Impersonal passives

Dutch and Turkish

Dutch

unergative:
(1)a. De jonge lui dansten hier veel.
the young people danced here a lot
b. Er wordt hier door de jonge lui veel gedanst.
there is here by the young people much danced
(lit.) ‘There is danced here a lot by the young people.’
i.e., There is a lot of dancing here by the young people

unaccusative:
(2)a. In dit ziekenhuis sterven de patienten dikwijls.
In this hospital die the patients often
b. *Er wordt in dit ziekenhuis door de patienten dikwijls gestorven.
there is in this hospital by the patients often died

Turkish

unergative:
(3) Burada çalışan / oynamış / bağırış.
bura-da çalışan / oynamış / bağırış
this.place-LOC work-PASS-AOR.3s / play-PASS-AOR.3s / shout-PASS-AOR.3s
‘Here it is worked/played/shouted.’

unaccusative:
(4) *Bu gibi durumu lar da ölünür.
this similar situation-PL-LOC die-PASS-AOR.3s
‘In such situations it is died.’
Yaqui (Uto-Aztecan, spoken in Arizona and northern Sonora)

Yaqui has different suffixes for transitive (-(t)a) and intransitive verbs (-(t)e):

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<th>Transitive</th>
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<td>chep-ta</td>
<td>chep-te</td>
<td>vee-ta</td>
<td>vee-te</td>
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<tr>
<td>'step on x'</td>
<td>'jump'</td>
<td>'burn x'</td>
<td>'burn'</td>
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<tr>
<td>'om-ta'</td>
<td>'om-te'</td>
<td>kot-ta</td>
<td>kot-te</td>
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<td>'anger x'</td>
<td>'be angry'</td>
<td>'break x'</td>
<td>'break'</td>
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<tr>
<td>noi-ta</td>
<td>noi-te</td>
<td>sip-a</td>
<td>sip-e</td>
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<tr>
<td>'take/bring'</td>
<td>'go/come'</td>
<td>'cool x'</td>
<td>'become c'</td>
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</table>

Passive suffix –wa can attach to transitives and unergatives, but not unaccusatives
(NB: -wa causes a preceding vowel to raise)

**Transitive:**

(5) a. 'ume 'o'ow-im 'uka maaso-ta me'-a-k  
\[DET:PL\ man-PL \ DET:ACC \ deer-ACC \ kill-TR-PERF\]  
'The men killed the deer.' (active)

b. 'u maaso me'-a-wa-k  
\[DET \ deer \ kill-TR-PASS-PERF\]  
'The deer was killed.' (passive)

**Unergative:**

(6) a. 'ume 'o'ow-im pahko-po ye'-e-ka  
\[DET:PL \ man-PL \ ceremony-PP \ dance-INTR-PERF\]  
'The men danced at the ceremony.' (active)

b. pahko-po yi'-i-wa-k  
\[ceremony-PP \ dance-INTR-PASS-PERF\]  
'People danced/there was dancing at the ceremony.' (impersonal passive)

**Unaccusative:**

(7) a. 'u kari vee-te  
\[DET \ house \ burn-INTR\]  
'The house is burning.' (active)

b. * vee-ti-wa  
\[burn-INTR-PASS\]  
('There is something burning.) (-wa excluded)