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**Sentences with The Passive Voice in English and  
Their Translation to Czech**

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci vypracovala samostatně s použitím pramenů a literatury uvedených v seznamu literatury.

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## **List of abbreviations**

AT<sub>1</sub>            administrative text 1

AT<sub>2</sub>            administrative text 2

LT<sub>1</sub>            literary text 1

LT<sub>2</sub>            literary text 2

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## **Abstract**

The aim of this project was to introduce the passive voice and find out how the process of translation affects the passive voice in translation from English to Czech. To investigate this, an analysis of two English texts, each with a different style of language, was conducted. The research revealed that the agentless passive using the be-marker is the most common among both English texts. The results also showed that documents using the formal style of language tend to preserve the passive voice in the Czech translation while texts with non-formal language, literary texts, are prone to using the active voice as a means of translation. Other choices of translation such as using nouns or modal verbs accompanied by infinitives or nouns were discovered.

# The theoretical part

## 1 Introduction

“*Lose (something) in translation*” is an idiom that *Merriam-Webster dictionary* defines as “*to fail to have the same meaning or effectiveness when it is translated into another language*” (Merriam-Webster, 2022). This commonly used idiom was the catalyst for the idea of this thesis. The idiom’s function will probably never be irrelevant as the translation process is something that is not perfected and unfortunately presumably never will be due to the ununified ideas of “correct” translation among the scholars in the translation field and the constant changing of languages.

However, that does not mean that it cannot be improved and aspire to come closer to being more accurate. Therefore, choosing any topic in the field of translation and conducting research on it will help create more detailed information about the given topic of translation.

For this bachelor thesis, the topic of the passive voice and its translation was chosen as the focus. This project is conducted with the aim of identifying different ways of translating the passive voice from English to Czech. To help attain this aim, the project is divided into two parts.

The theoretical part introduces the English and Czech passive voice, specifically their different forms, functions and occurrences in different styles of writing. Furthermore, a part of the theoretical part is an explanation of translation and some of its characteristics and limitations to help point out the possible reasons for inconsistency in the translation of texts used in the empirical part of this thesis.

The empirical part conducts research on two styles of writing, administrative and literary text, in hopes to show the occurrence of certain types of the passive voice and subsequently their respective equivalents in the translated Czech versions. The analysis is conducted by researching a portion of selected texts with the objectives to locate the passive voice, determine their form and assess the consistency of their translation.

The last part of this project is the conclusion that sums up the results, their evaluation and suggestions for the potential use by translators.



## 2 Introduction to the passive voice

The grammatical voice, both in the English and Czech language, is a syntactic term describing the relationship between the agent and the subject of a sentence. The variation of this connection between the two mentioned aspects leads to the division into the active and the passive voice. An active voice type of sentence is a type of sentence structure in which the subject of a verb is in most instances the ‘doer’ of the action that the verb describes, called an agent in semantics. The agent usually stands before the verb and the verb may be followed by an object, the patient, as in the following example:

*Peter ate an apple.*

*Petr snědl jablko.*

The word *Peter* is an agent and stands before the verb *ate*.

In the passive, the sentence would have this structure:

*An apple was eaten by Peter.*

*Jablko bylo snědeno Petrem.*

In this variation *apple* which is the ‘undergoer’ of the action, a patient, is the subject of the verb *eat* and stands before the verb. It is needed to be mentioned that in English the ability to make the passive voice is mostly limited to transitive verbs (McArthur, et al., 2018, p. 458).

Both passive and active construction deliver the same amount of information, their propositional meaning stays, what differs is the type of delivery, the non-propositional meaning, therefore, it can be perceived differently (Aarts, 2011, p. 323).

## 3 The English passive voice

The passive voice in English gives an opportunity to put a focus on a specific participant in a sentence without changing the word order, which in English is mostly rigid. The English language has sentence patterns where the subject is predominantly followed by a verb. The subject takes, more often than not, the role of an agent of a verb. With the passive voice, however, sentences where the subject is a patient of a verb while still maintaining the same word order can be created (Mathesius, 2016, p. 92). The structure of a passive sentence is

formed with the new subject, the patient, followed by an auxiliary verb *be* and a verb which is in the past participle form with its usual suffix -ed (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 475).

### 3.1 The short form and long form passives

The passive voice can be divided into the short form passives, which are often called the agentless passives, and the long form passives. This division is dependent on if the by-phrase containing the agent is omitted, forming the short form or not, forming the long form (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 475). The shortening of the long form passive can be seen in the following example (Quirk, et al., 1985, p. 160):

*She is respected by the men.*

➤ *She is respected.*

*The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* terms the by-phrase as an internalized complement (Huddleston, Pullum, 2002, p. 68).

Considering that the by-phrase is often omitted, the short form passives are much more common than the long form passives (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 477).

### 3.2 Be-marker

In a passive sentence the patient, which in an active sentence would be an object of a verb, is a subject of a verb and stands at the beginning of the sentence. The change of position of an agent and a patient is not the only transformation that happens, in addition, the form of a verb changes as well. A verb in a passive sentence takes the form of past participle and is accompanied by an auxiliary verb 'be' corresponding to the tense, called the be-marker (Klammer, Schultz, Volpe, 2010, pp. 255-256). This process is classified as passivization and in *Oxford Modern English Grammar* is described as the following: "*Passivization involves the introduction of passive auxiliary BE, and optional by-phrase.*" (Aarts, 2011, p. 93).

The be-marker is the most used marker of the passive voice and can be frequently found in academic writing. This frequency in academic texts can be attributed to the perceived formal style of the be-marker (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 476).

### 3.3 Other markers (get, become)

#### 3.3.1 Get-marker

Although the be-marker is widely used, it is not the only type of passive marker verb that can appear in passive sentences. ‘To get’ can also function as the passive auxiliary verb as demonstrated in this example:

*He got called by the officer.*

*We got banned from the club.*

While the two auxiliary verbs, be and get, can be interchanged, it is only in the past simple tense the get-marker can be utilized. In addition, a passive sentence with the get-marker can be perceived as less formal. The following is an example from *Obsahový rozbor současné angličtiny*, by Vilém Mathesius that illustrates this informality with the use of a colloquial phrase ‘get trashed’ (Mathesius, 2016, p. 98):

*The boy got trashed.*

The verbs that are most often paired with the marker using ‘to get’ are often perceived with negative connotation. For example, these common verbs are *hit*, *stuck*, *involved*, *left*. The following example used the verb *stuck* in the passive form, which has the mentioned negative connotation:

*He got stuck in a traffic.*

It would be proper to mention the example of *get married*, which has most certainly a positive connotation, therefore, it deviates from this claim. While having the characteristic of being less formal, the get-passives also differentiate from the be-passives in the state of the object they are describing. For instance, the be-passives depict the state the objects are in, however, the get-passives depict the process of getting into that state which makes them similar to the passives using ‘to become’ as a passive marker verb (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 481).

The usage of the get-passive is much less common than the be-passive and its usage occurs almost exclusively in conversation (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 476).

### 3.3.2 Become-marker

*Become* as a passive marker is comparable to the *get*-marker with its meaning. However, what differs is their commonplace of use. While passive sentences using *get* as their passive marker are mainly used in conversation, the *become*-marker is used in sentences often found in academic prose. However, that does not mean its frequency in the academic texts is greater than of the *be*-marker (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 481).

Overall, the use of the *become*-marker is rarer than of the *be*-marker and the *get*-marker. The following example shows how the verb ‘to become’ can be used as a passive auxiliary marker (Mathesius, 2016, p. 99):

*Suddenly I felt that I was becoming bound both on hands and feet.*

### 3.4 The stative and dynamic passive

The stative short passives focus on the resulting state and put the action in the background as shown in this example:

*Andy may be adopted.*

*It must be known to everyone.*

The dynamic short passives are the opposite and let the reader, receiver, pay more attention to the action performed:

*It was stolen from my car.*

*The car was broken into.*

The occurrence of the stative and dynamic passive in texts or conversational language differs as well. While the dynamic passives can be commonly found in academic writing and a little less in news articles, in fiction literature and conversation they are almost non-existent. (Biber, et al., 1999, pp. 936-940).

The stative type of passive can be commonly found in fiction literature or conversation. According to Dušková (2012), in conversation, they are mainly used to convey emotional states such as in the following sentence (Dušková, 2012, p. 265):

*He was confused.*

### 3.5 The passive voice with ditransitive verbs

In an instance where there is a sentence that includes more than one object, the presence of direct and indirect object, it is possible to put either in the position of a subject. However, some verbs with direct object cannot form passive constructions, for example the verbs *like*, *suit*, *cost*. From *Oxford Modern English Grammar* the example efficiently shows that exception:

*Tony likes films with lots of gratuitous violence.*

*\*Films with lots of gratuitous violence are liked by Tony.*

The verbs *get* and *make* referring to indirect object cannot be passivized while they are used in the same sentence which is demonstrated in the next example (Aarts, 2011, p. 93, 95):

*I got her a mini cake and made her a card.*

*\*She was got a mini cake and was made a card.*

According to Quirk et al. (1985), a broader exception create objects that are made up of a noun phrase that has a reflexive, reciprocal or possessive pronoun. Sentences with these objects cannot be subjected to passivization. Using an active sentence with a possessive pronoun, its passive counterpart would be deemed incorrect as in the following example (Quirk, et al., 1985, p. 164):

*John saw himself in the mirror.*

*\*Himself could be seen in the mirror.*

### 3.6 The central passives and the pseudo-passives

The central passives, otherwise referred to as the true passives, are characterized as having their active counterpart that can be directly derived from the passive sentence. From the way the sentence of the true passives is structured, in most cases it is clear what the subject is, as in the following sentences (Quirk, et al., 1985, p. 167):

*This violin was made by her father.*

➤ *Her father made this violin.*

The term pseudo-passives is used for the passives, which may be ambiguous in their passive classification. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* states that the term

pseudo-passives can be applied to the adjectival passives, however, it is more likely to be used with the prepositional passives (Huddleston, Pullum, 2002, p. 1436).

The pseudo-passives are considered as the passives solely for the reason that they are constructed with the be-marker and with the -ed participle. However, the be-marker in this instance is not the passive marker *be* but it is there as a connection to the subject and the subject complement, for which the term copula is used. Often this type of passive does not have its active voice counterpart, which the central passives have. The next example demonstrates the inability of the pseudo-passive having an active voice sentence (Quirk, et al., 1985, pp. 169-170):

*The building is already demolished.*

*\*(Someone) already demolishes the building.*

### **3.7 The pseudo-passives**

#### **3.7.1 The prepositional passives**

The prepositional passives are formed with a verb in its passive form and a prepositional phrase fragment that stays positioned next to the verb it is referring to. This type of passive is not heavily used but it does not mean that its presence in the English language is rare. The two following sentences use a prepositional phrase fragment to form the prepositional passive (Huddleston, Pullum, 2002, p. 276):

*This bed was slept in.*

*This matter must be seen to.*

The *Oxford Companion to the English Language* states that apart from the possibility of using prepositional verbs such as *look at*, *approve of* in the passive form, their occurrence is quite common in passive sentences, contradicting the previously stated observation of Huddleston and Pullum (McArthur, et al., 2018, p. 458).

In some instances, it is not acceptable to use a prepositional verb phrase in the passive form. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English language* argues that the reason of unacceptability of some prepositional verbs is mostly the presence of a concrete subject as opposed to an abstract subject, which would make this passivization acceptable. The next example shows that the sentence with the abstract subject *problem* is accepted, however, when

the subject is concrete in this instance *tunnel*, its passive sentence is not accepted (Quirk, et al., 1985, p. 163):

*The problem was very carefully gone into by the engineers.*

*\*The tunnel was very carefully gone into by the engineers.*

The function of the prepositional passives is put to use commonly in academic texts. They can be found in instances where they are used to refer to tables or figures of data as in the following example (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 1020):

*Examples are shown in table 3.7.*

### **3.7.2 The medio-passives**

Sentences using the medio-passive are explained as having a subject which is not the agent of the sentence and also having a transitive construction. Example of the medio-passive is shown in the two following sentences:

*This book reads well.*

*The clothes wash easily.*

The verb phrase *reads well* in this instance means that the ability of the book is that it is easy to read, not that the book itself can read. Similar meaning is with the second example mentioned, the sentence refers to the ability of the clothes being washed. Essentially, in both instances it relates to the difficulty of performing the action of the verb. If the sentence was *This book does not read well.*, that would imply that it is hard to read the book, the difficulty being more prominent (Dušková, 2012, p. 255). In these types of sentences the verb does not refer to the quality of the subject but rather to its ability of undergoing the verb's action (Huddleston, Pullum, 2002, p. 308).

### **3.7.3 The semi-passives**

The semi-passive, otherwise known as the adjectival passive, is a type of passive where the passivized verb contains adjectival as well as verbal qualities. Adjectives that take the same form as past participle of verbs with a combination of the auxiliary *be* create the adjectival passives. Sentences with the semi-passive rarely have the *by*-phrase included (Quirk, et al.,

1985, p. 168). These passives carry somewhat of an ambiguity regarding their character. In a sentence such as the following, it is not clear whether *married* is meant as a verb or an adjective:

*They were married.*

However, this ambiguity can be cleared if some information is added to the sentence:

*They were married last week in London.*

This example is portraying the dynamic state of the wedding, thus *married* in this sense is a verb.

*Hardly anyone knew that they were married- that they had been for over ten years.*

The preceding example sentence is a description of the static state, the characteristic of the people rather than the actual event of being married, therefore *married* is considered an adjective (Huddleston, Pullum, 2002, p. 1436).

### **3.8 The use of passives in general**

*Oxford Modern English Grammar* explains the function of the passive voice as the following, “*Passive construction is used as means of highlighting a particular unit in a clause.*” (Aarts, 2011, p. 23). As the placement of the agent and patient changes, the focus on certain elements of a sentence is changed accordingly. Passive sentence lets the reader focus on the action that is ‘performed’ rather than on the ‘performer’ (Klammer, Schultz, Volpe, 2010, p. 254). This function is utilized in academic texts where the passive is most commonly found. This may be due to the traditionalized formalities of western countries, which say that the researchers of any given academic writing should not be mentioned as the agents in sentences. In addition, this may result in the writing being perceived as more objective which is also one of the aspects that is sought-after in the traditions of the scientific writing (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 476).

Another common reason to use the passive voice is the Given-Before-New Principle, which states that information already known is often stated at the beginning of a sentence and is followed by new information. This reasoning is able to work if we do not omit the by-phrase with the agent (Aarts, 2011, p. 324).



### 3.8.1 Usage in specific situations

In general, the passive voice is used when the subject is either unknown, unimportant, obvious, a case of repetition would have occurred, or it would create discomfort when mentioned. The ‘commercial’ use of the passive can be seen used in apology or correction statements of large corporations or bodies of authority, which use it to deceive its followers by not directly stating the agent of the sentence, which is usually the corporation or authority itself (Klammer, Schultz, Volpe, 2010, p. 262).

If the next sentence is analyzed, the following can be noticed:

*The boy was given a task to do.*

The author of the sentence decided that the ‘task-giver’ is unimportant for the purpose of the delivered sentence, therefore, they used the passive for where the agent is not stated. However, the reason of unimportance does not have to be the only option of author’s use of the passive. If the given sentence is said in a classroom environment, the subject of the sentence is most probably the teacher of the boy, therefore, the agent is obvious in this sense and there is no need to be stated. The use of the passive in an order to avoid embarrassment, shift or dissolve a blame is also common. In a scenario where a child breaks a glass table it may say:

*Oh no, our table is broken.*

The child is trying to shift the blame from itself towards a seemingly unknown entity to avoid embarrassment. If the child said *I broke the table*, the focus would be put on the child that did something bad. In some instances, the verb used in a sentence has its derived noun that would unnecessarily made the sentence longer and harder to read. The next example demonstrates this repetition on the verb *deliver* and its derived noun *deliveryman*:

*The deliveryman delivered the package.*

*The package was delivered (by a deliveryman).*

In this situation, the passive is helping by omitting the obvious agent and avoiding repetition as well (Klammer, Schultz, Volpe, 2010).

The passive form of a sentence can be formed out of every tense, however, usage of certain tenses is rare or even not accepted by English speakers. These rare forms include some passives of continuous forms of tenses such as in the next example:

*Mall will be being build.*

While in English this sentence feels incorrect and would not be commonly used, in Czech this would be frequently used (Dušková, 2012, p. 250):

*Nákupní středisko bude stavěno.*

*A Comprehensive Grammar of the English language* supports Dušková's claim by stating that the passive of perfect continuous is very infrequent and adds that the causation for this phenomenon may be the unnatural feel of the *be being* arrangement (Quirk, et al., 1985, p. 166).

## 4 The Czech passive voice

The main function of using the passive voice in Czech is to take focus away from the subject, the agent, of the verb and instead give attention to the action performed. The Czech language allows a transformation of an active voice sentence into two versions of the passive voice, each depending on the construction of the final passive sentence (Štícha, 2013, p. 618).

The possibility of use of the passive voice is mostly restricted to transitive verbs (Cvrček, 2010, p. 243). However, not all Czech transitive verbs are able to form the passive voice. In the Czech language exists a small number of verbs that cannot create the passive voice. Those verbs are for example- *moci, růst* (Adam, 2017, p. 78).

### 4.1 The forms of the Czech passive voice

Traditionally, the two forms of the passive voice are called *pasivum opisné* and *pasivum zvrtné*. However, in *Akademická gramatika spisovné češtiny* the two previously mentioned terms are not used and are replaced with the term *pasivum* for *pasivum opisné* and *reflexivní deagentiv* for *pasivum zvrtné* with the argument that the traditional terms are not similar enough to be both labeled with the word *pasivum* (Štícha, 2013, p. 621). Panevová in *Studie z České morfologie a syntaxe: vybrané stati* supports this view by noting that the difference between the two passive forms is significant enough to abandon the “old” terms, which share the same name root. The difference is that with *pasivum opisné* the agent of the sentence can be directly mentioned or omitted. However, *pasivum zvrtné* does not have this choice and the agent must be omitted in every instance of its use. In addition, *pasivum zvrtné* can be used only with 3<sup>rd</sup> person predicate (Panevová, 2019, p. 60).

For the purpose of this thesis the latter two terms, *pasivum* and *reflexivní deagentiv*, will be used for the reason of using *Akademická gramatika spisovné češtiny* as the main source of information on the Czech passive voice.

#### 4.1.1 Pasivum

The Czech *pasivum* is similar in its structure to the English passive. To form *pasivum* out of an active verb, the auxiliary verb *být* is used and precedes the past participle of a transitive verb. In case of need, the auxiliary verb *být* changes its form to indicate the tense and the mood. In like manner, the past participle works as an indicator of grammatical gender and therefore, its suffix changes according to the gender category (Cvrček, 2010, pp. 243-244). Due to the placement change of the patient in the passive sentence, the agent is more likely than not omitted. However, if it is directly mentioned in the passive sentence, the agent takes a form of an instrumental case. In the following example the subject *šéfem* is in an instrumental case:

*Petr byl pochválen šéfem.*

It is possible to have an agent in the genitive case accompanied by preposition *od*:

*Policisté byli informováni od britských celníků.*

This type of sentence was commonly used throughout the 15 to 19 century and is now labelled as old fashioned. Today, the prior variant, which has the subject in an instrumental case, is more common, therefore, the previous example would look the following way:

*Policisté byli informováni britskými celníky.*

The missing agent in passive sentences is generally understood to be *a person* or *people* but other interpretations can be used such as: *an institution, a characteristic* (Štícha, 2013, p. 623).

The past participle can have two forms, one which until 20<sup>th</sup> century was considered the norm and could be labeled as the only correct form, the short form, and the other that is now coming to be more prominent, the long form. The first, short form, is constructed with past tense of a verb, deleting the suffix *-l* and adding suffix *-en, -ena, -eno, -eni, -eny, -eny*. The long form, also called the adjective form, takes the form of an adjective structure. This type is employed mainly in sentences where the predicate may be understood as characterization (Štícha, 2013, p. 625):

*Petr byl v tom momentu překvapený.*

*Petr byl v tom momentu překvapen.*

Use of certain transitive verbs is rare, which is stated in *Akademická gramatika spisovné češtiny* that uses the corpus of SYN ČKN as its source to support this claim. Štícha (2013) notes that verbs such as *uvažovat, rozumět, naslouchat* have less than 1 percent of their forms in the passive form. In addition, many stative verbs with a patient in an accusative case are not able to form *pasivum*. Examples of these verbs are *obsahovat, potřebovat, znát, škrtit* (Štícha, 2013, p. 626).

#### 4.1.2 Reflexivní deagentiv

The term *reflexivní deagentiv* stands for the traditional term *pasivum zvrtné*, which incorporates non-reflexive verbs with the reflexive morpheme *se* as a form of the passive in sentences. This type of passive is limited to 3<sup>rd</sup> person predicate and the required elimination of subject in a sentence (Štícha, 2013, pp. 633-634). In addition, the subject of the sentence using *reflexivní deagentiv* is usually inanimate. The following example uses inanimate words such as *okna* and *lístky* as the subject (Havránek, Jedlička, 1988, p. 237):

*Okna se myjí.*

*Lístky se vydávají.*

Common use of this type of passive is provided in the following example:

*U nás se říká žufánek.*

➤ *My říkáme žufánek.*

The subject is omitted which in an active sentence would be understood as the Czech personal pronoun *my* (English pronoun *we*) and the verb is in 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Although it may seem harder and more inefficient to use *reflexivní deagentiv* due to its limitations, it can be frequently found in certain types of texts. The most popular way to use *reflexivní deagentiv* is in recipes where it would be more proper to use *reflexivní deagentiv* than any other form of verb. This use can be seen in the following example:

*Přidá se trochu octa.*

In addition, the style of *reflexivní deagentiv* may seem more informal than with *pasivum*, which would be described as more literary or academic (Štícha, 2013, p. 633). *Česká mluvnice*

states that this type of passive is for its informal style frequently used in conversation and possibly the only option of the passive to use while talking about the present tense. The next example uses *reflexivní deagentiv* to describe an even happening in the present tense (Havránek, Jedlička, 1988, p. 238):

*Vrátnice se zavírá v 11 hodin.*

### 4.1.3 Difference between the two Czech passives

The existence of the two variations of the Czech passive leads to their different function, structure and style. While the function of *pasivum* is to communicate information from the perspective of the object, the patient, of the sentence, *reflexivní deagentiv* focuses on the action the verb signifies and the subject even if it is not directly stated in the sentence is still part of the information communicated. The structure of the sentence changes by the possibility to directly include the agent or not. While *pasivum* can have the possibility to include an agent in a sentence, *reflexivní deagentiv* does not allow it (Štícha, 2013, pp. 635-636).

The perceived style of the two passives determines their use in different types of texts or conversations. *Pasivum*, which is considered as the more formal equivalent, is commonly used in academic writing such as administrative texts or scientific texts. On the contrary, *reflexivní deagentiv* is termed to be less formal, therefore, it can be seen used in recipes and frequently in common conversation (Cvrček, 2010, pp. 243-244).

## 5 Summary of the English and Czech passive voice

The main function of the passive voice in both languages is to put a focus on the action, the verb, of a given sentence and put the agent in the background (Klammer, Schultz, Volpe, 2010).

To create the English passive voice, the past participle form of the verb is used and is preceded with one of these auxiliary verbs, also called passive markers: be, get, become. The be-marker is the most frequent, however get-marker is also commonly used. The become-marker is used the least of out the three (Biber, et al., 1999).

The Czech passive voice has two forms that act as the passive, *pasivum* and *reflexivní deagentiv*. *Pasivum* is formed with the verb *být* and the past participle of the verb that is

passivized. *Reflexivní deagentiv* uses the reflexive morpheme *se* and a non-reflexive verb to form the passive voice (Štícha, 2013).

In both languages some forms of the passive voice are deemed more formal and some informal. Formal would be considered the English passive voice using the be-marker and on the contrary, using the get-marker would indicate informal style of language (Biber, et al., 1999, p. 476). The Czech passive voice using *pasivum* is deemed formal, however, *reflexivní deagentiv* in the Czech passive voice would be considered less formal (Cvrček, 2010).

## 6 Translation and its limitations

Translation as form of science does not have any clear-cut rules that would be agreed by everyone as the only correct way of translating. However, there are some methods which can be followed but the final result of a translation is based on the translator's choosing and the aspects affecting the translation process (Bowker, et al., 2014, p. 85). Otto Haseloff's (1969) statement, which is mentioned in *The Translation Studies Reader* notes that a communication that would perfectly deliver author's intentions is very uncommon for the reason that the target audience of the given communication uses its own unique qualities, such as knowledge or expectations to perceive the communicated content (as cited in Venuti, 2004, p. 160).

Translators' qualities can affect translation as well, consciously or unconsciously, with subjective qualities such as their own experiences or their cultural background, therefore, making the translated text not fully correspond to the source text. (Bowker, et al., 2014, p. 76). Another aspect that can affect the translation process is the language of the source text. Languages change constantly, some more frequently than others, therefore, certain types of texts are harder to translate for the reason that the language in the source texts might be of an old style and is not used anymore. This problem occurs in texts such as the Bible or classical books published in time when the common language forms were different (Venuti, 2004, p. 162).

In conclusion, it is not possible to have a translated text that would be perceived in the exact same way as the source text. However, there are certain aspects that should be taken into consideration when translating to ensure the version of translated text would be the closest to the original text. Every text or communication has its purpose, therefore, the translated outcome should have the same communication properties. The purpose of the text usually determines

the text-type which should be consistent so that the translated text mirrors the source text in its style. In addition, the characteristics of the intended receivers, such as culture, age, level of knowledge, of the text should influence how the translation is conducted (Bowker, et al., 2014, p. 87).

## 6.1 Ways of translating the passive voice

According to Dušková (2012) to translate the English passive voice while also preserving its formal style, the *pasivum* could be used as the equivalent. However, *pasivum* is not the only option that has to be used as a translation, Dušková also adds that *reflexivní deagentiv* can be used to translate the passive voice as well and provides these examples:

*The picture is finished.*

➤ *Obraz je dokončen.*

*The picture is being sold.*

➤ *Obraz se prodává.*

Both examples convey the same propositional meaning, however the translation using *reflexivní deagentiv* may seem less formal, therefore, it is used less as an option for translation of texts using formal language (Dušková, 2012, p. 249).

In the research conducted by Babická (2008), it was discovered that in the researched scientific texts approximately 70% of the found English passives were translated into *pasivum*. Therefore, supporting Dušková's claim that the English passive's formal Czech counterpart is most commonly *pasivum* (Babická, 2008, p. 23).

Although Dušková (2012) claims that the English passive can find an equivalent in the Czech passive forms, she continues with the addition that English passive sentences where the agent is animate, Czech would rarely use the passive voice. This exception of passive voice translation can be seen in the following example:

*He was seen by his neighbour.*

*\*Byl viděn sousedem.*

For Czech speaker this sentence would feel unnatural. Therefore, the more appropriate translation would be using the active voice (Dušková, 2012, p. 250):

*Viděl ho soused.*

According to Behún (2018) in his article *TRPNÝ ROD – 1. díl: Proč s ním musíme šetřit*, the occurrence of the passive voice in the Czech language is not as frequent as it is in the English language, and it is almost unnatural to use it more frequently. Behún (2018) claims that it is due to the fact that the Czech language does not need the main function of the passive voice as much as the English language may need.

English language is restricted to a sentence pattern having a subject always precede a verb and then a possible object follows after the verb. However, the Czech language has a looser sentence pattern, therefore, it is able to have sentences where the object is mentioned prior to the position of a verb. This can be seen in the following example:

*Pozor, někdo tě uvidí!*

*\*Pozor, budeš viděn!*

The first example has the indefinite pronoun *někdo* which is a subject, an agent, in this instance followed by another pronoun *tě* which acts as the object, a patient, and the sentence ends with the verb *uvidí*. This sentence would be natural to a Czech speaker to say, however, the second sentence using the passive voice would seem unnatural. Therefore, if there is a text that does not require the use of a formal type of language, Czech will, more often than not, replace the English passive voice with the active voice as a translation (Behún, 2018).

Vaverková (2016) in her bachelor thesis where she conducted research of the passive voice translation from English to Czech found that apart from the most common passive-to-passive and passive-to-active voice translation, adjectives were also used as a means of translation. She gives this example from the text she analyzed:

*...inside him which **had been created**...*

*...prázdná v jeho nitru, vytvořené ve chvíli...*

According to Vaverková (2016), it is possible that the translation of the passive voice may be completely omitted in the translation as she found in her research. She also points out the occurrence of a dependent clause as a translation of the passive voice (Vaverková, 2016, pp. 35-36).





## The empirical part

### 7 Introduction

The empirical part of this thesis will deal with research of two different English texts and their respective Czech translations, therefore, four texts in total, focusing on the occurrence of the passive voice in the English texts and the translation of the passive voice in the Czech texts. The two chosen English texts were purposefully selected as two different genres of writing. The reason for selecting different genres of texts is to demonstrate the difference in frequency of occurrence of certain types of the passive forms. The first type of text is an administrative type of writing, specifically the *Official Journal of the European Union* edition published on June 7<sup>th</sup> of 2016, and the second type is a fictional novel named *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green published in 2012. The translated versions of the English texts are *Úřední věstník Evropské unie* released at the same time as its English counterpart and the translation of the previously mentioned novel named *Hvězdy nám nepřály* by Veronika Volhejnová published in 2013. In these texts, 50 pages were selected with an average of 300 words per page as a research sample.

The purpose of the research is to determine which forms of the English passive voice occur to a greater extent in administrative texts and which in literary texts and for that reason, the method of text analysis will be used. The text analysis will also look into the consistency of translation of the English passive voice into the Czech passive voice.

For the purpose of this thesis, only the central passives will be taken into account for the reason of debatable clear passiveness of the pseudo-passives such as the medio-passives, semi-passives and prepositional-passives. This research will focus on the passives with the passive markers: be, get, and become. The findings will be sorted into categories respective to their passive form, for example: *pasivum*, *reflexivní deagentiv*, be-markers, get-markers. The citations for the given examples from the English version of *Official Journal of the European Union* will be marked with the abbreviation AT<sub>1</sub> (administrative text 1) and for the Czech version AT<sub>2</sub> (administrative text 2). The examples from the English version of *The Fault In Our Stars* will have their citation marked as LT<sub>1</sub> (literary text 1) and the Czech version LT<sub>2</sub> (literary text 2).

The research on the passive voice translation was conducted using physical copies, English and Czech, of the electronical version of the *Official Journal of the European Union* and

physical books published of *The Fault In Our Stars*, English and Czech. In the English texts, the cases of the passive voice were searched by reading through the texts and subsequently finding their counterparts in the Czech texts. Part of the research process of reading through the texts was examining if the by-phrase was included or not. The cases of the passive voice and their translations were then written down in the spreadsheet tool Microsoft Excel and color-coded accordingly to their type of the passive voice and their type of translation for easier analysis.

## **8 Research findings**

### **8.1 The difference in frequency of the passive voice in each English type of text (administrative, literary)**

As could be predicted, the administrative text contained many more instances of the passive voice than the literary text. Specifically, the English version of the 50 pages studied of the *Official Journal of the European Union* contained 152 instances of the passive voice and the 50 pages of *The Fault In Our Stars* significantly fewer, with only 36 instances found. From this information it can be assumed that the passive voice is more common in administrative types of texts than in literary types of texts, which corresponds with the information mentioned in the chapter 3.8.

### **8.2 Types of passives occurring in the chosen English administrative text**

#### **8.2.1 Frequency of passive markers**

All of the cases of the passive voice that were found in the administrative text were in the form of the passive using the be-marker and no instances of get-markers or become-markers were detected. This may be mostly due to the fact that the passives that are using the be-marker are deemed as more formal than the other two options, the get-marker and the become-marker. Therefore, the passives using the be-marker are more frequently found in texts using formal language such as administrative or academic texts (3.3.1). Some of the cases of the passive using the be-marker are given bellow:

*“The Union shall be founded on...”* (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 18)

“... *other institutions are set out in...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 24)

“... *the principle of subsidiarity is respected...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 23)

“*This Treaty shall be ratified...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 46)

## 8.2.2 Frequency of the short and long passives

The occurrence of the short passives was found overwhelmingly higher than of the long passives. Out of the 152 cases of the passives found in the text, 107 of them were the passives that omitted the by-phrase. The reasoning for this omission may be that the subject of the sentence was obvious to the reader or otherwise redundant (3.8.1). The subject of many cases of the short passives was understood as the political organs or state representatives involved in carrying out the action the sentence was about. These subjects can be interpreted in these examples:

“*The members of the Commission shall be chosen...*” (by state representatives) (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 27)

“*Decisions of the European Council shall be implemented in accordance...*” (by the European Council= political organ) (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 31)

“...*the matter shall be referred to the European Council.*” (by Member States= state representatives) (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 44)

“*That agreement shall be negotiated...*” (by the Union and a State= political organ and state representative) (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 45)

Some of the sentences which included the agent alongside the preposition *by* are:

“...*this area is defied by the Treaties.*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 32)

“...*security policy shall be put into effect by the High Representative...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 33)

“...*the Instruments of ratification have been deposited... by the last signatory state...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 47)

“...*This right of access to documents shall be determined by the European Parliament...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, 2016, p. 57)

## 8.3 Types of passives occurring in the chosen English literary text

### 8.3.1 Frequency of passive markers

In the literary text, the majority of the passive markers used in the found cases of the passive voice were the be-markers. As the chapter 3.2 mentioned, the be-marker is the most frequently used passive marker among all types of writing. Three of the cases used the get-marker and it was in these sentences:

“...*Dutch guy and her mom are about to **get married**...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 42)

“*OH MY GOD DO THEY **GET MARRIED** OR NOT...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 45)

“...*and all the unholdable things that **get handled**...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 50)

The become-marker was also used, however, only in one case:

“...*and you **become convinced** that the shattered world will never be put back together...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 31)

### 8.3.2 Frequency of the short and long passives

The cases of the long passives were outnumbered by the frequency of the short passives. Only two cases were found that used the by-phrase:

“...*backyard **was dominated** by my childhood swing set,...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 46)

“*Nothing to **be gained** by worrying...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 53)

These results support the claim that the occurrence of the passives that omit the by-phrase, short passives, is more common than of the long passives such as mentioned in the chapter 3.1.

## 8.4 Types of passives in the Czech translation of the administrative text

### 8.4.1 Cases where the passive voice was preserved

In the Czech translation of the *Official Journal of the European Union* 111 of the 152 cases of the English passive were preserved in its passive form, which is a bit more than two thirds. Out of the passives preserved, 81 were formed as *pasivum*, two of them using the adjectival, long, form of past participle, and the rest used the short, non-adjectival, form, and 30 had the form of *reflexivní deagentiv*.

Examples of translation into the *pasivum* are:

“*The Union shall be founded on the present Treaty...*”

“*Unie je založena na této smlouvě...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 18)

“*Where a determination under paragraph 2 has been made...*”

“*Bylo-li učiněno zjištění uvedené v odstavci 2...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 21)

“*Citizens are directly represented...*”

“*Občané jsou na úrovni přímo zastoupeni...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 22)

“*...a qualified majority shall be defined as...*”

“*...je kvalifikovaná většina vymezena jako...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 26)

The two adjectival forms of past participle that were used as *pasivum* are stated in the following:

“*...not to convene a Convention should this not be justified...*”

“*...konvent nesvolá, pokud to není odůvodněné...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p.44)

“*...the specialization that will be needed with the passage of time...*”

“*...k úpravám, které jsou možné, a ke stupni vyžadované...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 67)

The possible reason for the use of adjectival past participle in *pasivum* may be its intent to be used as the characterization of the patient (4.1.1). The patient in the case of the first example is *svolání*, which is the noun derived from the used verb (*ne*)*svolá* and it is characterized as “justified or not justified” by the *pasivum*.

Examples of the minority using *reflexivní deagentiv* are the following:

“*The limits of Union competences are governed by the principle of conferral.*”

“*Vymezení pravomocí Unie se řídí zásadou svěřeni pravomocí.*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 20)

“*The European Union shall be composed of representatives...*”

“*Evropský parlament se skládá ze zástupců...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 24)

“*...,which the qualified majority shall be deemed attained.*”

“..., jinak se kvalifikovaná většina považuje za dosaženou.” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p.26)

“...the list of which **shall be adopted** in accordance with Article 236...”

“...jejichž seznam se přijímá v souladu s článkem 234...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 26)

#### 8.4.2 Cases where the passive voice was not preserved

In the 41 cases of the English passive instances that were not translated as the passive voice, the majority was made up of cases in the active voice, specifically 28 of them.

It can be noted that the Czech language seems to be more prone to use the active voice in instances where the English passive voice was in the long form. From the 28 cases of the active voice translation, 23 of them were the translation of the English long form passive. The following are some of the examples:

“...decisions of the European Council **shall be taken** by consensus.”

“..., rozhoduje Evropská rada konsensem.” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 25)

“This candidate **shall be elected** by the European Parliament...”

“Tohoto kandidáta zvolí Evropský parlament...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 28)

“...such translations **shall be provided** by the Member States...”

“...členský stát předá ověřený opis těchto překladů...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 47)

“...duties **shall be fixed** by the Council...”

“...sazebník stanoví Rada...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 62)

The second largest group, however, in much smaller amount, which did not choose the Czech passive voice as means of translating the English passive voice are nouns. The passive voice was replaced by nouns that conveyed similar meaning as the source English verb or the whole sentence. There were six instances where nouns were used which can be seen in the following examples:

“If such motion (from the context of previous sentence, motion of censure) **is carried**,...”

“V případě vyslovení nedůvěry...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 28)

“...under which goods **are produced and marketed**...”

“...pokud jde o podmínky nákupu a odbytu...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 64)

“...objectives set out in Article 39 to **be attained**,...”

“K dosažení cílů stanovených v článku 39...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 66)

“...account **being taken** of adjustments...”

“...s přihlednutím k úpravám...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 67)

The remaining set of cases of translation that did not preserve the passive voice was identified as- modal verbs plus infinitive, modal verbs plus noun, and in one instance the translation of the passive was entirely omitted. There were three accounts of the translation into a modal verb accompanied by an infinitive:

“...cooperation **cannot be attained**...”

“...této spolupráce nelze dosáhnout...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 30)

“...rules which **are designed**...”

“...právní úprava, jež má usnadňovat...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 64)

“...the national market organisations **may be replaced**...”

“...lze vnitrostátní systémy organizace trhu nahradit...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 67)

Three cases using a modal verb with a noun to portray the meaning of the English passive were found:

“...unanimity **shall be constituted** by the votes...”

“Pro účely tohoto odstavce je k jednomyslnosti třeba pouze hlasů...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 43)

“...the Member State of which they are nationals **is not represented**,...”

“...členský stát, jehož jsou státními příslušníky, nemá své zastoupení...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 59)

“Every citizen of the Union **shall, ..., be entitled** to protection...”

“Každý občan má...právo na diplomatickou nebo konzulární ochranu...” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 60)



In the following sentence, the translator chose to not translate the passive voice, which may be on account of the passive verb's unimportant character:

“...*the use of the term ‘agricultural’, shall be understood as also referring to...*”

“...*užívání výrazu “zemědělský” se rovněž vztahují na...*” (AT<sub>1</sub>, AT<sub>2</sub>, 2016, p. 64)

The *reflexivní deagentiv* in this example sentence is not referring to the passive *shall be understood* but to the present participle *referring to*. Therefore, the English passive does not have any translation and its meaning is omitted in the translated Czech sentence.

From the results showing that approximately one third of the Czech translations did not use any type of the passive form, can be assumed that the Czech language is not obliged with the need of using the passive voice as much as the English language as mentioned in chapter 6.1. Although, the use of the passive voice in administrative texts is still very occurrent, its function is mostly used as a stylistic choice because of its perceived formality (4.1.3).

## 8.5 Types of passives in the Czech translation of the literary text

### 8.5.1 Cases where the passive voice was preserved

In the 50 pages analyzed of the book *The Fault In Our Stars*, 36 instances of the English passive voice were found and among them only 14 were preserved as the passive into the Czech translation, which is less than a half of the total number.

The majority of the Czech passive voice was in the form of *reflexivní deagentiv* which is perceived as less formal than *pasivum*. Therefore, it is more commonly used in texts using informal style of language or conversation (4.1.2). The book used for this research is written in the form of a narration of a sixteen-year-old girl which may explain the less formal style of language.

The cases of *reflexivní deagentiv* can be seen in the following examples:

“*Everything... will be forgotten...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 17)

“*Na všechno... se zapomene...*” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 18)

“*He held up a book, which was called...*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 31)

“*Podal mi ji - jmenovala se...*” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 33)

“...all the unholdable things that **get handled**.” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 50)

“...a o spoustě nesnesitelných věcí, které se zvládnout musejí.” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 52)

“...Dutch guy and her mom are about to **get married**...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 42)

“...když se ten možná Holanďan a její matka mají brát...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 45)

There were also found two instances of the adjective past participle used in *pasivum*:

“A wooden plank... **was engraved** in cursive...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 26)

“...dřevěná tabulka, na které byl vyřítý ozdobný nápis...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 28)

“The screen **was split** between...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 47)

“Obrazovka byla rozdělená na dvě poloviny...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 49)

None of *pasivum* with short form past participle was found which may be due to the formal or “old” feel of the form and it would not match the style the book is written in (4.1.1).

## 8.5.2 Cases where the passive voice was not preserved

As stated previously, the passive-to-passive translation was in the minority in the chosen literary book. The English passives which were not translated into the Czech passive voice were mostly turned into the Czech active voice. The number of instances of the Czech active voice translation was 15 out of the 22 non-preserved instances of the passive voice.

The following mentioned examples show the active voice translation:

“When Patrick **was finished**,...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 18)

“Když Patrik skončil...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 19)

“It was, we **were told**, incurable.” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 24)

“Řekli nám, že je to neléčitelné.” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 26)

“...when he **was shot** seventeen times...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 39)

“...protože ho sedmnáctkrát střelili...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 42)

“...the vague sense that we **were being outflanked**.” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 48)

“...takový neurčitý pocit, že nás obkličují.” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 50)

In these preceding examples, the source passive verb is directly translated. This gives the possibility to separate the translated verb from the rest of the sentence while maintaining the same intended meaning of the original English verb. In addition, in the three of the mentioned examples, the last three, can be seen that the passive verb refers to a general human agent, which is expressed in the Czech translation with the use of plural 3<sup>rd</sup> person form of the active verb.

In the following example the Czech active verb is accompanied by the phrase *jedna vedle druhé* to convey the meaning of the English verb *stuffed*:

“...*it was stuffed solid with basketball memorabilia*...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 28)

“...*jedna vedle druhé stály různé basketbalové památky*...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 30)

The verb *stály* cannot be separated from its accompanying phrase because it would not express the same meaning as the source passive verb in the original version of the book.

Five instances of the English passive translation did not use the passive, the active nor a noun as the translation of the English literary book.

Two cases were translated into Czech using a modal verb accompanied by an infinitive:

“...*my meds should be adjusted*...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 11)

“...*je potřeba upravit dávkování léků*...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 10)

“*New wars started even before the old ones were won.*” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 39)

“*Nové války začaly, dřív než stačily vítězně skončit ty staré.*” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 42)

Two cases used a modal verb with a noun for its translation:

“*Everyone figured I was finished*...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 25)

“*Všichni už mysleli, že je se mnou konec*...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 27)

“...*backyard was dominated by my childhood swing set*...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 46)

“*Největší věc na... zahradě byla moje stará dětská houpačka*...” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p. 48)

One case of English passive was expressed in only infinitive as a part of dependent clause:

“...*trying to figure out if my response should be calibrated*...” (LT<sub>1</sub>, 2012, p. 26)

“*Chvilku jsem přemýšlela, jestli odpovědět tak, ...*” (LT<sub>2</sub>, 2013, p.29)

## 8.6 Summary of the research

The total number of the passives found in the English administrative text was 152, from which the majority, 111 cases, was preserved and kept as the passive voice in the Czech translation. *Pasivum* was used as a translation in 81 cases as a means of keeping the formal style of the language of the administrative document. 30 cases used *reflexivní deagentiv*, which would be considered less formal than *pasivum*, however, it is still somewhat neutral. The minority of 41 cases which did not preserve the passive voice in their Czech translation was made up of 28 cases of active voice, 6 nouns and 7 cases which are categorized in *Table 1* as “other” for the purpose of the small number of their incidence. This category includes: 3 modal verbs accompanied by infinitive, 3 modal verbs accompanied by a noun and one instance of complete omission of translation.

In the literary text, the number of the passive voice cases was significantly lower with only 36 cases found. From this number, 14 instances were translated as the passive voice, 12 of them being *reflexivní deagentiv* and 2 were in the form of *pasivum*, specifically using the adjectival, long, form of past participle. The majority was taken up by 22 cases which were not translated as the passive voice. The active voice was the main choice for translation and was used in 15 cases. Modal verbs accompanied by infinitive and modal verbs accompanied by noun were both used in 2 cases of translation and one case of the English passive voice was translated as infinitive which was part of a dependent clause (*Table 1*).

<b>Czech translation</b>	<b>administrative text</b>	<b>literary text</b>
<i>pasivum</i>	81	2
<i>reflexivní deagentiv</i>	30	12
active voice	28	15
nouns	6	2
other	7	5
total	152	36

*Table 1 Czech texts*

<b>English (original) text</b>	<b>administrative text</b>	<b>literary text</b>
long form passive	45	2
short form passive	107	34
be-marker	152	32
get- marker	0	3
become-marker	0	1
total	152	36

*Table 2 English texts*

The occurrence of the English passive voice was found more frequent in the administrative text than in the literary text as is typical for the passive voice because of its formal style. The short form of the passive voice, without the by-phrase, was the one most commonly found in both texts. The get and become markers were found only in the literary text and in only a small number of cases (*Table 2*).

The English passive voice in the administrative text was translated into Czech using mainly the passive voice. On the contrary, the English passive voice in the literary text did not use the passive translation in many cases and rather used the active voice or other forms of translation. The Czech translations of both texts used the active voice as the main option of non-passive translation.

## 9 Conclusion

The purpose of this bachelor thesis was to address the passive voice in English as well as in Czech and describe how the process of translation affects the passive voice. The translation process was researched by using two English texts, each written in a different language style, administrative and literary, and their Czech translations. Both English texts were analyzed for the occurrence of the passive voice and subsequently, the respective translations of the passive voice were found in the Czech versions of these texts.

The research showed that texts written in a formal style of language such as the used administrative document *Official Journal of the European Union*, tend to preserve the passive voice in their Czech translation to keep the formal feel the passive voice has. The most formally perceived Czech passive would be *pasivum* which was used as an option for translation the most. As a non-passive translation, the most used option was the active voice.

The analysis of the literary text *The Fault In Our Stars* revealed that its Czech translation did not preserve the passive voice in as a big amount as the administrative text did. The English passive voice in the literary text was translated to the Czech passive voice in less than half of the cases. Similarly to the administrative text, the active voice was the most used as the choice of translation in the cases which did not preserve the passive voice.

The research also investigated the type of passive markers used and showed that the be-marker was used in an overwhelming number of cases. The get-marker and become-marker were exclusively used only in the literary text, presumably due to their less formal style. The occurrence of the long and short form of the English passive was also researched, and it was found that the form including the by-phrase was not frequently used and rather the short form was popular.

The translation process is not constricted by any rules that would have to be followed strictly in every instance of translation. However, there are tendencies of translation that occur commonly as the sources used in the theoretical part and the research of this thesis have shown. Therefore, it can be assumed that the Czech language is prone to certain ways of translating the passive voice from English, which can be of help to translators who may not be sure of their translation abilities and may need examples of how the passive voice behaves in translation.

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## **Resumé**

Tato bakalářská práce se zaměřuje na trpný rod v překladu z angličtiny do češtiny. K dosažení tohoto cíle, bylo použito analýzy dvou anglických textů a následného srovnání jejich překladu do češtiny. Z výsledků bylo zjištěno, že trpný rod v textech psaných formálním stylem jazyka byl ve většině případů zachován i v českém překladu. Oproti tomu v překladu literárních textů byl preferován rod činný jako forma překladu.

## Anotace

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Katedra nebo ústav:	Ústav cizích jazyků
Vedoucí práce:	Mgr. Jana Kořínková, Ph.D.
Rok obhajoby:	2022

Název práce:	Překlad anglických vět v trpném rodě do českého jazyka
Název práce v angličtině:	Sentences with The Passive Voice in English and Their Translation to Czech
Anotace práce:	Bakalářská práce se zaměřuje na zkoumání trpného rodu a jeho překladu z angličtiny do češtiny. Práce se snaží porovnat způsoby překladu trpného rodu a jeho výskyt v textech s různým stylem jazyka.
Klíčová slova:	Slovesný rod, trpný rod, transitivní slovesa, překlad
Anotace práce v angličtině	The bachelor thesis focuses on the study of the passive voice and its translation from English into Czech. The thesis tries to compare the ways of translating the passive voice and its occurrence in texts with different language styles.
Klíčová slova v angličtině:	Grammatical voice, passive voice, transitive verbs, translation
Přílohy vázané v práci:	
Rozsah práce:	43 Normostran
Jazyk práce:	Angličtina