

# Active Voice and Passive Voice

We have seen that verb is the most important word in the language. We have further seen that verb has numerous applications.

One such application of the verb is that it denotes an action that passes over from one person to another. Another application of the verb is that the action denoted by it comes back to the doer himself.

To take an example

Mohan loves Meena

Here in this sentence Mohan is the subject. He is also the doer of the action. Here the action done

by Mohan passes over from him to someone else, that is Meena. Here we say Meena is the object of the sentence or the object of the verb loves.

A verb like loves, which denotes that the action done by the subject passes over to an object is called a transitive verb. In Malayalam we call മാർഗ്ഗ (മാർഗ്ഗ).

Let us take another example

Mohan laughs loudly.

Here Mohan is the subject and laughs is the verb. Here, the action

denoted by the verb does not pass over to any one, but bounces back to the subject. Here the verb takes no object.

Such verbs that denote actions that come back to the subject are called intransitive verbs. In Malayalam we call അതിവക്യകൃത് (അതിവക്യകൃത്).

Now we can safely come to the idea of Voice.

We are familiar with the word Voice. It is a very common word. But the word has got a different meaning in Grammar.

In Grammar Voice is simply a form of the verb. This form of the verb tells us if the subject is doing something or receiving the action done by somebody else.

If the form of the verb tells us that the subject is doing something, it is in the Active Voice. In words Subject is active.

eg Sita loves Savitri  
Subject      Verb      Object

Here in this sentence Sita is the Subject. The verb <sup>'loves'</sup> tells us that Sita is doing something. Hence, the verb loves is in the Active Voice.

Let us change the sentence a bit.

Savitri is loved by Sita.  
Subject Agent

Here Savitri is the subject of the sentence. The verb is loved tells us that Savitri is passive, that is she is not doing anything. The subject Savitri is receiving the action done by the agent Sita. Hence, the verb is loved is in the passive voice.

I hope things are clear.

A verb is in the Active voice, if it denotes that the subject is

the doer of the action.

A verb is in the passive voice, if it denotes that the subject is receiving some action done by somebody else.

Sentence Examples according to various tenses

Active voice

passive voice

~~Simple~~  
Simple present tense

- Kavya loves Ice-cream.

Ice cream is loved by kavya

- The boys love Ice-cream

Ice cream is loved by the boys.

- The boys love the girls

- The girls are loved by the boys.

Active  
Present continuous tense

passive

Present Continuous tense

Active

Passive

~~Ice-cream~~  
Kavya is loving

Ice-cream is  
being loved  
by Kavya.

The boys are loving

Ice-cream

Ice-cream is  
being loved by  
Kavya.

The boys are loving  
the girls

The girls are  
being loved  
by the boys.

Present perfect tense

Kavya has loved

Ice-cream

Ice-cream has  
been loved by  
Kavya.

The boys have loved  
Ice-cream.

- Ice-cream has  
been loved by  
the boys.

The boys have  
loved the girls -

The girls have  
been loved by  
the boys.

Great Perfect Continuous

Tense -

— Panya has been loving -  
Ice-cream.

Ice-cream  
- has been  
loved by

The boys have been

loving

Ice-cream - Ice-cream  
has been loved

by the boys.