

Abstract

The subject of the present thesis is the analysis of two ditransitive verbs *give* and *buy* as regards the options of their passivization. Ditransitive verbs: verbs that are complemented by two objects form two types of passive constructions depending on which object becomes the passive subject. The indirect object of the verb *give* alternates with a prepositional object with preposition *to* and the indirect object of *buy* alternates with a prepositional object with preposition *to*. It is assumed, that ditransitive verbs with the indirect object having the role of an actual recipient (verbs alternating with prepositional object with preposition *to*) form passive constructions more easily than those with the indirect object having the role of a beneficiary (verbs alternating with prepositional object with preposition *to*). The approaches to the acceptability of the latter ditransitive verbs differ.

The analytical part is a corpus based analysis of 100 examples excerpted from the British National Corpus and Corpus of Contemporary American English. The analysis included only examples of passive constructions where both passive subject and passive object were realized. The examples were divided according to the type of passive and they were analyzed as for their frequency and the factors influencing the choice of the type of passive. The factors that influenced the choice of the type of passive were mostly: principle of end-weight, the semantics of the indirect object and most importantly FSP, as the thesis attempted to find out whether the passive constructions are formed in accordance with the general assumption that the thematic active object becomes the passive subject.