

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>List of Figures</i>	xiii
<i>List of Tables</i>	xv
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xviii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction: a general view on the passive voice and its description	1
1.2 Various approaches to the voice system	2
1.3 Aim of the study	4
1.4 Method	4
1.4.1 Diachronic classification of the English language	5
1.4.2 Data	5
1.5 Organisation of the Study	6
2 <i>Be</i>-passive: Overview and Aspectual Change	8
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Overview: what is passive?	8
2.3 Aspectual issues	15
2.3.1 General aspectual change in the passive	15
2.3.1.1 Verbal passive	28
2.3.1.2 Adjectival passive	30
2.3.1.3 Resultative	31
2.3.2 Development of perfective constructions	32
2.3.3 Syntactic environments	41
2.3.3.1 Progressive passive	42
2.3.3.2 Perfective passive	44
2.3.3.3 Aspectual construction as signs of grammaticalisation	45
2.4 Summary	49
3 Components of <i>be</i>-passive and their Historical Change	51
3.1 Introduction	51
3.2 Auxiliaryhood	51

3.3	Past participle and its various uses	59
3.3.1	Various tests for the distinction between adjectival and verbal participles	60
3.3.2	Affixes	64
3.3.2.1	Prefix <i>ge-</i>	64
3.3.2.2	Suffix <i>-ed</i>	68
3.3.3	Participle with two different forms	70
3.3.4	Stative verbs	75
3.3.5	Prepositional verb phrase	78
3.4	<i>Be</i> + past participle as a syntactic unit	83
3.5	Summary	93
4	Functions of <i>be</i>-passive	94
4.1	Introduction	94
4.2	Functions of the passive	94
4.2.1	Topicality change	96
4.2.2	Impersonalisation	99
4.2.3	Other functions	101
4.2.4	Presentative passive	102
4.2.4.1	Passive with factual verbs	103
4.2.4.2	Passive with dummy subject <i>it</i>	104
4.2.4.3	<i>There</i> -passive	110
4.3	The gradient nature of functions	113
4.4	Summary	113
5	Functional Change and Voice Continuum	115
5.1	Introduction	115
5.2	Functional changes in the <i>be</i> -passive	115
5.2.1	General changes and functions of the passive	115
5.2.2	Word order and topicality	119
5.2.3	Interaction of different functions in historical change	123
5.3	Functional motivations in grammaticalisation	128
5.3.1	Periphrastic passive vs. morphological passive	128
5.3.2	Origin of topicality	132
5.4	Uniformitarian principle	134
5.5	Voice continuum	136
5.5.1	What is voice continuum?	136
5.5.2	<i>Be</i> -passive in voice continuum	143
5.6	Summary	146

6	Get-passive	148
6.1	Introduction	148
6.2	Get-passive: dynamic counterpart of <i>be</i> -passive?	148
6.2.1	Problems	151
6.2.1.1	Lack of dynamic auxiliary after ME/ possibility of other inchoative verbs	151
6.2.1.2	Subject responsibility: control and generic characteristics	156
6.2.1.3	Lack of actor phrase	158
6.2.1.4	Animacy of subject and subjective viewpoint	160
6.2.1.5	Adversative/benefactive reading	164
6.2.2	Get-passive: more than a dynamic counterpart	172
6.3	Possible sources	174
6.3.1	Inchoative <i>get</i> + predicative adjective	174
6.3.2	Reflexive causative <i>get oneself</i> + past participle	176
6.4	Get-passive in the voice continuum	183
6.5	Summary	184
7	Passive Diathesis	185
7.1	Introduction	185
7.2	Characteristics of unaccusative	185
7.2.1	<i>This book is printing</i> (V (INTR) in progressive type)	188
7.2.2	<i>This book sells well</i> (OBJ. + V (INTR) type)	190
7.3	Potential passive	192
7.3.1	Mood and potentiality	195
7.3.2	Adjective with suffix <i>-able</i>	197
7.4	Necessitative passive <i>This TV needs fixing</i> (main V + V-ing) type	207
7.5	Passive diathesis in voice continuum	211
7.5.1	Get-passive: comparable to unaccusative?	211
7.5.2	Diathesis in relation to the passive	216
7.6	Summary	218
8	Quasi-passive	219
8.1	Introduction	219
8.2	Inversion	219
8.3	Indefinite pronouns	221
8.3.1	English indefinite pronouns	222
8.3.2	Functional linkage	228

x	<i>Diachronic Change in the English Passive</i>	
	8.3.2.1 Politeness	229
	8.3.2.2 Distancing in impersonalisation and politeness	231
	8.3.3 Historical relationship	233
8.4	Quasi-passive in voice continuum	235
8.5	Summary	236
9	Conclusion	238
9.1	Introduction	238
9.2	Variation of the passive: a three-way distinction	238
9.3	Diachronic change of English and grammaticalisation of the passive	239
9.4	Diathesis and quasi-voice constructions	240
9.5	Voice continuum and gradience	241
9.6	Directions for future research	245
	<i>Notes to Chapters</i>	246
	<i>Appendix: Stativity Tests</i>	256
	<i>Bibliography</i>	261
	<i>Index</i>	282