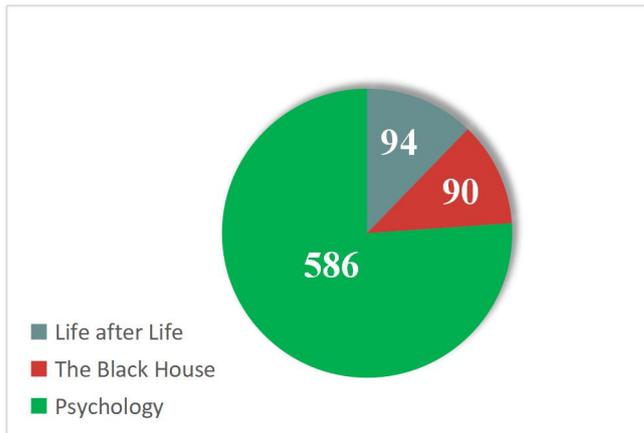
Figure II: Overall occurrence of the passive in Czech
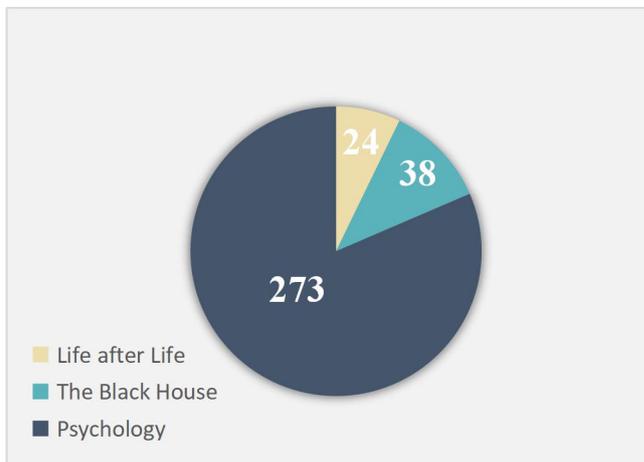
Figure III: Overall occurrence of the active
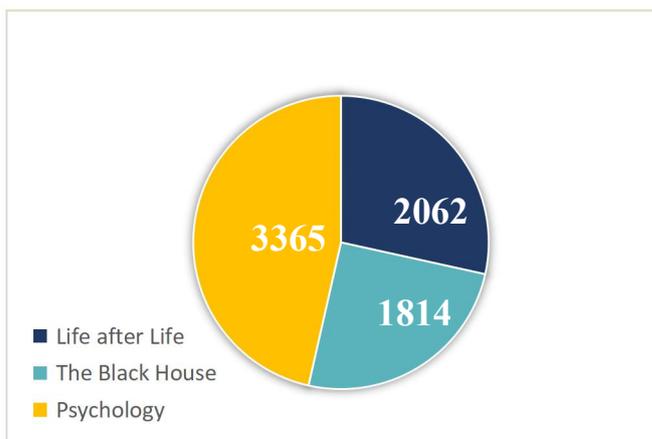
Figure IV: Overall of passive vs active
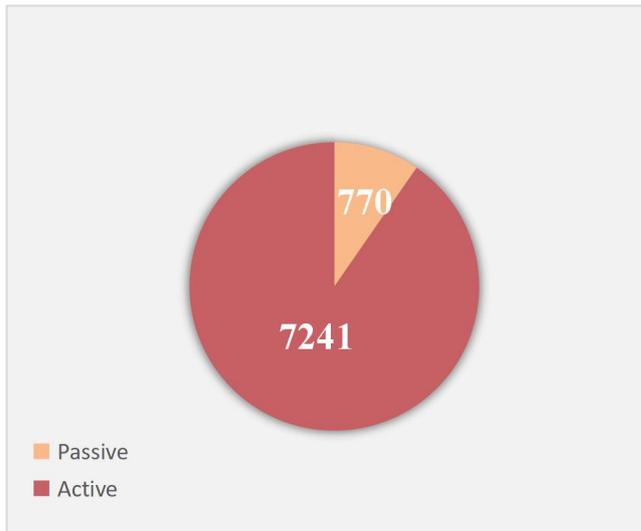
**Figure V**: Overall occurrence of passive (English vs Czech)
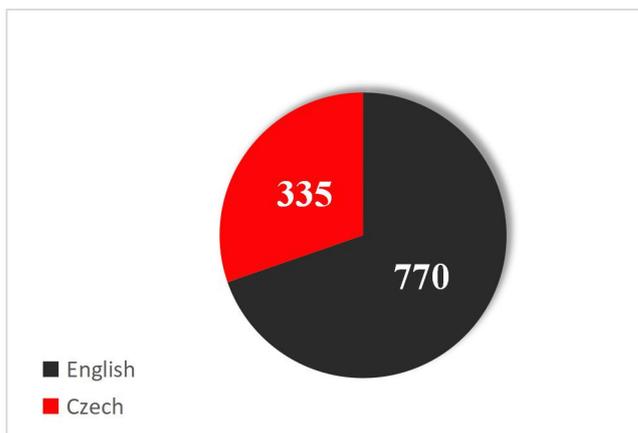

Figure VI: The most frequent passive
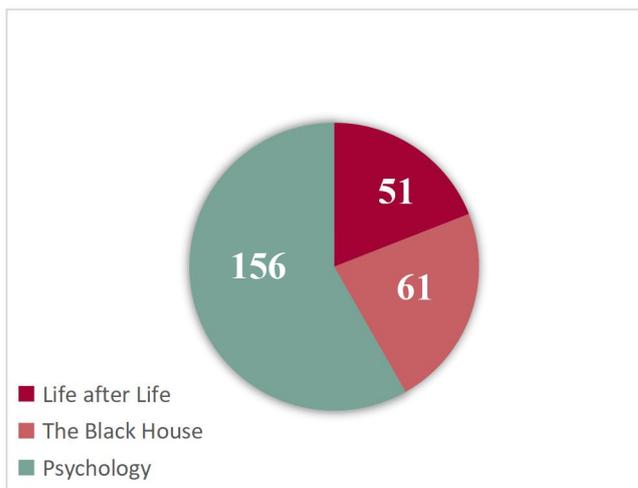
Figure VII: The passives without agent
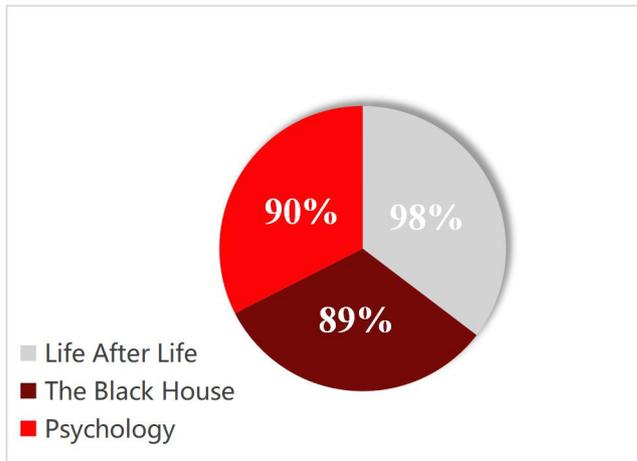
Figure VIII: Overall of the periphrastic form
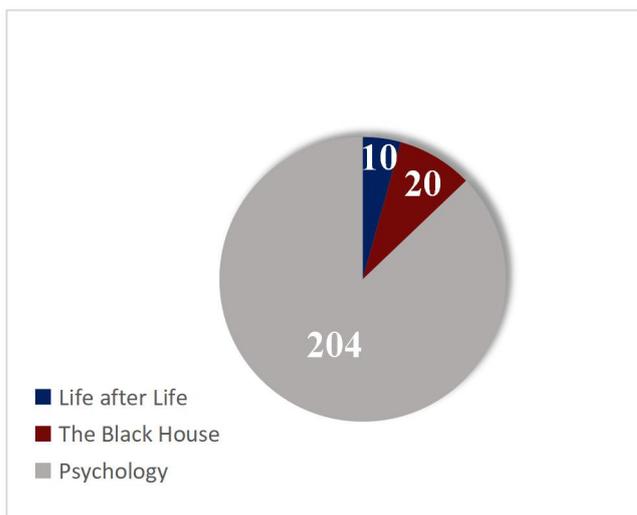
**Figure IX**: Overall of the reflexive form
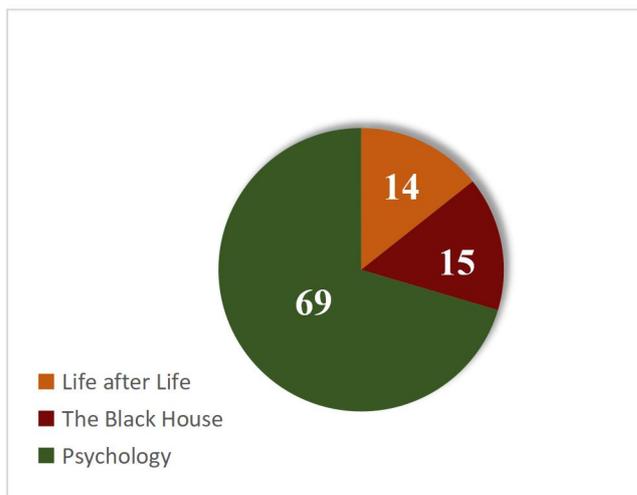
Anotace

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Vedoucí práce:	Mgr. Blanka Babická, Ph.D.
Rok obhajoby:	2020

Název práce:	Trpný rod v angličtině a češtině
Název v angličtině:	The passive voice in English and Czech
Anotace práce:	Práce se zaměřuje na problematiku trpného rodu v anglickém a českém jazyce. Teoretická část pojednává o možnostech užití pasiva, jeho typech, variantách a formách v obou jazycích a na závěr jsou oba vzájemně porovnány. Praktická část obsahuje analýzu, která byla vytvořena na základě teoretických poznatků.
Klíčová slova	Trpný rod, pasivní slovesný rod, užití pasiva, typy pasiva, varianty pasiva
Anotace v angličtině:	The thesis focuses on the passive voice in English and Czech language. The theoretical part discusses the possibilities of using passive, its types, varieties and forms in both languages including their comparison. The practical part contains analysis of three texts based on the theoretical knowledge.
Klíčová slova v angličtině:	Passive voice, passive verb form, uses of passive, types of passive, variations of passive
Přílohy:	Tabulky: 15 Grafy: 9
Rozsah práce:	56 stran
Jazyk práce:	Angličtina