

On Passive Voice
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In this talk I present evidence for an analysis of the passive as demotion of the thematic subject, not through a generalized head/process that demotes arguments, but rather through existential closure applying at LF on the Voice head that introduces the thematic subject itself. I demonstrate that this correctly predicts that a passive-like alternation may apply to the Appl head that introduces the applicative object. It also correctly predicts that the passive cannot apply to passives or to unaccusatives. Illustrative data come from Acehnese, Indonesian, Lithuanian, and Sanskrit.