

SHORT AND LONG PASSIVES IN ENGLISH DISCOURSE: A CORPUS-BASED APPROACH

The following paper is a discussion of the discourse factors that affect the choice of passive structures with and without Agents, laying special emphasis on the difference between them. The perspective adopted is a synchronic one and it exploits a collection of spoken and written British English in PDE texts: the International Corpus of English in its British component (hereafter ICE-GB). Illustrative points and explanations will be tackled in a qualitative and quantitative manner as well as from a discursive-cognitive angle. By discursive-cognitive is intended the investigation line that focuses on the cognitive principles at work in the human mind when language is used in the discourse situation, that is, with the knowledge that exists in our mind and discursive components which ensure the use of language in a natural context. In its turn, this work is labeled 'quantitative' since it is based on the counting of data extracted from ICE-GB. This will lead to draw a number of qualitative, exhaustive and clear-cut conclusions.