

Get-Passives in ICE: a Contrastive Analysis to Be-Passives

The present paper is a study of *get* passive constructions based on the International Corpus of English (ICE) and it aims to lay special emphasis on the discourse features that distinguish *get* from the corresponding *be* passives. Within this system of voice, *get* is the marked form whereas *be* is the unmarked counterpart. When no special emphasis is looked for, speakers tend to select the *be* variant. However, when something needs to be enhanced for a particular reason (to be explained), *get* tends to be selected. Several examples are offered to contextualize the major differences between the two.