**Take home message**

- Passives are licensed by affectedness.
- Affectedness comes in degrees (Beavers 2011)
- Typology of passives predicted based on affectedness

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**Selectional properties of bei and get-passives**

Mandarin bei-passives and English get-passives both impose selectional requirements on predicates undergoing passive formation:

1. **Shucai bei Māli chì-le.**
   - Veggies PASS Mary eat-GER.
   - The veggies got eaten by Mary.
2. **Men bei Lìsì kāi-le.**
   - Door PASS Lisa open-GER.
   - The door got opened by Lisa.

- *Shucai bei Māli qie-le.*
- *'The veggies got cut by Mary.'*
- *Men bei Lìsì kai-le.*
- *'The door got opened by Lisa.'*

**Mandarin non-canonical objects do not delimit events, so they cannot form passives:**

- Xiaoli pao-le shangwu.
- *'There is working.'*
- Morning chì-le xiaopengyou da-le.
- *'The cat/chair got hit by children.'*
- Shangwu bei Xiaoli pao-le.
- *'Morning got affected by Ashley’s running.'*

**References**

- Miller, S. 2013. Passive in Danish, English, and German.

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**The Affectedness Hierarchy**

An individual x is affected with regard to a predicate φ by...

1. **Quantized Change (Affectee4)** iff \( \theta \rightarrow 3\exists\exists[\text{result}(x, s, e, g)] \), where e is an event, s a scale, and g a specific result state on s provided by the predicate φ in relation to the event e. (E.g., eat, open)
2. **Non-Quantized Change (Affectee3)** iff \( \theta \rightarrow 3\exists\exists\exists[\text{result}(x, s, e, g)] \), where g is any result state entailed by φ. (E.g., fold, cut)
3. **Potential change (Affectee2)** iff \( \theta \rightarrow 3\exists\exists\exists[\text{result}(x, s, e,)] \), where θ is a thematic role allowing change to be measured on some scale s. Although change is allowed, a result state is not entailed. (E.g., hit, wipe)
4. **Unspecified change (Affectee1)** iff \( \theta \rightarrow 3\exists\exists\exists[\text{result}(x, s, e,)] \), where θ is a thematic role that does not measure any change in relation to e. (E.g., like, follow)

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**Analysis**

Mandarin bei realizes a voice head requiring quantized change.

- Two ways to be quantized
  - an endpoint introduced by an accomplishment/achievement verb (as in (1) and (2))
  - an endpoint introduced by a resultative predicate (as in (3))
- Shucai bei Māli qie-‘hao’-le.
- *'The veggies got (completely) cut by Mary.'*

English get realizes a voice head requiring potential change.

- Only events have an onset (though some states can be coerced into events)
- Only certain events have the potential to impact their objects (compare (12) and (13))
- What happened to Polaris is that Typhoon Lee followed it.
- #What happened to Polaris is that the hikers followed it.

**Predictions**

Mandarin non-canonical objects do not delimit events, so they cannot form passives:

- Xiaoli pao-le shangwu.
- *'There is working.'*
- Morning chì-le xiaopengyou da-le.
- *'The cat/chair got hit by children.'*
- Shangwu bei Xiaoli pao-le.
- *'Morning got affected by Ashley’s running.'*

The role of the sentence: the affectedness approach can be enriched so that sentient individuals can be affected in more ways than non-sentient individuals

- Hanzhi bei jiaolian kuajiang-le.
- *'The child got praised by the coach.'*
- Xiaosheng bei laoshi pipiing-le.
- *'The child got praised by the coach.'*
- Student bei laoshi pipiing-le.
- *'The student got criticized by the teacher.'*
- Miao Yizi bei xiaopengyou da-le.
- *'The cat/chair got hit by children.'*

English get-passives trigger a state-to-event coercion:

- *'The cat/chair got hit by children.'*

**Limitations**

- (Pseudo-)agency requirement on the lower subject of bei-passives
- Nuirou bei chushi/jiasanban'jia daadao qie-hao-le.
- *'The beef was cut by a chef/blender/big knife.'*

**References**

- Miller, S. 2013. Passive in Danish, English, and German.