

## Impersonal passives

### Dutch and Turkish

(from David Perlmutter. 1978. Impersonal passives and the unaccusative hypothesis. In J. Jaeger et al. (eds.), *Proceedings of the 4th annual meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society*, 157-189. BLS: Berkeley, Ca.)

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#### 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*
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#### Turkish

##### *unergative:*

- (3) Burada çalışılır / oynanır / bağırlır.  
 bura-da çalış-ıl-ır / oyna-n-ır / bağır-ıl-ır  
*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 durum-lar-da öl-ün-ür.  
*this similar situation-PL-LOC die-PASS-AOR.3s*  
 ('In such situations it is died.')

Yaqui (Uto-Aztecan, spoken in Arizona and northern Sonora)

(From Eloise Jelinek. 1998. Voice and transitivity as functional projections in Yaqui. In Miriam Butt and Wilhelm Geuder (eds.), *The projection of arguments*, 195-224. CSLI: Stanford, Ca.)

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

Transitive	Unergative	Transitive	Unaccusative
chep-ta 'step on x'	chep-te 'jump'	vee-ta 'burn x'	vee-te 'burn'
'om-ta 'anger x'	'om-te 'be angry'	kot-ta 'break x'	kot-te 'break'
noi-ta 'take/bring'	noi-te 'go/come'	sip-a 'cool x'	sip-e 'become c'

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)