

## **A TYPOLOGY OF NON-CANONICAL PASSIVE STRUCTURES: PRELIMINARY STUDY OF BORDERLINE CASES**

*The following paper represents a discussion of the discourse factors that affect the choice of non-canonical passive structures, namely passive sentences with stranded prepositions, the 'become' passive and verbal vs. adjectival passives, laying especial emphasis on the difference among them. The perspective adopted is a synchronic one and it exploits a collection of spoken and written Present-Day English texts: the International Corpus of English in its British component (hereafter ICE-GB). We identify 4180 passive examples in spoken language and 6010 in written texts and we classify them in groups. Illustrative points and explanations are provided in a qualitative and quantitative manner and taking into account discursive-cognitive principles. Our aim is two-folded. On the one hand, we attempt to deeply examine the syntactic and discursive reasons that justify the use of this passive variant in actual discourse. On the other hand, we try to gain insights on the present state of affairs interwoven in the world of syntax and discourse analysis, following main studies in the field (D. BIBER ET AL. 1999; A. DOWNING and P. LOCKE 2002; A. HEWINGS 2005; R. HUDDLESTON and G. PULLUM 2002 and B. JONHSTONE 2002). Finally, we bring to light some remarks gathered from the previous research in order to draw a number of concise and clear-cut conclusions.*

*Key words: non-canonical passive structures, passive sentences with stranded prepositions, the 'become' passive and verbal vs. adjectival passives, discursive-cognitive angle.*