

## CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF USING ACTIVE AND PASSIVE SENTENCE IN THE NOVEL OF “EAT, PRAY, AND LOVE” BY MARGARET GILBERT

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### Abstract

The objective of this study was to find out the differences and similarities of using passive voice in Source Text (ST) and translated them into Target Text (TT). The difference and similarity itself was found by comparing two sentences in two languages, between Indonesian and English which focused on using the passive voice sentences. Besides that, a descriptive qualitative method and contrastive analysis technique were used in analyzing 20% of data. The main results of the study were: the data that used active sentence in source language, and transfer it into active sentence (AA) was about 244 data (82 %). Next, the data from active sentence in source language and transfer it into passive sentences (AP) in target language was 45 (15 %). Moreover, the data from source language in the form of passive sentence and translated it into passive sentence (PP) in target language was 10 (3%). However, 0 (0%) data was in passive sentence and translated it into active sentence (PA).

**Keywords:** novel, translation, grammar, and grammatical equivalence

### INTRODUCTION

The use of the passive voice is extremely common in many varieties of written English and can pose various problems in translation, depending on the availability of similar structures, or structures with similar functions, in the target language. Because of its widespread use in technical and scientific English in particular, it has had a strong influence on similar registers in other languages through translation. The tendency to translate English passive structures literally into a variety of target languages which either have no passive voice as such or which would normally use it with less frequency is often criticized by linguist and by those involved in training translators.

Moreover, the development in translation field had been growing rapidly and its discussion is various related with another field, like linguistic, sociology, physiology, pragmatic, pedagogy, and even in a specific field like literacy in the form of novel.

From the above discussion, it can be said that in transferring the idea or opinion is not only with the same way even the idea itself

has the same meaning; it can be conveyed by active sentence or by passive one.

From the above phenomenon, a good understanding about grammatical system in source language and target language become an important thing to be considered, in order to make the translation of literary work has a good quality and can be responsible.

The study of contrastive analysis in the novel of “Eat, Pray and Love” had been done by using Grammatical Equivalence approach, especially by discussing a unit of Voice.

However, in this research paper, the writers want to find out how is the difference of Active – Passive Sentence translated into Indonesia, and how is grammatical aspect of voice translated from English into Indonesian and vice versa in the novel of Elizabeth Gilbert?

Moreover, a translator must consider a structure in using an active and passive clause, because it has difference pattern. People can express their idea either using active sentence or passive one. If the idea will translate to another language, uncertain that the idea can be translated with the same pattern. It means that a passive sentence in ST

can be translated into passive sentence too in TT. Michael Swan (1998:457) told that:

“Note that meaning and grammar do not always go together. Not all active verbs have “active” meanings; not all passive verbs have “passive” meanings.....Some English active verbs might be translated by passive in certain other languages”.

Meanwhile, according to A.J. Thomson & A.V. Martinet (1986:266-267) mentioned some usages of passive clause as follows:

1. When it is more convenient or interesting to stress the thing done than the doer of it, or when the doer is unknown:

My watch was stolen  
The streets are swept every day.

2. In a passive sentence, the agent or doer of the action is very often not mentioned. When the agent is mentioned it is preceded by “**by**”:

Active : Bobby painted this picture.  
Passive : This picture was painted by Bobby.  
Active : Who wrote it?  
Passive : Who was it written by?

3. When a verb + preposition + object combination is put into the passive, the preposition will remain immediately after the verb:

Active : We must write to him  
Passive : He must be written to.

Similarly with verb + preposition / adverb combinations:

Active : They threw away the old newspapers.  
Passive : The old newspapers were thrown away.

4. After **acknowledge, assume, believe, claim, consider, estimate, feel, find, know, presume report, say, think, understand** etc.

Sentences of type People think / consider / know etc. that he is..... have two possible passive forms:

It is thought / considered / known etc. that he is.....  
He is thought / considered / known etc. to be.....

5. After suppose. 1) Suppose in the passive can be followed by the present infinitive of any verb but this construction usually conveys an idea of duty and is not therefore the normal equivalent of suppose in the active. Example: You are supposed to know how to drive. 2) Suppose in the passive can similarly be followed by the perfect infinitive of any verb. This construction may convey an idea of duty but very often does not:

You are supposed to have finished = You should have finished.

6. The continuous infinitive can be used after the passive of think, know, believe, understand, report, say, suppose:

- 1) People thought / known / believe / said/supposed that he was living abroad.
- 2) People believe that he was waiting for a message.

From the above discussion, it can be said that while doing a translation, a translator must consider a meaning which available in source text (ST) or source language (SL). He or she must be capable in transferring the meaning from ST to TT naturally, without having addition or reduction of the information in ST.

On the other hand, here A.J Thomson and A.V. Martinet (1983:254-257) also give some definitions and functions of about the voice itself. They are:

1. Form

The passive of an active tense is formed by putting the verb to be the same tense as the active verb and adding the past participle of the active verb:

Active : We keep the butter here.  
Passive : The butter is kept here.

2. Use

The passive voice is used in English when it is more convenient or interesting to stress the thing done than the doer of it, or when the doer is unknown:

My watch was stolen is much more usual than  
 Thieves stole my watch.

From the discussion above, it can be said that all kinds of tenses are able to change into

passive form. However, there is other continuous tenses are exceedingly rarely used in the passive so that the sentences, and not normally put into passive.

3. Tense / verb form in active and passive voice.

Here is the classification of using the passive voice in all kinds of tenses in English, they are:

Table 1.  
 The Classifications of Tenses and its Passive Voice.

Tense / Verb Form	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Simple present	Keeps	Is kept
Present continuous	Is keeping	Is being kept
Simple past	Kept	Was kept
Past continuous	Was keeping	Was being kept
Present perfect	Has kept	Has been kept
Past perfect	Had kept	Had been kept
Future	Will keep	Will be kept
Conditional	Would keep	Would be kept
Perfect conditional	Would have kept	Would have been kept
Present infinitive	To keep	To be kept
Perfect infinitive	To have kept	To have been kept
Present participle / gerund	Keeping	Being kept
Perfect participle	Having kept	Having been kept

From the characteristic of using voice above, the researchers can decide the classification of voice in four categories, in order to ease in doing the contrastive analysis from both of source text and target text. Those are: category of AA, AP, PA, and PP. The category of AA is derived from active to active word. The researcher categorizing the AA based on whether the clause or sentence in source language is active and translated it into active sentence too in target language (active to active). The second one is about AP category. AP means whether the clause or sentence in source language is active and translates it into passive meaning in target language (active – passive). PA means the clause or sentence in source language is passive and translate it into active (passive - active), and the last is PP means the translator translate the clause or sentence in source language become passive too in target language (passive - passive).

**Method**

Based on the problems discussed in the study, therefore the form of research used was a descriptive research, which aimed to describe systematically a situation or something factual and accurate. This is also stated by Issac and Michael (1984:42), “*Descriptive method: to describe systematically a situation or area of interest factually and accurately.*”

Considering to the limitation of the time & based on the source of data above, therefore the data which had been analyzed was only 20% from 108 chapters within 348 pages. In other words, the amount of data as the sampling was only 21 chapters with 67 pages in English novel version, and 76 pages in Indonesian novel version. From the 21 chapters, the researcher just doing tracking of using passive voices both in source language and target language.

However, the technique of data collection is by doing tracking especially to the sentences or phrases which uses passive voice form.

At the end of the analysis, the result of the data is calculated by counting and comparing the data finding from the source language to the target language, especially from its differences and similarities of sentence in passive voice.

Furthermore, the collection of data through this contrastive analysis had been done by using some data cards and several steps:

1. Breaking down text into unit of analysis and Listing each sentences from Source Text (ST) into Target Text (TT) in the form of table.
2. Selecting the use and the translation of voice by using four aspects, such as:
  - a. The use of active sentence in Source Text and translate it into active sentence in Target Text (Active – Active / AA).
  - b. The use of active sentence in Source Text and translate it into passive sentence in Target Text (Active – Passive / AP).
  - c. The use of passive sentence in Source Text and translate it into active sentence in Target Text (Passive – Active / PA).
  - d. The use of passive sentence in Source Text and translate it passive sentence in Target Text (Passive – Passive / PP).
3. Calculating the number of using each Voice notion.
4. Interpreting the finding of the research.

### Results and Discussion

From the study, it can be seen that there are many differences and similarities in using the meaning of a word from active sentence into passive one, or vice versa. Those finding are as follows:

#### 1. The Use of Active Sentence in ST and Translated it into Active Sentence in TT (AA Category).

AA category is the first category from voice. Actually there were 244 data found in the text that use active sentence in ST and translated it into active sentence in TT. These amounts of data was the biggest number since the use of translated meaning into active to passive and from passive into active were only in 45 and 10 data. Therefore, below are

some examples from the use of AA category in the novel text:

#### Example 1:

Number	: 24
Sentence number	: 130
English text (ST)	: I need a proper name
Indonesian text (TT)	: Saya memerlukan nama yang benar.
Category	: Active to active (AA)
Comment	: The meaning is natural and clear.

This example shows that the translator use an active sentence in his meaning, so there is no change in transferring the meaning. The category of this kind of sentence is AA. Below is another example of using AA category:

#### Example 2:

Number	: 6
Sentence number	: 21
English text (ST)	: I e-mailed both men
Indonesian text (TT)	: Saya mengirim email kepada kedua orang tersebut.
Category	: Active to active (AA)
Comment	: The meaning is clear and understandable.

Here, the translator uses an active sentence in his meaning, so there is no change in transferring the meaning. The category of this kind of sentence is AA.

From both of the two examples like in example 1 and 2 above, the use of sentences “I need a proper name” and its translation become “Saya memerlukan nama yang benar” and also the use of “I e-mailed both men” in ST and “saya mengirim email kepada kedua orang tersebut” did not show changes in meaning. Here, the subjek of “I” in ST did not change become object in TT. Both of the predicate structures were influenced by tense, by having prefixed “me” in Bahasa Indonesia, while the passive structure was having prefixed “di” in English language.

## 2. The Use of Active Sentence in ST and Translated it into Passive Sentence in TT (AP Category).

AP category however is the second category of voice. From all of the data collected, it can be seen that only 45 data had changes from active sentence in ST, and translated it into passive sentence in TT. The use of prefix “me” in ST is indicated that the sentence is active, however, the use of the prefix “di”, “ber”, “ter” in TT are indicated passive sentence. Below are some examples of the use of AP category.

### Example 1:

Number	: 185
Sentence number	: 824
English text (ST)	: People asked me.
Indonesian text (TT)	: Orang bertanya pada saya.
Category	: Active to passive (AP)
Comment	: The meaning is clear, but need to rewrite.

From the example above, the ST used a transitive verb which indicated an active sentence, but the translator translated it into passive sentence in TT. The meaning in the translation result is clear, but need to rewrite. However, the category from this kind of sentence is AP.

### Example 2:

Number	: 207
Sentence number	: 918
English text (ST)	: We’ve been playing a cat-and – mouse game.
Indonesian text (TT)	: Kami telah bermain petak umpet.
Category	: Active to passive (AP)
Comment	: The meaning is clear and natural.

From the example 2 above, it can be seen that the translator uses the sentence “telah bermain petak umpet” as the result of his translation. The use of prefix “ber” in TT, refers to passive meaning. However, the

transfer meaning from ST to TT is clear and natural, instead of “kami telah sedang memainkan petak umpet”.

## 3. The Use of Passive Sentence in ST and Translated it into Passive Sentence in TT (PP Category).

PP category is the third category of voice, and it is the smallest numbers than AA & AP category. Moreover, the fourth category of voice like PA category cannot be found in the text. It means that the use of passive sentence in ST and translated it into active sentence is nothing in the novel text, from both of English version or Indonesian one.

From 299 of data had been analyzed, there are only 10 data uses the changes of meaning from passive sentence and translated it passive sentence. The example of the sentences can be seen as follows:

### Example 1:

Number	: 32
Sentence number	: 918
English text (ST)	: I was surrounded by something.
Indonesian text (TT)	: Saya dikelilingi oleh sesuatu .
Category	: Passive to Passive (PP)
Comment	: The meaning is clear, natural, and no need to rewrite.

From the above example, it can be said that the use of word “by” in ST and the sentence of “dikelilingi oleh sesuatu” in TT refer to passive meaning. The use of past to be “was” and followed by infinitive (Verb 3) in ST is indicated passive formula. Moreover, the use of prefix “di” in Bahasa Indonesia / target text is indicated passive meaning.

### Example 1:

Number	: 270
Sentence number	: 1208
English text (ST)	: The big Sunday afternoon meal cooked by their respective mother.
Indonesian text (TT)	: Makan besar di hari minggu siang yang dimasak oleh ibu atau nenek mereka.
Category	: Passive to Passive (PP)
Comment	: The meaning is clear, natural, and accurately conveyed.

From the above example, it can be seen that the use of word “by” and followed by infinitive (Verb 3) in ST are the characteristics of passive voice. Moreover, the use of prefix “di” from the word “dimasak” is referring to passive voice in target text (TT). However, the meaning in the

translation result is clear, natural, and well conveyed because no need to rewrite.

In another hand, to make the translation result is easier to be read, here the researchers provide a table related to the use of changes meaning in AA, AP, PA, and PP. The table itself can be seen as follows:

Table 2.  
 The classification of using voice

No	Classifications	Difference	Similar	Number	Percentage
	Active – Active (AA)		√	244	82 %
	Active – Passive (AP)	√		45	15 %
	Passive – Passive (PP)		√	10	3 %
	Passive – Active (PA)	√		0	0 %
	<b>Total</b>			<b>299</b>	<b>100 %</b>

### Conclusion

From the explanation and the contrastive analysis of using passive voice in the novel of : eat, pray, and love by Margaret Gilbert, the writers conclude that English and Indonesian have similar and difference meaning in translating the language.

According to the table 2 provided above, it can be said that the contrastive analysis of using voice category was 299. The data that used active sentence in source language, and transfer it into target language with similar meaning (AA) was about 244 data (82 %). Next, the data from active sentence in source language and transfer it into target language with different meaning (AP) was 45 (15 %). Moreover, the data from source language in the form of passive sentence and translated it into passive sentence in target language with similar meaning was 10 (3%). However, 0 (0%) data was different in meaning (PA) either from passive sentence into active one.

Furthermore, from the finding above, it can be clarified that the English sentence or clause are mainly translated into active sentence or clause in Bahasa Indonesia whenever the intransitive verbs are used. There are also some active clauses which are not translating into active, but rather using passive once. However, the use of passive clause to pasive one is only small in number,

and there is no using passive clause which translated into active one.

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