A Comparative Study Of Hindko And English Passive Syntactic Constructions

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Abstract

This study investigates the syntactic differences between passive constructions in English and Hindko by applying the framework of Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar, and explores how these structural disparities affect Hindko-speaking learners' acquisition of English passives. Although English passive constructions have been extensively examined, South Asian languages such as Hindko remain underexplored in this domain. This gap in research constrains both the descriptive documentation of Hindko grammar and the understanding of typological contrasts and their influence on English language learning. Using a qualitative descriptive–exploratory design, data were collected through structured translation tasks administered to 20 bilingual participants (8 teachers and 12 students) who speak the Abbottabad dialect of Hindko. Participants were purposively selected to ensure age and educational diversity. They orally translated a set of passive constructions from Hindko into English, and their responses were audio-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed. The analysis placed particular emphasis on syntactic operations central to passive formation, including NP movement, auxiliary insertion, agent demotion, and morphological transformations in both languages. The findings indicate that while both languages share universal principles underlying passive constructions, notable surface-level differences exist. English relies heavily on auxiliary chains and the prepositional by-phrase, whereas Hindko primarily employs verb morphology and postpositional agent markers. These typological mismatches contributed to systematic learner errors, including tense–aspect inconsistencies, auxiliary omission or misuse, and word-order interference. The study concludes that such typological differences drive interlingual interference in the acquisition of English passives by Hindko speakers. It is recommended that English language instruction for Hindko speakers place particular emphasis on auxiliary selection, tense–aspect formation, and by-phrase construction to mitigate mother-tongue interference. Future research may extend this inquiry to other Hindko dialects to draw broader syntactic comparisons and identify both shared and divergent patterns across the language.

Keywords: Auxiliary Inversion**,** NP Movement, Promotion & Demotion**,** Transformation

Introduction
Background and Concept of Study
In many natural languages, passive constructions have been regarded as a fundamental component of syntax that serves both grammatical and communicative roles. In order to shift the syntactic focus from the agent to the recipient or the patient of the action, the passive voice makes it possible for the object of an active construction to become the subject of a passive construction (Najafi & Curley,2023). In English, Subject-verb-object SVO language transformation typically uses auxiliary verbs (such as be) and past participles, e.g. the book was written by the student (Shores, 2025). These constructions are commonly used to emphasize the recipient or outcome of an action, create stylistic effects, and omit agents for discursive objectives. Prof. Mendoza (2023) noted the English passive voice plays an important

role in formal and academic discourse when agent is unknown or unimportant or when focus should be on results rather than agent.

On the other hand, Hindko that is a Northwestern Indo-Aryan language of Pakistan spoken in Hazara regions or Khyber Pakhtunkhwa such as Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, and parts of Azad Kashmir, follows SOV word order. Bashir and Conners (2019) explained that there is use of postpositions instead of prepositions, for example: English "on table" and Hindko "mez te" (literally, table on)", and also use of inflectional morphology to encode voice, tense and aspect. Also, Hindko uses passive structures to suppress agent and redirect attention to the patient, the structure differs from English. As in Hindko constructions, active form **"Oo kapray seersi"** and passive **"Kapray uss kolon sirwaye julsun."** Here, "Oo" is the agent changed into "uss" in the passive version, "kapray" becomes the subject, also the verb phrase includes auxiliary/modal morphology shifting from the active "seersi" to the passive "sirwaye julsun", and the agent phrase is expressed as "uss kolon." Hindko passives involve promoting the object to the subject position, expressing demoted agents with post-positional markers like "kolon" and including passive morphology into the verb phrase.

Comparative research between typologically distinct languages, like Hindko – a flexible SOV language and English - a Germanic language with SVO word order provides special insights into cross linguistic variation, universal grammar, and the cognitive foundations of syntactic constructions. According to Ramiz and Shahbaz (2025), comparison of syntactic structures across distantly related or unrelated languages not only enhances or deepens our understanding of language typology but also presents patterns of convergence in the way that languages express grammatical relations like voice. Despite its vibrant oral history and cultural heritage, Hindko remains underrepresented in formal linguistic researches, particularly when it comes to its syntactic features. Although Hindko active and passive sentences has been used for different purposes such as agent suppression and action focus.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the substantial research on English passive constructions, there is a significant gap in study involving passive constructions of regional South Asian languages particularly Hindko and its comparison to English through the lens of the Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar to ascertain syntactic similarities and dissimilarities. As, Hindko has unique syntactic and morphological patterns that differ from English; however, these distinctions have not been thoroughly investigated to understand how passive structures are created, transformed and interpreted across two different languages (English and Hindko). This research aims to investigate the similarities and differences in English and Hindko passive constructions within the framework of (REST) grammar theory and how these differences can impact the learning of bilinguals of Abbottabad.

Research Questions

Research questions to investigate in this research are:

What is the difference between passive constructions in Hindko and English with respect to Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar?

How do these differences affect the learning of English for Hindko-speaking learners?

Research Objectives

The research objectives related to this study are;

To analyze the difference between passive constructions in Hindko and English with respect to Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar.

To examine differences affecting the learning of English for Hindko-speaking learners

Significance of the Study

This research is significant from both academic, pedagogical and social perspective. Academically (epistemologically) it expands linguistic studies by providing a systematic comparative analysis of syntactic passive constructions in English and Hindko by applying the framework of the Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar. This study contributes new insights to syntax, theoretical linguistics and second language acquisition research. Pedagogically, the study emphasizes the specific challenges Hindko speakers encounter when learning English passive constructions such as word order, auxiliary usage and agent expression. By considering these challenges, the research provides useful recommendations for curriculum design, grammar training and translation practices, encouraging teachers to implement more effective strategies in bilingual and ESL classrooms. Socially (ontologically) it highlights the value of preserving regional languages, importance of promoting linguistic diversity and enhancing English language proficiency.

Delimitations

The scope of this study is limited to investigating syntactic passive constructions of Hindko of Abbottabad, a particular dialect of Hindko spoken in the Hazara Division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. This research focuses on the functional and structural aspects of passivization in Hindko compared to English language, instead of other linguistic levels such as phonology, semantics or pragmatics. Data is primarily collected from teenage student and adult teacher (range 16 to 45 years) Hindko native speakers through spoken elicitation of constructions and translation tasks, with exception to children and speakers of other Hindko dialects spoken in regions like Mansehra, Haripur, Baffa, Peshawar and Kohat etc. Furthermore, the study will only examine sentence level constructions, leaving out passivization patterns at discourse level. In order to maintain a focused scope, these delimitations are for meaningful insights into the comparative syntactic analysis of passives in English and Hindko.

Literature Review

This section reviews earlier studies on passive constructions and their role in various languages, discourses and comparative analyses. It begins with an overview of the definition and development of the comparative approach in linguistics followed by research on passive constructions across academic, political and religious contexts. The second part focuses on Hindko language and its morphological as well as syntactic features, and existence of passive forms. The comparative and contrastive studies of passive constructions in South Asian regional languages has been highlighted in the third section along with the differences in syntactic structures such as word order and auxiliary use. In order to show cross linguistic research on passives in global context including Chinese, Vietnamese, German, Italian, and Bantu languages, the final part examines structural differences and acquisition patterns.

These subsections collectively provide the foundation for determining the research gap with regard to Hindko passive constructions and how they compare to English within the framework of REST grammar. Following is the knowledge about terms used in this research;

Premeer (2024) defined passive voice as a grammatical structure in syntax where the subject receives action of the verb instead of performing it in the construction. A study examines Abbottabadi dialect as a standard Hindko language among other parts of Hazara Division and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which fulfills the basic requirements (Muhammad, Rustam & Bacha, 2022). Velieva (2021) reviewed history of development and emergence of the competitive method in linguistics, and defined the comparative method as a technique for studying the development of languages by getting out a feature-by-feature comparison a school or more languages.

Passive Constructions

Different studies related to passive constructions has highlighted that passives function differently in different discourses such as journalism, academic or religious context. Qassim (2018) pointed out that active and passive verbs present challenges for journalists, as passives are often used to mask agency, specially in politically sensitive or negative contexts. Moreover, Bada and Ulum (2019) examined academic writing across disciplines and found different distributions of active and passive structures. Their findings showed that while active and passive dominates overall, passive constructions remain common in sciences that prioritize objectivity and impersonality. Extending the scope to religious discourse, Abu Qub'a et al. (2021) analyzed passive verbs in the Holy Quran and found that the agentless passive is the most common form, used to achieve brevity, expand meaning, and emphasize divine or human actions.

Hindko Language and Passive Constructions

Bashir and Conners (2019) presented one of the most detailed grammatical accounts of Saraiki, Punjabi and Hindko, particularly focusing on Abbottabad Hindko. They used corpus data to support their descriptive grammar which covers orthography, phonology, morphology and syntax including brief discussion of passive constructions.

Mir (2022) by using morpho- syntactic analysis based on natural conversations, historical texts and note-taking examined derivative formation in Hindko language. The study includes nominal derivatives, form of exaggeration, active participle, passive participle, qualificative adjective, instrumental noun and locative noun. Within Hindko's derivative system, the presence of passive participles has highlighted the requirement for more thorough syntactic research into passivization mechanisms.

Comparative and Contrastive Studies in Pakistani Regional Languages

Parveen and Mahmood (2025) had worked on a corpus driven comparative study of Shahmukhi Punjabi and English voice constructions. They looked at transitive verbs, auxiliaries, morphemic elements across tenses by using AntConc 3.5, MAT Tagger and syntax tree generators, identifying few contextual differences but significant structural contrasts which helps in understanding of regional languages' passive voice. Hussain and Mehdi (2023) compared open-ended interrogative syntactic constructions of Punjabi and English by using the Revised Extended Standard Transformational

(REST) theory. They found that English demands movement and dummy elements while Punjabi is an in-situ language lacking auxiliaries, also difference among SOV (English) and SVO (Punjabi) language system. These structural differences impact Punjabi speaking learners who acquire English syntax.

Ishtiaq and Gill (2024) conducted research on Pashto and Urdu syntax within framework of Chomsky's X bar theory. Their analysis provided partial alignment with universal grammar but highlighted distinctive SOV word order patterns, complex verb morphology and post-nominal modifiers. Gast (2012) described contrastive linguistics as a subfield of comparative linguistics which focuses on socio-culturally related languages with the aim of identifying structural differences for practical applications in language teaching and translation.

Cross-Linguistic Studies on Passive Constructions

Pan and Hu (2021) discussed Chinese passive marker bei, mentioning its status as a verb, morpheme or preposition. They concluded that Chinese passivization functions over the entire verb phrase and fundamentally different from English passives. Minh (2009) compared Vietnamese and English passives, finding syntactic differences and common learner errors, providing pedagogical recommendations. Liu (2016) improved analysis of bei-passives of Mandarin language by suggesting distinctions between long, long distance and short passives based on syntactic behavior. Hundt, Schneider and Seoane (2016) by using International Corpus of English examined be-passives in academic English throughout nine contact and six ENL varieties. They discovered that academic sub-discipline has stronger impact on passive frequency than regional variety, with the exception of American English.

Potgieter (2017) conducted a cross- linguistic analysis of English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa passives, argument placement, verb complexes, clause movement and adjectival versus verbal passive. Higher passive frequency in Bantu languages was related to earlier proficiency of passives according to acquisition data. Aslam and Azhar (2024) in a corpus-based contrastive analysis of Turkish (Home Fire) and Pakistani (The Red-Haired Woman) novels showed how transitivity patterns and passive constructions reflect linguistic and cultural contexts in literature.

Ramat (2017) in order to analyze the Italian verdersi + past participle constructions, tracking its diachronic development from reflexive to passive meaning, differentiating it from the standard essere - passive. Gabdullin and Dmitrichenkova (2022) examined German gehören-Passive constructions categorized them as "semi-morphologized structures" or "semi grammaticalized constructions" and then highlighted them as independent units in German grammar.

Despite vast research on passives and its comparative study between languages worldwide, Hindko passive constructions comparative research remains unexplored with only brief information in Bashir and Conners (2019) and the analysis of derivatives in Mir (2022) works. Present comparative studies in South Asian languages (Parveen & Mahmood, 2025; Ishtiaq & Gill, 2024; Hussain & Mehdi, 2023) focused mainly on Urdu, Punjabi and Pashto, so Hindko's passive syntax is undocumented. Moreover, REST grammar has not been employed to compare Hindko and English passives. This research fills a gap regarding the structural differences between SVO (English) and SOV (Hindko) word orders and did possible impact on English acquisition for Hindko speakers. Also, which contributes to language pedagogy, comparative syntax and the preservation of linguistic heritage of Hindko

language.

Research Methodology

In this study, qualitative approach is used, which helps to answer what, why where, how behind social behaviors and interactions rather than measuring numerical data with the help of open-ended questions, interviews and observations (Lim, 2024). A qualitative approach is adopted because the research focuses on linguistic analysis of syntactic differences in passive constructions between English and Hindko language in depth, a topic not amenable to statistical testing or numerical data, and the goal is to understand an in-depth and context sensitive examination of auxiliary verb usage, structural transformations and movements in both languages in natural way. As it includes direct interaction with native Hindko speakers and captures authentic spoken translations so it is an ethnographic linguistic study within qualitative research approach.

Research Design

Research design is referred to a strategy which answers research questions by collecting data and analyzing procedures that are aligned with the study' objectives (McCombes, 2025) Under qualitative approach, descriptive exploratory research design is used. A descriptive research aims to systematically and accurately describe a situation, population or phenomenon and focus to answer the questions such as what, how and where rather than why ((McCombes, 2023). Additionally, it is exploratory which relates to approach that investigates the research questions not studied previously in depth (George, 2023), as this research design matches what and how research questions of this study and is suitable to analyze the syntactic differences between English (SVO) and Hindko (SOV) passive constructions. Being descriptive shows syntactic structures of both languages and exploratory because an under-researched area of comparison between Hindko and English is examined. This design helps in detailed structural comparison based on actual language data.

Method of Data Collection

This study uses audio recordings of bilingual speakers translating between Hindko and English to gather textual and linguistic data. In order to ensure balanced data for finding syntactic similarities, differences, and transfer errors, a structured activity is devised in which half of the participants translate English active-passive constructions into Hindko and the other half translate Hindko into English. Syntax tree generators, translation scripts, transcription sheets, and WhatsApp/mobile recorders are examples of tools. While scripts simplify tasks and ensure consistency with participants' learning experiences, audio recordings capture natural spoken responses. In order to accommodate different levels of trust and maintain genuine syntactic variances, both spoken and written translations are offered.

Population

The overall population consists of bilinguals of Hindko and English from Abbottabad with specific dialect who have functional proficiency in English grammar active and passive constructions, and native fluency in Hindko language.

Sample

From a list of 40 bilinguals, each odd-numbered participant is chosen using a systematic sampling procedure, yielding a final sample of 20 participants. This objective approach avoids researcher prejudice and guarantees a balanced representation. Twelve students (ages 16 to 23) from Matric to Bachelor levels and eight teachers (ages up to 40) make up the sample, guaranteeing a range of age groups and educational backgrounds. While kids provide viewpoints from younger bilinguals, teachers provide ideas from seasoned bilinguals in formal settings. To prevent prejudice, both genders are represented in the sample.

Theoretical Framework

This research is based on the Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar proposed by Noam Chomsky in 1977 as a refinement of his earlier theories of Extended Standard and Standard theory. REST Grammar presents transformational rules for analysis of sentence structure. Key aspects of this framework include auxiliary insertion, agent demotion, NP movement, word order changes and syntactic transformations that explains processes like passive construction. In English, passivization require the insertion of auxiliary "be" and morphological change of the main verb into its past participle form ("write" to "be written"). Hindko, however, maintains SVO structure and shows different morphological patterns in passivization. So, it is particularly suitable for analyzing how verbs, subjects and objects are rearranged during passive construction. comparing English SVO and Hindko SOV structure and examining NP movement operations, syntactic transformations and auxiliary verb differences.

Method of Data Analysis

The process of analysis involves;

Transcription: Transcribing audio recordings into written text for Hindko translations and English as well.

Tree Diagram Construction: Generating syntactic tree diagrams to represent sentence structures and focus on how active sentences change into passives in both languages.

Comparative syntactic analysis by using Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar to examine:

Structural differences (auxiliary usage, word order)

Movements (object promotion, subject demotion)

Changes in passive construction morphology.

 Findings: Drawing conclusions about how Hindko speakers' acquisition and usage of English passives are affected by these syntactic differences.

Data Analysis

The data collected from in English-Hindko bilingual participants have been closely examined in order to find structural similarities, differences and common mistakes in the formation of passive constructions. The most representative and commonly occurring forms are chosen for analysis because there are slight variations in participants' translations. This section is structured sentence by sentence, discussing each English active passive construction and Hindu translation with active and passive construction provided by participants. The analysis focuses on important syntactic operations like agent demotion, negation, auxiliary insertion, verb

morphology and NP movement. Following each sentence comparisons are made to highlight the differences or similarities between Hindko SOV an English SVO system. Lastly, learner error patterns and cross linguistic influences are examined offering insights into the difficulties Hindko speakers encounter when learning English passive constructions.

Construction 1
Active:
English: He reads the book.
Hindko: Ooh kitab prhda ay.
Ooh (He), kitab (book), prhda ay (reads).

Passive:
English: The book is read by him.
Hindko: Kitab uss kolon parhi juldi ay.
Kitab (Book), uss (him), kolon (by), parhi juldi ay (is read)
Both the English and Hindko active and passive forms of the first construction have clear syntactic transformations that align with Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar rules. In English several transformational rules are observed in the passive counterpart "The book is read by him", here the subject "He" is demoted to a prepositional phrase "by him," the object "the book" is promoted to subject position through NP-movement and an auxiliary "is" is used with the past participle "read." Due to these syntactic changes meanings remain same but these grammatical changes shift the emphasis of construction from agent to the patient. In Hindko, similar transformation operations take place in the passive construction "Kitab uss kolon parhi juldi ay," the agent "Ooh" (He) is demoted and expressed by a post-positional phrase "uss kolon" (by him) while object "kitab" (book) moves to the subject position. In contrast to English, Hindko does not add a separate auxiliary "be," but it morphologically labels the verb with "parhi juldi" to indicate passivization while preserving the auxiliary "ay" to show tense and aspect. The verb stays in its final position to maintain the SOV syntax of Hindko.
Both languages follow object promotion and agent demotion from REST Grammar perspective. However, the structural results vary significantly. English passive forms depend on prepositional by-phrase and auxiliary insertion whereas Hindko uses postpositional agent marker and morphological changes. There is a frequent issue of **agent-phrase confusion** where Hindko learners use or omit by-phrase incorrectly like "The book is read" and dropping necessary articles like "the" speaking sentences like "Book is read by he." Moreover, there are situations of **tense shift and misinterpretation** when there is shift from present to past or present perfect to simple past, for example, "He read the book" instead of "He reads the book." This occurs because in Hindko language there is frequent use of verb endings to convey aspectual differences instead of auxiliaries, leading to mismatches of tense in English.
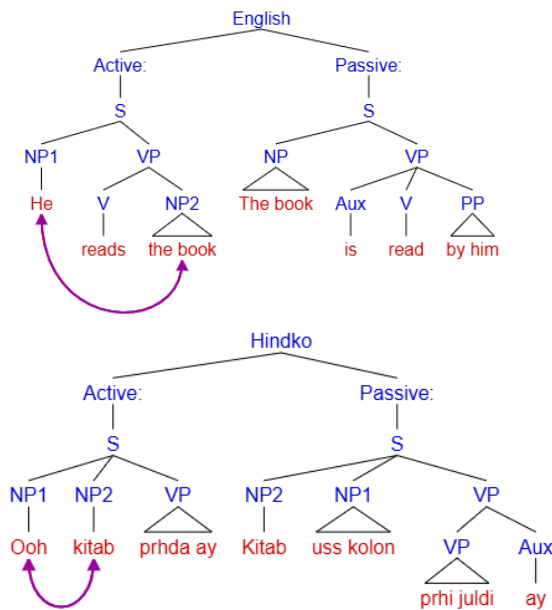
Figure 4.1: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 2
Active:
English: She didn't cook the meal.
Hindko: Uss kharan neenh pakaya ayha.
Uss (She), kharan (meal), neenh (not), pakaya ayha (did cook).

Passive:
English: The meal was not cooked by her.
Hindko: Kharan uss kolon neenh pakaya gaya ayha.
Kharan(meal), uss (her), kolon (by) neenh (not) pakaya gaya ayha (was cooked)
The second set of sentences shows additional syntactic processes related to negation and passivization. In English passive construction "The meal was not cooked by her," the subject NP is demoted to the oblique phrase "by her," auxiliary "was" takes the place of "did" to carry tense, the verb "cook" is changed into past participle form "cooked" and the negation "not" comes after the auxiliary. This all shows SVO word order system. While the Hindko passive construction "kharan uss kolon neenh pakaya gaya ayha" serves similar transformational rules but with structural differences. The object NP is moved to subject position, the doer is demoted to the post-positional phrase "uss kolon" (by her), the verb gains the passive marker "gaya" to show that the action was happened on the subject, the auxiliary verb "ayha" is kept for tense and aspect and negation "neenh" (not) is inserted before the verb in accordance with Hindko clause structure.

Comparative syntactic observations show that both English and Hindko language promote object and demote subject in passive constructions. However, negation placement varies, in English "not" is used after auxiliary while in Hindko "neenh" before the verb. The word order also differs as in English it is SVO and Hindko it is SOV showing basic typological differences. Due to these differences, Hindko speakers face issues when forming English passives especially in placing negation or

auxiliary verbs. One of the major difficulties is **auxiliary omission and confusion**, when learners omit or incorrectly use auxiliary verbs such as is, was, has, have, been and being in English passive sentences. Examples from recordings include "She not cooked meal" for "She did not cook the meal," and **subject-verb agreement** mistakes are also common like "Meal was not cook by her," this is because of the fact that in Hindko agreement features are more ingrained in the verb morphology instead of strictly tied to forms of auxiliary verb which results in transfer errors. Furthermore, Hindko learners show **improper use of verb forms** by using base or incorrect participle forms for example "She not cooked meal", this is because Hindko does not depend on different participles such as been +V3, persuading learners to skip or overgeneralize transformation rules.
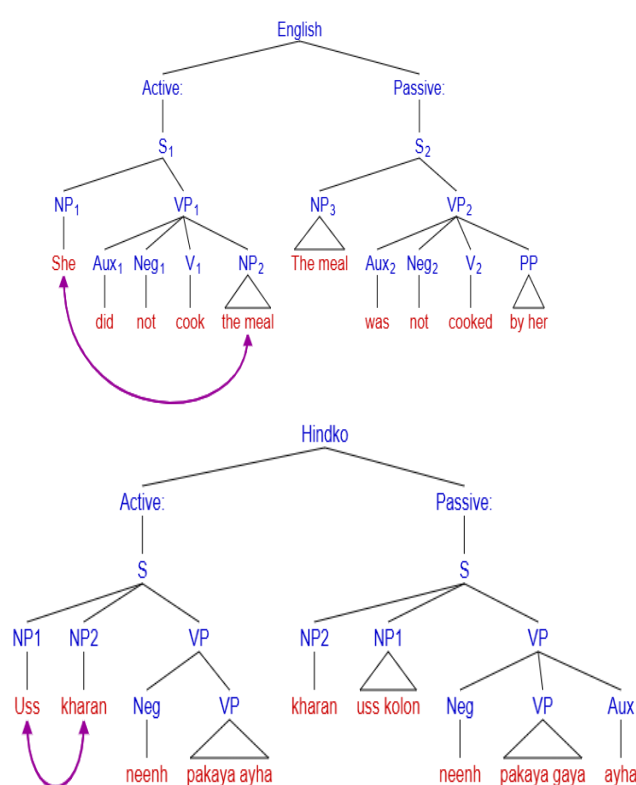

Figure 4.2: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 3
Active:
English: She will stitch the clothes.
Hindko: Ooh kapray seersi.
Ooh (she), kapray (clothes) seersi (will stitch).

Passive:
English: The clothes will be stitched by her.
Hindko: Kapray uss kolon sirwaye julsun.
Kapray (clothes), uss (her), kolon (by), sirwaye julsun (will be stitched).

The third sentence highlights how future tense is conveyed in active and passive constructions in both English and Hindko. In English, But, in passive sentence "The clothes will be stitched by her" is derived from the promotion of object NP "the clothes" to the subject position, demotion of the agent to object position with "by" phrase, addition of the auxiliary "be" along with "will," and change of verb to its past participle "stitched," demonstrating that English future passive require two auxiliaries. In Hindko, the passive sentence "Kapray uss kolon sirwaye julsun" contains NP movement, in which the object "kapray" (The clothes) becomes the subject, doer "ooh" (is demoted to post-positional phrase "uss kolon" (by her), also morphological transformation of the verb "seer" (stitch) to its passive form "sirwaye" and the future tense resulting in "julsun." Hindko language morphologically express future tense and passivity by maintaining SOV order.

English uses two auxiliaries while Hindko has just one future auxiliary with inflected verb which causes Hindko speakers to omit "be" or miss elements during forming future passives in English. Here, Hindko learners also show **improper use of verb forms** by using base or incorrect participle forms for example "She will be stitched," because they depend on different participles which allows learners to skip or overgeneralize transformation rules.
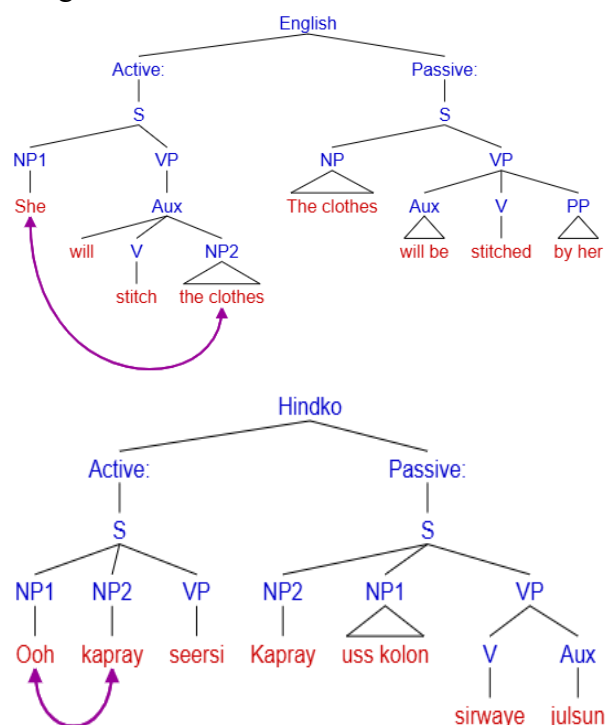

Figure 4.3: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 4
Active:
English: Are they cleaning the room?
Hindko: Kay Ooh kamra suthra kardain?
Kay (Are), Ooh (They), kamra (room), suthra (clean), kardain (ing form)
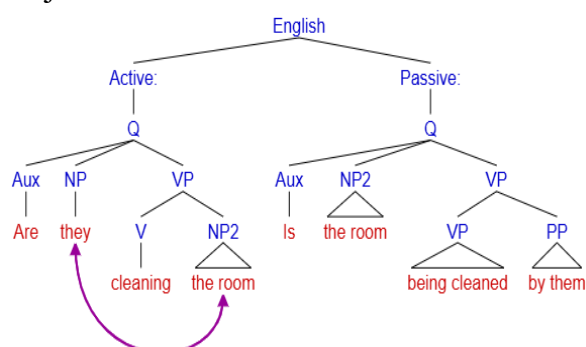
Passive:

English: Is the room being cleaned by them?

Hindko: Kay kamra unhan kolon suthra karwaya gyay?

Kay (Is), kamra (room), unhan (them), kolon (by), suthra (clean), karwaya gyay (being +Ved form)

These sentences highlight the interaction between interrogative structure and progressive aspect in Hindko and English active and passive constructions. In English the passive form "Is the room being cleaned by them?" is obtained by promotion of the object NP, demotion of the agent to "by them,"adding the auxiliary "being" to indicate progression, transforming "clean" to "cleaned," and using subject auxiliary inversion. The resulting structure uses two auxiliaries "is + being." and preserves SVO word order. While in Hindko passive question "Is the room being cleaned by them?" is composed by shifting the object "kamra" (room) to subject position, moving the agent "ooh" to the post positional phrase "unhan kolon," changing the verb to "suthra kardain" with "gyay" morphologically for an ongoing action, and keeping the interrogative marker "kay." Unlike English, Hindko does not employ different auxiliaries and maintains SOV word order in questions.

Because of these structural differences, Hindko speakers omit "being" or avoid auxiliary inversion when they try to create English progressive passives. Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar shows that NP movement and agent demotion is shared by both languages but differ in how they communicate progressive aspect and interrogative formation. Again, the error is due to **auxiliary omission and confusion**, as "being" omitted in "Is the room being cleaned by them?" which happens as a result of Hindko language which indicates tense and aspect morphologically within the verb and use fewer auxiliary verbs which leads to misplacement or omission of auxiliary verbs in English passive forms. Additionally, there improper use of verb forms by using base or incorrect participle forms as in "Are room cleaned by them?" because there are no various forms of participles so learners skip or incorrectly use it. Also, there are **errors in question form** like "Are the room cleaned by them?" or "Have the room cleaned by them" rather than "Is the room being cleaned by them?" because Hindko interrogatives depend more on intonation and less on auxiliary manipulation than English, which demands auxiliary-subject inversion.
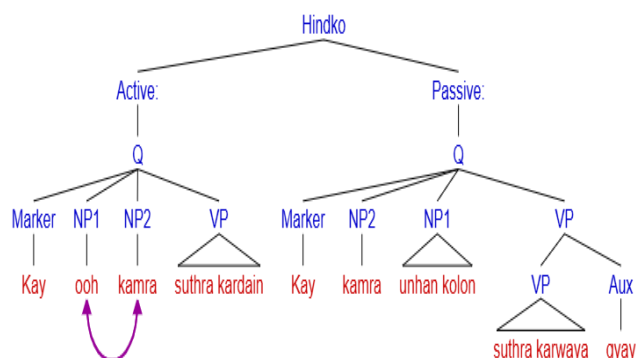
Figure 4.4: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 5
Active:
English: He has not completed the task.
Hindko: Uss kam neenh mukaya.
Uss (He), kam (task), neenh (not), mukaya (has completed)

Passive:
English: The task has not been completed by him.
Hindko: Kam uss kolon neenh mukaya gaya ayha.
Kam (task), uss (him), kolon (by), neenh (not), mukaya gaya ayha (has been completed).

The fifth one demonstrates how present perfect tense with negation is created in active and passive constructions in both English and Hindko languages. In English the passive form "The task has not been completed by him" is generated by promoting the object "the task" to subject position, moving the agent "He" to "by him," inserting the auxiliary verb "been," changing the verb to past participle form and adding negation between auxiliaries. This indicates that English perfect passive needs compound auxiliaries "has been" and organized negation placement. Moreover, in Hindko the passive construction "Kam us kolon neenh mukaya gaya ayha" involves moving the object "kam" to subject position, showing the subject as "uss kolon," keeping auxiliary verb "ayha" for perfect aspect and putting negation before the verb. Thus, Hindko uses verb morphology and a single auxiliary to express both perfect aspect and passivity while preserving clause final verbs.

In contrast, English depends on multiple auxiliaries and negation placement where is Hindko applies morphological marking with simple auxiliary structure. The word order differences usually cause Hindko speakers to neglect "been" or misplace negation in perfect passives of English. REST analysis indicates NP movement and demotion of agent are universal while use of auxiliary and tense marking vary due to typological differences between both languages. There is tense shift misinterpretation like "He is completed the task" by Hindko learners this is due to use of verb at last in SOV instead of auxiliaries leading to wrong use of tense.
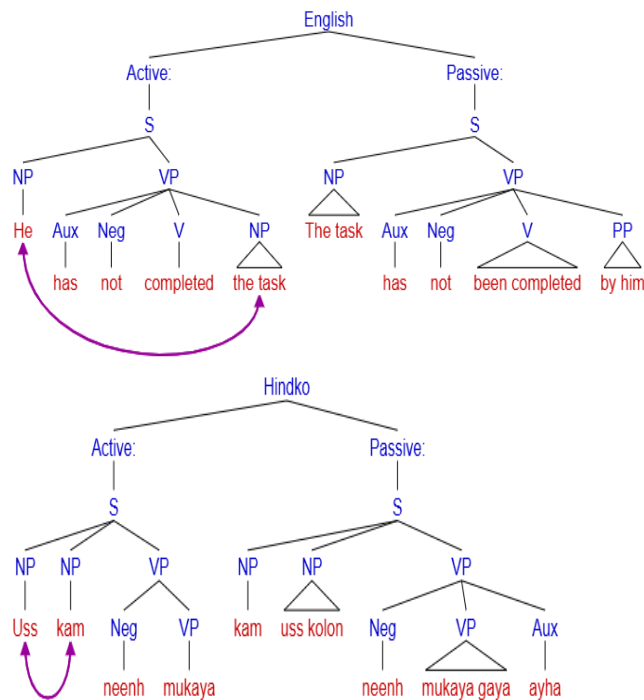
Figure 4.5: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 6
Active:
English: Will they have finished the project by Monday?
Hindko: Kay ooh sumwaray tak mansoobay aan muka chursun?
Kay (will), ooh (they), sumwaray (Monday), tak (by), mansoobay aan (the project), muka (finish), chursun (will have+Ved).

Passive:
English: Will the project have been finished by them by Monday?
Hindko: Kay mansooba unhan kolon sumwaray tak muk julsi?
Kay (Will), mansooba (project), unhan (them), kolon (by), sumwaray (Monday), tak (by), muk julsi (will have been+ Ved)
These questions focus on the future perfect tense in interrogative form, providing information about how aspect, tense, voice and question structure interact in English and Hindko according to REST framework. In English, the passive sentence "Will the project have been finished by them by Monday?" shows NP movement (the project → subject), with chain of auxiliary insertion (will, have and been) and agent demotion (they → by them). In contrast, Hindko passive form "Kay mansooba unhan kolon sumwaray tak muk julsi?" promotes the object "mansooba" to subject, demotes the agent to "unhan kolon" and the verb changes into the compound passive "muk julsi" to show both perfect aspect and future tense, no additional auxiliaries are inserted. Comparatively, English utilizes syntactic auxiliaries to form tense and voice by demanding inversion in questions and auxiliary verb order (will have been) but on the other side Hindko depends on morphological verb complexes that hold aspect and voice in the verb phrase. English expresses subject as "by them" while Hindu by the

post positional "unhan kolon." Due to these structural differences Hindko speakers may neglect or disorganize auxiliaries when creating English future perfect passive and might have difficulty with inversion rules in questions. One of the key challenges is the **confusion and omission of auxiliaries** such as speaking "Will the project have finished" instead of "Will the project have been finished", this is due to Hindko expressing tense and aspect through verb morphology and depending less on auxiliary verbs. Another major difficulty is the **structural transfer from SOV to SVO** where native Hindko speaker-learners speak forms like "Have the project been finished by them?" instead of "Will the project have been finished by them?" by misplacing verbs and auxiliaries in complex passive versions. This illustrates how Hindko's SOV syntax interferes with the production of English SVO structures.
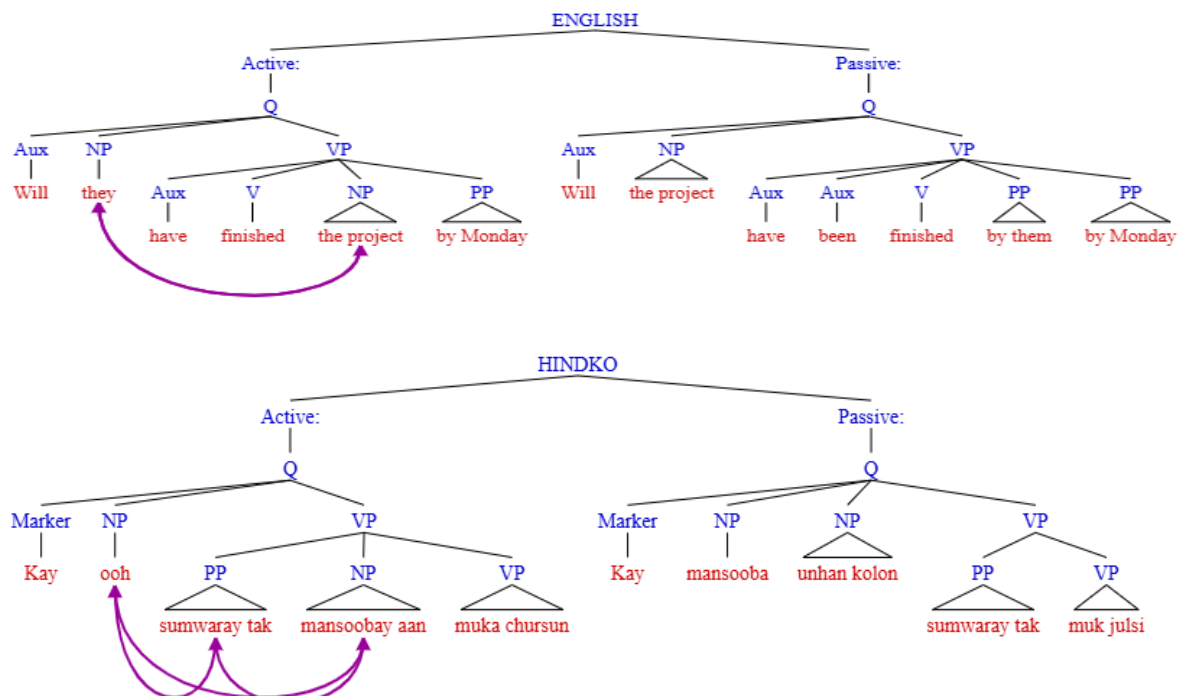

Figure 4.6: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 7
Active:
English: Someone has stolen my watch.
Hindko: Kisay (someone), meri (my), karhi (watch), chori (stolen), kar churi ay (has+Ved).

Passive:
English: My watch has been stolen.
Hindko: Meri (my), karhi (watch), chori (stolen), ho gai ay (has been+ved)
The sentences show an agent list present perfect passive construction that is a meaningful and common syntactic structure in both English and Hindko language. In English passive sentence becomes "My watch has been stolen," here at the auxiliary verbs "has" and "been" follow the past participle "stolen." REST transformations are agent deletion, auxiliary stacking and object NP promotion. In Hindko passive "Meri karhi chori ho gai ay" contains promoted object NP "meri karhi," main verb "chori"

and auxiliary verb" ho gai ay" which shows perfect aspect, but the agent is deleted.
In contrast, English use two auxiliaries (has and been) and past participle while
Hindko simplifies the structure by using verb inflections and compound verbs, just
have compound passive and perfect (ho gai) followed by "ay." Lastly, some
individuals exhibit a **misunderstanding of passive-active shift** by misidentifying
roles during translation, for instance, in "My watch has been stolen" speakers often
translated into active sentence in Hindko which is acceptable but when some back-
translated it, they failed in maintaining passive meaning or reversing participant role.
This is result of Hindko's tendency to use passive constructions without using explicit
passive morphology which triggers interlingual interference during formation of
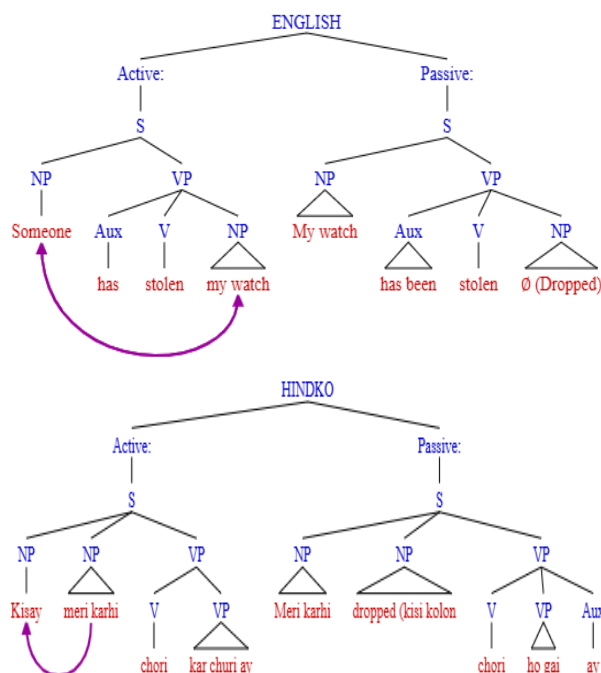English passives.

Figure 4.7: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko
Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 8
Active:
English: I drank water.
Hindko: Mein panrein peeta ayha.
Mein (I), panrein (water), peeta ayha (drank)

Passive:
English: Water was drunk by me.
Hindko: Panrein mere kolon peeta gaya ayha.
Panrein (water),mere (me), kolon (by), peeta (drunk), gaya ayha (was+ Ved)
Here simple past tense construction is presented. In English, after transformation into
passive form, "Water was drunk by me" follows NP movement where object "water"
is moved to subject position, agent is demoted "I" becomes "by me," for past tense
auxiliary "was" is inserted and verb changed to "drunk." In contrast, Hindko passive
version is transformed as "Panrein mere kolon peeta gaya ayha" which follows object

promotion, agent demotion by post-positional phrase "mere kolon" and verb morphology "peeta gaya" along with auxiliary "ayha".

In terms of structure, English uses prepositional subject marker "by me" and Hindko post-positional phrase "mere kolon". During translation there are mistakes of **tense use,** some speakers translated it as "I drink water" instead of " I drank water" but later corrected it.
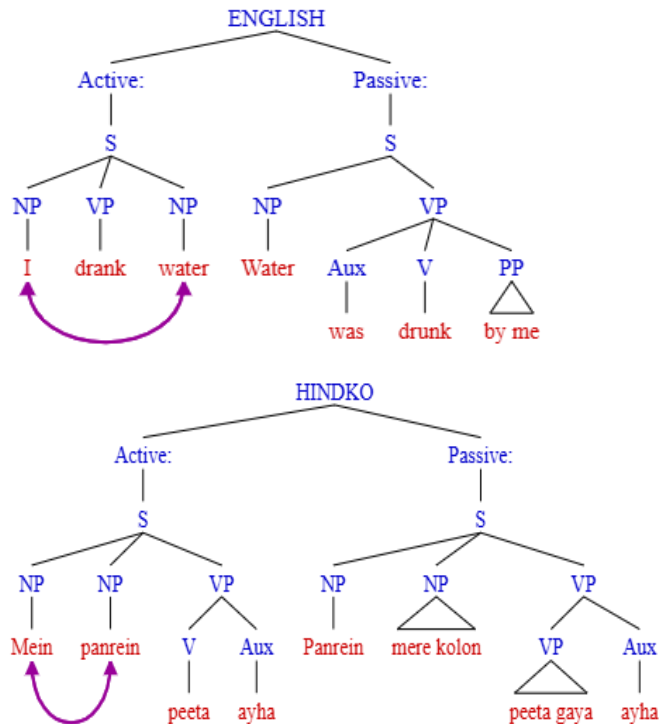

Figure 4.8: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Construction 9
Active:
English: They had spoken the lie.
Hindko: Unhan koor aakha ayha.
Unhan (they), koor (lie), aakha ayha (had spoken),

Passive:
English: The lie had been spoken by them.
Hindko: Koor unhan kolon aakha gaya ayha.
Koor (lie), unhan (them), kolon (by), aakha (spoken), gaya ayha (had been+ved)
In English, using transformation rules, the object "the lie" shifts to subject NP position, "they" takes the role of agent in prepositional phrase "by them," also passive auxiliary "been" is added after "had," and lastly main verb is still "spoken." While Hindko transformation into passive "Koor unhan kolon aakha gaya ayha" involves object promotion to subject, agent shifting to subject position with "kolon" postpositional phrase. The verb changes to "aakha gaya" with aspect "ayha."
English depends on auxiliaries for passive while Hindko uses passive morphology "gaya" and aspects with "ayha" to maintain verb final position. The major difficulties

faced is **auxiliary confusion and subject verb agreement,** speakers translates as "The lie have been spoken by them" instead of "has been" this occurs there is less reliance on auxiliaries in Hindko language and tense and aspect is expressed through verb morphology.
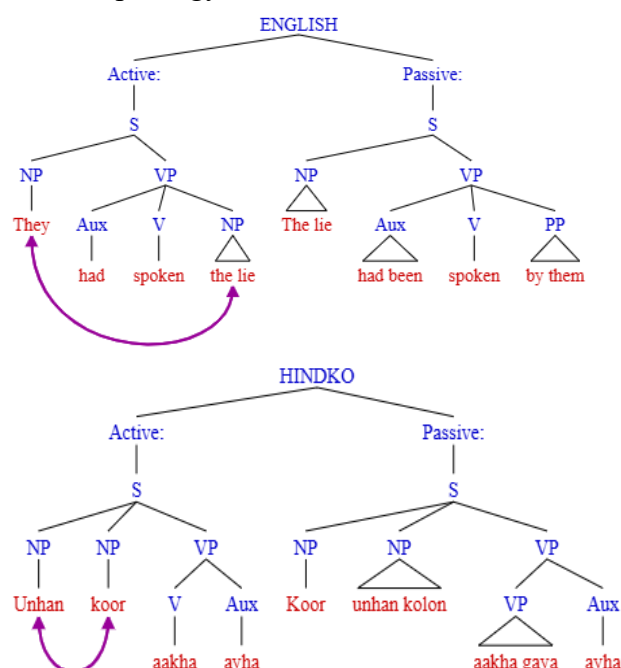

Figure 4.9: Syntactic Tree Diagram of Active and Passives of English and Hindko Generated By jsSyntaxTree.

Discussion

The present study investigates English and Hindko passive constructions using the Revised Extended Standard Transformational Grammar to identify how structural differences affect Hindko-speakers who learn English. The comparative study of English and Hindko passive constructions reveals that both languages share basic transformational rules such as NP movement, object promotion and aging demotion, but there are several differences that create challenges for Hindko native speakers. English language depends on auxiliaries, prepositional by-phrases, tense and participle forms wild Hindko describes passives through verb morphology and post positional. This contrast clarifies common learner errors such as incorrect tense shifts, auxiliary omission (is, was, been, being), and avoidance of progressive passive verbs. Hindko speakers also struggle with negation placement and interrogative passives in English which requires more complex auxiliary inversion and manipulation. The findings are largely consistent with previous cross linguistic research related to SOV languages but also highlight some distinguishing features of Hindko that contribute to different learner challenges. The analysis reveals that English passive depends on auxiliary insertion (is, was, has been etc.) and past participle formation whereas Hindko shows passivity morphologically with passive markers such as juldi, gaya, or sirwaye as well as light auxiliaries ay, ayha. This aligns with observations by Bashir and Conners (2019) and Mir (2022) who noticed that Hindko like other South Asian languages represents passivity through verb morphology rather than auxiliary stacking. Also, studies on Urdu and Pashto by Ishtiaq and Gill (2024l noted SOV

languages minimizing more auxiliary use and relying on verb in form of suffixes. This supports that auxiliary omission among Hindko speakers learning English, is a result of negative transfer from their native morpho-syntactic system. Another important finding was the difference in agent expression, English uses a prepositional by-phrase (by him) where is Hindko uses post positional marker kolon (uss kolon) which corresponds with Parveen and Mahmood (2025) and Hussain and Mehdi (2023) on Punjabi in-situ language which rely on post positional markers. The similarity between Hindko and Punjabi points to a broader regional pattern in Indo-Aryan SOV languages where post position plays an important role. Moreover, Hindko speakers got confused about the tense, question formation (confusion in Will or have), and auxiliary verbs because of differences from English language like Vietnamese students experienced (Minh, 2009). Overall, the study highlights how cross linguistic influences create predictable error and suggest that clear guidance on auxiliary usage, negation and participle forms in English passives is essential for improvement of native speakers' syntactic accuracy.

Findings

The analysis shows several syntactic differences between Hindko and English passive constructions. First in terms of **word order,** English follows SVO word order structure in both active and passive sentences whereas Hindko maintains SOV structure. With regard to **auxiliary verb usage,** English passives rely on auxiliary insertion (was, is, has been etc.), while Hindko often has morphological markers such as "parhi juldi" with "ay" or "mukaya gaya" with auxiliary "ayha." (constructions 1,2, 5,7, 8 and 9). Another notable difference is the **expression of the agent** as English applies a prepositional by-phrase but Hindko applies a postpositional phrase "uss kolon, mere kolon, unhan kolon etc). Moreover, in terms of **verb morphology**, English uses past participle V3 forms with auxiliary verbs while Hindko passives integrates passive and aspect markers into verb (constructions 3 and 5). The **negation placement** also varies in both languages, In English passives "not" is placed between auxiliaries while Hindko "neenh" directly before the verb. (construction 5). Furthermore, regarding **formation of tense and aspect,** English differentiates tense and aspect across auxiliaries, whereas Hindko represents them within the main verb with minimal auxiliary use. (constructions 3 and 6).

The structural differences between the two languages give rise to particular learning challenges for Hindko speaking learners of English. One of the frequent issues is **omission or confusion**, due to minimal auxiliary system, learners omit or miss English auxiliaries. Also, there are **problems with subject verb agreement**, mistakes like "They has spoken" arise when translating Hindko's subject verb agreement system in English. Learners also show **misuse of verb form** particularly during translation of Hindko morphological passives into English language speakers neglect "been" and "V3." Errors are found in **agent phrase construction,** as English by-phrases are used instead of Hindko's post-positional "kolon," case marking mistakes occur. Furthermore, Hindko speakers struggle with tense shift because of Hindko's aspect -marking "being" which is embedded in the verb, causes confusion between English simple past and perfect tenses. Moreover, **word order disruption** is also common challenge face by speakers who often misplace auxiliary verbs in English passives due to SOV interference. Hindko speakers also encounter **difficulties with question formation** because Hindko prefer intonation over syntactic inversion which

is reflected in incorrect auxiliary subject inversion. Lastly, **passive active confusion** also takes place where some speakers translate English passives into Hindko actives and vice versa because of Hindko allows implicit passives.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to investigate the structural differences between English and Hindko passive constructions and examine how these distinctions affect acquisition of English passives by Hindko speaking learners. After using the Revised Extended Standard Transformational (REST) Grammar framework, analysis show that both languages adhere to universal passive transformation principles like agent demotion, object promotion and NP movement but their surface realizations are very different. Chomsky (1996) has discussed that UG does include these transformation principles but whether they result in a surface passive depends on how a language sets its parameters. English passive forms rely on auxiliary chains (be, been and being) with participle forms, while Hindko mainly uses morphological markers and follows SOV word order along with post-positional agent expressions. These differences result in systematic learner errors which includes auxiliary misplacement or omission, aspect- tense mismatches, and using participle incorrectly. Moreover, Hindko acceptance for implicit passives and dependence on intonation in interrogatives affect formation of English passives and question structures. The results highlight that that interlingual interference plays a significant role in these difficulties which has roots in the typological distance between the two languages. Pedagogically, the research indicates that explicit instruction in English participle formation, auxiliary structures and by phrase syntax in contrastive analysis with Hindko and address these challenges and issues faced by bilinguals and improve learners' accuracy in English passive constructions.

Limitations:

There are several limitations to this study which provides insightful information about the syntactic differences between English and Hindko passive constructions and how these differences impact Hindko-speaking English language learners. First, the sample size only includes 20 bilingual participants from Abbottabad region in Hazara Division, despite they are diverse in age and educational background but not fully represent all Hindko dialects or speakers from various socio linguistic contexts. Secondly, a structured translation task which consists of 9 sentence pairs was used to collect the data, this method may not fully capture the variety of naturally occurring passive constructions in unplanned conversation but it is effective for controlled syntactic analysis. Third, because of participant self reporting and oral translations it is possible that code switching tendencies, pronunciation variations are pragmatic usage of passives are not fully documented. Furthermore, this research is qualitative descriptive-exploratory so the findings are interpretative instead of statistically generalizable, so there was no quantitative testing or large-scale corpus data to measure the frequency of specific error patterns. Lastly, the scope of this study was limited to syntactic and morphological structures within REST grammar framework, so semantic, pragmatic and discourse level dimensions of passive usage are left for later studies.

Recommendations:

Recommendations for future research include:

Expand the Corpus Size and Sentence Variety: To capture a wider range of syntactic variation in English and Hindko, future research should incorporate a larger and more diverse set of active and passive sentence types across various aspects, tense and modalities.

Include Other Hindko Dialects: As this research concentrated on Hindko speakers from Abbottabad in Hazara Division, future research may consider other Hindko dialects or compare these results with data from other Hindko dialect regions to find intra-language syntactic variation.

Analyze Other Syntactic Constructions in Parallel: To determine whether structural differences between English and Hindko have consistent transfer effects, comparative research could be expanded to related syntactic phenomenon like causative, reflexive or relative clauses.

Mixed-method Approaches: Research may gain in-depth and generalizability if qualitative REST-based syntactic analysis is paired with quantitative measures (like error frequency counts or statistical correlations).

Investigate educational and generational differences in speaking English and how much Hindko has influence on accents.

Acoustic and Prosodic Analysis: As Hindko depends on intonation for interrogative passives, future research may use phonetic analysis to investigate how prosody and passive interact in bilingual speech.

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