

# A Syntactic Analysis of a Rewritten Corpus of Official Documents : From the Viewpoint of the Passive

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It is usually recommended that one should not use the passive when writing official documents. The reason is that the passive is a syntactic device to defocus or delete the agent of the sentence, and that it is often unclear who is responsible in sentences that use the passive. In this paper I investigate a corpus in which official documents are rewritten into “easy Japanese”, from the viewpoint of whether or not it is possible for official documents to be rewritten into “easy Japanese” without using the passive while maintaining authenticity and clarity. The result suggests that such rewriting is possible.