

## Analysis of Passive Sense in Digital *Fait Divers* Texts

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**Abstract:** This research is about discussing passive meaning. This study aims to determine the forms of passive meaning found in the news on the 20minutes.fr site about sports, health, politics, and crime. In this research, the method used is descriptive qualitative method. The results found 133 passive meanings in the text of *fait divers*, 24 passive meanings with the conjugation of *être + participe passé*, 26 passive meanings with modal verbs, 16 passive meanings of pronominal forms, 20 adjectives ending in -able/-ible, 14 la nominalization of verbs transitive and 33 *participles passé de sens passive*. There are also 31 *participe passé* with an e-according to the singular feminine subject. Accord -s for plural masculine subjects there are 16 *participles passé*. Accord-es to plural feminine subjects found 11 *participles passé*. Then, there is no addition of accord for a single masculine subject, as many as 75 *participe passé* without the addition of accord.

**Keywords:** passive sense; digital miscellaneous texts; french

### Introduction

*Fait divers* is a type of news article that reports real events that news media usually do, Pulvar (2012: 6). *Fait divers* can be used as textual discourse to develop narrative skill in writing as it is rich in diversity of sentences to explain reports of an action to readers, Özçelebi (2014:156). One of them is the passive sense in which the subject acts as the recipient of the action. The passive meaning is a transformation of the active meaning.

*Fait divers* is one of the writings that often uses the passive meaning. The discussion on the passive meaning in the news item is very interesting because there are several variants of writing. However, most French students only know the passive meaning of the conjugation to be plus the past participle verb. In fact, one can write statements that have the passive meaning along with other ways.

First, write the passive senses using the pronominal verb. Second, Past participle of passive sense which only uses past participle directly without the conjugation of the verb to be. Third, by using the modal verbs: to want, to have and to be able. Fourth, adjectives ending in -able / -ible. And fifth, the passive meaning that comes from the nominalization of the transitive verb. Riegel (2018:119). For exemple:

1. *Le joueur du FCN, Abdoulaye Touré, a été attaqué par une vingtaine d'individus armés. (la conjugaison du verbe être + participe passé)*
2. *La vidéo d'un enfant moqué par une animatrice de centre aéré devient virale. (participe passé de sens passif)*
3. *Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani doit être exécutée mercredi. (le verbe modal: devoir)*
4. *La justice refuse que leur enfant s'appelle MJ, en hommage à Mickael Jackson. (le verbe pronominal)*
5. *La crise des subprimes était prévisible. (l'adjectif en -able/-ible)*
6. *La France refuse le développement de la cryptomonnaie de Facebook « sur le sol européen. (Nominalisation de verbe transitif) (<https://www.20minutes.fr>)*

Pronominal verbs do not always have the passive meaning. There are certain signs that need to be adjusted. Also, the use of the past participle is usually followed by an agreement which must be adapted to the subject who is the addressee of the action in the sentence. The diversity of forms of passive meaning in the text of *Faits Divers*, rarely known to French learners and readers, prompted the author to carry out a research entitled "Analysis of Passive Meaning in Texts of *Fait*

Divers". This research will analyze the passive meanings that are found in various news stories texts contained in several sources of accessible news stories sites.

### Methodology

In this research, we use the descriptive research method because it aims to describe the forms, markers and variations in passive meaning which is in various facts according to Riegel's theory.

In this research, in order for the implementation to be directed and systematic, the research steps are organized as follows:

1. Open the 20minutes.fr website.
2. Search for passive meaning keywords via the search button, namely health, sports, and politics and crime.
3. Classify each datum in forms of passive meaning.
4. Analyze each datum in forms of passive meaning.
5. Describe the results regarding data classification.
6. Draw conclusions by providing possible suggestions.

### Result

After analyzing the various online facts about health, sports, politics and crime, we find many passive uses of meaning. Based on the total data of up to 321 miscellaneous facts in 2020, up to 133 passive meaning forms were found in the miscellaneous facts, 24 the passive meaning with the conjugation to be + past participle, 26 the modal verbs, 16 the pronominal forms known as "passive meaning", 20 the adjectives in -able/-ible, 14 the nominalization of transitive verbs, and 33 the past participle of passive meaning. So, to make it easy to understand and see the search result, the author well represents this search result in the form of the table as following:

*Table 1 Result Summary*

<i>Form of passive meaning</i>	Amount	Percentage (%)
<i>La conjugaison être + participe passé</i>	24	18
<i>Les verbes modaux</i>	26	19,5
<i>Les formes pronominales</i>	16	12,1
<i>L'adjectif en -able/-ible</i>	20	15
<i>La nominalisation de verbes transitifs</i>	14	10,5
<i>Le participe passé de sens passive</i>	33	24,9
Total	133	100

### Discussion

#### 1. *La conjugaison être + participe passé*

There are 24 passive meanings with the conjugation be + past participle. To make it easy to understand and see the result of the search on the form of the passive sense, the author makes well represent this result of the search in the form of the table based on each source as follows:

*Table 2 Summary of the passive meaning with the conjugation être + past participle*

Topic	Amount	Percentage (%)
<i>La santé</i>	5	20.8
<i>Le sport</i>	1	4,2
<i>La politique</i>	6	25

<i>La criminalité</i>	12	50
Total	24	100

The passive meanings with the conjugation être + past participle in the miscellaneous facts are explained as follows:

*Santé: Le vaccin de Sanofi-GSK sera vendu moins de 10 euros.*

In the sentence above, is the passive meaning which includes in the form of conjugation être + past participle. This sentence is not completed by the complement of agent after the past participle. The conjugation être: sera (future)

The past participle: vendu, the past participle vendre.

## 2. Modal verbs

We finally find 26 the passive senses with the modal verbs. To make it easy to understand and see the result of the search on the form of the passive sense, the author makes well represent this result of the search in the form of the table based on each source as follows:

Table 3 Summary of passive meaning with modal verbs

Topic	Amount	Percentage (%)
<i>La santé</i>	11	42,3
<i>Le sport</i>	3	11,5
<i>La politique</i>	8	30,8
<i>La criminalité</i>	4	15,4
Total	26	100

Passive meanings with modal verbs in miscellaneous facts are explained as follows:

*Santé: Les contacts doivent être testés, avec ou sans symptômes, selon l'OMS.*

In the above sentence is the passive meaning to be tested which includes in the form of modal verbs. This sentence uses the verb *doivent* which comes from the infinitive verb *devoir*. The past participle tested comes from the infinitive verb *tester* which is added by the *l'accord -s* because *Les contacts* as the subject undergoes the action is masculine plural.

## 3. Pronominal Forms

We find 16 pronominal forms of passive meaning. To make it easy to understand and see the result of the search on the form of the passive sense, the author makes well represent this result of the search in the form of the table based on each source as follows:

Table 4 Summary of passive meanings with pronominal forms

Topic	Amount	Percentage (%)
<i>La santé</i>	2	12,5
<i>Le sport</i>	3	18,8
<i>La politique</i>	9	56,2
<i>La criminalité</i>	2	12,5
Total	16	100

Passive meanings with pronominal forms in *fait divers* texts are explained as follows:

*Santé: Le retour de cette maladie s'explique notamment par des raisons économiques.*

The pronominal verb explains comes from the infinitive verb explain. This sentence has a passive meaning because the subject does not perform the action *expliquer*. On the other hand, the subject *Le retour* of this disease is suffered by the action. It has the same meaning with:

*Le retour de cette maladie est expliqué notamment par des raisons économiques.* There is no addition of agreement in the past participle because the subject undergoing the action is masculine singular.

## 4. The -able/-ible adjective

There are 20 forms of the adjective in -able/-ible. To make it easy to understand and see the result of the search on the form of the passive sense, the author makes well represent this result of the search in the form of the table based on each source as follows:

*Table 5 Summary of the passive meaning with the adjective in –able/-ible*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<i>La santé</i>	9	45
<i>Le sport</i>	4	20
<i>La politique</i>	4	20
<i>La criminalité</i>	3	15
Total	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

The passive meanings with the adjective in -able/-ible in the miscellaneous facts are explained as follows:

*Santé: L'égal accès de tous au vaccin n'est pas négociable.*

In the sentence above, is the passive meaning which includes in the form of the adjective in -able. The adjective in -able: *négociable*, which comes from the infinitive verb *négocier*.

We can also write: *peut être négocié, L'égal accès de tous au vaccin ne peut pas être négocié.* There is no addition of agreement in the past participle because the subject undergoing the action is masculine singular.

#### 5. *The transitive verbs*

There are 20 forms of the adjective in -able/-ible. To make it easy to understand and see the result of the search on the form of the passive sense, the authors make well represent this result of the search in the form of the table based on each source as follows:

*Table 6 Summary of passive meaning with the nominalization of transitive verbs*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<i>La santé</i>	6	42,9
<i>Le sport</i>	1	7,1
<i>La politique</i>	1	7,1
<i>La criminalité</i>	6	42,9
Total	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>

The passive meanings with the transitive verbs in the miscellaneous facts are explained as follows:

*Santé: Le tribunal rejette l'existence d'un péril grave pour la santé.*

In the sentence above, we can find the passive meaning which includes in the form of the nominalization of the transitive verb. This sentence uses the noun stence which comes from the infinitive verb *exister*.

We can also write: *est existé, Le péril grave pour la santé est existé.* There is no addition of agreement in the past participle because the subject undergoing the action is masculine singular.

#### 6. *Le participe passé de sens passive*

We find 33 passive meanings with *le participe passé de sens passive*. To make it easy to understand and see the result of the research on the form of the passive meaning, the authors make well represent this result of the research in the form of the table based on each source as follows:

*Table 7 Summary of passive meaning with Le participe passé de sens passive*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<i>La santé</i>	7	21,3
<i>Le sport</i>	8	18,2
<i>La politique</i>	6	24,2
<i>La criminalité</i>	12	36,3
Total	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>



The passive senses with the past participle of passive sense in the miscellaneous facts are explained as follows:

*Santé: Plombée par le coronavirus, l'Allemagne se prépare à la récession.*

In the sentence above, we can see the passive meaning which includes in the form of the past participle of passive meaning. This sentence uses the past participle *plombée* which comes from the infinitive verb *plomber*. With the form of the verb *être + participe passé*, we can also write:

*L'Allemagne qui est plombée par le coronavirus se prépare à la récession.* We add *l'accord -e* to the past participle because the subject that undergoes by the action is the feminine singular noun.

## Conclusion

Based on the analysis of previous data, the conclusions of this research are:

1. After having analyzed the various facts online on health, sport, politics and crime, we find 133 forms of past meaning in the various facts, 24 the passive meaning with the conjugation to be + past participle, 26 the verbs modals, 16 the pronominal forms known as "passive meaning", 20 the adjectives in -able/-ible, 14 the nominalization of transitive verbs, and 33 the past participle of passive meaning. The form of the past participle of passive meaning is the most used as the conjugation to be + past participle. Indeed, the past participle of passive sense is more practical, because it does not recognize the diversity of conjugations to be, for example is, are, was, were, had been, had been, had been, etc. In addition, the use of the passive form in the news item is more diversified so that the reader does not get bored with the many conjugations of the verb to be. Next to the explanation given, the text where the variation of passive meaning is found is the text concerning sport with the achievement 30.1%.
2. The use of the agreement on the past participle depends on the gender of the subject to which the action. We add the chord -e for the singular feminine subject, we found 31 past participles. The -s agreement for the masculine plural subject, there are 16 past participles. The agreement -es for the feminine plural subject, we found 11 past participles. Then, there is no addition of the acord for the singular male subject. We found 75 past participles without the addition of the agreement.

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