

## LEXICALIST GRAMMAR AND JAPANESE PASSIVES\*

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The passive construction has been always a central issue in generative grammar. In this paper, I will first review some of the major past analyses of passives, pointing out certain inadequacies. The analyses reviewed include Chomsky's movement analysis within the Extended Standard Theory (EST) (Chomsky (1979a, 1980a, 1980b)), Bresnan's (1980b) Lexical Theory, both of which concern English. As for Japanese passives, a traditional transformational analysis will be reviewed, which is represented by Kuno (1973, 1978), Harada (1973), Shibatani (1978a), etc. Then, I will propose a lexical analysis of passives within the framework advanced in Hasegawa (1981b).

### 1. Passives and the Extended Standard Theory

The most important (and in fact the most attractive) claim made by the EST is that major syntactic operations, the passive being one of them, are controlled by three principles, namely the  $\theta$ -criterion, Case Theory, and Binding Theory. However, I will show that this claim cannot be maintained, at least, as far as the passive is concerned. The relevant principles are presented here.

#### (1) The $\theta$ -Criterion

- a. Every  $\theta$ -role must be filled by some lexical expressions and
- b. Each lexical expression must fill exactly one  $\theta$ -role.  
(Chomsky (1980b:16-17))

#### (2) Case Theory

- a. NP  $\rightarrow$  Nominative if governed by Tense.
- b. NP  $\rightarrow$  Objective if governed by [-N] (V or P).
- c. NP  $\rightarrow$  inherently case marked as determined by idiosyncratic property of [-N].
- d. Special rules like Of-Insertion in English.
- e. Exception: Participles, that are [+V] ( and [-N]?), do not assign Case.
- f. Case Filter:       \*<sub>NP</sub> [phonetic matrix]  
                      -Case  
(Chomsky (1979a), Koster (1979))

#### (3) Binding Theory

- a. An anaphor is bound in its governing category, where an anaphor is a lexically specified anaphor (a reflexive and a reciprocal) and non-case marked traces.



such a sentence (It was kicked of the ball) is ungrammatical. Then, in order to rule this out, the EST must employ an ad hoc condition which prevents Of-Insertion from applying to participles. Hence, the passive operation (Move  $\alpha$ ) does not follow from the Case Theory, but the characteristic of the participle is responsible for it.<sup>2</sup>

Third, the above operation does not explain the case of passives with a sentential subject.

- (5) a. [That John had kicked the ball] was believed (by his friend).  
 b. [That the earth is round] is not known ( $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \text{to} \\ \text{by} \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  everyone).

D-Structure representations of these sentences are supposed to be those in (6).

- (6) a. [<sub>NP</sub> e] was believed [that John had kicked the ball].  
 b. [<sub>NP</sub> e] is not known [that the earth is round].

Unless these embedded Ss are assumed to be dominated by an NP, there is no reason for them to move up to the subject position: Case is irrelevant to  $\bar{S}$ . In fact, these  $\bar{S}$ s should not be analyzed as NPs, since the following sentences show that the embedded  $\bar{S}$  does not have to move.

- (7) a. It was believed that John had kicked the ball.  
 b. It is not known that the earth is round.

There seems to be no way to describe the above phenomenon in a systematic way.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Bresnan's Lexical Theory

The passive operation of Bresnan's (1980b) Lexical Theory directly incorporates Perlmutter and Postal's (1977) claim that passivization has the following two universal properties: (i) the subject of the active appears as oblique in the corresponding passive and (ii) the object of the active appears as the subject of the corresponding passive. In Lexical Theory, the passive operation alters lexically encoded grammatical relations of the predicate argument structure (PAS) of lexical items. Her universal rule of Passive is (8).

### (8) Passive in UG

- (SUBJ)  $\rightarrow$   $\emptyset$  / (OBJ)  
 (OBJ)  $\rightarrow$  (SUBJ) (Bresnan (1980b:8))

Besides this universal characteristic of the passive, language-particular operations have to be stated, which specify how the oblique function is expressed and how the passive morphology is assigned. In English, the oblique function is typically expressed by (BY OBJ) and the passive predicate is of the form of a participle. Her English passive rule is (9).

## (9) The Passive in English

Functional Change: (SUBJ) →  $\emptyset$  / (BY OBJ)  
 (OBJ) → (SUBJ)  
 Morphological Change: V → V<sub>[part]</sub>

(Bresnan (1980b:9))

Rule (8) or (9) applies only to the predicate that has an object. Hence, if a sentential complement is considered to be (OBJ), sentences such as (5) can be easily accounted for. However, this analysis cannot explain the existence of sentences such as (7), where (OBJ), a sentential complement, is not realized as (SUBJ). Examples (7) can be derived from (5) by way of It-Extrapolation, though within Bresnan's Lexical Theory, I believe, the phenomenon of It-Extrapolation must be lexically accounted for (cf. Safir (1979)). A more problematic case is given in (10) and '11), where it is shown that only 'extrapolated' passives are allowed.

- ) a. John felt that it would rain.  
 b. \*That it would rain was felt (by John).  
 c. It was felt (by John) that it would rain.

- (11) a. John reasoned that Mary has gone to Europe.  
 b. \*That Mary has gone to Europe was reasoned (by John).  
 c. It was reasoned (by John) that Mary has gone to Europe.

Nonextrapolated sentences (10b) and (11b) are ungrammatical (according to Williams). Hence, it is unlikely that a sentential complement of these verbs once becomes (SUBJ), and then it is extrapolated to the end of the sentence. In the above examples, the passive seems to have applied without changing grammatical relations. Such cases cannot be described in Bresnan's Lexical Theory, because her passive rule must necessarily alter grammatical relations.

3. The Passive in Japanese<sup>4</sup>

In the traditional transformational framework, passives are derived from their active counterparts by Direct Passive Formation. This rule permutes the order of the subject NP and the object NP, and attaches a passive morpheme (r)are to the stem of the verb (i.e., inserts (r)are between the verb stem and a tense element), and an agentive marker ni(yotte) to the original subject. There are problems in this analysis.

First, Passive seems to apply to verbs which select sentential complements. Examples follow.

- (12) a. Minna-ga John-ga Tokyo-e it-ta to sinzi-te-i-ru.  
 everyone-subj subj to go-past CMP believe-prog-pres.  
 'Everyone believes that John went to Tokyo.'

- b. John-ga Tokyo-e it-ta to (minna-ni) sinzi-rare-te-i-ru.  
 subj to go-past CMP everyone-by believe-pass.-prog-past  
 'It is believed (by everyone) that John went to Tokyo.'
- (13) a. Mokegekisya-ga John-ga Mary-o korosi-ta to syoogen si-ta  
 eyewitness-subj subj obj kill-past CMP testify do-past  
 'The eyewitness testified that John had killed Mary.'
- b. John-ga Mary-o korosi-ta to (mokegekisya-ni(yotte))  
 subj obj kill-past CMP eyewitness-by  
 syoogen s-are-ta.  
 testify-passive-past  
 'It is testified (by the eyewitness) that John had killed Mary.'

Passive examples (12b) and (13b) are supposed to be derived from their active counterparts, (12a) and (13a). Kuno (1976) comments on these passives as follows.

Examples [such as (12b) and (13b)—NH] ... are pure passive sentences. I do not understand what status the to clauses have in these sentences because to clauses in general cannot be in the subject position.

(Kuno (1976:46))

These examples are the same as their active counterparts, except that the passives do not have matrix 'subjects' and the actives lack the passive morpheme (r)are. There is no evidence that the sentential complement is an object in the active sentence and that it becomes a subject in the passive sentence, because it lacks case markers. These passives appear to be subjectless.<sup>5</sup> Hence, the traditional Passive cannot explain these examples in a systematic way.

Second, there are cases where Passive cannot apply. Not all the NP objects can be the subject of a passive predicate. In past transformational analyses of passives in Japanese, the following global condition has been proposed, to prevent Passive from applying to a derived object which is syntactically nondistinguishable from nonderived objects.

- (14) Harada (1973) and Kuno's (1978) Global Condition on Passive:  
 Passive cannot subjectivize an NP that used to be a constituent of a sentence embedded in the sentence to which the rule applies.

Presumably there are three cases where (14) operates: (i) the object which was raised by Subject-to-Object Raising; (ii) the derived object of the Ni-Causative structure; and (iii) the object of the embedded sentence in the causative structure. I will examine these three cases in turn.

Case 1: Kuno (1976) argues that a certain class of verbs (thinking and feeling verbs) exhibits raising if the embedded predicate is an adjective or a nominal adjective (a 'nominal + copula' predicate). Thus, in his analysis (15b) is derived from (15a) by Raising.

- (15) a. John-ga [<sub>S</sub> Mary-ga baka-da to] omot-ta.  
           subj      subj  stupid  CMP  think-past  
           'John thought that Mary is stupid.'
- b. John-ga Mary-o baka-da to omot-ta  
                   obj  
           'John thought Mary to be stupid.'

The raised object Mary-o in (15b) cannot be the subject of the passive structure as indicated in (16).<sup>6</sup>

- (16) \*Mary-ga John-ni(yotte) baka-da to omow-are-ta  
           subj      by          stupid  CMP  think-passive-past  
           'Mary was thought to be stupid by John.'

Since the transformational operation of Passive simply subjectivizes a syntactic object, (16) cannot be prevented, unless a condition such as (14) is postulated. In such an analysis, no explanation is provided for why the raised object does not act like an ordinary object.

Case 2: A similar phenomenon is observed with respect to the object of the Ni-Causative. In Japanese, it has been argued that the causative constructions are divided in two types; the O-Causative and Ni-Causative. Kuno (1973, 1978), Harada (1973), and Shibatani (1976), for example, propose two different deep structures for these two types of causatives. For the O-Causative, a matrix object is postulated, while the Ni-Causative does not have it.

- (17) a. A deep structure of the O-Causative  
           John  Mary  [Mary  Tokyo-e  ik]  (s)ase-ta.  
                                   to  go  cause-past
- b. A deep structure of the Ni-Causative  
           John  [Mary  Tokyo-e  ik]  (s)ase-ta.
- c. A surface structure of the O- and Ni-Causatives  
           John-ga  Mary- $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} O \\ ni \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$   Tokyo-e  ik-ase-ta.  
           'John $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} made \\ let \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$   Mary go to Tokyo.'

Surface structures of both types of causatives are identical except that the object (the causee) is marked by o in the O-Causative and by ni in the Ni-Causative as shown in (17c). Due to the operation of Predicate Raising (PR) and S-Pruning, the derived surface structure (17c) is considered simplex. At this stage, Passive is applicable, which derives (18).

- (18) Mary-ga  John-ni(yotte)  Tokyo-e  ik-ase-rare-ta  
           subj          by          to  go-cause-passive-past  
           'Mary was forced to go to Tokyo by John.'

What is interesting here is that (18) is not ambiguous between the Ni- and O-Causatives. It is only considered to be the passive of the O-Causative. In other words, the object of the Ni-Causative, Mary-ni, which used to be the subject of the embedded clause, cannot be the subject of the passive. In order to describe this fact, (14) is employed in transformational analyses.

Case 3: The last case where (14) is utilized is also relevant to the causative structure. As discussed directly above, the derivation of causatives involves PR and S-Pruning. Hence, at the time Passive applies to the causative predicate (s)ase, the structure is considered simplex. This means that if the embedded sentence contains an object, the derived structure cannot syntactically distinguish two objects, one being a matrix object (in the case of the O-Causative) or a raised object through S-Pruning (in the case of the Ni-Causative) and the other being an object of the embedded sentence.

- (19) a. John-ga Mary- $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \text{O} \\ \text{ni} \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  hon-o yom-ase-ta.  
           subj                                  book-obj read-cause-past  
           'John $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \text{made} \\ \text{let} \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  Mary read a book.'
- b. \*Hon-ga John-ni(yotte) Mary- $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \text{O} \\ \text{ni} \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$  yom-ase-rare-ta.  
           book-subj          by                                  read-cause-passive-past

If the passive applies to (19a), making the object of the embedded verb, hon-o 'book-obj', the subject of the passive, an ungrammatical sentence (19b) results. To prevent this undesirable consequence, (14) is assumed to be operative here. Hon-o, which used to be the constituent of the embedded sentence, cannot be the subject of the passive.

In the above, it is clear that the global condition (14) is employed for the sole purpose of describing the phenomena, without explaining why the derived object cannot be the subject of the passive. The significant generalization underlying the descriptive generalization (14) is this:

As the assumed deep structures imply, the derived objects in question, the raised object, the object of the Ni-Causative, the object of the lower clause, are not semantically or thematically related to the verb to which the passive morpheme (r)are attaches and such objects cannot be the subject of the passive.

In the traditional transformational framework, this lexical difference between two types of objects, one semantically related to the verb and the other not, cannot be incorporated into a syntactic passive operation. This difference can be incorporated in deep structure representations; however, the problem is that there is no means to preserve this lexical or deep structural information until Passive applies, except by postulating a global condition such as (14).

#### 4. An Alternative Analysis

In the above discussion, we have observed that neither EST nor

Bresnan's Lexical Theory can describe all the passive phenomena of English. The discussion on Japanese reveals that the passive in Japanese is sensitive to lexical information. The following is a summary of the above discussion.

(20) a. the Extended Standard Theory

Passive operation: Move  $\alpha$  with the following stipulations.

- (i) a passive predicate is a participle.
- (ii) a participle does not assign Case to its object.
- (iii) a participle does not select the predicate external  $\theta$ -role.

Problem: no explanation for the fact that a sentential complement can be moved to the subject position.

b. Bresnan's Lexical Theory

Passive operation:

- (i) the passive predicate is a participle.
- (ii) the active object becomes a passive subject.
- (iii) the active subject becomes null or oblique.

Problem: no explanation for the fact that the passive does not always invoke (ii).

c. the Passive in Japanese

Passive operation:

- (i) the passive attaches (r)are to the active predicate.
- (ii) the active object becomes a passive subject.
- (iii) the active subject becomes null or oblique.

Problems: (i) no explanation for the passive on a verb with a sentential complement.  
(ii) no explanation for why the derived object cannot become the subject of the passive.

Although the frameworks differ, (20) can be summarized in the following way.

(21) The Passive Operation

- a. It involves participles in English and the (r)are attachment in Japanese.
- b. It eliminates the object function of the active predicate.
- c. It eliminates the predicate external argument (the subject) of the active predicate.

Notice that in (21), whether the object becomes the subject of the passive is not specified. In fact, as discussed in previous sections, there are cases where the passive operation applies without making a sentential











## FOOTNOTES

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<sup>1</sup>In Chomsky (1980b), it is claimed that passives are characterized by these two stipulations.

What is usually called "passive" seems to have two crucial properties:

- (42) (I) [NP,S] does not receive a  $\theta$ -role  
 (II) [NP, VP] does not receive Case within VP, for some choice of NP in VP.

(Chomsky (1980b:36))

<sup>2</sup>Marantz (1980b) independently reaches the same argument as the one presented in this paragraph.

<sup>3</sup>One may assume that Move  $\alpha$  optionally moves  $\bar{S}$  into the subject (or COMP?) position. Under this assumption, it is possible to obtain (5) and (7) from (6). However, this cannot explain the data in (10) and (11), where the movement of  $\bar{S}$  is not allowed. This means that the passive involving a sentential complement (or object) is not controlled by any sub-theories in the EST, but it is relevant to the lexical characteristics of the verbs in question. The data in (5), (7), (10), and (11) can be possibly accounted for in the EST framework, if it is assumed that verbs such as believe and know have two different lexical entries; one with an NP object which exclusively dominates  $\bar{S}$  and the other with an  $\bar{S}$  complement, and that verbs such as feel and reason have only one type of lexical entry (with an  $\bar{S}$  complement). Then, (5) is produced by believe<sub>1</sub> and know<sub>1</sub> (with an NP object) and (7) is obtained, if believe<sub>2</sub> and know<sub>2</sub> (with an  $\bar{S}$  complement) are used. However, the existence of the PS rule  $NP \rightarrow \bar{S}$  must be independently motivated in such an analysis.

<sup>4</sup>Japanese has two types of passives: pure or direct passives and adversity or indirect passives. This paper deals with pure or direct passives. For the analysis of adversity or indirect passives in Japanese within the framework pursued here, see Hasegawa (1981b).

<sup>5</sup>I consider the embedded sentence in (12b) and (13b) to be a complement rather than a subject for the following reason. In Japanese, ordinary sentential subjects take a nominal element which is followed by the subject marker ga as in (i).

- (i) [Tikyuu-ga marui (to yuu)] koto-ga akiraka-da.  
 the earth-subj round CMP Nom.-subj obvious-is  
 'That the earth is round is obvious.'

There are no sentential subjects which are not marked by ga. If the embedded sentence is considered to be a subject in (12b) and (13b), we cannot explain why the sentential subject of the passive is exceptional to this generalization. To is exclusively used as a marker for a sentential complement. Of course, one can posit a rule of ga deletion, which deletes ga after to, as suggested by Kuroda (personal communication). However, this rule seems to be a restatement of the problem. If we take the position that case-marked languages utilize case-markers to identify grammatical functions, rather than syntactic structures serve this end, the identification procedure is much simpler if to is used for a marker for sentential complements, along with ga for subjects and o for objects (though case arrays are not this simple). If to can also be a subject marker, the identification procedure becomes complicated; to marks sentential complements when a verb is active and if the verb is passive to is a subject marker.

<sup>6</sup>Here, I follow Kuno's (1976) observation that (16) is ungrammatical as a pure or direct passive sentence, though it is grammatical as an indirect passive. See Kuno (1976) for the supportive arguments for this observation. Although Yamazaki (1979) challenges this claim, I do not find her arguments convincing.

<sup>7</sup>A thematic role which associates with the SUBJ function in the active ( $\theta_1$  in (22)) may optionally be realized as a predicate internal argument with an oblique function.

<sup>8</sup>This is what Marantz (1980b) argues. The effect of Move  $\alpha$  is obtained by 'intransitivization' (erasure of the object case) and de- $\theta$ -ization' (erasure of the  $\theta$ -role of the subject). Rule (22) and convention (25) are essentially the same as what Marantz proposes.

<sup>9</sup>The condition in (32) may have to be more restricted, since there are some argument types which are thematically related to the predicate cannot appear as the subject of the passive. Such predicates are kat 'win', aw 'meet', etc. Objects of these predicates do not serve as Theme or Goal, which normally occurs as the subject of the passive. Hence, as an alternative to the condition of (32), (i) may be proposed.

- (i) Condition: OBJ = Theme or Goal of the  $V_{\text{stem}}$ .

<sup>10</sup>In representing omow 'think' and (s)ase 'cause', I use a PRED(ication) function. In the framework advanced in Hasegawa (1981b), the lexical item which serves as this function is subjectless and its subject is identified by an interpretive rule. See Hasegawa (1981b) for details.

