

## Abstract

### "Some Notes on the Passive Construction in Eastern Arabian Dialects"

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This presentation elaborates forms of constructing passive meaning and their main functions in selected Eastern Arabian dialects. The focus points of this study are the Arabic varieties of Khuzestan (South-West-Iran), Kuwait, and Oman.

There are only few studies dedicated to this topic in the field of Arabic linguistics and detailed studies of passive constructions in the spoken Arabic varieties geographical areas mentioned are almost completely absent (Omani Arabic representing an exception).

The first part of our presentation deals with the morphological question of how passives are constructed in the Arabic varieties mentioned. This analysis includes comparative remarks on the means of passivization used in Classical Arabic and other spoken Arabic varieties. In addition to describing internal (apophonic) and external means of passivization of verbs, we will give examples for agentive phrases in the varieties analyzed.

The second part focuses on the functions and pragmatic aspects of passives in these Arabic varieties. This includes a reanalysis of what has been described as mediopassive and true passive (e.g. Cowell 1964: 236-240) in the light of our data from the Eastern Arabic varieties focused on in this presentation as well as an investigation of syntactic/semantic constraints on the passive, i.e. the question of which verbs appear to resist passivization. Finally, we will discuss the question of in what linguistic contexts passive constructions are used, preferred over non-passive ones, or even obligatory.

Keywords: Passive Construction; Spoken Arabic; Eastern Arabic varieties; Morphology; Pragmatics

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