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## **Behavior of Voices in the Business and Economic Language: A Case of English-Arabic Translation**

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**Abstract:** The present paper delves into business and economic English and Arabic texts to describe the language and translator's norms and to justify these norms with regards of voices translation. The sample is collected manually from two e-portals where 20 texts were drawn from each website. It is found that translators use oblique translation methods to render passive constructions into Arabic in their endeavor to attain more idiomatic Arabic. Although translators are inclined to use the active voice more than the passive, this usage is mostly limited to dynamic verbs where English active stative verbs were modulated to passive Arabic beside the reduced adjectival phrases. The only gain of meaning or effect is achieved when the active English stative verbs became dynamic Arabic passives in order to give a stronger reporting of information. The findings contribute in characterizing the business and economic voice' behavior in English and Arabic in an attempt to integrate the findings with the findings of other genres.

**Keywords:** Business and economic texts, English and Arabic Translation, Translation of voices, translation procedures

### **Introduction**

Translation studies manifests itself as an interdisciplinary field of study. The nomenclature 'interdisciplinary' emerged due to two major reasons; namely that the number of translations diverged after the end of the Second World War to include organizations, multinationals and worldwide communications systems, also the creation and expansion of universities around the world which resulted in the need to accommodate the translated materials of the different disciplines (Beeby-Lonsdale, 1996). In the same vein, this nomenclature gives the utmost importance to the postulation that dividing texts into types facilitates the translator's endeavor to rest on the best translation strategies (Leonardi, 2007). This theory which was first introduced by Reiss (1997) argues that different texts function differently in the real world; namely, informative, expressive and appellative, yet most texts show hybridity nature. She also claims that dividing texts into divergent taxonomies necessitates undertaking different strategies according to the functions that the decoder wants to transfer; this view is very popular to other scholars like Gambier and Van Doorslaer (2010). This paper attempts to bridge a gap of literature in the business and economic translation between Arabic and English where the voices translational behavior is not targeted yet. The need for this paper comes from previous literature on some other genres that prove the tendency of Arabic translators to render the passive English to active Arabic as in papers by El-Yasin (1996), Khalil (1993), and Farghal and Al-Shorafat (1996). Furthermore, this paper aims at achieving the next objectives:

- To explore the tendency of voices in Arabic and English business and economic texts.
- To describe the semantic similarities and differences of the usage in Arabic and English voices in the business and economic texts.
- To explore the translator's latitude in the translation of voices in this particular genre.

This paper seeks the benefit of translators, trainees and linguists alike to have a full image of how voices are handled in terms of their semantic functions in the translation process between English and Arabic

in this particular genre. The analysis is led by Quirk et al.'s (1958) assumption of the variety of markedness of voices according to text types. The corpuses used are two e-portals of business and economic texts that feature their content in various languages vis. English versions are authored then translated into different languages. The first portal is called 'Worldbank Blogs' and the second is 'Finance and Development Journal'. They are chosen as they are the only websites that present economic issues translated from English to Arabic to the best of the researcher knowledge.

### Literature Review

The textual function of the voices entails that a discussion of voices must rely on the use of the passive voice. Passivizing an utterance by giving the prominence of the noun phrase as a new subject or 'theme' and making the other constituents as the rheme makes this reforming worth studying. Different language systems achieve this thematization of the patient by different peculiar structures. Halliday (1970) asserts that the participants of the active and the passive voice are the same except that the agent in the passive-constructed sentence is either put in the focal position at the end of the sentence or more frequently omitted. In Sullivan words (1976), the passive constructions "treats the patient as obligatory and the agent as optional" (p.141).

Arabic shows a rich verbal inflection system. The verb is inflected for gender, number and syntactic case. It is also changed for the voice it encodes. كُتِبَ is an active formula of the verb which equals in English (he wrote) كَتَبَ , (with the initial letter accented with the nominative case) is the passive form which could be translated in English to (been written). English fronts the object to take up the subject position and follows it with a (be) verb and the past participle of the lexical verb. English according to Almana (2019) is described as periphrastic which means that the verb is expressed in two or more words rather than by inflected form of the verb, as in 'I ate an apple' which becomes 'an apple was eaten'.

Arabic and English show different reasons to favor one of these voices over the other in different registers and contexts. English lawyers, for example, tend to use passive forms 'the contract shall be signed' rather than the 'first party shall sign the contract' as they view passive voice as bearing more formal and indirect tone to the formula (Haigh, 2018, p.37). This tendency is adopted by the Arab translators who tend to render active Arabic sentences into English passive ones in the legal texts although Arabic texts retain the preference to use active sentences (Graham, 2013). This contention extends to all scientific texts as stated by Rosenhouse (1988). Generally speaking, Wright (1975, p.50) narrowed down the uses of the passive construction in Arabic to four uses as follows:

- When God is the agent in the sentence.
- When the author is anonymous.
- When the writer does not intend to mention the agent.
- When the writer wants to draw the attention to the patient or object more than the doer of the action.

Active voice is represented differently in English and Arabic. English sentences have their subjects in the initial position as standard while Arabic has two forms where the subject is included; verbal and nominal forms of the sentences; though we can add the subject of the passive sentence at the end of the sentence after the use of some calques like Suleiman (1985) states that nominal sentences are predominant in modern standard Arabic. Nonetheless, all these differences in construction do not constitute a dilemma to the translator as it is axiomatic to have such differences in construction between the two languages especially that they stem from different language families. The analysis in this paper is led on a semantic basis, where translators' norms and language norms are to be discussed.

Moindijie (2009) studied the occurrences of voices in literary texts. He found that English and Arabic uses different surface structures to encode semantic message out of the utterance. He came up with the result that voices are determined by many factors; namely, the structural peculiarity of each language, tendency of the users and the translators' latitude of conveying the message.

### 1. Cross-linguistic Influence in Voices

The umbrella term cross-linguistic influence could also be termed a language interference or transfer according to the Free Dictionary by Farlex. They both refer to the use of another language knowledge or norms in a certain language. Transfer in the case of similar structures could be termed 'positive transfer' or 'facilitation' unless the users of any two languages are confronted with different structure; in such a case it could be termed 'interference' (Khan, 2014). The claims by Lado (1957) and Fries (1952) contributed to attributing the existence of cross-linguistic difference is resulting from doing the contrastive studies.

Gass and Selinker (1992, 2001) stated that by doing contrastive studies, linguists could discern the real influence of communicational acts. Lghzeel and Raha (2020) investigated the cross-linguistic influence of Arabic on English passive voices made by the Arab students and they found that Arabic influenced greatly the English translations of passive voice constructions in a negative way in that many errors were detected and ascribed to the mother language way of expression, where the learners combine the Arabic passivizing rules with their English counterparts. Theoretically speaking, Gao (2013) indicted that the negative influence occurs when the learners face difficulties in learning the second language, they refer the particular phenomenon to its respective rules in their mother tongue. The last four decades witnessed invasion of English elements coined to Arabic language as this claim is contended by scholars like Boyle 2012, Mahmoud 2013, Vasteegh 2010 and Al-Athwary (2016). Thus, aspects of business and economic language must be revisited this time focusing on voices and its translation between Arabic and English.

### Methodology

This paper is a qualitative investigation of voices in terms of their semantic functions in both languages. The corpuses consist of articles extracted from two websites where 20 translated Arabic texts will be taken from each website. The articles are taken from 'Finance and Development' and 'World Bank Blogs' journals. These two websites specialize in business and economics only, covering all related topics. They deal with information and views of the economic specialists. These articles are available in many languages such as French and Arabic. To detail, the former is a quarterly journal published by the International Monetary Fund (henceforth, the IMF); and the latter is a journal where financial analysts express their voices in different languages.

Finance and Development is a quarterly journal issued by the International Monetary Fund organization (IMF), which in turns, works to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade. This journal features columns in its interface; namely, *latest issues*, *people in economics*, *point of views*, *in the trenches*, *currency notes*, *back to basics*, *book reviews* and lastly other documents in the form of podcasts or videos. The contents of these columns are organized into quarterly issues (March, June, September and December on a yearly basis). In every issue, about 20 to 25 articles are published under any of the aforementioned columns. The size of the four shared topics within the span of these three years determines the size of the sample as the proportion of other economic topics extends to cover other issues such as donation and economic book reviews. These articles are authentically written in English then translated into French, Spanish, Arabic and other languages; thus, the Arabic language is the target in this study.

World Bank Blogs, on the other hand, covers topics mainly concerning the development in different perspectives like agriculture and food, climate change, competitiveness, debt, digital development, education, gender and investing in health, and much more as shown in Figure 4 below. This portal is one of the world's largest source of funding and knowledge for developing countries. The blogs are posted by partners in five institutions (the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes). The bloggers in this website authentically write in English though they belong to different backgrounds and nationalities, and they are all specialized in economics and their works are affiliated to any of these institutions.

These two e-portals show similar content in terms of content, and they make available English articles and posts in different languages. The Arabic translations of these articles are to be investigated in this study as parallel to their English texts.

The researcher collects a sample from both websites based on the four shared topics. This means that the size and the content of the sample is to be drawn according to some criteria which take account of the topics COVID-19 epidemic, digital future, work and economic recession published over the years (2019-2021). By looking closely first at Finance and Development journal, the number of published articles within any issue ranges from 20 to 25 articles covering all the topics included in the variety of columns. As for the second portal which is called World Bank Blogs, the number of the posted blogs outnumbers the former journal as they are not posted according to a known time basis. The length of every article in the first journal ranges between three to four pages (double sided) when they are downloaded as PDF files with almost 500-word count each. On the other hand, the latter portal posts lengthier blogs with about 700-word count for each post. Thus, a sample of 20 published materials for each portal will be sufficient for the purpose of this study.

Another criterion that cannot be neglected is the topics of the sample. As the topics under the economic genre vary a lot whether in their orientations or their historical importance in the two websites, the researcher looks at those which took the utmost attention in the recent years and exist in both portals simultaneously. COVID-19 epidemic, digital future, work and economic recession seem to have the highest percentage in the recent three years (2019-2021). As a result, 7 documented materials will be drawn from every year publications within the above four mentioned topics to date.

After drawing the sample, data collection will be done manually on the ST and the TT. The articles in ST and TT will be wholly read and data, which reflect the research variables will be collected and tabulated for the analysis. These data as mentioned above will be taken purposefully from four topics that cover COVID-19 epidemic, digital future, work and economic recession. The researcher will stick to these four topics and will draw the texts that are mostly published in the last three years i.e., 2019, 2020, 2021. If some variables of the parameters under study are not covered fully within these three years, then other reflective texts will be drawn from 2018 or 2017. The size of the sample in each portal suits the proportion of these selected topics covered over these three years. Due to the old date of the previous studies on the translation of this genre between Arabic and English, the researcher opts for the most recent years to take the published material from. The researcher hinges to delineation to find the differences between the SL and TL and to observe the translators' options after tabulating the examples in terms of their semantic functions.

## Findings

### 1. Findings of Worldbank Blogs

Though all voices exist in both languages, the occurrences of the passive voice in SL outnumber their Arabic translations. Only 14 examples of passive English were retained Arabic passive. It is found that translators abided by literal translation in cases where agents are dropped. Besides, translators use transposition to render the agentless passive English into active Arabic as their norm to retain a more natural and idiomatic Arabic. Modulation is also used where the conception of Arabic entails more idiomatic expression. Passive Arabic sentences, on the other hand, are modulated as counterparts to active English sentences whether to gloss (to add a brief explanation) the reduced English adjective or to employ dynamic verbs rather than their stative substitutes as a way of strong reporting of the information. Table 1 shows the frequencies of these instances in Arabic and English.

From these findings, it is shown that voices' behavior simulates the behavior of voices in technical texts for both Arabic and English due to the preference of English authors to use more passive construction as compared to Arabic where active voice is the most prevalent. This also enhances the tenor where both versions i.e. Arabic and English follow the same tendency of the technical texts when translating voices. The next wording of analysis is to detail these instances.

Table 1. Frequencies of Voices Translation in Arabic and English

English voice	Arabic voice	Number of Occurrences	Frequency of Occurrences
Passive English	Passive Arabic	14	0.32
Passive English	Active Arabic	2	0.04
Passive English	Modulated active Arabic	5	0.11
Active English	Transposed Passive Arabic	19	0.44
Active English	Modulated Passive Arabic	3	0.06

Literal translation in this means that the construction of passive voice in Arabic and English is retained to realize the same voice. The examples below confine all the instances of the passive English sentences and their passive Arabic equivalents because other English passive sentences are not rendered passive in the TT.

Table 2. Instances of the Passive English Sentences and their Arabic equivalents

Passive SL	Passive TL
1-Initiatives in Jordan, Oman and Qatar are frequently cited	-وكتيرا ما يُستشهد بمبادرات في الأردن و عُمان وقطر كأمثلة على الممارسات الجيدة
2-reflecting mortality that was not attributed to COVID-19	-وهو ما يكشف عن الوفيات التي لا تُعزى إلى فيروس كورونا
3-and future supply and repayment commitments that will have to be fulfilled long after politicians have spent the proceeds of the loan	-والتزامات التوريد والسداد في المستقبل التي سيُتبعين الوفاء بها بعد انقضاء وقت طويل على إنفاق السياسيين حصيلة القروض.
4-I was lucky enough to be matched with three inspiring teams of young people who included doctors, engineers	-وكان من حُسن حظي أنني اقترنت بثلاثة فرق من الشباب الملهمين الذين كان بينهم أطباء ومهندسون
5-Private sector stakeholders and citizens will also be engaged to co-develop an e-government sector strategy	- وسوف يُشرك أصحاب المصلحة المعنيون من القطاع الخاص والمواطنون في تطوير إستراتيجية لقطاع الحكومة الإلكترونية
6- which connects several ministries and is currently used for basic interagency data queries	- وهي التي تصل بين مختلف الوزارات وتُستخدَم لاستدعاءات البيانات الأساسية بين الهيئات بغرض توفير الخدمات من خلال منصة على الإنترنت
7- I was recently invited to Muscat	دُعيت مؤخراً إلى مسقط
8- Each team member was asked to lay aside their institutional loyalties	- وطُلب من كل عضو في الفريق أن ينحي ولاءه المؤسسي جانباً
9- each team member was given a branded name badge	- أُعطي كل عضو في الفريق شارة تحمل اسمه كتعبير عن ولاءه الجديد لمشروع
10- Thailand was noted as was Singapore's practice	- وقد لوحظ تمتع مجالس الإدارة في تايلند بالاستقلالية والاحترافية
11- will be born next year	- سيولدون العام المقبل
12- which can be done if every country can match the performance of the countries that made the most progress	- ما يمكن الوصول إليه إذا استطاع كل بلد أن يضاهي أداء البلدان التي حققت أكبر تقدم
13- ESMAP's analytical and advisory services are fully integrated	وتُدْمج الخدمات التحليلية والاستشارية التي يقدمها البرنامج بشكل كامل
14 - Unless those deficits shrink, citizens may be asked to face drastic cuts in transfers or social services to preserve the rents of a few non-deserving oligarchs	-، فقد يُطلب من المواطنين مواجهة تخفيضات جذرية

As it is shown from the Table, passive constructions in English take the typical construction of 'object+(be)+ past participle'; conversely, Arabic verbs are inflected by the accent َ in their initial letter and followed by the subject of the passive. The use of the passive here shows that both versions do not give the agent any importance. English users are accustomed to add the phrase 'by+ agent' at the end of the passive sentence to show that the object is more important than the agent. Arabic users just drop the agent most of the time in the passive construction as a rule attested by Khalil (1988). Translators passivize these examples because agents are dropped in the SL text, hence, the literal translation here is required. Other instances of passive voice in English are rendered into active construction by the use of the verbal nouns, which was the dominated case. The two instances below show passive English is rendered active in Arabic.

Table 3. Instances of Passive English Constructions Activated by the Use of Verbal Nouns in Arabic

Passive English	Active Arabic
1- They need proof that their hard-earned resources are being used wisely,	- وهم يحتاجون إلى الدليل على أنه سيجري استخدام مواردهم التي اكتسبوها بعرقهم وجهدهم استخداما حكيما،
2- Governments can start by implementing and publishing a medium-term revenue strategy so that all citizens can be informed about how their tax dollars are being used.	-- وبإمكان الحكومات أن تبدأ بتنفيذ ونشر إستراتيجية متوسطة الأجل للإيرادات حتى يتسنى إحاطة كل المواطنين علما بكيفية استخدام ما يدفعون من ضرائب.
3-Cars, buses, trains and even air taxis could be fueled by electricity instead of gasoline and diesel	- ومن الممكن تزويد السيارات والحافلات والقطارات والطائرات بالطاقة الكهربائية بدلاً من البنزين والديزل

Examples from the above Table show that English passive is rendered active in Arabic; the agents in English sentences are optional, whereas in Arabic the passive voice agent does not exist. Translators transpose the verbs by using the verbal nouns of the verbs preceded by active verbs which indicate, in their part, the tense of the passivized verb as in the two three examples. In the third example, the translators put the passivized verb in Idhafa construction which is another way of transposition that enables the translators to hide the agent by nominalizing the sentence. The presence of the auxiliary *could* is located in an agentive passive construction in English, yet it feels unidiomatic to Arabic reader to passivize the auxiliary. These examples show the inclination of Arabic to use active sentences more than the passive ones. Though the agents also are hidden in the Arabic sentences, the focus was on the actions by the use of the aforementioned techniques i.e. transposition which enables the realization of agentless active Arabic sentences. Active occurrences of transposition exist in all Blogs which asserts translators' preferences to transpose the passive English sentences which is again another procedure of oblique translation. Though the voice realization is different here in the SL and TL, but no meaning loss is identified.

Another bulk of examples show how translators choose to modulate in rendering some of the passive SL sentences into active TL sentences. Examples on these instances exist in the Table 4 below.

Table 4. Modulated Active Arabic Translations

Passive English	Active Arabic
1-people are burdened by explicit and implicit debt guarantees,	- تنقل كاهل الناس أعباء ضمانات ديون صريحة وضمنية
2- The term "Shecession", which was coined in the U.S.,	- ويشير مصطلح هو "Shecession"، الذي ظهر في الولايات المتحدة
3- emissions have been reduced by about 17%	- انخفضت الانبعاثات العالمية نحو 17%

In these examples, the English agents are introduced in the passive whether by the use of 'by+ the agent' or by fronting the adjectival subordinate phrase. Still the translators here can passivize the equivalents and get acceptable translation, but it is more idiomatic in Arabic to be rendered in such way. Thus, it is the language specificities that determines the role in such cases.

Some other instances show Arabic peculiarity in rendering the active English to passive Arabic sentences. In the Arabic sentences, the verbs are passivized as they are parallel to their participles in the reduced adjectival phrases. Translators were not able to equate the participial with adjectives in Arabic, but they opt for transposing them. The transposition here gives the passivized Arabic verbs the quality of stating or defining which is very suitable to their equivalent adjectival English phrases. These verbs along with their complements that contribute to explain the adjectives in English prove that Arabic sentences fall under two classifications which are nominal or verbal sentences. The translation of nominal sentences here sounds unacceptable to Arabic readers yet result in a translationese. The translation by verbal sentences is used to represent the English past participle and active verb. Furthermore, translators are found to produce other phrase by passive Arabic as in the Table 6 below.

Table 5. Passivized Arabic Constructions as Counterparts to Reduced Adjectival Clauses

Active English	Passive Arabic
1- Capacity, commonly seen as teacher readiness, can help determine the failure	- يُمكن أن تساعد القدرات التي يُنظر إليها في العادة على أنها جاهزية المعلمين في تحديد فشل النظام التعليمي
2- Most countries, ..., and even where not enforced by law, isolation is encouraged	- ، بل وشجعت على العزلة، حتى لو لم تُفرض بالقانون
3- Debt can be a useful tool if it is transparent, well-managed	- وقد تكون الديون أداة مفيدة إذا اتسمت بالشفافية، وأُحسنت إدارتها،
4- First, the inability on the part of utilities to recover their costs is usually not only due to lower tariffs,	- أولاً، إن عجز المرافق عن استرداد تكاليفها لا يُعزى عادة إلى انخفاض قيمة التعرفة
5 - Encouraging the growth of child care services in the private sector is key because it will free women's time to attend work	-وَيُعد تشجيع نمو خدمات رعاية الأطفال في القطاع الخاص أمراً أساسياً لأنه سيُتيح للمرأة وقتاً للعمل

Table 6. Modulated Arabic Constructions as Counterparts to Active English Constructions.

Active English	Passive Arabic
1- There are five elements to consider when designing digital learning interventions.	- ويجب أن تُؤخذ بعين الاعتبار خمسة عناصر عند تصميم تدخلات التعلّم الرقمي
2-An EdTech conference (June 1–3) will be a platform	- وسيكون مؤتمر تكنولوجيا التعليم الذي سيعقد في الفترة من 1-3 يونيو
3-students who were already at a lower point may not have had the means to use the remote resources made available in some countries.	-، فقد حُرّم هؤلاء الطلاب من سبل استخدام وسائل التعلّم عن بعد التي كانت متوفرة في بعض البلدان.

Arabic sentences here are modulated to produce idiomatic Arabic. The English sentences here are not indicated by any means of passive construction because the conception serves the meaning idiomatically. Modulation is used to show the language peculiarity most of the time to use one expression and skip the other. The translators prefer to employ dynamic verbs rather than their stative substitutes to give strong reporting of information. These three examples prove that language peculiarity imposes some constructions to be available to sound more idiomatic.

To conclude, the above discussion draws some important lines to the behaviour of English and Arabic voices in the business and economic genre. It is observed that English users were inclined to use passive more than Arabic users. Translators use oblique translation methods to render passive constructions into Arabic in their endeavour to attain more idiomatic Arabic. Although translators inclined to use the active voice more than the passive, this usage is mostly limited to dynamic verbs where English active stative verbs were modulated to passive Arabic instead of past participles and active verbs. Anyhow, the only gain of meaning or effect is achieved when the active English stative verbs became dynamic Arabic passives which gives a stronger reporting of information.

## 2. Findings of Finance and Development Magazine

All verbs in both languages occur with their agents in passivized or activized manner. English again shows more inclination to use the passive more than Arabic where most English passive sentences are countered by an active construction in Arabic. Translators' inclination to use active Arabic is justified mostly according to being the English passive sentences agentive, and of being not some Arabic verbs accepting the passive form. However, some active English sentences were translated to passive Arabic in case they happen in reduced adjectival phrases. Translators hinge to many procedures to translate the English passive constructions. Table 7 contains and confines examples on the different formulae of active Arabic constructions used as translations to their English passive constructions:



Table 7. Examples of Passive English Sentences Translated into Active Arabic

Passive English	Active Arabic
1-... and that the law can be applied equally to everyone,	- وأن الجميع متساوون في نظر القانون
2-capital is pushed toward emerging economies	- يتم دفع رأس المال نحو اقتصادات الأسواق الصاعدة
3-As long as that remains the case, the threat of significant capital outflows should be contained.	- وما دام الحال هكذا، فينبغي احتواء خطر تدفق رؤوس الأموال إلى الخارج بكميات كبيرة.
4-Yet the US political system is beset by deep partisanship	- غير أن النظام السياسي الأمريكي يعاني من تحزب عميق
5-Economics is nonetheless still centered on the measurable	-- غير أن الدراسات الاقتصادية لا تزال منحصرة في ما يمكن قياسه
6-Targeting orders were conducted by people already	- أوامر الاستهداف الجغرافي أجراها أشخاص يشتبه بالفعل في تورطهم في معاملات مشكوك فيها
7-Companies will be less inclined to build permanent workforces	- فالخطر الأكبر يتمثل في الشركات التي ستقل رغبتها في بناء قوة عاملة دائمة مستعينة

The translations of the passive constructions into active varied in the procedures undertaken. In the first example, the translator modulates the passive construction where the verb in Arabic is not only activized, but is changed into another verb where the adjective *متساوون* is an adjective derived from the verb *يتساوى*, thus the verb *applied* is not rendered into active but entirely changed. It seems that the translator was not able to passivize this construction where the auxiliary *can* is difficult to attain a passive verb from it in Arabic as Arabs are used to use it in active construction followed by the verbal noun of its adjacent lexical verb. Thus, translation here is deemed a language peculiarity due to the natural realization of the expression. This entailment could be applied to the third example where the auxiliary *should* plays a part in the English passive construction. Another case which is the dominant construction of the activized Arabic construction is where the lexical verb is realized through its verbal noun and preceded by the word *تم* (completely happened in the past) or *يتم* (is completely happening in the present) such as the case with the second example. When this sentence is passivized it seems unnatural to the Arabic speaker, hence translators in this example seek naturalness of the Arabic expression. In the fourth example, the change appears in following the lexical Arabic verb *يعاني* followed by the preposition *من* then the verbal noun. This is because the preposition here collocates always with this verb. The agentive passive construction in English is activized because the Arabic verb accepts the calque "by+the agent" as the object of the preposition.

On the other hand, some cases of activizing the Arabic seem a language peculiarity where translators do not have other options. The fifth example contains the word *still* which is translated into Arabic as *لا تزال* and comes usually before the lexical verb, but it does not have a passive form which entails the verb to be maintained in the active form or could be reformed to an adjective as in this particular example represented in the adjective *منحصرة* (confined to). The sixth example includes an agentive passive construction in English which necessitates the translators to render it active because if translated literally, Arabs consider these borrowed calques (*بواسطة, من قبل*) as degradation to the Arabic language. The last example in the Table shows a peculiarity of some Arabic verbs to not accepting the passive form by nature such as the verb *يميل إلى* in this example, hence, translators do not have other options.

Anyhow, a few passive constructions where translated into active reaching about ten examples. This indicates the inclination of Arabs to use the active construction most of the time. Table 8 below is to draw the lines toward the behavior of realizing passive constructions of SL and TL.

A close look at the English examples in Table 8 shows that no agents are indicated in the 'by+the agent' phrase. This is maybe why translators find no other choice than maintaining them passive in the Arabic TT. All of the Arabic verbs use the right formula of the passive construction.

It is also found in this magazine that Arabic passive sentences were counterparts to active English sentences. These cases were hardly found in Arabic which could be attributed to the preference of Arabic language to use verbal sentences to nominal sentences. Their English counterparts were merely stative sentences. Translators found no other way to give the adjectival clause any significance other than putting it in a verbal sentence as in the examples of Table 9 below.



Table 8. Passive English Constructions and their Arabic Passive Translations

Passive English	Passive Arabic
1-Are you surprised by how well the emerging market asset class has fared during the pandemic?	-هل فوجئتما بمدى كفاءة أداء فئة أصول الأسواق الصاعدة أثناء الجائحة؟
2- capital was more lightly taxed than labor	-كان يُفرض على رأس المال ضريبة تتجاوز قليلا الضريبة المفروضة على العمالة،
3-social infrastructure is branded as expenses or operating costs	-تُصنّف البنية التحتية الاجتماعية كنفقات أو تكاليف تشغيل،
4-He has been indicted in the United States on six counts of attempted money laundering	- إذ وُجهت إليه ست تهم في الولايات المتحدة بمحاولة غسل أموال
5- The site was used to launder hundreds of millions of dollars from these unlawful transactions	-واستخدم الموقع لغسل مئات الملايين من الدولارات من هذه المعاملات غير القانونية

Table 9. Active English Modulated to Passive Arabic

Active English	Passive Arabic
1-Less obvious are the pandemic's geographic effects within countries	-وتعد الآثار الجغرافية للجائحة داخل البلدان أقل وضوحا.
2-which has become much less shared since the 1980s.	- ، الذي أصبح يُقتسم على نطاق أضيق بكثير منذ ثمانينات القرن العشرين.
3- Workers and their families on the wrong side of the many US economic disparities are there for several reasons	وجود العمال والأسر في الكفة المظلومة من ميزان الفروق الاقتصادية العديدة في الولايات المتحدة إلى عدة أسباب

In the English examples of Table 9 above, the adjectives and nouns function as predicates to their subjects, yet the verbs are stative in nature. This drives the translators to bring about the Arabic verbs that convey the function of stating similar meaning as the verbs in bold in the same Table. The agents to these stative clauses are not indicated, thus, translators passivize the Arabic sentences. It is an Arabic conception that steers the meanings of these stative clauses.

It is concluded from the above discussion that Arabic still have the preference for using active voices more than passive ones because many of the verbal constructions do not have a passive formula. Passivizing Arabic sentences becomes a priority for some reasons; namely, the lack of agents in the SL, the stative nature of some English clauses where the conception of Arabic plays a major part, and that some auxiliaries cannot be rendered into passive in Arabic as is the case with *should*, *can* and *still* if they occurred in agentive passive constructions. These observations come to match the observation in the previous analysis of World Bank Blogs. Table 10 briefs the occurrences and the frequencies.

Table 10. Frequencies of Voices Translation Procedures

English voice	Arabic voice	Number of occurrences	Frequency of occurrences
Passive English	Active Arabic	16	0.64
Passive English	Passive Arabic	5	0.2
Active English	Passive Arabic	4	0.16

## Discussion

Despite the fact that active and passive voice structures have the same participants, passivizing a sentence means that thematization of the participants plays a major role in the semantic function of the respective sentence as to “treating the patient as obligatory and the agent as optional” according to Sullivana (1976, p.141). Arabic, however, is known for favoring to use more active structures than English especially in the scientific texts (Rosenhouse 1988, p.92). This finding is observed also in this study after doing the DA to the samples. In his paper, Khafaji (1996) did a discourse analysis to find out the conditioning factors that govern Sullivana's proposition. He found that the passive is typically used in Arabic when the readers' attention is to be directed to the patient more than the agent because the agent is unknown in English or obvious but it is not important, when the passive structure in English is agentive, with some nominalized Arabic construction followed by the infinitive, with verbs that do not have the passive forms in Arabic such as *تكون* and *تقاسم*, and

with Arabic nominalized constructions that are followed by the passive participle. Unless the English patient-state is detected, the Arabic translation have to be in passive construction. It is thus must be differentiated between patient-state and patient-process to distinguish the semantic variation made by the translators. The finding of this study are in high akin to findings of Khafaji's (1996) findings that prove the variations of the translators of the informative language act similarly in their selection of the equivalence and hence serve the functions of the texts according to the norms of the SLs and TLs.

Khalil (1988) found similar findings in his study of the passive construction, form and types in English and classical Arabic, but he did not bring the variations to light. In addition to that he found that colloquial and MSA accept the translation of agentive passive English to agentive phrases in Arabic.

Moindjie (2016) also studied the occurrences of voices in literary texts. He found that English and Arabic uses different surface structures to encode semantic message out of the utterance. He came up with the result that voices are determined by many factors; namely, the structural peculiarity of each language, tendency of the users and the translators' latitude of conveying the message. Although this study reached most importantly that translators prefer active voice constructions and agree on activizing the reduced adjectival clause, the significance lies in being it solely investigating the procedure types used in the English and Arabic business and economic language.

## Conclusion

To conclude, the above discussion draws some important lines to the behavior of English and Arabic voices in the business and economic genre. It is observed that English users incline to use passive more than Arabic users. Translators use oblique translation methods to render passive constructions into Arabic in their endeavor to attain more idiomatic Arabic. Although translators are inclined to use the active voice more than the passive, this usage is mostly limited to dynamic verbs where English active stative verbs were modulated to passive Arabic beside the reduced adjectival phrases. Anyhow, the only gain of meaning or effect is achieved when the active English stative verbs became dynamic Arabic passives in order to give a stronger reporting of information. This elevates the translators' choices and renders the TL more open to manipulation though no meaning loss was detected in the translation of voices. The hybridity nature of the economic texts plays in the favor of technical texts where the tendency of the translator's goes to activize the Arabic sentences. The findings of this study should challenge the behavior of voices in other genres; thus it is recommended that the same analysis is to further investigate religious discourse for example.

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