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Bakalářská práce

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**English *get*-passives**

Anglické pasívum se slovesem „get“

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Souhlasím se zapůjčením bakalářské práce ke studijním účelům.

I have no objections to the BA thesis being borrowed and used for study purposes.

## **ABSTRAKT**

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá slovesem *get* ve funkci pomocného slovesa pasiva. Teoretická část charakterizuje slovesnou kategorii rod z formálního a syntakticko-sémantického hlediska. Dále popisuje a srovnává *be* pasivum a *get* pasivum. Analytická část je korpusově založená studie 100 příkladů extrahovaných z webového korpusu Araneum Anglicum Minus, na kterých je ukázáno, která slovesa se nejčastěji vyskytují v *get* pasivu. Analytická část se zaměřuje na následující znaky *get* pasiva: syntakticko-sémantické a sémantické kategorie sloves, které se vyskytují v *get* pasivu a sémantika jejich podmětu. Bakalářská práce poskytuje systematickou analýzu anglických *get* pasiv a pokouší se přispět k jejich detailnějšímu syntakticko-sémantickému popisu.

**klíčová slova:** slovesný rod, trpný rod, *get* pasivum, *be* pasivum

## **ABSTRACT**

The present thesis studies the verb *get* in the function of the passive auxiliary. The theoretical part describes general formal and syntactic-semantic characteristics of the verbal category of voice. Subsequently, it provides a comparative overview of the *be*-passive and the *get*-passive. The analytical part is based on a sample of 100 examples excerpted from the web corpus Araneum Anglicum Minus. The examples in the sample demonstrate verbs that are found most frequently in the *get*-passive. The analytical part focuses on the following aspects of the *get*-passive: the syntactic-semantic and semantic categories of verbs that occur in the *get*-passive and the semantics of the *get*-passive subject. This thesis provides a systematic analysis of English *get*-passives and hopes to contribute to a more detailed syntactic and semantic description of this construction.

**key words:** voice, passive voice, *get*-passive, *be*-passive

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The present thesis is concerned with the *get*-passive, specifically its characteristic features that distinguish it from the *be*-passive. The theoretical part is primarily based on three representative British grammar books, namely Quirk et al.'s *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, Biber et al.'s *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* and Huddleston and Pullum's *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language*. Apart from these grammar books, this part is also based on academic articles, such as Nicholas Fleisher's "The origin of passive *get*". First, the theoretical part characterizes the passive voice in general; next, it focuses on the *get*-passive, pointing out the differences between the *be*-passive and the *get*-passive. The theoretical part also tries to unify the differing viewpoints of the grammar books. The analytical part is concerned with aspects of the *get*-passive, that are rarely dealt with in detail with in the mentioned grammar books. These aspects are related to the syntactic-semantic and semantic categories of verbs with which the *get*-passive is typically found, the subject of the *get*-passive and its semantics and the pragmatic meaning of the *get*-passive sentences. The analytical part of this thesis deals with 100 examples containing the *get*-passive, which have been extracted from the web corpus Araneum Anglicum Minus.

## **2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

The English finite verb is defined by five morphological categories: person, number, tense mood and voice. The category of voice, expressed by both finite and non-finite verbs, is described in many grammar books as the last verbal category. This does not mean that it is the least important category, but rather, that it is quite specific. Quirk et al. (1985: 159) mention voice at the end of the “Verbs and auxiliaries chapter” for two reasons. Firstly, the passive construction, when it is present in the verbal phrase, appears in the final position and secondly, it does not concern only verb phrases, but other constituents in the clause as well. The voice, described very simply, is used to change the relation of the subject to the action, i.e. whether the subject is agentive or inactive/undergoing the action. In the system of voice, two categories contrast with each other: passive and active. Quirk et al. formulate the effect of voice as the possibility of the action of a sentence being seen in either of two ways (active/passive), without change in the reported facts:

The butler *murdered* the detective. (active)

The detective *was murdered* by the butler. (passive)

(Quirk et al., 1985: 159)

The active voice is the usual, more frequent variant, whilst the passive is used primarily for cohesion, contextual fit or weight management of the clause (Biber et al., 2006: 935). Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1427) define the term voice as “a system where the contrasting forms differ in the way semantic roles are aligned with syntactic functions, normally with some concomitant marking on the verb”. It is important to note that, according to Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1427), the term voice does not correspond to a ‘limited’ category of categorizing verbal forms, but rather a “system”, that combines the form, the syntactic functions, the semantic roles and most importantly, their alignment. According to this alignment, the terms active and passive are applied to the verbs. In the system of voice, the active voice is the unmarked voice and the passive voice is the marked voice. Therefore, it is natural that the active voice is the more frequent variant. Biber et al. (2006: 476) state on the basis of their corpus findings that passives are most common in “academic prose”, occurring “about 18,500 times per million words”. However, when we consider the spoken language, only around 2% of finite verbs in conversation are in the passive voice. As regards the *get*-passive, Biber et al.’s corpus findings refer to it as “extremely rare,” specifying that it occurs

only in conversation but even there it is rare, “the *get* passive accounts of only about 0.1% of all verbs”.

## 2.1 BASIC FORMAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE

### 2.1.1 THE FORMAL DEFINITIONS OF THE ACTIVE AND THE PASSIVE

As regards the formal differences within the system of voice, the active voice is defined by Quirk et al. (1985: 159) as a verb phrase which does not contain a passive construction. Therefore, the difference between the two categories of voice is that “the passive adds a form of the auxiliary *be* followed by the past participle (-ed participle) of the main verb”.

The passive construction contains an auxiliary, typically *be*, or less frequently *get* followed by a past participle of the verb. The types of constructions in verbal phrases, as mentioned above, can be thus applied to the voice system to illustrate the differences between the two voice categories:

- 1) **Present:** active: *kisses*; passive: *is kissed*
- 2) **Past:** active: *kissed*; passive: *was kissed*
- 3) **Modal:** active: *may kiss*; passive: *may be kissed*
- 4) **Perfective:** active: *has kissed*; passive: *has been kissed*
- 5) **Progressive:** active: *is kissing*; passive: *is being kissed*
- 6) **Modal + perfective:** active: *may have kissed*; passive: *may have been kissed*
- 7) **Modal + progressive:** active: *may be kissing*; passive: *may be being kissed*
- 8) **Perfective + progressive:** active: *has been kissing*; passive: *has been being kissed*
- 9) **Modal + perfective + progressive:** active: *may have been kissing*; passive: *may have been being kissed*

(Quirk et al., 1985: 159)

## 2.2 BASIC SYNTACTIC-SEMANTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACTIVE AND THE PASSIVE

As was mentioned above, the system of voice combines the syntactic function of a phrase, i.e. as which clausal element it functions and secondly, which semantic role the phrase denotes. The following section will focus mainly on the semantics of the passive voice.

### 2.2.1 THE TYPICAL SEMANTIC ROLES OF THE SUBJECT AND THE OBJECT

The only syntactic-semantic type of verbs that can occur in the passive voice are transitive verbs, verbs that are capable of taking a direct object (Biber et al., 2006: 475). Therefore, the two clause elements affected by the shift between the active and passive voice is the subject and the (direct) object. The prototypical semantic role of an animate subject is the role of an agent/agentive<sup>1</sup>, described by Quirk et al. (1985: 741) as an “agentive participant, an animate being instigating or causing the happening denoted by the verb”. The prototypical role of the direct object is the “affected participant”, which can be either animate or inanimate, but which does not cause the happening of the verb, but is still directly involved (Quirk et al., 1985: 741).

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<sup>1</sup> Quirk et al. distinguish the agent from the agentive. Terminologically, they define the *agent* as the ‘performer of the action’, i.e. ‘the active subject becomes the passive agent’. The *agentive* is defined as a semantic role: ‘often assumed by the subject of an active sentence or by the agent of a passive sentence’ (Quirk et al., 1985: 160). However, other grammar books use the terms in a different way, even interchangeably. Huddleston and Pullum use the term *agent* for the semantic role (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1427).

## 2.2.2 THE ACTIVE-PASSIVE CORRESPONDENCE

According to Quirk et al. (1985: 160), “the active-passive correspondence” is the process of the change of voice from the active to the passive, where two clause elements get rearranged and one element, the optional *by*-phrase, can be added.

The following diagram shows this correspondence:

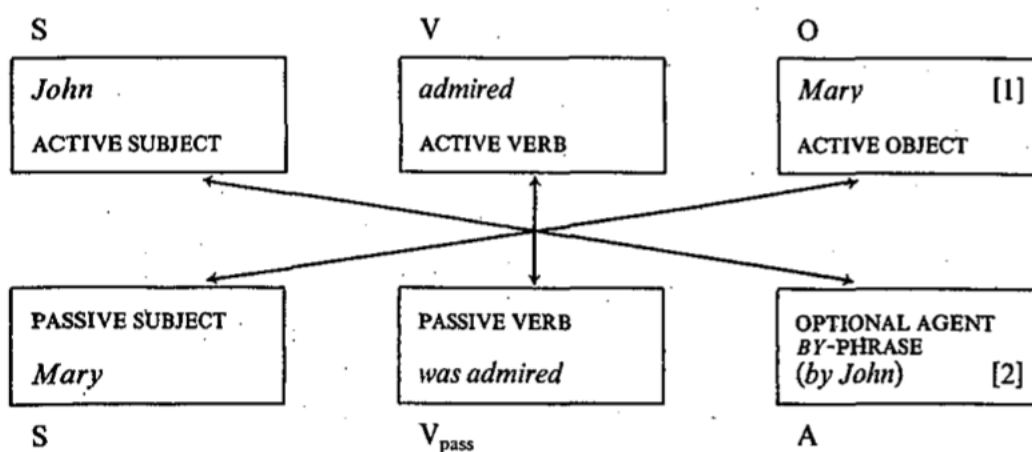


Fig 3.65 The active-passive correspondence

Figure 1: Active-passive correspondence (adapted from Quirk et al., 1985: 160)

In this process of change from active to passive, the active subject becomes the passive agent and the active object becomes the passive subject.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, the preposition *by* is introduced before the agent (if the passive has the form of a long passive; for more see section 2.4). The preposition *by* introduces the agent *by*-phrase, also called the prepositional phrase of passive sentences.

The corresponding active and passive sentences appear to be very different, but the relations of meaning remain the same. Both sentences, *John admired Mary* and *Mary was admired by John* have the same truth value. *John* is the agent in both sentences, but occupies a different position and function in each sentence on the structural level (Quirk et al., 1985: 160).

Therefore, we can clearly distinguish between active and passive phrases both by formal characteristics (the passive contains an auxiliary *be (get)* + a past participle; the active does not) and semantics.

<sup>2</sup> Huddleston and Pullum call this correspondence “externalisation of the object from the VP of the passive”: the external complement of the active phrase, which is the subject, appears internal to the VP in the passive (and vice versa: the internal complement of the active, which is the direct object, is external to the VP in the passive and appears as subject.) (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1428).

## 2.3 THE PASSIVE GRADIENT

Quirk et al. (1985: 167) emphasize that the category of passive is very broad and includes sentences that cannot be viewed as passive sentences if the verb's function and meaning are also considered. According to Quirk et al., the sentences represent a gradient, at one end being the prototypical passive sentences and at the other end being copular predications with adjectival complements. Even these sentences, which correspond to the formal definition of the passive (*be/get* + past participle), but do not have a correspondence with an active counterpart, can be seen as "points on a gradient or scale" (Quirk et al., 1985: 167).

The gradient is illustrated by these sentences:

- [1] *This violin was made by my father.*
- [2] *This conclusion is hardly justified by the results.*
- [3] *Coal has been replaced by oil.*
- [4] *This difficulty can be avoided in several ways.*

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- [5] *We are encouraged to go on with the project.*
- [6] *Leonard was interested in linguistics.*
- [7] *The building is already demolished.*
- [8] *The modern world is getting ('becoming') more highly industrialized and mechanized.*
- [9] *My uncle was/got/seemed (very) tired.*

The sentences above the line are considered passives, the sentences below the line do not correspond to an exact active phrase, thus are not 'ideal' passives.

The last sentence [9] is analysed as containing a copular verb with an adjectival complement. "The possibility of inserting *very*" confirms that *tired* is an adjectival complement (Quirk et al., 1985: 167).

The passive sentences can be divided into three classes according to the above mentioned gradient. These three classes are:

- I. central/true passives
  - a. with an expressed agent
  - b. without an expressed agent (agentless passive)
- II. semi-passives

- III. pseudo-passives
- a. with ‘current’ copulas: *be, feel, look*, etc.
  - b. with ‘resulting’ copulas: *get, become, grow*, etc.

### 2.3.1 CENTRAL PASSIVES

The first four sentences are considered central passives, also called true passives. These sentences have a very clear active-passive relation:

[1] *My father made this violin. – This violin was made by my father.*

[2] *The results hardly justify this conclusion. – This conclusion is hardly justified by the results.*

The first passive [1] is a dynamic passive, the second passive [2] is a stative passive.<sup>3</sup>

The sentence [3] *Coal has been replaced by oil* is less clear in its active-passive relation, depending on the interpretation of the agent *by*-phrase. Quirk et al. introduce two possible active counterparts:

[3a’] *Oil has replaced coal.*

– the *by*-phrase interpreted as an instrument (*by* = *with*)

[3a’’) *(People in many countries) have replaced coal by oil.*

– the *by*-phrase interpreted as an active subject

The last sentence, [4] *The difficulty can be avoided in several ways* does not have a determined active counterpart due to the lack of expressed agent. This type of passive is called ‘agentless passive’ and is the most common (Quirk et al., 1985: 168).

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<sup>3</sup> It is usually the passives with dynamic verbs that are described as the ‘ideal passive’. Quirk et al. state that “[Stative passives] tilt the scales in favour of an adjectival analysis, since all participial adjectives have a stative meaning, whereas corresponding verbs do not” (Quirk et al., 1985: 3.76).



### 2.3.2 SEMI-PASSIVES

Quirk et al. (1985: 168) consider sentences [5] and [6] semi-passive sentences. This class of passives is described as having “both verbal and adjectival properties”. They have verbal properties, because they have an active counterpart:

[5] *We are encouraged to go on with the project.*

[5a] *(The results) encourage us to go on with the project.*

On the other hand, they also carry adjectival properties, since the participle can be coordinated with an adjective and modified with *quite, rather* etc. Also, the auxiliary *be* can be replaced by a lexical copula (*feel, seem*): *We feel rather encouraged to...*

#### 2.3.2.1 THE AMBIGUITY OF PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES WITH SEMI-PASSIVES

An agent *by*-phrase occurs rarely with semi passives, Quirk et al. (1985: 168) present examples such as “*I feel rather let down by his indifference*”. Moreover, Quirk et al. (1985: 169) mention that the ability to take an agent *by*-phrase cannot be regarded as „diagnostic” of the passive construction. Several other prepositions can also introduce agent-like phrases, such as *about* or *with*, as these passive clauses illustrate:

*We were all worried about the complication (active counterpart: *The complication worried us all*)*

*You won't be bothered with me any more (active counterpart: *I won't bother you any more*)*

However, prepositional phrases like these can be ambiguous and can occur with an active subject:

*Leonard was interested in linguistics. (Someone) interested Leonard in linguistics.*

To summarize, prepositional phrases of this type, whether they are introduced by *by* or another preposition, cannot be considered a completely reliable marker of the passive (Quirk et al., 1985: 169).

### 2.3.3 PSEUDO-PASSIVES

The sentences [7] *The building is already demolished* and [8] *The modern world is getting ('becoming') more highly industrialized and mechanized* are classified by Quirk et al. as pseudo-passives.

Pseudo-passives “have neither an active transform nor a possibility of agent addition” (Quirk et al., 1985: 169). They are called pseudo-passives, since they only seem to be passive constructions superficially; it is only their form of verb + participle that would classify them as passives.

As regards the possible active counterpart, an active sentence corresponding to *The building is already demolished* is *(Someone) had already demolished the building*, rather than *(Someone) already demolishes the building*.

Quirk et al. (1985: 170) call this example “a statal passive”, which, similar to the perfective, refers to “a state resulting from the demolition”. The verb *be* in this case is a copula, rather than the passive auxiliary.

Also, the participles in the sentence *The modern world is getting ('becoming') more highly industrialized and mechanized* are of adjectival nature and possibly could be replaced by the adjectives ‘mechanical’ and ‘industrial’.

## 2.4 LONG AND SHORT PASSIVES

A key feature of the passive construction is whether it has the form of a long or a short passive. According to Biber et al. (2006: 935), “the passive involves a restructuring of the clause [...] and thus it is not a simple order variation”. The long passive is a form of the passive where “the agent is expressed in a *by*-phrase”. The short passive is a construction “where the agent is left unexpressed”. The agent might be left unexpressed for a variety of reasons, such as he is unknown or it is unnecessary or redundant to mention him.

- 1) *As recently as last year, **Anderson was asked by the Ugandan government** to advise on the restructuring of the civil service there, [...]*
- 2) *In 1975 **Anderson was appointed** the first EEC delegate in Southern Africa.*

The first sentence is an example of a long passive, since the agent is explicitly expressed by a *by*-construction. The second sentence is a short passive, because the *by*-agent is left unexpressed.

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1428) state that “short passives have no exact active counterpart”. They also state that even though short passives are paired with an active counterpart to demonstrate the difference between active and passive, they cannot be understood as “fully equivalent”.

The short passive sentence *My surfboard was stolen* contains the same amount of information as *Someone stole my surfboard*, however, this sentence is the active counterpart of the long passive *My surfboard was stolen by someone*.

Nevertheless, this is not always the case, since *His plan was rejected* is not pragmatically equivalent to *His plan was rejected by someone* (equivalent to *Someone rejected his plan*.)

The passive sentence *His plan was rejected* is generally understood as “the plan was rejected by the person or body to whom it was submitted” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1428).

Also, as was mentioned above in connection with pseudo passives, not all phrases introduced by the preposition *by* are *by*-agents, also called “internalised complements” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1428). The following sentence contains a *by*-phrase which does not introduce the agent:

*This result was achieved by dubious means.*

It is a short passive and the *by*-phrase functions as an adjunct (it has the same function in the active: *They achieved this result by dubious means*.)

As regards the *get*-passive, it is much more frequent as a short passive. In fact, Xiao et al. specify that in the case of the *get*-passive, “the short form is over ten times as frequent as the long form” (Xiao, McEnery, Quian, 2006).

## 2.5 THE DISCOURSE FUNCTIONS OF THE PASSIVE

Biber et al. (2006: 943) describe the passive as a “formal and impersonal choice”. However, not all passives behave in the same way and there are differences in the use of short and long passives. The passive primarily serves the discourse function of cohesion, contextual fit and weight management. Long and short passives differ in that the short passive is especially used for cohesion through omission of information, whilst the long passive is typical for weight management (Biber et al., 2006: 935).

The short dynamic passive omits information for the purpose of cohesion. It enables the speaker to “eliminate the participant that would have been expressed in the subject of the corresponding active construction, i.e. normally the agent” (Biber et al., 2006: 943). The agent

is usually an animate entity, therefore by eliminating it, the short passive can be described as an impersonal construction.

On the other hand, the long passive contains all of the information of the active counterpart, thus it is not impersonal. It is also less frequent than the short passive.

The passive is very frequently used as a means of the functional sentence perspective, Brůhová (2015: 28) calls the passive “a major device used to achieve the basic distribution of communicative dynamism”, in which “the object that carries a lower degree of communicative dynamism becomes the subject of the passive”. Quirk et al. (1985: 1389) state that the passive is used to “postpone the focus to end position”. Thus, the passive “serves to achieve final placement of the rheme and preverbal placement of the theme” (Brůhová, 2015: 28). The examples show that the passive voice postpones the agentive subject by turning it into the agent in a passive construction:<sup>4</sup>

*The manufacturers tested the device. (active)*

*The device was tested by the manufacturers. (passive)*

The end-focus preference is sometimes strong enough to ‘override’ a rather awkward passive construction:

*The regulations were taken advantage of by all the tramps and down-and-outs in the country.*

In this case, the end-focus principle also coincides with the end-weight principle.

As was mentioned above, short passives without the expressed *by*-agent are much more common than long passives with the expressed *by*-agent. However, if the *by*-agent is expressed, it is a context-independent element,<sup>5</sup> therefore it functions as the rheme (Brůhová, 2015: 32). This demonstrates the primary function of the passive which is “to place the rhematic elements in the final position” (Brůhová, 2015: 32): *Nicola had whispered to several people that she had been promised Jane Pargeter’s job by Blufton.*

The passive voice also enables the speaker to avoid the awkward construction of a finite clause used as a subject:

*That he was prepared to go to such lengths astounded me.*

*I was astounded that he was prepared to go to such lengths.*

---

<sup>4</sup> Another type of construction used for the same reason of end focus is the pseudo-cleft: *The people who tested the device were the manufacturers.* In both the passive and the pseudo-cleft sentence, the focus is placed on the noun phrase. (Quirk et al., 1985: 1389)

<sup>5</sup> Brůhová (2015: 32) mentions that context-dependent *by*-agents may also be found, even though they were not present in her analysis, and refers to Dušková, L. (2005b): “From the heritage of Vilém Mathesius and Jan Firbas: syntax in the service of FSP”. *Theory and Practice in English Studies 3. Proceedings from the 8th Brno Conference of English, American and Canadian Studies*, 7–23. Masaryk University in Brno.

Quirk et al. (1985: 1390) also mention that the passive “can also ensure a smooth crescendo of communicative dynamism with ditransitive verbs by making the indirect object thematic”. Therefore, after the clause *Marion performed well for the judges*, it would be more continuous to hear *She was awarded the prize*, rather than *They awarded her the prize*, since both “*they* and *her* are obviously ‘given’”.

## 2.6 VOICE CONSTRAINTS

Quirk et al. distinguish five kinds of ‘voice constraints’, associated with the verb, the object, the agent, the meaning and the frequency of use (Quirk et al., 1985: 162).

### 2.6.1 VERB CONSTRAINTS

The primary verb constraint is the restriction of the passive voice to transitive verbs. Copular and intransitive verbs cannot occur in the passive because they have no object. The exception to this rule are verbs, normally intransitive, used with a prepositional object. More specifically, the possibility of forming the passive depends on the closeness between the verb and the prepositional phrase, therefore whether the prepositional phrase is a part of the predicate. Generally, the passive is not possible with intransitive verbs or with prepositional phrases that function as a free complement (they are not a part of the predicate), such as *\*She was agreed with*. However, the possibility of forming the passive is also related to the semantics of the verb. A clause *they went into the hall* cannot be passivized because of the literal meaning of the verb, but when the verb is used figuratively, the passive can be formed: *the matter will be gone into; no decision has been arrived at*. Finally, there are rare examples of passives containing intransitive verbs with an adverbial prepositional phrase, such as *the house does not seem to be lived in; the bed has not been slept in; the chair is rarely sat on*. Dušková et al. (2006: 8.84.12) explain these occurrences by the interchangeability of the whole predicate (the verb and the preposition) with a one-word transitive verb, *live in a house = inhabit, sleep in a bed = occupy/use a bed, sit on a chair = occupy*.

There are some exceptions to the use of transitive verbs in the passive. Some transitive verbs, which are called ‘middle verbs’, stative class of verbs of ‘being and having’, do not occur in the passive:

*They have a nice house. He lacks confidence.*

However, verbs of volition or attitude, which are also considered stative verbs, can occur in the passive:

*The police want him. He is wanted by the police.* (stative transitive verb)

On the other hand, verbal constructions occurring only in the passive voice include *be said, be reputed* (*John was said to be a good teacher*); *be born* (*\*His mother bore him*); *be drowned*. (Quirk et al, 1985: 162).

### 2.6.1.1 PASSIVISATION OF DITRANSITIVE VERBS - FIRST AND SECOND PASSIVE

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1432) state that “[in] principle, ditransitive actives have two passive counterparts”. These two counterparts, called first and second passive, depend on whether the indirect or direct object is externalised. The terms first and second passives are based “on the linear position of the relevant object in the active construction”:

*My father gave me this watch.*

*I was given this watch by my father.*

In the first passive, the indirect object is externalised.

*My father gave me this watch.*

*This watch was given me by my father.*

In the second passive, the direct object is externalised.

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 249) state that “ditransitive verbs vary considerably in how readily they occur in passive clauses”. The terminology of these passives reflects “the order of preference” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 249). The much more common variant is the first passive. The second passive is “hardly possible in AmE” and in BrE it is acceptable only in a limited range of cases, depending on the preposition in the prepositional alternant and the semantic role of the indirect object (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1432).

Huddleston and Pullum demonstrate these limitations on the following sentences:

i.	a. <i>I sent <u>Sue</u> <u>a copy</u>.</i> active]	b. <i>I ordered <u>Sue</u> <u>a copy</u>.</i>	[ditransitive: S-P-O <sub>i</sub> -O <sub>d</sub> ,
ii.	a. <i>I sent <u>a copy</u> <u>to Sue</u>.</i> O <sub>d</sub> -C, active]	b. <i>I ordered <u>a copy</u> <u>for Sue</u>.</i>	[monotransitive: S-P-
iii.	a. <i><u>Sue</u> was sent a copy.</i>	b. <i>?<u>Sue</u> was ordered a copy.</i>	[first passive]
iv.	a. <i>?<u>A copy</u> was sent Sue.</i>	b. <i>*<u>A copy</u> was ordered Sue.</i>	[second passive]

In the examples i.a and ii.a, the indirect object corresponds to the complement of *to* in the prepositional alternant and has the semantic role of the recipient. Therefore, the first passive (iii.a) is acceptable, the second passive (iv.a) is rare and by some considered unacceptable. In the examples i.b and ii.b, the indirect object corresponds to the complement of *for* in the prepositional alternant and has the semantic role of the beneficiary. In this case, neither passive is completely acceptable. However, some find the first passive (iii.b) “marginally possible” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 248-249).

### 2.6.2 OBJECT CONSTRAINTS

The direct object in the active clause, becomes the typical passive subject: *John loved Mary. Mary was loved by John.* However, there are certain realization forms of the object which do not allow passivisation. When the transitive verb is followed by a clausal object, the passive use is restricted to a certain degree:

*John thought (that) she was attractive.* (finite clause as an object)

?\**That she was attractive was thought (by John).*

*John hoped to meet her.* (infinitive non-finite clause as an object)

\**To meet her was hoped (by John).*

The passive construction is frequent when the object is represented by a finite clause, if it is extraposed and replaced by the anticipatory *it*:

*It was thought that she was attractive. ?It was hoped to meet her.*

Quirk et al. (1985: 164) also mention that passivisation can happen if “the subject of the object clause is made the subject of a passive superordinate clause”, such as: *She was thought to be attractive* (Quirk et al., 1985: 163-164).

### 2.6.3 MEANING CONSTRAINTS

Even though the shift from active to passive has been previously described to happen “without change in the reported facts” (Quirk et al., 1985: 159), active and passive counterparts do not always carry the same exact meaning. They can differ in emphasis of certain constituents or in “the scope of negatives and quantifiers” (Quirk et al., 1985: 165). There can also be a shift in modal meaning with modal auxiliaries:

*John cannot do it. – It cannot be done (by John).*

The active clause contains the modal verb *can* that expresses ability (deontic modality), the passive clause contains the verb *can* that would be interpreted as expressing possibility (epistemic modality).

*John can't be taught* can either express “It’s impossible to teach him” or “He is unable to learn”. *She can't teach John* clearly expresses only “She is unable to teach John” (Quirk et al., 1985: 165-166).

## 2.7 THE *GET*-PASSIVE

Despite the voice being one of the major categories of the verb and its frequent use, there are still disagreements about the specific usage of the two main auxiliary verbs of the passive, *be* and *get*. *Be* is considered the ‘primary’ auxiliary of the passive and it is far more frequent than *get*, especially in long passives.

In general, the *get*-passive is described as a more dynamic variant of the passive voice. In some phrases, it can be used to avoid the statal passive interpretation.

### 2.7.1 *GET* AS AN AUXILIARY VERB

Passive *get* fails to behave like a true auxiliary, unlike the passive *be*. This is demonstrated by Fleisher through these following criteria:

	<b>PASSIVE <i>BE</i></b>	<b>PASSIVE <i>GET</i></b>
<b>Passive <i>get</i> requires <i>do</i>-support under negation</b>	<i>They were not arrested.</i>	* <i>They got not arrested.</i> <i>They did not get arrested.</i>
<b>Passive <i>get</i> fails to undergo subject-aux inversion</b>	<i>Were they arrested?</i>	* <i>Got they arrested?</i> <i>Did they get arrested?</i>
<b>Passive <i>get</i> cannot occur in tag questions</b>	<i>They were arrested, weren't they?</i>	* <i>They got arrested, gotn't they?</i> <i>They got arrested, didn't they?</i>

**Table 1: The behaviour of passive auxiliaries: *be get* (from Fleisher, 2006)**

Fleisher concludes that passive *get* “functions roughly as an auxiliary semantically, [but] it is not an auxiliary in the syntactic sense” (Fleisher, 2006).



Fleisher (2004: 225) also shows that the passive *get* developed from inchoative *get*, as in *He got sick*, and not from causative *get*, as in *He got himself arrested*. However, the two uses of *get* differ in that the inchoative *get* takes an adjectival complement, but the passive *get* takes a passive-participial complement (Fleisher, 2004: 228). They are similar in that they are both associated with a resultative interpretation (Fleisher, 2004: 229).

Hatcher (1949: 433) adheres to the explanation of the passive *get* as “an extension of its use with adjectives (and adjectival participles): *to get free, to get drunk*”. Quirk et al. (1985: 160) state that *get*, though a “serious contender” for the passive auxiliary, is not, “by most syntactic criteria, an auxiliary at all”.

### 2.7.2 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE *BE*-PASSIVES AND *GET*-PASSIVES

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442) introduce four main differences between the *be* and *get* passives:

- i. *Get*-passives tend to be avoided in formal style.<sup>6</sup>
- ii. *Get*-passives are found only in dynamic verbs.
- iii. *Get*-passives are more conducive to an agentive interpretation of the subject.
- iv. *Get*-passives are characteristically used in clauses involving adversity or benefit.

These aspects will be dealt with in greater detail in the following subchapters.

#### 2.7.2.1 THE USE OF DYNAMIC AND STATIVE VERBS

In point ii, Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442) state that “*get*-passives are found only in dynamic verbs”. The *be*-passive has “dynamic-stative ambiguity”, which can be seen in the above mentioned clause *The chair was broken* or in the following example:

*The village was surrounded by troops from the First Battalion.*

The use of a *get*-passive in the clause eliminates this ambiguity and only carries the dynamic meaning of *surrounded*, i.e. it describes “the event wherein they took up position around the village” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1442):

*The village got surrounded by troops from the First Battalion.*

Therefore, due to the dynamic character of *get*, there is usually less ambiguity between verbal and adjectival passives than with *be*-passives:

*The window was broken. (ambiguous, verbal/adjectival)*

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<sup>6</sup> Quirk et al. (1985: 161) mention that “[the] *get*-passive is avoided in formal style, and even in informal English it is far less frequent than the *be*-passive”.

*The window got broken.* (unambiguous, verbal only)

Hatcher (1949: 434) attributes the limitation of the passive *get* to describing action to its ingressive aspect<sup>7</sup> and also calls it a “convenient device to avoid ambiguity”. Furthermore, she also states that due to the ingressive aspect, *get* cannot refer not only to state but also to durative action. It is impossible to say *he got watched, followed, liked* etc.

Despite the strong dynamicity of the *get*-passive, stative (or static) verbs can be found in the *get*-passive construction. However, due to the dynamicity of *get*, “even a static verb is forced to show a dynamic meaning” (Xiao, McEnery, Quian, 2006).

a. *Okay to you and me tetanus is known by what?*

= *be*-passive construction with a static meaning

b. *The key is persistence. Get your foot in the door, get known. You have to believe in yourself, despite the difficulties.*

= *get*-passive construction containing a stative verb, which is “forced to show a dynamic meaning” (Ibid.).

#### 2.7.2.2 AGENTIVITY WITH THE *GET*-PASSIVE

However, *get*-passives generally tend to be the preferred choice of passives in clauses where the subject “is seen as having an agentive role in the situation, or at least as having some responsibility for it” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1442). This feature of the *get*-passive is illustrated by the following example:

*Jill was/got arrested.*

Both variants could express the patient role of Jill, but the *get*-passive variant would more likely express the meaning of Jill provoking the police, being careless, letting the arrest happen etc. Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442) mention other typical examples of *get*-passives with such meaning:

*Go and get checked out at the medical centre.*

*Getting elected president of the student union took a lot of time and effort.*

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<sup>7</sup> The ingressive aspect describes a beginning of an action. It is classed as part of the imperfective aspect, along with the egressive (ending) and progressive (ongoing) aspect. Declerck et al. describe the the ingressive aspect as a situation “when the verb adopts a special form (suffix or auxiliary) which restricts the reference to the beginning of a situation, i.e. which represents the situation as just beginning” (Declerck et al., 2006, 31). They also mention that there is no special verb form for expressing this aspect in English, English rather uses aspectual lexical verbs (i.e. *commence*), however that means that there is not ‘ingressive aspect’ in English as such (Ibid.). The *get*-passive is understood as expressing the feature of ingressive aspect.

Some authors call this feature of the *get*-passive the subject's agentivity, deliberateness as regards the action, Honda (2012: 69) specifies that with the *get*-passive, "the referent of its subject is often responsible for the event denoted by the passive participle".

Quirk et al. (1985: 161) mention that *get* tends to be limited to constructions "without an expressed animate agent" (*The cat got run over; James got beaten last night*), but that constructions with *get* and an expressed animate *by*-agent may occur as well (*James got caught (by the police)*) Because of the above mentioned agentivity of the subject, most literature states that the *get*-passive rarely occurs with an expressed *by*-agent.

### 2.7.2.3 THE ADVERSATIVE/BENEFICIAL MEANING OF THE *GET*-PASSIVE

Quirk et al. (1985: 161) note that the verb *get* in the passive places emphasis on the condition of the subject referent and that this condition is usually unfavourable; similarly, that the *get*-passives often reflect "an unfavourable attitude towards the action":

*How did that window get opened? ('It should have been left shut!')*

On the other hand, Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442) state that *get* occurs predominantly in passive clauses expressing both an adverse and a beneficial effect (on the subject referent) and that *get*-passives occur rarely with a neutral meaning.

Typical examples include:

*Kim got sacked. / Kim got promoted. (adverse/beneficial)*

*My watch got stolen. / My letter got published. (adverse/beneficial)*

In more neutral situations, *be* is usually the preferred passive auxiliary:

*The milk was bought at the store down the road. (rather than The milk got bought at the store down the road.)*

### 2.7.2.4 PSEUDO-PASSIVES WITH *GET* (ADJECTIVAL *GET*-PASSIVES)

Quirk et al. (1985: 161) state that *get* is "much more common as a 'resulting copula'". These sentences resemble passives from the formal point of view, but cannot be expanded by an agent, such as *get bored, get tired, get (very) excited, get lost, get mixed up*, etc.

*We are getting bogged down in all sorts of problems.*

*Your argument gets a bit confused here.*

These copular sentences are referred to as pseudo-passives, which were mentioned above (cf. 2.3.3). *Get* functions in these sentences as a resulting copula and it is similar to verbs such as

*become, grow, seem*. However, *get* is a “dynamic conclusive verb” (Quirk et al., 1985: 161) and the participles in these clauses are stative (*bogged down* = ‘in a state of being bogged down’).

The pseudo-*get*-passives and true, verbal *get*-passives do have an affinity between them and thus some example sentences might be ambiguous. In these situations, the sentences might be rather viewed as a gradient (cf. the above mentioned “Passive Gradient”).

Both the *get*-passive and the copular *get* put “emphasis on the subject rather than the agent, and on what happens to the subject as a result of the event” (Quirk et al., 1985: 161).

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1441) call these sentences “adjectival passives” and contrast them with traditional verbal passives. They also introduce sentences which carry possible ambiguity in meaning, also reinforcing the notion of the passive gradient:

- i. *They got killed by the hijackers.* (verbal, *get*-passive)
- ii. *They got very frightened.* (adjectival, complex-intransitive)
- iii. *They got frightened.* (ambiguous)

(Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1441)

The example clause i. could be substituted by the active *The hijackers killed them* or by the *be*-passive *They were killed by the hijackers*. The intensifier *very* in the example ii. strengthens the adjectival nature of the phrase. The example iii. is ambiguous, because it could be either understood as being adjectival or as a short passive, similar to the following long passive:

- iii. *They got frightened*
  - *They became very afraid* (adjectival)
  - *They got frightened out of their wits by their teenage children, who turned off the power supply and pretended to be ghosts.* (verbal, long *get*-passive)

Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1441) remark that the clearest cases of adjectival passives (pseudo-passives) with *get* involve “gradable adjectives”, such as *frightened, alarmed, carried away, depressed, distressed, interested, worried* etc. Some non-gradable adjectives used in adjectival *get*-passives include *lost* or *caught*:

- The children got lost in the wood.* (= became lost)
- My coat got caught in the door.* (= became caught)

Some example participles/adjectives that carry a “semantic contrast” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1441) and thus attribute to ambiguous interpretation include *married, dressed, changed* and *shaved*. *They are getting married at the weekend* is an adjectival passive, whilst *They are*

*hoping to get married by the bishop* is a verbal passive, reinforced by the *by*-phrase (cf. Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1441).<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1441) remark that *engaged* is always adjectival in this sense.

### 3. MATERIAL AND METHOD

#### 3.1 MATERIAL

The empirical part of this study is a corpus-based analysis of 100 examples of passive sentences with the verb *get*. These examples have been extracted from the Aranea Corpora, specifically Araneum Anglicum Minus. The Aranea Corpora are a family of comparable web corpora, working with fourteen languages in total. For each of these languages, two varieties are available: Maius, which has around one billion words (tokens) and Minus, which is its sample, approximately 10% the size of the Maius variety (Cvrček, Richterová, 2015). The internet data is collected by means of *SpiderLing*, which is “a web crawler optimized for collecting textual data from the web” (Benko, 2014: 248). Due to the character of the corpora, the language is up to date, but can be specific, informal or even grammatically incorrect. The web pages that contribute data to the corpora include Wikipedia, news sites and blogs. The corpus covers a wide spectrum of web pages, including general websites such as *nbcnews.com*, as well as websites about specialised topics such as rheumatology, baking or programming.

The specific variety of corpora used for the analysis was *Araneum Anglicum Minus*. The corpus query interface was not KonText, but the corpus interface of the Aranea Corpora (<http://unesco.uniba.sk/aranea/>). In order to extract the 100 example sentences, the randomized query contained all forms of the verb *get* (lemma) followed by a past participle. Both finite and non-finite forms are included in the sample. Since the participle forms *rid*, *involved*, *married* and *lost* typically form pseudo passives, they were excluded from the results. The search was limited at first by restricting the text domain only to *.uk*. The text domain has been restricted to *.uk* (*.co.uk*, *.org.uk* etc.) in order to focus only on British English. Because of the relatively diverse character of the language in the corpus, using only websites ending in *.uk* (*.co.uk*) was done to provide a kind of unity to the analysed examples. This query resulted in 600 hits in total.<sup>9</sup> From these 600 hits, 100 examples were excerpted manually.

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<sup>9</sup> The query [lemma="get"] [tag="VVN"] searched in the entire Araneum Anglicum Minus resulted in 17,171 hits. The query [lemma="get"] [tag="VVN"] within <doc tld="uk" />, i.e. all forms of *get* followed by a participle searched in websites ending in *(.co).uk* resulted in 777 hits. The final query, as is mentioned, resulted in 600 hits.

The specific query can be seen below:

### Concordance description

Corpus: **Araneum Anglicum Minus (Global English, 15.04) 119 M**

Operation	Parameters	Hits
Query	<code>word [lemma="get"] [tag="VVN"&amp;word!="rid"&amp;word!="involved"&amp;word!="married"&amp;word!="lost"] within &lt;doc tld="uk" /&gt;</code>	600

**Table 2: The Concordance Description**

Because the language of the corpus is quite informal, some grammatically incorrect or incomplete sentences also had to be excluded, such as:

(0.1) *If the content meets these criteria, it likely to get shared naturally on related websites, which increases the number of inbound links. (corrected: it's likely to **get shared**)*

The next step was selecting only sentences with a very clear active-passive relation. Thus, only sentences that have an active counterpart were included in the analysis. These passives are called central/true passives according to Quirk et al. (1985: 167-168) (for more, see section 2.3.1). This restriction was applied in order to create the most suitable sample of *get*-passives for analysis. The central/true passives are passives in the most prototypical sense, therefore are most fitting for the analysis of the typical features of passives.

The other types of passives were also excluded from the analysis. These are passive sentences without the possible active counterpart. The exclusion concerned the two remaining types of passives: semi-passives, that have “both verbal and adjectival properties” (Quirk et al., 1985: 168) and pseudo-passives, sentences that “have neither an active transform nor a possibility of agent addition” (Quirk et al., 1985: 169). Therefore, in pseudo passives, the verbs *be* or *get* act as copular verbs and not as passive auxiliaries.

The following examples were excluded because they were not central/true passives.

(0.2) *I'm extremely picky and someone who **gets bored** easily so it needed to be a case that had a lot of different possibilities.*

(*bored* is an adjective; the meaning of the verb *get* in this example corresponds to the copular *become* than to the passive auxiliary; *who becomes bored easily*)

(0.3) *They bunk off, find they can't catch up if they ever have periods of motivation, **get frustrated**, bunk off some more, and leave school without any of the basic skills necessary to succeed, or any of the qualifications employers demand.*

(*frustrated* is also an adjective, a paraphrase of *get frustrated* would also correspond to *become frustrated*)

The exclusion of these untypical, semi and pseudo-passives was done manually. Two principal tests were used to determine the suitability of the concordances:

1. The first one was the possibility of forming an active counterpart to the passive sentence. If an active counterpart was possible, the sentence was a true passive and was therefore included in the sample.
2. The second test consisted in using *become* as a substitute for *get*. If this substitution was possible and the sentence did not have an active counterpart, the verb *get* functions as a resulting copula and the sentence as a pseudo passive. This test therefore excluded these sentences from the sample.

By this process, the first suitable 100 examples were excerpted and are listed in the appendix. For the sake of clarity, the examples in the appendix were divided into three categories: *get*-passives with neutral meaning, *get*-passives with adverse meaning and *get*-passives with beneficiary meaning. According to these categories, the examples have been assigned a number: GN1-xx, GA1-xx and GB1-xx. The examples in the individual categories were ordered according to frequency (in descending order).

If the same sentence contained more than one *get*-passive, they were counted as individual instances.

If the example was mentioned in the text of the analysis, the appropriate number used was also listed in the appendix to enable an easy retrieval and identification of the particular example, e.g. *GA1 (1)*.



## 3.2 METHOD

This study aims to analyse and verify the following assumptions:

**1. *Get*-passives are more likely to occur with dynamic verbs**

The study aims to investigate whether *get*-passives occur exclusively with dynamic verbs, or whether state verbs may also occur with *get*-passives.

**2. *Get*-passives are more likely to occur with monotransitive verbs**

The assumption is that not many ditransitive verbs will occur with *get*-passives, since the overwhelming majority of literature about *get*-passives only provides examples with monotransitive verbs.

**3. The subject in *get*-passives is typically animate and agentive**

The study aims to examine the nature of the subject in *get*-passives, if it is always animate, if it has the affected semantic role, or whether it is rather agentive and bears a degree of responsibility of the action.

**4. The *get*-passives rarely occur in neutral situations**

Finally, the analysis will focus on the pragmatic meaning of the whole sentence, since Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442) state that *get*-passives rarely occur in “purely neutral situations” and are preferred in situations with “adverse or beneficial effect”.

## 4. ANALYSIS

### 4.1 BASIC DISTRIBUTION

To provide an overview of the entire sample, the following section will serve as a summary of the distribution of verbs, finite and non-finite constructions and sentence types.

#### 4.1.1 VERB FREQUENCY

The following table shows the frequency of all the verbs in the sample.

Verb (its past participle)	Occurrences	Frequency
paid	9	9%
asked	5	5%
caught, arrested, killed	4	4% (12%)
offered, hit	3	3% (6%)
fired, called, told, stabbed, picked up, elected, sold, invited	2	2% (16%)
abused, answered, attacked, blasted, burnt out, captured, charged with, cleaned, criticized, delivered, done, doored, dropped, fined, flamed, found out, given, ignored, interrogated (interogated) <sup>10</sup> , knocked down, lobbied, lumped in, lynched, mentioned, noticed, opened, overcharged, promoted, pumped, punished, put, rejected,	1	1% (52%)

<sup>10</sup> In the example, there is a grammatical mistake (*interogated* instead of *interrogated*)

released, replaced, rounded up, sacked, sent, served, stamped on, stolen, stopped, stressed, sued, swallowed up, tagged, taken out, taxed, treated, voted back, voted out, written		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3: Frequency of the verbs in the sample**

The most frequent verb used in the *get*-passive was the verb *paid* (9 instances), followed by the verb *asked* (5 instances), followed by the verbs *caught*, *arrested* and *killed* (4 instances). The majority of verbs (52%) are only represented once in the entire sample. Some of the most frequent verbs have either very positive connotations (*paid*, *offered*) or very negative connotations (*caught*, *arrested*, *killed*). For more on the pragmatic meaning of the *get*-passive, see section 2.7.2.3.

#### 4.1.2 DISTRIBUTION OF VERBS ACCORDING TO LEVIN'S "SEMANTIC VERB CLASSES"

In order to provide a clearer overview of the most frequent verbs in the sample, the verbs have been divided into semantic classes according to Levin's Verb Classes<sup>11</sup>. All of the 100 examples have been categorized according to her classification. This was done to clearly show what semantic classes of verbs occur most often in the *get*-passive.

However, categories which represented less than four occurrences in total were not included in the table below. Categories with one to three hits per 100 examples were not considered representative of the sample in its entirety.

<sup>11</sup> The verb classes were adopted from the website <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jlawler/levin.verbs> (only the Semantic Verb Classes, not the Alternation Classes).

Name of category	Verbs representing this category	Total number of occurrences for the category	Frequency
“give” verbs	Sell, give, pay, serve	13	13%
“get” verbs	Catch, find out	5	5%
“quote” verbs	Ask	5	5%
“murder” verbs	Kill	4	4%
“negative judgment” verbs	Abuse, criticize, punish, flame	4	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>31 (/100)</b>	<b>31% (/100%)</b>

**Table 10: Verb classes**

The verbs in the table are ordered according to the categories with the most occurrences. The most frequent category is by far “give” verbs, which is interesting, since *give* is a ditransitive verb. As was mentioned before, the majority of literature about *get*-passives lists them only with monotransitive verbs (see 4.4). Verbs with negative connotations are overall frequent, which was expected, since more than half of the examples (52%) were sentences with adverse pragmatic meaning (see 4.6). These include “murder” or “negative judgment” verbs. Among the categories with less than four hits were verb categories such as “poison” verbs, “steal” verbs or “decrease” verbs. Verbs, which are semantically connected with money, occurred repeatedly in the sample, viz. the “give” verbs. It is also interesting to note which categories have the broadest representation not in terms of occurrences, but in terms of the number of individual verbs. These categories include the “give” verbs (4 verbs) and “negative judgment” verbs (4 verbs). This approach helps to reduce the risk of calling a verb category very frequent, even though the category contains only one verb, which could be repeated multiple times in a single text.

### 4.1.3 FINITE AND NON-FINITE CONSTRUCTIONS

Since the analysis included both finite and non-finite forms of the verb *get*, the following chapter focuses on the distribution of non-finite constructions in the sample.

Type of construction	Occurrences	Frequency
<b><i>Non-finite</i></b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10%</b>
<i>-ing</i> forms	5	5%
Infinitive	5	5%
<b><i>Finite</i></b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90%</b>

**Table 4: Distribution of finite and non-finite constructions**

As Table 4 demonstrates, finite constructions considerably prevail in the sample (90%), while non-finite constructions occur in 10% of all sentences. The *-ing* constructions and the infinitives both accounted for 5 instances.

The majority of infinitives functioned as direct objects of transitive verbs, such as *expect* or *wait*:

- (1) GB6 *I expect to **get paid** or take the security in exchange.*

The only exception was the following example, where the infinitive functions as an extraposed subject (ex. 2).

- (2) GA1 *When the weather decides to throw a curve ball like today, it's easy to **get caught** out on your bike and get absolutely soaked on the cycle home.*

*It* in this example is anticipatory, because it represents the grammatical subject and the infinitive construction *to get caught* represents the notional subject in extraposition: *To get caught out on your bike is easy.*

The sample contained one catenative verb construction with the verb *keep* (3).<sup>12</sup>

- (3) GA42 *When I was in Arizona, I **kept getting overcharged** in the shops.*

<sup>12</sup> Catenative verbs are verbs used in constructions such as *appear to*, *come to*, *fail to*, *get to*, *turn out to*. They are either followed by an infinitive or they combine with a participial construction. They have “meanings related to aspect or modality”, however they differ from modal semi-auxiliaries and are closer to “main verb constructions” in taking *DO*-support. Catenative verbs can be followed by the *-ing* participle in the progressive or the *-ed* participial form in the passive (Quirk et al., 1985: 146-147).

Example (4) contains an interesting construction, called “[complementation] by *-ing* participle clause (with subject)” by Quirk et al. (1985: 1194-1195):

(4) GA30 *The Daily Telegraph* carries a front-page report today saying that the Government is “powerless” to stop teachers **getting sacked** if they refuse to endorse same-sex marriage.

This construction is typical for verbs of negative meaning, such as *stop*, *prevent*, *prohibit*. In this meaning, the verb *stop* occurs with a direct object and a prepositional object realized by a present participle. Apart from the construction illustrated by example (4), these verbs also allow a related construction with the added preposition *from*, which precedes the participle. (Ibid., 1194). Example (4) would thus change into:

(4’) *The Daily Telegraph* carries a front-page report today saying that the Government is “powerless” to stop teachers from **getting sacked** if they refuse to endorse same-sex marriage.

#### 4.1.4 DISTRIBUTION OF SENTENCE TYPES

The exclamative sentence type was the only sentence type not represented in the sample. All other three sentence types (declarative, interrogative, imperative) were represented, even though not equally.

Sentence type	Occurrences	Frequency
<i>Declarative</i>	91	91%
<i>Interrogative</i>	6	6%
<i>Imperative</i>	3	3%
<i>Exclamative</i>	0	0%

**Table 5: Distribution of Sentence Types**

Declarative sentences considerably prevail in the sample (91%). Interrogative and imperative sentences occur in 9% of all sentences, with the interrogative sentences being more frequent than the imperative. All the above mentioned examples (exx. 1-4) are representatives of declarative sentences.

An example of an interrogative sentence is (ex. 5):

(5) GA10 *Don't people **get killed**?*

Because of the dynamicity of the verb, the use of the *get*-passive is much more suitable in this example than the corresponding *be*-passive would be: *Aren't people killed?*

The dynamicity of the *get*-passive can be clearly seen in the imperative sentences. Example (6) is much more probable than example (6'). The sentence with the *be*-passive is not grammatically incorrect, but highly improbable.

(6) GA23 *Fail, **get voted out**.*

(6') *?Fail, **be voted out**.*

The last two examples of the imperative sentence type (examples 7 and 8) are interesting not only because they are imperatives. They also express one of the features in which the *get*-passive differs from the *be*-passive: the responsibility of the subject's referent for the event (Honda, 2012: 69) (see section 2.7.3). The agentivity of the implied subject (since in imperatives the subject is not expressed, but is implied) can be seen in the Czech translation of these two examples, which would be *Nenech(te) se chytit* rather than *Nebud'(te) chycen(i)*.

#### 4.2 BY-AGENT PHRASE WITH THE *GET*-PASSIVE

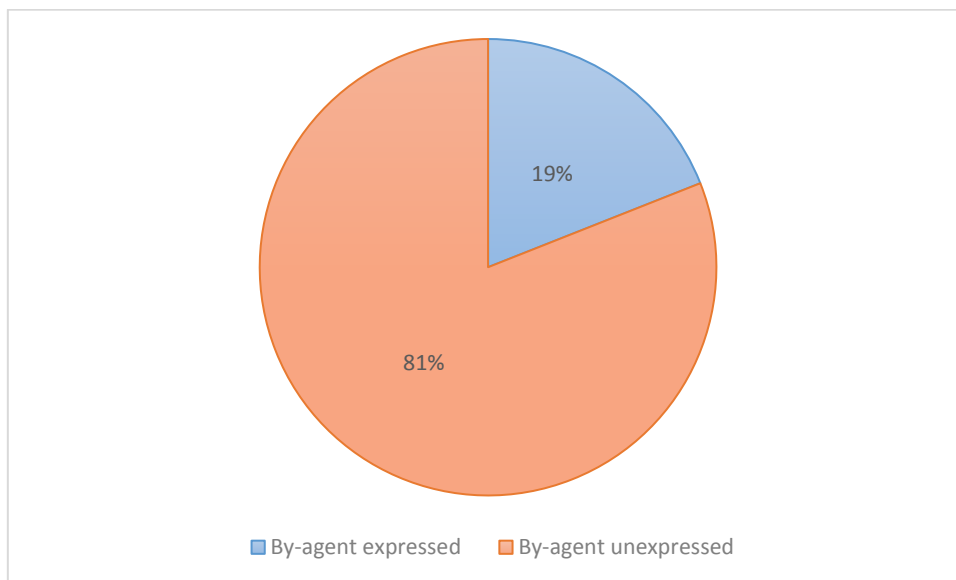
Since “the primary motivation for the use of the passive is to leave the agent unexpressed” (Brůhová, 2015: 32), it was expected that the absolute majority of passives would be agentless. In the sample, 19% percent of passives had an expressed *by*-agent and 81% of examples represented agentless passives.<sup>13</sup> Nearly a fifth of the sentences have the agent expressed by the use of a *by*-phrase, which is more than was expected. This is noteworthy, as the *by*-agent is usually considered to be even less important with the *get*-passive than the *be*-passive. Since the subject of the *get*-passive is often agentive and can be ascribed some form of responsibility of the action, the *by*-agent phrase needs to be expressed less frequently (on the agentivity of the *get*-passive subject, see 2.7.3 and 4.1.3).

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<sup>13</sup> To compare, in Brůhová's paper (2015), 11% of examples represented passives with an expressed *by*-agent.

Type of passive	Occurrences	Frequency
<i>By-agent expressed</i>	19	19%
<i>By-agent unexpressed</i>	81	81%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 6: Expression of the *by-agent***



**Chart 1: The expression of the *by-agent* phrase with the *get-passive***

Typical examples with an expressed *by-agent* included:

(7) GN10 *These weird and wonderful stories fly around in the cosmos, passing from person to person, waiting to **get picked up** by gossip magazines or turned into low-budget horror movies.*

(8) GA32 *Afterwards they **got dropped** by their label and disappeared from view for almost a decade.*

The sample contained an interesting example of an agent phrase which is not introduced by the preposition *by*:

(9) GA15 (...) *pretty soon they would invent reasons why **getting hit** on the head with a baseball bat was a good thing.*

The ambiguity of prepositional phrases is more frequent with semi passives, which were excluded from this analysis. (see 2.3.2.1). In this example, the *baseball bat* can be considered an agent or an instrument (someone has to use the baseball bat to hit you). The fact



that this phrase is agentive is reinforced by the presence of the preceding sentence in the same text (ex. 10), where *by a baseball bat* undoubtedly represents the *by-agent*:

(10) GA14 *Given human nature, if people **got hit** on the head by a baseball bat every week.*

The sample also contained an ambiguous phrase introduced by the preposition *by*:

(11) GB15 *As if anyone would **get elected** by arguing that George Osborne didn't go far enough.*

A typical *by-agent* phrase of the verb “elect” would be *people* – *The people elected George Osborne*. *Arguing* itself cannot be considered an agent, since *arguing* on its own cannot elect somebody. However, it is still a circumstance for the process of the election. It can be thus considered an adjunct of manner or an instrumental adjunct: *How is it impossible to get elected? By what means? By arguing.*

#### 4.3 DYNAMIC/STATIVE VERBS WITH THE *GET-PASSIVE*

This chapter focuses on the semantics of the verbs that are used with *get*, i.e. whether the verbs used with *get* are dynamic or stative.

While the *be-passive* can be used with both stative and dynamic verbs, *get-passives* tend to occur with dynamic verbs, i.e. verbs which describe actions and processes. Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442) state that *get-passives* cannot occur with stative verbs. That was shown to be false by Xiao et al. (2006; cf. 2.7.2.1), who point out that *get-passives* can occur with stative verbs, however, the meaning will still be dynamic. The stative verb acquires a dynamic meaning, even if it is a verb that is almost exclusively found as a stative verb.

The distribution of dynamic and stative verbs can be seen in Table 7:

Type of verb	Occurrences	Frequency
Dynamic verbs	99	99%
Stative verbs	1	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 7: The frequency of dynamic and stative verbs with the *get-passive***

The sample contains only one example with a stative verb (ex. 12), the rest of the sentences contain dynamic verbs, which confirms the dynamicity of the *get*-passive.

(12) GB18 *From bright colours to the classic brown paper carrier bag, it's easy to get the right look for your business. You can even choose custom printed bags, to ensure your name **gets noticed** on the high street.*

The verb *notice* is a stative verb describing a mental process. It is therefore not found in the progressive form: *I noticed him* instead of *\*I was noticing him*. However, it is used here in the dynamic *get*-passive to highlight the dynamicity of the situation. This example is an advertisement from the website *rajapack.co.uk*, which sells packaging goods. The dynamic *get*-passive is used to attract the customer and introduce him to the fact that this company does not sell ordinary paper bags, but also colourful and unusual ones.

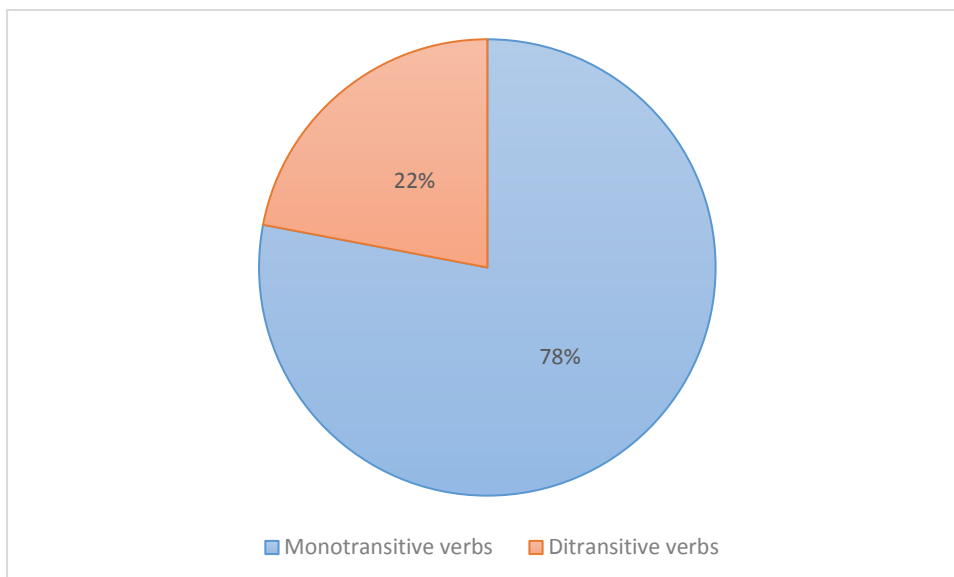
The dynamicity of the *get*-passive can be also shown by Table 1, which contains the frequency of verbs. The most frequent verbs were *paid, asked, caught, arrested*, which are prototypical dynamic verbs. For a typical sentence from the sample, see example 13:

(13) GN3 *I think John Paul II also **got asked** to address the whole Parliament.*

#### 4.4 MONOTRANSITIVE AND DITRANSITIVE VERBS WITH THE *GET*-PASSIVE

This section focuses on the distribution of monotransitive and ditransitive verbs in the sample. It is expected that the majority of verbs are likely to be monotransitive, since the examples mentioned in literature about *get*-passives occur exclusively with monotransitive verbs.

As the Table 8 demonstrates, monotransitive verbs indeed prevail in the sample (78%). However, the analysis revealed that 22% of examples contained ditransitive verbs such as *ask, pay, offer, tell, give*. Two of these verbs, *ask* and *pay*, rank among the most frequent ones. Chart 2 and Table 8 demonstrate the distribution.



**Chart 2: The distribution of monotransitive and ditransitive verbs**

Type of verb	Occurrences	Frequency
Monotransitive verbs	78	78%
Ditransitive verbs	22	22%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 8: The distribution of monotransitive and ditransitive verbs**

Some examples with ditransitive verbs had both objects realized and they also contained an expressed *by-agent* phrase:

(14) GN7 *The supermarket on your High Street has no control over what's coming in. They **get told** by HQ what to stock and sell.*

However, the majority of examples of ditransitive verbs did not contain an expressed *by-agent* phrase, but rather a general human agent as the agent. Some examples with *paid* also had both objects realized. The subject in the passive sentence obviously corresponded to the indirect object in the active counterpart, which can be described as a 'first passive' (cf. 2.6.1.1):

(15) GB4 *Actually I **get paid** a minimum wage...*

The realized direct object is *a minimum wage*. In the active counterpart, we can clearly see that on both levels, syntactical and semantical, the three participants (subject, direct object, indirect object) are realized.

(15') *They pay me a minimum wage.* (clause pattern SVO<sub>i</sub>O<sub>d</sub>)

However, in the case of ditransitive verbs, one of the objects, most frequently the direct object, is often omitted. According to Brůhová (2012: 123-4), the omission of an object with ditransitive verbs is quite frequent, even though these constructions always include three participants (subject and two objects) on the semantic level.

The deletion of the object can be either contextual or indefinite, based on “the recoverability of object” (Ibid.: 124). In the sample, only examples of contextual deletion were present. If the omitted object is recoverable from the context (either linguistic, or situational) it is the case of contextual deletion. In contextual deletion, “the utterance makes perfect sense without the object” (Ibid.: 125). Four examples with *paid* had an implied direct object, retrievable from the context. The examples (16) and (17) are therefore instances of contextual deletion of a direct object, because the object is recoverable from the situational context:

(16) GB6 *When a loan is given, against security, I expect to **get paid** or take the security in exchange.*

The implied direct object in example 16 is *money*, but it is redundant to express it.

In the majority of examples of ditransitive verbs, the *by*-agent was not expressed but it was implied, meaning that the agent could be either inferred from the context (ex. 17) or that it was the case of the general human agent (ex. 18).

(17) GB3 ***Ironically she got paid more than anyone else.***

The subject in the active counterpart would be *They/the company pay her more than anyone else.*

(18) GN1 ***A question we often get asked!***

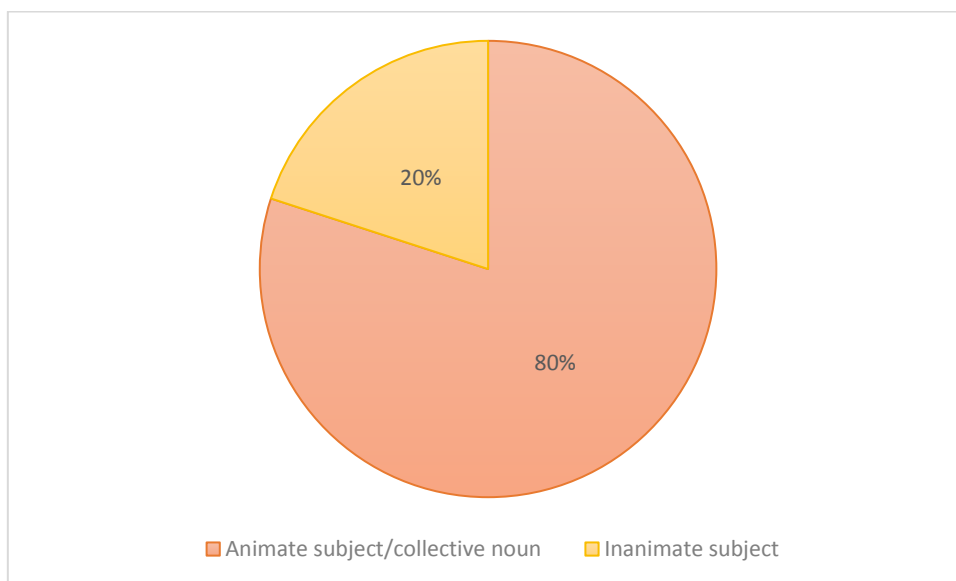
The subject in the active counterpart would be *They often ask us this question.*

#### 4.5 THE SUBJECT OF *GET*-PASSIVES

In this section, two features of the subject of *get*-passives will be examined. Firstly, it will examine whether the *get*-passives have an animate subject. This section will also examine the semantic role of the subject. It will determine how many of the *get*-passives have an agentive subject, since agentivity is also a distinguishing feature of the *get*-passive.

#### 4.5.1 THE ANIMACY OF THE SUBJECT OF *GET*-PASSIVES

The majority of the 100 examples had an animate subject, however, twenty examples had an inanimate subject, which was higher than expected.



**Chart 3: The distribution of animate/inanimate subject with *get*-passives**

An example of a *get*-passive with an inanimate subject is (19):

(19) GN9 *First the newspaper breaking the story was Al Arabiya, initially saying that at least 500 people have been killed, according to activists. From there it **got picked up** by major international media.*

The pronominal subject *it* is an anaphora for the inanimate noun *the story*.

Another instance of an inanimate subject is example (20):

(20) GN11 *One of my main worries when cycling around London is that my beautiful bicycle that I love so dearly **will get** stolen by some pikey and **sold** down Brick Lane.*

The subject of this phrase is the inanimate noun *bicycle*. This *get*-passive also contains the expressed *by*-agent phrase, *by some pikey*.

Some *get*-passives with animate subjects could be viewed as problematic regarding their animacy. The following example contains an optional collective noun *the supermarket*, which is usually not an animate noun, however, it is animate in the example (21):

(21) GN7 *The supermarket on your High Street has no control over what's coming in. They **get told** by HQ what to stock and sell.*

*The supermarket* is referred to by a plural anaphora and the verb concord is plural as well: *They get told* instead of *It gets told*. The use of the plural forms clarifies that the noun *the supermarket* actually refers to the staff of the supermarket, not the building. Collective nouns were therefore considered animate subjects.

#### 4.5.1.1 THE SEMANTICS OF ANIMATE AND INANIMATE SUBJECTS

As regards the semantics of the animate and inanimate subject of *get*-passives, the semantic roles demonstrate a certain scale.

With the animate subject, there is a certain overlap. These examples often represent the affected semantic role, but at the same time they bear a certain degree of responsibility for the action (cf. 2.6.3). In some examples, the animate subject bears much or even all of the responsibility of the action happening to them:

(22) GA30 (...) *the Government is “powerless” to stop teachers **getting sacked** if they refuse to endorse same-sex marriage.*

The *get*-passive indicates that the firing of the teachers happened only because of the teachers' behaviour. If the teachers had endorsed same-sex marriage, they would not have gotten sacked.

However, some animate subjects were not at all responsible for the action and were affected by it:

(23) GA35 *The client, in other words, **gets punished** if his lawyer, in addition to being conflicted, behaves unethically.*

Not *the client*, but *the lawyer* is at fault and responsible, which renders *the client* the affected.

The scale of 'responsible-affected' is less clear with inanimate subjects, since the inanimate subjects (objects, notions, etc.) cannot be considered at fault. However, the *get*-passive is used overwhelmingly for non-neutral situations, meaning someone bears the responsibility for the undergoing action. In the examples with inanimate subjects, there is an animate entity in the background, who is responsible instead; such as for writing an interesting e-mail subject line:

(24) GB19 *For effective email writing, you need a really interesting subject line. Otherwise your lovely email won't even **get opened**.*

In example (24), the *get*-passive firstly emphasizes the dynamicity of the action of opening the e-mail, to remove the “dynamic-stative ambiguity” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1442)

of the *be*-passive. If *be* was used as the passive auxiliary, the sentence could also have the meaning *Nebude otevřený*, not only *Nebude otevřen/Nikdo si ho neotevře*. Secondly, it puts emphasis on the responsibility of the author of the e-mail. If the e-mail is badly written, then it will not *get opened*: *Nikdo si ho neotevře*.

Another example that shows the agentivity with an inanimate subject is example (25):

(25) GA18 *You read in the news, or see on TV, on those rare occasions where such things are even publicized, about an incompetent CEO who **got fired**, only to get a severance package worth more money than you will ever see in your entire lifetime.*

A typical passive verb used to prove the agentivity of the subject is *get fired*. The use of the *be*-passive (*was fired*) is seen as an objective way to describe the situation. On the other hand, the use of the *get*-passive (*got fired*) implies that they did something to deserve it. This verb occurred twice in this sample. Example (25) clearly illustrates the blame of the *CEO* in his firing, because he is described as *incompetent*.

The sample therefore demonstrated that agentivity of the *get*-passive subject is related not only to animate subjects, but also to inanimate subjects. This agentivity is nearly always present in these sentences through the use of *get*-passive, which differentiates it from the neutral *be*-passive.

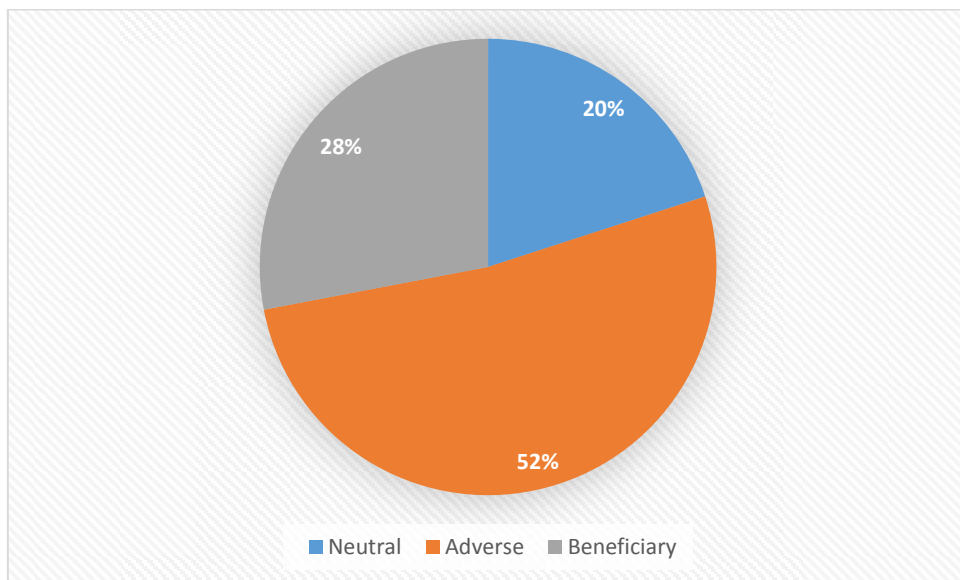
#### 4.6 THE PRAGMATIC MEANING OF *GET*-PASSIVES

The following section provides an analysis of the pragmatic meaning of *get*-passives.

Even though the *get*-passive is described to rarely occur with a neutral meaning, a fifth of the examples were actually semantically neutral. The most frequent category was represented by sentences with adverse meaning (52%), the second most frequent category being beneficiary (28%), the third and last frequent category being neutral sentences (20%):

The pragmatic meaning of the sentence	Occurrences	Frequency
Neutral	20	20%
Adverse	52	52%
Beneficiary	28	28%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 9: The semantics of *get*-passives**



**Chart 4: The semantics of *get*-passives**

The division of examples into the three semantic categories – neutral, adverse, beneficiary – did prove to be problematic in some cases. Two similar views on adversity and benefit exist in literature about *get*-passives, however, they slightly differ. The first view is that held by Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442), who state that “[*g*]et occurs predominantly in passives representing situations that have an adverse or a beneficial effect on the subject-referent, or on someone associated with it, rather than in passives representing purely neutral situations”. On the other hand, Quirk et al. (1985: 161) seem to put emphasis on “an unfavourable attitude” of the speaker “towards the action” (cf. 2.7.2.3). However, this view is rather subjective. Therefore, for the purpose of the analysis, the first view of Huddleston and Pullum was chosen and followed. In examples with inanimate subjects, the categorization was more difficult:

(29) GA41 (...) *I've seen this sort of thing **get abused** by spammers before (...)*



In example (29), the *thing* refers to the opening up of the discussion forum for submissions. Because the subject *thing* is inanimate and also quite vague, we cannot say that the abuse has a direct adverse effect on it. Rather, the situation represented by the passive has an adverse effect “on someone associated with it” (Huddleston and Pullum, 2002: 1442). In this case, it would be the forum participants and discussants.

Lastly, it has to be noted that sentences which contained both a negative verb and negation (*don't get killed*) were still classified as adverse sentences.

The neutral situations were the least frequent category with 20%. They were represented by typically neutral verbs like *ask*, *tell* or *sell*:

(30) GN1 *A question we often **get asked!***

As was mentioned above, examples that represented the adverse effect on the subject accounted for 52% of examples, thus confirming the hypothesis that *get*-passives rarely express neutral meaning (see 2.7.2.3). The sample did contain the expected verbs such as *catch*, *arrest*, *kill*, *hit*, *fire*.

(31) GA18 *You read in the news (...) about an incompetent CEO who **got fired**, only to get a severance package worth more money than you will ever see in your entire lifetime.*

The second most frequent category, examples describing situations that have a beneficiary meaning on the subject referent, often contained verbs connected with money or the workplace, such as *pay*, *offer*, *elect*, *promote*:

(32) GB10 *I quite fancied a little break after the show, but I **got offered** a job starting pretty much the day that we finished so I took that because it seemed like fun and I needed the money.*

Some verbs, such as *call*, were found in multiple categories. The verb *call* occurred twice in the sample and the two examples were classified as neutral and adverse.

Example (33) demonstrates a neutral situation:

(33) GN6 *Do you often **get called on** a lot to defend the media?*

However, example (34) describes a situation that has a clear adverse effect on the subject:

(34) GA16 *Don't sweat it, I **get called** far worse things all the time. Comes with the job I suppose.*

Even though 52% of the examples expressed adverse meaning, the most frequent verb *paid*, which accounted for 9 occurrences expressed beneficiary meaning. Similarly, the second most frequent verb *asked* with 5 occurrences expressed neutral meaning. The most frequent verbs expressing adverse meaning were *caught*, *arrested* and *killed*. The most frequent verbs which expressed beneficiary meaning were *paid* and *offered*. All examples can be seen in the appendix, ordered by frequency and divided into the three semantic categories.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper was to define and analyse the behaviour of the *get*-passive construction. The *get*-passive is extremely rare when compared with the *be*-passive, however, it is still an existing construction in the English language.

The theoretical part of the paper summarizes voice as a category of the verb and then provides both a syntactic and semantic description of the passive. It then further differentiates between the *be*-passives and *get*-passives.

Four characteristics of the *get*-passive were analysed in the paper. Firstly, the analysis focused on determining the possibility of occurrence with stative verbs and secondly, the possibility of occurrence with ditransitive verbs. It was assumed that *get*-passives are more likely to occur with dynamic verbs and with monotransitive verbs, since the examples mentioned in literature about *get*-passives occur exclusively with dynamic and monotransitive verbs. Thirdly, the semantic role and animacy of the subject in *get*-passives was examined. It was assumed that the subject in *get*-passives would typically be animate and agentive. Finally, the analysis focused on the pragmatic meaning of the whole sentence. The presupposition was that *get*-passives are much more likely to occur in adverse or beneficial situations, rather than neutral situations.

Initially, one hundred examples of the *get*-passive were extracted from the Aranea Corpora, specifically Aranea Anglicum Minus. This corpus was chosen as a source over BNC because the language is up to date.

Several criteria were established to extract the examples. First of all, the search was restricted to the domain *.uk* in order to focus only on British English. The selection also excluded examples without a very clear active-passive relation, meaning that only sentences, which have an active counterpart were included in the analysis. The criteria and the process of selection are described in more detail in Chapter 3.

The one hundred examples were then divided into three categories, according to the pragmatic meaning of the passive sentence: neutral, adverse and beneficiary.

The form of the hundred examples was described firstly in order to provide an overview of the sample. The paper summarized the frequency of the verbs in the sample, the most frequent verbs being *paid*, *asked*, *caught*, *arrested* and *killed*. Then the paper provided an overview of the verbs in the sample in terms of the most frequent semantic categories in which they occurred, according to Levin's Semantic verb classes. It also summarized the frequency of finite and non-finite constructions, sentence types and the *by*-agent phrase. As was expected,

finite constructions and declarative sentences comprised the majority of the sample. However, the *by*-agent phrase occurred in 19% of examples. This was surprising because of the fact that the subject of *get*-passives is considered agentive and therefore, most literature presupposed that *get*-passives would rarely occur with an expressed *by*-agent.

As regards the possibility of state verbs occurring with *get*-passive, the assumption of the paper has been verified. Only one of the hundred examples contained a state verb, which was the verb *notice*. Even though *notice* is a stative verb describing a mental process, the dynamic *get*-passive was used instead of the stative *be*-passive to highlight the dynamicity of the situation.

As regards the monotransitive and ditransitive verbs, more examples than expected occurred with ditransitive verbs: 22% of examples contained a ditransitive verb, even though monotransitive verbs prevailed with 78%. This section of the paper also commented on the possible omission of an object with ditransitive verbs and listed examples from the sample which demonstrated the contextual deletion of the direct object.

In terms of analysing the subject of *get*-passives, two features were analysed: its animacy and its agentivity, and furthermore the possible connection between these two. In the sample 20% examples contained an inanimate subject, which was higher than expected. Some examples also contained collective nouns. With regard to the semantics and the agentivity of the subject, the paper focused on agentivity as a scale. With animate subject in *get*-passives, there is a frequent overlap in that the passives often represent the affected semantic role, but they also bear a certain degree of responsibility for the action. This scale of ‘responsible-affected’ is less clear with inanimate subjects, since inanimate subjects cannot be considered at fault for an action happening. However, the *get*-passive is still used to express agentivity over the neutral *be*-passive, even though the subject itself is inanimate. Most often, there is an animate being, who is associated with the action and bears a degree of responsibility for it.

The last section provided an analysis of the pragmatic meaning of *get*-passives. The most frequent category was represented by sentences with adverse meaning (52%), the second most frequent category being beneficiary meaning (28%) and the last category being sentences with neutral meaning (20%). The paper adhered to the view of adversity of Huddleston and Pullum (2002: 1442) and found that the *get*-passive occurs most frequently in situations with either an adverse or beneficial effect on the subject or someone associated.

We hope to have provided a systematic analysis of English *get*-passives that has contributed to a more detailed syntactic and semantic description of the passives with the verb *get*.

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## 7. RESUMÉ

Bakalářská práce zkoumá sloveso *get* ve funkci pomocného slovesa pasiva. Cíl práce spočívá ve zkoumání čtyř základních rysů *get*-pasiva, které jsou nejčastěji zmiňovány v gramatikách. Mluvnice *get*-pasivum většinou popisují velmi marginálně a zjednodušeně. I přes řídký výskyt *get*-pasiva vzhledem k drtivé převaze standardního *be*-pasiva se *get*-pasivum v současné angličtině používá, a to zejména v konverzaci. Předpokladem je, že se výsledky od vymezených informací v gramatikách nebudou lišit ve veliké míře, lze to ale ověřit pouze analýzou vzhledem k velmi omezenému množství detailního analytického materiálu na toto téma.

Teoretická část práce nejprve detailně popisuje slovesnou kategorii rod. Rozdíly mezi aktivem (činným rodem) a pasivem (trpným rodem) jsou popsány ze syntaktického i sémantického hlediska. Práce se nadále zabývá škálou pasivních vět podle Quirk a kol. Tato škála slouží ke zpřehlednění pasivních vět, které mají formální podobu pasiva (pomocné sloveso *be* nebo *get* + minulé příčestí), sémanticky ale neumožňují vytvoření aktivního protějšku. Práce postupně popisuje rozdíl mezi centrálními pasivy, semi-pasivy a pseudo-pasivy a zmiňuje časté problematické příklady. Dalším typem pasiv, které práce popisuje, jsou dlouhá a krátká pasiva (2.4). Dále se v teoretické části práce zaměřuje na funkce pasiva a důvody, proč jej mluvčí zvolí. Další kapitola popisuje omezení užití pasiva. Popisuje slovesa, která pasivum netvoří, stejně tak omezení ze sémantického hlediska. Další kapitola (2.7) se již zabývá podrobněji *get* pasivem. Nejdříve je sloveso *get* popsáno v rámci jeho užití jako pomocného slovesa pasiva. Kapitola zmiňuje důvody, kvůli kterým se *get* nedá považovat za pomocné sloveso z formálního hlediska, ale pouze z hlediska sémantického. Poté jsou teoreticky rozebrány čtyři základní rysy *get* pasiva, které jsou později v analytické části zkoumány. Zprv se kapitola věnuje *get* pasivu ve spojitosti se stavovými a dynamickými slovesy (2.7.2.1). Mluvnice se shodují, že *get* pasivum se se stavovými slovesy nevyskytuje kvůli jeho dynamickému charakteru. Použití *get* pasiva tedy odstraňuje mnohoznačnost v případech, kdy je potřeba dokázat dynamický význam slovesa. Zadruhé se kapitola věnuje agentivitě spojené s *get* pasivem (2.7.2.2). Huddleston a Pullum (2002: 1442) totiž zmiňují, že *get* pasivum se používá, když má podmět agentivní roli v dané aktivitě, nese za ní zodpovědnost anebo se na ní alespoň z určité části aktivně podílí. Tato charakteristika *get* pasiva je velmi specifická a u *be* pasiva neaplikovatelná. Zatřetí práce zkoumá pragmatický význam vět s *get* pasivy (2.7.2.3). Mluvnice se shodují, že se *get* pasiva zřídka vyskytují v neutrálním významu, pro



který je preferovaným pomocným slovesem v pasivu *be*. *Get* pasivum se naopak většinou pojí s větami, které vyjadřují negativní či pozitivní význam.

Kapitola 3 popisuje, jakým způsobem byl vybrán materiál pro analytickou část, proč byl zvolen webový korpus Araneum Anglicum Minus a rozebírá kritéria, kterými se výběr vzorku řídil. Vyřazena byla jiná pasiva než ‚centrální‘ pasiva, která mají lehce vyvoditelný protějšek v činném rodu. Ze vzorku se tedy vyřadila semi-pasiva a pseudo-pasiva. Analýza se soustředila pouze na britskou angličtinu omezením webové domény na *.uk*.

Analytická část je zaměřena na rozbor sta vybraných příkladů. Kapitola 4.1 informuje o frekvenci vyskytovaných sloves ve vzorku, dále o finitních a nefinitních konstrukcích a v neposlední řadě o četnosti větných typů. Nejčastějším slovesem ve vzorku bylo sloveso *paid*, následovala slovesa *asked*, *caught*, *arrested*, *killed*. Naprostá většina příkladů (90%) reprezentovala finitní konstrukce, stejně tak jako naprostá většina větných typů (91%) reprezentovala věty oznamovací. Krátká kapitola 4.1.2 třídí nejčastější slovesa (čtyři a více výskytů) do sémantických slovesných skupin podle Beth Levinové. Kapitola 4.2 se zabývá předložkovou frází vyjadřující činitele (*by-agent phrase*). Téměř pětina (19%) příkladů tuto frázi obsahovala, činitel je v nich tedy explicitně vyjádřen. Zbývajících 81% příkladů tuto předložkovou frázi neobsahovalo. Je zajímavé podotknout, že 19% příkladů je více, než bylo očekáváno. Gramatiky totiž považují *by-agent phrase* u *get* pasiva za nedůležitou kvůli jeho agentivitě. Kapitola 4.3 zkoumá distribuci dynamických a stavových sloves ve vzorku. Jak bylo předpokládáno, naprostá většina (99%) příkladů obsahuje slovesa dynamická, pouze jeden příklad *get* pasiva se pojí se stavovým slovesem. I v tomto případě je ale zdůrazněna dynamičnost situace díky *get* pasivu a význam stavového slovesa se posouvá směrem k dynamickému významu. Kapitola 4.4 se věnuje distribuci monotransitivních a ditransitivních sloves. Předpokladem byla převaha monotransitivních sloves na základě gramatik, ve kterých se *get* pasivum neobjevuje se slovesy ditransitivními, ale výhradně se slovesy monotransitivními. 22% sloves ve vzorku je ditransitivních a 78% sloves je monotransitivních. Monotransitivní slovesa představují většinu, nicméně 22% ditransitivních sloves je více, než bylo očekáváno. Tato kapitola také popisuje okolnosti vynechání jednoho ze dvou předmětů u ditransitivních sloves v pasivu. Rozsáhlejší kapitola 4.5 se zaměřuje na podmět *get* pasiv. Nejdříve zkoumá jeho životnost, přičemž 20% vět ze vzorku obsahuje podmět životný, 80% vět obsahuje neživotný podmět. Kapitola dále rozebírá sémantiku životných a neživotných podmětů ve vztahu k *get* pasivum. Kapitola také zkoumá agentivitu podmětu. Kapitola 4.6 se věnuje pragmatickému významu *get* pasiv. Ve vzorku 20% vět

vyjadřovalo čistě neutrální význam, převládající byl negativní význam s 52% a dále pozitivní význam s 28%.

Závěr shrnuje hlavní výsledky této práce a porovnává je s teoretickou částí.

Seznam použité literatury poskytuje přehled všech knih, článků, gramatik a ostatních zdrojů, které sloužily jako podklad této práce.

Apendix poskytuje ucelený přehled všech 100 příkladů, které byly použity k analýze v praktické části. Příklady jsou rozříděny do tří kategorií dle jejich pragmatického významu a seřazeny podle frekvence. U každého příkladu je uveden kód (GNx, GAx, nebo GBx) a případně číslo v závorce, pokud byl tento příklad použit v praktické části práce (např. GN1 (18) (30)).

## 8. APPENDIX

The following appendix contains 100 examples of *get*-passives. The examples in the appendix are divided into three categories: *get*-passives with neutral meaning, *get*-passives with adverse meaning and *get*-passives with beneficiary meaning. According to these categories, the examples have been assigned a number: GN1-xx, GA1-xx and GB1-xx. The examples in the individual categories were ordered according to frequency (in descending order).

If the same sentence contained more than one *get*-passive, they were counted as individual instances.

If the example was mentioned in the text of the analysis, the appropriate number used was also listed in the appendix to enable easy retrieval and identification of the particular example: GN1 (18) (30).

### Get-passive: NEUTRAL

Number	Example	Source website
GN1 (18) (30)	A question we often <b>get asked</b> !	Buyaplan.co.uk
GN2	Well... we do <b>get asked</b> where the bathrooms are at least a couple of times a day.	Trekamerica.co.uk
GN3 (13)	I think John Paul II also <b>got asked</b> to address the whole Parliament.	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
GN4	When is also the question that I <b>get asked</b> about quite often by thousands of people.	Nesaranews.blogspot.co.uk
GN5	To make some amends for this annoying habit, below are 10 of the most common ones I <b>get asked</b> to explain.	Jiscsc.ac.uk
GN6 (33)	Do you often <b>get called on</b> a lot to defend the media?	kl.ac.uk
GN7 (14) (21)	The supermarket on your High Street has no control over what's coming in. They <b>get told</b> by HQ what to stock and sell."	sovereignty.org.uk
GN8	Everytime I enquire I either <b>get</b> ignored (no response from Councillor Battye after last few emails and Metro just have't replied) or <b>told</b> they don't know either.	hebdenbridge.co.uk
GN9 (19)	First the newspaper breaking the story was Al Arabiya, initially saying that at least 500 people have been killed, according to activists. From there it <b>got picked up</b> by major international media.	landdestroyer.blogspot.co.uk
GN10 (7)	These weird and wonderful stories fly around in the cosmos, passing from person to person, waiting to <b>get picked up</b> by gossip magazines or turned into low-budget horror movies.	readthismagazine.co.uk
GN11 (20)	One of my main worries when cycling around London is that my beautiful bicycle that I love so dearly <b>will get</b> stolen by some pikey and <b>sold</b> down Brick Lane.	Londoneyclist.co.uk
GN12	Second, once a product is identified as ripe for marketing, purchasing and expansion, it tends to <b>get sold</b> in stores all over the UK, meaning	Sovereignty.co.uk

	that it is regional for somebody, but not for the majority of customers.	
<b>GN13</b>	If I can make one complaint though, it is left-wing bloggers lumping libertarians who really, really care about freedom in general and freedom of speech in particular, with authoritarian petty bourgeois ignoramuses who read the Daily Hate, who all <b>get put in</b> an amorphous lump as 'the right'.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GN14</b>	When I got my X-ray done on a monday afternoon, there were 2 assistants in the department answering phones and doing clerical stuff and when I rang -at 12:30 the following friday, they were both off for lunch and the phones didn't <b>get answered</b> .	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GN15</b>	The Bush campaign comported itself during the Florida showdown as though it were the House of Bourbon demanding that its restoration <b>get done</b> already, with this "election" being a mere procedural formality to appease the bourgeoisie who care about such niceties.	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
<b>GN16</b>	For just over an hour the tension is ramped up to the max as events and actions around him play Russian roulette with Juan's life, but the 'will he or won't he <b>get found out</b> ' tension soon grows tiring and the circumstances that sustain him feel largely far fetched.	Liberationfrequency.co.uk
<b>GN17</b>	This is a book the like of which the Europhobes and skeptics can hardly have dreamed would ever <b>get written</b> by a Europhile insider like Young- but here it is, chapter and verse on how it was done and by whom.	Lobster-magazine.co.uk
<b>GN18</b>	I have spoken to his consultant about it and she thinks it's a good idea. She also said a lot of names will <b>get mentioned</b> like autism and ADHD but to just wait and see what his final diagnosis with regards to that is.	Postpals.co.uk
<b>GN19</b>	They will base their business somewhere with low tax, run all the profits through that location, and thereby avoid paying a higher tax to the place they are doing most of their trade. It seems pretty obvious to me what the rule should be: you trade here, you <b>get taxed</b> here.	Prospectmagazine.co.uk
<b>GN20</b>	Once it was exposed to the light, people began to <b>get informed</b> , and they soon developed legitimate concerns.	churchandstate.org.uk

**Get-passive: ADVERSE**

Number	Example	Source website
GA1 (2)	When the weather decides to throw a curve ball like today, it's easy to <b>get caught</b> out on your bike and get absolutely soaked on the cycle home.	Londoneyclist.co.uk
GA2	He probably thinks the conservative elements of Clinton's program were the only reason anyone voted for him, and that Gore won all those votes not because he was to the left of Bush, but because he didn't <b>get caught</b> sleeping with the wrong woman.	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
GA3	Do not <b>get caught</b> being a responsibility-shifting, evasive bully with a hatred of his own voters and a pathological victim complex.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
GA4	Do not <b>get caught</b> blaming your underlings for your own incompetence and misanthropy.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
GA5	I would have taken a picture, but I would have <b>got arrested</b> immediately and had a knightstick rammed up my arse.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
GA6	Whilst I've never urinated on someone's door, I have urinated inappropriately in drawers, cupboards and nearly <b>got arrested</b> for doing so at Junction 4 of the M4, Central reservation.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
GA7	I didn't <b>get arrested</b> , or get an ASBO and I have a decent suit and received pronunciation and just enough social grace to know when to wind my fucking neck in to thank for that.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
GA8	Could you <b>get arrested</b> for owning a graphic novel?	Cyberlaw.org.uk
GA9	I do think you need to be a little careful in lumping everyone in to one monolithic mass of opponents as well - the Muslim Brotherhood has rather more diversity than you imagine and as has already been pointed out to you it most definitely isn't in league with Iran. ... after the ambassador of his country's chief ally <b>gets killed</b> in the backlash .	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
GA10 (5)	Just an ordinary hijacking, nothing to worry about." "Don't people <b>get killed</b> ?"	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
GA11	"So no one <b>gets killed</b> ?" "Well, sometimes they'll kill a few Jews out of spite, but not most people."	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
GA12	I saw my cousin <b>get killed</b> in front of me.	Bedfordregiment.org.uk
GA13	Such people might find that when they're cycling from their green, energy efficient home to their eco-office to do a job deciding what proles can and cannot do with their money, might still <b>get hit</b> by a meteorite <sup>14</sup> on the way.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
GA14 (10)	"Given human nature, if people <b>got hit</b> on the head by a baseball bat every week pretty soon they would invent reasons why getting hit on the head with a baseball bat was a good thing.	churchandstate.org.uk
GA15 (9)	"Given human nature, if people got hit on the head by a baseball bat every week pretty soon they would invent reasons why <b>getting hit</b> on the head with a baseball bat was a good thing.	churchandstate.org.uk
GA16	Cop "Don't sweat it, I <b>get called</b> far worse things all the time. Comes with the job I suppose"	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
GA17	So lets get this straight, your Company is fighting for its life, everybody knows this is the last chance you've got to save your job, and YOU GO ON STRIKE! *unless you're one of these trots gloating about all the bankers that will be fired at Lehman's- you won't be laughing when the subsequent drop in tax revenue hits your Council Community Planning department and a bunch of nurses <b>get fired</b> .	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk

<sup>14</sup> There was a typo in the original sentence, which was corrected: *metiorite*

<b>GA18</b> (25) (31)	You read in the news, or see on TV, on those rare occasions where such things are even publicized, about an incompetent CEO who <b>got fired</b> , only to get a severance package worth more money than you will ever see in your entire lifetime.	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
<b>GA19</b>	One bad guy suffers a sliced throat, a second <b>gets stabbed</b> in the throat and another gets stabbed trying to run away.	Melonfarmers.co.uk
<b>GA20</b>	One bad guy suffers a sliced throat, a second gets stabbed in the throat and another <b>gets stabbed</b> trying to run away.	Melonfarmers.co.uk
<b>GA21</b>	Basically we're already paying as much in payroll taxes as we will bear, this isn't going up even under Brown because, he'd <b>get lynched</b> if he tried, and the Tories are merely mewling about 'green taxes' which means 'soak the motorist'.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA22</b>	Professor gets embarrassed, remembers the times he <b>got stopped</b> because he was Black, remembers he's an African American history professor, and starts mouthing off to cops (because I don't know how many Professors you know, but they are King of their own little hill and don't like people answering back) (also contains a pseudopassive !)	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA23</b> (6)	Deliver that, get a landslide. Fail, <b>get voted out</b> . It is that simple.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA24</b>	Few single mothers <b>get sent</b> to gaol unless they've killed someone, and there are no punishments short of that hold any fear.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA25</b>	You won't <b>get sued</b> , unless the abuse amounts to persistent harrassment, the person you're insulting is a police officer, or your insult contains words clearly intended to incite violence (such as threatening to cut his head off).	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA26</b>	Well, at least Ehud didn't call for air strikes against vandals. Our synagogues, cemeteries, community centres and Jewish day schools here in Toronto <b>get tagged</b> now and again. Swastikas, my portrait (beard and hooked nose caricatures), Christ-killer accusations, very naughty curses in Arabic, the usual sort of stuff.	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA27</b>	He had come out, and was working in civvy street, part of the well-to-do class of Ulstermen, with quite genuinely nothing but revulsion for terrorism (of either variety) and support for the British Army. He <b>got rounded up</b> as a "routine" excercise by Special Branch, got interrogated for hours, was told that his family were in prison and that his mother had died of a heart-attack, and was told that the unofficial agreement regarding protection of former servicemen and RUC officers in Northern Ireland was going to be withdrawn (which at that time could be tantamount to leaving his whole family open to attack).	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA28</b>	He had come out, and was working in civvy street, part of the well-to-do class of Ulstermen, with quite genuinely nothing but revulsion for terrorism (of either variety) and support for the British Army. He got rounded up as a "routine" excercise by Special Branch, <b>got interogated</b> for hours, was told that his family were in prison and that his mother had died of a heart-attack, and was told that the unofficial agreement regarding protection of former servicemen and RUC officers in Northern Ireland was going to be withdrawn (which at that time could be tantamount to leaving his whole family open to attack).	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA29</b>	We also understand that good works are not enough; someone may do a good thing for a bad reason, ie a millionaire gives away money to charity so that people will say what a nice person he is, or someone slows down at a speed camera, not because he is concerned about causing an accident, but that he might <b>get fined</b> .	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA30</b>	The Daily Telegraph carries a front-page report today saying that the	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk

(4) (22)	Government is “powerless” to stop teachers <b>getting sacked</b> if they refuse to endorse same-sex marriage.	
GA31	You’ve got to keep business turning over to survive at all, but on the other hand, if you get too big, then you <b>get stamped on</b> by Sony.	Figure8magazine.co.uk
GA32 (8)	Afterwards they <b>got dropped</b> by their label and disappeared from view for almost a decade.	Figure8magazine.co.uk
GA33	But as this article shows , the student tracking system <b>got lobbied</b> to death by a coalition of higher education lobbyists, libertarian ideologues, and internal opponents at the Immigration and Naturalization Service.	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
GA34	Gee, if only I could <b>get attacked</b> by conservatives, maybe my books would sell 115,000 copies, too.	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
GA35 (23)	But if the lawyer hides the conflict from his client -- and the judge does nothing to ensure conflict-free representation -- the accused has a heightened burden. The client, in other words, <b>gets punished</b> if his lawyer, in addition to being conflicted, behaves unethically.	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
GA36	I for one believe in local government and I know colleagues do too. We may <b>get knocked down</b> but we always get up again as the song goes, we will continue to do so to the best of our abilities irrespective of what Government and local politics throw at us.	Ppma.org.uk
GA37	Everytime I enquire I either <b>get ignored</b> (no response from Councillor Battye after last few emails and Metro just have't replied) or told they don't know either.	Hebdenbridge.co.uk
GA38	Didn't know what action he'd see, out on patrol in an armoured car; <b>got taken out</b> by an IED.	Therecusant.org.uk
GA39	Teachers <b>get burnt out</b> on the "What are we ever going to use this for?" question almost as rapidly as the even more discouraging "Is this going to be on the test?"	Sandwalk.blogspot.co.uk
GA40	<b>Getting stressed</b> by the actions of others reduces that relaxation and enjoyment, so for the most part, I just shrug it off.	Londoncyclist.co.uk
GA41 (29)	I'll check for submissions and update the spreadsheet above on a semi-regular basis. I'd open it up more, but I've seen this sort of thing <b>get abused</b> by spammers before so am going to take on a bit of admin to prevent that.	Christunitt.co.uk
GA42	But if you're still finding the rejection pill hard to swallow, then read on... Everyone <b>gets rejected</b> . The first thing you need to realise is that you are absolutely NOT alone in your rejection misery.	Readthismagazine.co.uk
GA43	When I was in Arizona, I kept <b>getting overcharged</b> in the shops.	labour-uncut.co.uk
GA44	Name Verity is about a Second World War British agent, who <b>gets captured</b> by the Germans.	carnegiegreenaway.org.uk
GA45	Before I <b>get flamed</b> here, let me declare two interests – I am a member of both the Labour party and Unite. I am as concerned as anybody else with what may or may not have happened in Falkirk and other places, but am trying to pass comment here only upon what I know.	labour-uncut.co.uk
GA46	We got to the top and then we <b>got blasted</b> by shrapnel.	Bedfordregiment.org.uk
GA47	Tuff Ghost (One of three songs with ghost in it's title) is about a shallow, uncaring ghost ('I'm a strong dead man/looking out for myself') as he <b>gets criticized</b> by the still living with the clever refrain, 'I can see right through/ right through you' as the song ends with playful synthesizers and a bass guitar almost duelling over a manic drum beat.	Figure8magazine.co.uk
GA48	One of my main worries when cycling around London is that my beautiful bicycle that I love so dearly will <b>get stolen</b> by some pikey and sold down Brick Lane.	Londoncyclist.co.uk
GA49	This evening on my way home from work I <b>got doored</b> by a van door	Londoncyclist.co.uk

	opening.	
<b>GA50</b>	Large amounts of money <b>get pumped into</b> the race relations industry to try and compare this to Rodney King.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GA51</b>	"As the market gets bigger, the big global players are coming in, and selling organic food - the alternative and radical side could just <b>get swallowed up</b> by the global players and they could start dictating organic standards, which would mean lowering them."	Sovereignty.co.uk
<b>GA52</b>	While the men who started those wars may be Christian (Well, Jewish in terms of the Palestinians, but they <b>got lumped in</b> somehow) their motivation was not Christianity, so it really seems a stretch to claim this as Christianity having a bloody recent Track record.	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk

### **Get-passive: BENEFICIARY**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Source website</b>
<b>GB1</b>	Textile industry has grown at a vast pace over the years and mostly down to the service of because you now <b>get paid</b> money for recycling giving people more incentive to recycle.	Cashforclothing.co.uk
<b>GB2</b>	TV audiences and black market prices are higher for men's tennis, probably because men's tennis is more competitive (6-0, 6-0 is wearysome common in the opening rounds of the ladies' tournament). So men <b>get paid</b> more. When women play best of 5, then they deserve equal pay. Simple really.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GB3</b> (17)	Ironically she <b>got paid</b> more than anyone else.	Virginmediashorts.uk
<b>GB4</b> (15)	Actually you are one of the luckier citizens of this planet". (...) "Actually I <b>get paid</b> a minimum wage, lectured on binge drinking, bombarded with bills and final demands.	otherbloggersstuff.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GB5</b>	The contractors that we supply all work through their own limited company or a professional umbrella service and they all <b>get paid</b> no less than their permanent counterparts.	project-resource.co.uk
<b>GB6</b> (1) (16)	When a loan is given, against security, I expect to <b>get paid</b> or take the security in exchange.	jubileedebt.org.uk
<b>GB7</b>	Credit insurance from Atradius is a straightforward, cost effective and flexible way to ensure you <b>get paid</b> for goods and services you supply.	atradius.co.uk
<b>GB8</b>	The company that built it <b>got paid</b> .	jubileedebt.org.uk
<b>GB9</b>	So the question for Dionne to be asking is not where is Gore, but where are Dana Milbank, Dan Balz, Ed Walsh and all the other journalists who <b>get paid</b> by your paper to ignore Al Gore?	Sideshow.free-online.co.uk
<b>GB10</b> (32)	I quite fancied a little break after the show, but I <b>got offered</b> a job starting pretty much the day that we finished so I took that because it seemed like fun and I needed the money.	fuel.rca.ac.uk
<b>GB11</b>	So when a band does get offered an advert and they do <b>get offered</b> a sum of money for the use of their song, I think more and more people are understanding.	Figure8magazine.co.uk
<b>GB12</b>	So when a band does <b>get offered</b> an advert and they do get offered a sum of money for the use of their song, I think more and more people are understanding.	Figure8magazine.co.uk
<b>GB13</b>	When did the Archbishop of Canterbury ever <b>get invited</b> ?	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GB14</b>	In fact, when does any other religious leader <b>get invited</b> .	Archbishop-cranmer.blogspot.co.uk



<b>GB15</b> (11)	As if anyone would <b>get elected</b> by arguing that George Osborne didn't go far enough.	Labour-uncut.co.uk
<b>GB16</b>	The Demagogue government <b>got elected</b> , the constitution said that they weren't allowed to hold a referendum within 180 days, the Supreme Court of judges upholds constitution and says government can't hold a referendum within 180 days, government asks Army to help with constitution – Army says can't hold referendum within 180 days.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GB17</b>	This story <b>got promoted</b> up to page 10.	lobster-magazine.co.uk
<b>GB18</b> (12)	From bright colours to the classic brown paper carrier bag , it's easy to get the right look for your business. You can even choose custom printed bags, to ensure your name <b>gets noticed</b> on the high street.	rajapack.co.uk
<b>GB19</b> (24)	For effective email writing, you need a really interesting subject line. Otherwise your lovely email won't even <b>get opened</b> .	turnerink.co.uk
<b>GB20</b>	In many ways it's a wonder second album Waking Up Is Hard To Do ever <b>got released</b> at all.	Figure8magazine.co.uk
<b>GB21</b>	The problem therefore with the Tory manifesto as far as this blog is concerned is that I like it. A lot. If even a half of it <b>gets delivered</b> , then it will make the country substantially better.	brackenworld.blogspot.co.uk
<b>GB22</b>	As young musicians there was a time you couldn't <b>get served</b> in bars despite playing gigs in some, what did you do for entertainment whilst on the road?	labour-uncut.co.uk
<b>GB23</b>	In a level of irony not seen since... well, this morning when Labour <b>got voted back</b> into power, DVD Players are now so cheap you can buy them for less than the discs you put inside.	Crave.cnet.co.uk
<b>GB24</b>	We are funding the trip ourselves and are raising money for charity but are hoping we can <b>get given</b> some kit, discounts or a prize for the raffle?	Londoncyclist.co.uk
<b>GB25</b>	Only by doing so can you be confident in <b>getting treated</b> well.	bronco.co.uk
<b>GB26</b>	At least some of the worst rotting infrastructure will at last fall down and hopefully <b>get replaced</b> .	ispreview.co.uk
<b>GB27</b>	It is a privilege to be asked by your best friend to be the chief bridesmaid. It's also an honour you don't <b>get charged with</b> every day and can be a daunting task.	Confetti.co.uk
<b>GB28</b>	The staff was friendly, the food was great, our rooms <b>got cleaned</b> daily, the kids had a great time at the kids club.	Firstchoice.co.uk