

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS AND PEDAGOGICAL ASPECTS OF "HEARSAY REPORTING" IN PASSIVE VOICE (BASED ON MACMILLAN ENGLISH GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT)

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Abstract: This article explores one of the most specific structures in English grammar — "Hearsay reporting" in the passive voice. Based on the methodology of "Macmillan English Grammar in Context", the study analyzes the semantic and syntactic differences between impersonal and personal passive constructions. The practical importance of these structures in formal and academic discourse is highlighted through contextual analysis.

Keywords: Passive voice, hearsay reporting, reporting verbs, academic writing, Macmillan grammar, impersonal passive.

Introduction

In modern English, the passive voice is not only used to shift focus from the doer to the action but also to report information without naming a specific source. This is known as "Hearsay Reporting." This structure is essential for journalism and academic research where objectivity is a priority.

Literature review

The study of reporting verbs in passive structures has been a key topic for many grammarians. Simon Clarke, in "Macmillan English Grammar in Context" (p. 46), emphasizes the importance of using these structures to convey general beliefs or rumors. Unlike traditional grammar books, this approach focuses on the "context" — where and why these forms are used in real-life communication.

Methodology

This research employs a descriptive and contextual analysis method. The primary source is the Macmillan pedagogical framework. We examine how reporting verbs like claim, believe, thought, say, and report change their syntactical behavior when moving from active to passive voice in hearsay contexts.

Analysis and results

According to the Macmillan methodology, hearsay reporting follows two main patterns: Impersonal Passive: It + is/was + said + that... Personal Passive: Subject + is/was + said + to be...

Case Study (based on Macmillan, p. 46): The textbook illustrates these concepts through practical transformations. For example: Active: "People think that the criminal is hiding." Passive: "The criminal is thought to be hiding."

The transition requires a specific grammatical shift: the finite verb transforms into a to-infinitive. The textbook (p. 46) further highlights the use of Perfect Infinitives (e.g., to have stolen) for reporting past events. This proves that hearsay reporting is a flexible tool for attributing past actions to subjects without definitive proof.

Conclusion

Mastering "Hearsay Reporting" is crucial for achieving an advanced level of English proficiency. It allows speakers and writers to remain neutral and report information professionally.

The Macmillan approach successfully bridges the gap between theoretical grammar and practical application.

References:

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