

MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ARTICLES AND THE PASSIVE VOICE IN THEIR FRAMEWORK SECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Many authors have often got notification while typing sentences on the computer and checking the grammars by using the menu of review and spelling checking. The notification often happens when the sentences are in the passive construction. It reads consider revising into active sentences. In some discussion about research journal articles, the authors also wonder whether they have to stick on active sentences. This study attempts to explore the use of passive construction written by the authors of international journals with the discipline of management science. More specifically, the sub-genres of the framework sections were taken as the sample by purposive technic. It is assumed that all the articles had undergone blind review so that they could be said homogenous in terms of their status of being the academic articles. . The data were taken by purposive sampling with certain criteria such as published in There were 14 articles with their theoretical framework sections being analyzed. The results show that passive sentences were still used by the authors in Management research articles', this pattern is used in each paragraph for expressing general statement or topic sentences. Besides that, the authors use passive sentences for expressing the purposes or suggestions and they use these passive sentences also for reducing subjectivity.

Keywords: genre analysis, applied linguistics, academic writing, passive voice, subjectivity

1. INTRODUCTION

Anyone who types passive sentences in English is often warned by the Microsoft Word program with the notification that considers revising. If you right-click with the cursor, it will read a notification of considering revising notification. Often, the suggestion is to change the sentence into an active form sentence. Therefore, some writers follow this suggestion and then revise the sentence into an active form. However, there are also right-clicking the cursor and clicking ignore all.

In general, every writer of scientific articles often encounters confusion related to writing active or passive sentences. The confusion arises when checking the sentences in the review menu on Microsoft Word program, there are often notifications to change passive sentences to active ones. In fact, in writing passion claims, the writer at least thinks efficiently because the focus of the sentence is on the object being discussed, not the subject that is emphasized (Suthiwartnarueput & Wasanasomsithi, 2012). In this case, passive sentences are applicable because there are some sentences constructed in passive voice without agent (the actor or subject). The author emphasizes on the topic or object being discussed.

If the writer uses passive sentences, the subject of the sentence cannot be written (passive without actors). If the sentence is passive without mentioning the subject, it is expected that the statement in the sentence is more objective than mentioning the subject of the sentence (Moaddab, 2014). Therefore, the passive voice gives a more objective message.

In expressing the verbs, passive sentences have a more objective meaning. In other words, there is no element of subjectivity in the author. Sentences are written without an actor (Horbowicz et.al, 2019). That is, in the passive voice, the focus is not on the actor, but on the topic. However, the agent in the sentence will not disappear; its value engages and generalizes. Thus, verbs in passive sentences are different from verbs in other sentence forms, especially from reflexive sentences. With passive sentences, the writer focuses on the dialectical relationship between objects and the logical conditions being presented. More specifically, that the purpose of a sentence written in the passive voice is to characterize an object, determine its inherent features, and on this basis provide certain information.

In general, the cause of the appearance of information is an object that enters a state that is expressed in a passive form, that is, it indicates a certain process. The logical subject in sentences with passive constructions in most cases does not have an explicit expression or does not need to be used. Therefore, it can be considered as one of the distinctive types of language. Such assertive statements are interpreted as expressions of action results, which consist of observing the relationship between objects and states Krasnowska et al., (2019). That is one of the reasons for writing sentences without mentioning the actor or subject. However, the existence of the perpetrators is quite reasonable, because every action, including research, is the result of the direct influence of the subject.

Passive sentences are more practical besides they are efficient and focusing on the object being discussed. In this sense, the passive sentences can be used for academic writing though to some degree, we can also find some academic article written almost in active patterns (Ivanič & Camps, 2001). Subject activity is expressed in situations with verbs. The difference is that in such syntactic (i.e., passive) constructs, the agent is the least specific.

Again, in the active voice, the agent is characterized by maximum specificity. The activity or existence of the actor in a sentence depends on its relationship with the predicate that implements the predicate in a certain sentence form. Therefore, sentences that mention actors in a sentence are sentence units as the main or secondary elements of a sentence, but differ in the syntactic-functional scope. Their verbal– functional–universality is limited on the semantic side by the constant expression of the agent

This study focuses on analyzing the subgenres of management research articles (MRA) specifically analyzing the framework sections. This study is expected to provide the readers generally the authors of research journal articles in order they can also ignore the notification. Besides that, this study can also provide the journal editors or reviewers with

information about the review process concerning the controversial of using passive sentences.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Some previous studies had been done in relation to passive sentences and some grammar books have also included the chapter special for passive sentences. All these can be of good references for formulating the framework about passive sentences and the research specifically focusing on management research articles as subgenres. This sub-genre is confined in the framework sections so that the result of this research can be specifically for judging whether the passive sentences are still dominant or at least applicable for writing academic articles for international journal publication. For this purposes, the theoretical framework needs to be established.

Some studies related to passive sentences have been carried out by several previous researchers. Like the research conducted by Crossley et al., (2020), they analyzed passive and active sentences and they compared native speakers with non-native speakers. In this comparison, what is studied is spoken language, not writing. In the study, they found that native and non-native speakers using passive processing had the same difficulty processing passive constructs among themselves. This means that passive sentences are still used in academic writing. Another study was conducted by Paolazzi, et al, (2019). In writing, it was found that passive sentences were considered more difficult to understand than active sentences. It was also found that passives were consistently read faster than active ones. Thus, passive is good for readers to read faster. Therefore, it is harder to write but readers, it's faster to read. It can be said that the passive voice makes the text more efficient to write and read.

A third previous study on passive voice was conducted by Warren et al., (2021) using two experiments and text analysis of the articles in leading marketing journals. They found that in academic writing, it was more difficult to understand the one about passive writing. However, in marketing research articles, the author mostly uses the passive voice to describe. This study contradicts the study done by Paolazzi et al. They found that articles with more passive writing were more difficult for readers to understand. The fourth is a study conducted by Lghzeel and Radzuan (2020). Their study is a passive sentence for Arabic EFL learners. It was found that Arabic EFL learners use the passive voice more often in their writing articles.

2.1 The Construction of Passive Voice

Several grammarians have described the patterns both active and passive voices in the chapter in their books. Davidson (1982) also described passive sentence which is simply a sentence containing one or more passive voice rather than active voice verbs. The writer can do it simply by moving from an active to a passive sentence. In other words, it can be done by changing the place of the direct object position into the subject position. Other proponents are Strunk and White (2009) who also describe about passive sentences. According to them, scholars use these passive sentences due to the following

reasons. It is more appropriate and the other reason it can help preserving the goals of research. Being appropriate, it can be predicted that it is more efficient and reducing subjectivity while for preserving the goal of the research it can be said that using passive sentences can focus on the object not the subject. Thus, it focuses on what is being discussed or talked about.

2.2 Academic Discourse

In academic discourse, mainly in journal articles publication, articles are written and published according to the discourse communities: such as education, economics, technology, Biology and so on. According to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (2001), passive sentences are more clearly acceptable and especially in expository writing. It is also explained that this pattern can be used for the author wishes to focus on the object or recipient of the action, for example doing the research or analysis and the like rather than focusing on the researcher or the subject (Djuwari, 2013). Hence, the author can avoid his or her subjectivity in his or her arguments.

2.3 Grammarians and their Description

Passive sentences can be found anywhere of the texts. In addition, passive sentences can also be found in some academic articles that are published in the international journals (Djuwari, 2013). Besides that, the passive sentences are also always described by the grammarians in their books. One of the grammarians is Celce-Murcia (2002) who also has explanation about passive sentences in her grammar book. Moreover, she describes passive construction in more detailed. She explains that passive construction is classified into three levels: in phrases (e.g....the *topic being discussed*), in clauses (e.g. ...*what is done today* will result in....), and in sentences (e.g., *the methodology is described in detailed by using...*). Other description about passive sentences is done by Shaw (2012) it is described that passive sentences are either with agents or without agents. In fact, it can be commonly found in academic writing as genre type specifically in academic journals. In this case, even Hyland (2008) also stated that in commonly written texts, passive sentences are always found in students' theses or dissertation.

Still other academicians also have their explanation and description about passive sentences. For example, Omelyanenko and Sytnikova (2018) in the section of their book they also provide the readers with the explanation about passive voice. As they explained, passive voice is used when the agent is unimportant, unknown, or obvious. For example: (1) *I was advised to obtain a visa in advance.* (Unimportant agent); (2) *Repairs are being made on the runway* (obvious agent – builders); and (3) *My bike was stolen last night* (Unknown agent). Quite similarly, Michael Swan (2001; 2005), explains in more detailed concerning the different nations or people such as Germany, the Netherlands, Americans and so on in connection with using passive sentences. In general, passive sentences are used for efficiency and the focus is not on the agent but on the object being discussed.

3. METHODOLOGY

The research in this research adopted the analysis based on Genre-perspective, where the data were taken from the documents in the forms of management research articles sub-genre of theoretical frameworks sections Hyland (2008) and also Djuwari (2009). Thus, this is a qualitative research with the content analysis of where the data were collected by identifying the passive sentences written in the theoretical frameworks sections of international journal articles. This study focuses on management research articles in their theoretical framework sections.

The articles consisting of the management discourse communities. It means that the articles were the in the field of management. The present study is the analysis on sub-genres of theoretical Frameworks of the international journal articles in the field of management science. It is qualitative research using the data taken from the texts of research journal articles—management research articles--that have been published through the process of reviews. It is assumed that the articles being taken for the analysis had undergone scrutiny of resealed by the journal reviewers.

The data were analyzed using the passive construction analysis. First, the researcher read the sentences in the framework sections and identified the passive construction in it and then they were put in the Tables for analysis. They were counted then converted into percentage. From this data, the frequency of the sentences using passive construction was noted. For this methodology, it can be referred to Latic (2010), Hyland (2008), and Djuwari (2009). All the data were taken from research articles (RAs) and they were analyzed using the patterns related to the focus of the study.

In this present study, the researcher focused on the passive sentences: the patterns. Therefore, the documents of the sub-genres were used for analysis. They were analyzed using the pattern of Passive Voice sentences. The data were collected and summarized based on the construction of the passive voice. From this analysis, it could also be found how many sentences or what percent of the sentences that are written or expressed by the authors in passive voice. It can also identify for what purpose the passive sentences are used by the authors. Finally, the inference can be drawn and the implication can be obviously seen for the authors and reviewer as well as the editors for considering the written academic in the journal publication.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study was done for analyzing the Management Research articles in terms of the passive sentences. As the objectives of this study, the researchers had endeavored to find out passive sentences that are written by the authors of research articles in management science. It is also expected to provide the editors, reviewers, and publishers of academic journals with the fact of how the authors of the sub-genres of theoretical frameworks in management research articles expressed their sentences, especially regarding the passive sentences.

4.1. Summary of the Whole Sub-Genres

Based on the finding, among 14 sub-genres of the theoretical frameworks management research articles, there are 151 passive sentences. From this number, the average of passive sentences in each sub-genre of Theoretical framework in Management science is 0, 07 percent. This means that the rest of 93 percent of the sentences are written in active sentences while 0, 07 percent in passive sentences. However, when viewed from the roles of the passive sentences in the theoretical frameworks of management science, the 0, 07 percent is really essential.

In fact, most of the passive sentences that are expressed are used for strong statements in arguments more practically as in Lghzeel and Radzuan (2020) also in Djuwari (2013). This means that mostly, the passive sentences are used for stating the general statement related to topic sentences, conclusion as well as recommendation. All of these are written in passive sentences so that they do not show subjectivity (see also the passive voice without agents in Lghzeel and Radzuan (2020).

Again, in summary from 14 Theoretical Framework sections, in Management research articles, the number and percentage are shown in Table 2. It indicates that 0.07 percent of the sentences are expressed in the theoretical framework sections in Management research articles. However, this pattern in stating the general idea and arguments in Management research articles seems to be essential.

Table 1: Summary of Passive Sentences in the Framework of Management Science

NO ARTICLES	Σ PASS	PERCENTAGE
1	8	0,06
2	7	0,04
3	10	0,06
4	8	0,06
5	5	0,03
6	8	0,06
7	8	0,06
8	28	19
9	4	0,01
10	10	0,06
11	17	0,11
12	6	0,03
13	20	0,13
14	12	0,08
TOTAL	151	100
AVERAGE	11	0,07

The examples of the passive sentences for expressing such roles mentioned above are found in management research articles' frameworks (see Table 2). They are such as in

article no 1 (e.g. *Infections can be prevented if appropriate hygiene measures are taken...*; *Infections can be prevented if appropriate hygiene measures are taken*). Another is also in article no 2 (e.g., *the contaminated area must be monitored closely for the symptoms of COVID-19...*). In article no 4 (e.g. *our 3D-framework is built upon integrity of management ...*). Article no 5 (e.g. *basically public sector organizations are built on agency theory; Human resources are viewed as one of the most significance*). In article no 7 (e.g. *... a conceptual research methodology was used for...*). In article no 8 (e.g., *Signaling through inventory has been studied primarily in the ...*). There are still others such as in article no 13 (e.g. *the formulated conceptual model is sufficiently well structured to permit derivation of a sufficiently credible solution; the words method, technique and approach are often used interchangeably in ...*)

All of the passive sentences above have strong senses in the research articles. The functions of those sentences in arguments are essential because the authors or the researchers, when using the passive form, allows them to maintain topic continuity and conform to the new principle they communicate (Ferreira, 2021)... This is essential in academic writing and especially the arguments in the theoretical framework. References are used and therefore the sentences of the references being cited are created (Djuwari, 2021).

In other perspective, the passive sentences stated in the management research article frameworks are also used to reduce subjectivity. In other words, using passive sentences, the authors want their statements sound more objective (Pho, 2008). In this case, it is relevant to the statements related to the arguments based on the research. Some examples of these sentences for making them more objectives as follows: In article no 1 (e.g. *infections can be prevented if appropriate hygiene measures are taken*), Article no 2 (e.g. *If suspected criteria are met, the patient will be sent to the fever tent for further screening; continuous improvement is recognized as the most useful aspect to enhance competitive*) Article No 4 (e.g. *The evolution between 2000 and 2010 was characterized by the development of...*). And so on.

Table 2: The Examples of Passive Sentences for Strong Arguments

1	1) Moreover, the cardiovascular benefits were shown to be independent of... 2) Infections can be prevented if appropriate hygiene measures are taken... 3) Further research is clearly required to ascertain whether... 4) and so on....
2	1) the contaminated area must be monitored closely for the symptoms of COVID-19 2) If suspected criteria are met, the patient will be sent to the fever tent for further screening. 3) suspicious symptoms, or fever are screened in one of the no contaminated CT scanners 4. and so on
3	1) Products development and delivery services are carried out by people... 2) In call centers, step (1) is already advanced, 3) The empirical context is provided in Section... 4) and so on...
4	1) First, the potential benefits of I4.0 are directly related to OM... 2) The development of Figure 2 can be explained as follow... 3) Our 3D-framework is built upon an integrity of management, ...

	4) and so on...
5	1) Basically public sector organizations are built on agency theory 2) Human resources are viewed as one of the most significance 3) management people are considered having both the responsibility and accountability 4) and so on
6	1) An optimistic lower bound on the worst-case risk can be obtained by... 2) The Wasserstein distance is replaced with... 3) The worst-case risk (6) can be exactly expressed as the optimal value... 4) and so on...
7	1) The term sustainable development is used to defend the reduction of... 2) However, it is rarely acknowledged that... 3) A conceptual research methodology was used for... 4) and so on...
8	1) Signaling through inventory has been studied primarily in the ... 2) Inventory overinvestment due to signaling can be prevented using a menu... 3) Our paper is intimately related and contributes to the literature on supplier financing... 4) and so on...
9	1) However, the “role of plants,” in which manufacturing strategy should be conducted,... 2) The “role of factory managers,” who manages the factories, was not included within... 3) In particular, the strategic role of plants (overseas plants) was categorized into ... 4) and so on...
10	1) The supply chain in the organizations is accounted for 12.9 % of the ... 2) ... dimensions in the sustainable supply chain strategies are requested globally. 3) Nowadays, many types of pressures are used to force organizations to reduce... 4) and so on...
11	1) The results of these studies show that, by using a data-driven approach, extensive gains in performance can be achieved. 2) Care workers are assigned to care and support activities, 3) This scheduling problem is related to the vehicle routing problem with time windows. 4) and so on...
12	1) Since social distancing is advised, services should be accessible for customers 2) The conceptual research methodology was found to be ... 3) Further, firms are embedded... 4) and so on
13	1) more general way, authors refer to verification as an assurance that the formulated conceptual model is sufficiently well structured to permit derivation of a sufficiently credible solution 2) In practice, verification is often omitted in the design process of ... 3) The computerized model has already been thoroughly established and... 4) and so on...
14	1) OR is often described as a toolbox of methods, ... 2) Schelling’s famous segregation model was implemented on a real ... 3) The words method, technique and approach are often used interchangeably in ... 4) and so on...

4.2. Expressing the Purpose Showing a Strong Suggestion

.As it is shown in Table 3, the authors in Management Research articles use passive sentences for expressing the purpose. This purpose is based on the results or the previous studies and /or the theories supporting the suggestions. In the grammar, it is indicated by “Verb with **to infinitive**.” This is also one of the uses of passive sentences because with this pattern, the sentence is without agent (the doer or subject. Therefore,

it is also more objective in terms of academic writing or in scientific writing. For this discussion, it can be referred to a study by Scholastica (2018). Besides that, using passive voice with “to infinitive.” the authors also want to show their arguments that are more objective as based on the references they cited and discussed.

Although, in some cases, passive sentences are considered weak as in Sigel (2009), in this present study the results are still supported by the previous studies like those done by Pho (2008) and Scholastica (2018). In the context of the sub-genres of theoretical frameworks in Management research articles, the authors are demanded to assert their arguments by avoiding subjectivity. This can be done by using passive voice without agents (Pho, 2008). Like the expression of the purpose, making the arguments more objective is essential. This can be executed by using the pattern of passive voice without agent.

In terms of passive sentences without agent, the authors use the pattern of “**Verbs of to infinitive.**” Among 12 authors, there are 3 authors who did not use the expression of passive voice with “**Verb to Infinitive.**” They are the authors no: 5, 9, and 11. In addition, using this pattern will make the writing more efficient and even more practical (Ivanič & Camps, 2001). Due to this perspective, in academic writing, more writers use passive sentences with the same purpose such as for suggestion and being more efficient and practical (Lghzeel and Radzuan, 2020) and more objective (Pho, 2008).

Table 3: Passive Sentences Used to Express Purposes

ARTICLE NO	PASSIVE USED FOR EXPRESSING PRUPOSE FOLLOWED BY TO INFINITIVE	Σ
1	1) Moreover, the cardiovascular benefits were shown to be independent renal function ^{47,48} and glucose levels, ⁴⁹ as well as consistent when adjusted 3) Further research is clearly required to ascertain whether there is a genuine increased risk of amputations a 3) Further research is clearly required to ascertain whether there is a genuine increased risk of amputations a 4) The overall risk of HF events was shown to be reduced with canagliflozin versus place b 5) These trials include, but are not restricted to	5
2	1) If suspected criteria are met, the patient will be sent to the fever tent for further screening. 2) All central air conditioners were turned off to prevent	2
3	1) The strategic plan of a total quality organization is designed to give it 2) a research model has been proposed to examine the influence of four critical TQM	2
4	1) Data processing technologies are mostly applied to plan a...	1
5		
6	1) Even though problem (12) is guaranteed to have an optimal solution	1
7	1) Literature was examined to find out if there is sufficient evidence	1

8	1) this technology has to be adapted to provide verifiability of physical good 2) A generic server is required to do the data processing and encryption,	1
9		
10	1) Nowadays, many types of pressures are used to force organizations to reduce their negative impacts to 2) Their findings were supported to integrate and improve triple bottom line within ten dimensions 3)) Many approaches and methods have been used to measure environmental and social along with profitability 4) However, some studies have been found to recommend adopting TBL approach	4
11		
12	1)) Consequently, emergency managers are assigned to foster cooperation among supply chain partners, prioritize resilience 2)) Resilient organizations are better equipped to deal with severe operational disruptions	2

5. CONCLUSION

It can be inferred, as based on the results of the analysis, in the management research articles of their theoretical frameworks, passive sentences are still used by the authors. More importantly, they use this pattern of sentences for expressing the arguments. This can be indicated by the passives sentences which are used mostly in the topic sentences. In other words, they are used for expressing the strong statements for exerting their arguments that are based on the theories they have cited.

In more specific consideration, passive sentences are used for expressing strong suggestions. This is indicated by “**Verbs with to infinitive**” after the passive forms in the sentences. Suggestions are based on the references that are the basis of the theoretical frameworks of the research articles. Due to such functions, it is logical that there is a small number of the sentences in the frameworks, especially in management research articles of their theoretical framework sections that is only 0, 07 percent. Not all the sentences are used for expressing strong arguments and suggestions. This theoretical framework section is the place or the basis of any research for arguments and suggestion: establishing the field.

The limitation in this study is on the sub-genre, only in management research articles. Therefore, it would be more generalizable when other researchers for further research can explore the same purpose of this study to get more comprehensible and generalizable.

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