

*OBBEDIRE ED ESSERE OBBEDITA:*  
SUL PASSIVO DEI VERBI PREPOSIZIONALI

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to discuss some examples of passive constructions referred to Italian intransitive verbs, with special regard to intransitive two-places verbs such as *obbedire/ubbidire a*. The starting point is the description of canonical passive constructions in Italian and the discussion about “prepositional object” as a case of second argument of intransitive two-places verbs (that can be distinguished both from indirect object and from expressions of spatial relations functioning as arguments). Examples of non-canonical passive constructions, both in ancient and contemporary Italian, are presented, including cases of “impersonal passive” and some others in which the passive construction seems to be forced. Finally, I’ll try to draw a picture of different functions of passive diathesis in Italian, considering its syntactic, semantic, modal, aspectual, and communicative effects in different types of written texts.