Lesson 19

Passive voice
Passive voice

In the passive voice the subject is inactive. The one active is the ”agent”. In English and Swedish passive sentences give prominence to the direct object of the active sentence, which is now upgraded to the subject of the passive sentence. English constructs passive by means of an auxiliary verb whereas Swedish has a morphological passive (in -s).

Active sentence: 
The man killed five mice. 
Mannen dödade fem möss.

Passive sentence: 
Five mice were killed by the man. 
Fem möss dödades av mannen.

Passive construction is also common when there is no known or mentioned agent: The boy was killed in an accident.
The passive voice in Balochi is only used when there is no known or mentioned agent. As soon as there is an agent, Balochi NEEDS to use the active construction. The use of passive voice is rather limited in Balochi.

The passive form is constructed by means of the infinitive + a finite form of the verb bayag ‘to be, to become’. The passive can be use in all TAM-forms that occur as active forms.
Present-future indicative passive

Infinitive of the main verb + present-future indicative of *bayag*

`koshaga (na)bán `I will (not) be killed.`
`koshaga (na)bay `you will (not) be killed.`
`koshaga (na)bit `he/she/it will (not) be killed.`
`koshaga (na)bén `we will (not) be killed.`
`koshaga (na)bét `you will (not) be killed.`
`koshaga (na)bant `they will (not) be killed.`
Examples

Tán é gárr kóchaga bit, janénay marda kayt o rasit.
‘Before this tunnel is dug, the woman’s husband comes back.’

Taw pahell kanaga nabay.
‘You will not be forgiven.’
Present-future subjunctive passive

koshag bebán/mabán ‘I may (not) be killed.’ کُشگ ببان/مبان
koshag bebay/mabay ‘you may (not) be killed.’ کُشگ ببائی/مبائی
koshag bebit/mabit ‘he/she/it may (not) be killed.’ کُشگ ببیت/مبیت
koshag bebén/mabén ‘we may (not) be killed.’ کُشگ ببین/مبین
koshag bebét/mabet ‘you may (not) be killed.’ کُشگ بیت/میت
koshag bebant/mabant ‘they may (not) be killed.’ کُشگ ببانت/مبانت
Examples

É mardom báyad ent koshag bebit. ‘This person must be killed.’

Degarán ér majanét o iráz magerét, tânke shomá ér janag mabét.

‘Don’t criticize and find fault with others, so that you may not be criticized.’
Past perfective passive

koshag bután ‘I was killed’ کُشگ بوتان
koshag butay ‘you were killed’ کُشگ بوتائے
koshag but ‘he/she/it was killed’ کُشگ بوت
koshag butén ‘we were killed’ کُشگ بوتێن
koshag butét ‘you were killed’ کُشگ بوتێت
koshag butant ‘they were killed’ کُشگ بوتنائە
Examples

‘When was this book written?’

‘He was not included in our group.’
Past imperfective passive

gendaga bután 'I kept being seen’ گندگا بوتان

gendaga butay 'you kept being seen’ گندگا بوتنی

gendaga but 'he/she/it kept being seen’ گندگا بوت

gendaga butén 'we kept being seen’ گندگا بوتین

gendaga butét 'you kept being seen’ گندگا بوتیت

gendaga butant 'they kept being seen’ گندگا بوتنت

This form is negated by na-

gendaga nabután گندگا نبوتان ‘I was not being seen (for a prolonged time)’
Examples

Na māh gendaga but o na estár. ‘Neither the moon nor the stars were visible (for a prolonged time).’

Róch ham gendaga nabut. ‘The sun was not visible either (for a prolonged time).’

Har róch man béezzat kanaga bután. ‘I was being insulted every day.’
Present perfect passive

koshag butagán ‘I have been killed’ کُشگ بوتگان
koshag butagay ‘you have been killed’ کُشگ بوتگئه
koshag butag ‘he/she/it have been killed’ کُشگ بوتگ
koshag butagén ‘we have been killed’ کُشگ بوتگین
koshag butagét ‘you have been killed’ کُشگ بوتگیت
koshag butagant ‘they have been killed’ کُشگ بوتگانت

This form is negated by na-
koshag nabutagán ‘I have not been killed’ کُشگ نبوتگان
Examples

Shomá kojá ráh dayag butagét? ’Where have you been sent?’

É mardománi hón pa ché réchag butag?
’Why have these people’s blood been spilled?’

Shomárá é wák o twán dayag nabutag. ’This power and authority has not been given to you.’
Past perfect passive

koshag butagatán ‘I had been killed’

koshag butagatay ‘you had been killed’

koshag butagat ‘he/she/it had been killed’

koshag butagatén ‘we had been killed’

koshag butagatêt ‘you had been killed’

koshag butagatant ‘they had been killed’

This form is negated by na-

koshag nabutagatán ‘I had not been killed’
Examples

É kásed cha bádsháhay némagá ráh dayag butagat.

‘This messenger had been sent on behalf of the king (lit. from the king’s side).’

Warák pésará tayár kanag butagatant.

‘The food had been prepared in advance.’

(note that food when it is not generic, i.e. when it refers to some specific food, is a plural concept in Balochi)
Counterfactual passive

gendag (be)buténán ‘I should have been seen’
gendag (be)buténay ‘you should have been seen’
gendag (be)butén ‘he/she/it should have been seen’
gendag (be)buténén ‘we should have been seen’
gendag (be)buténét ‘you should have been seen’
gendag (be)buténant ‘they should have been seen’

This form is negated by ma-
gendag mabuténán ‘I should not have been killed’
Examples

É lóg báyad ent bahá kanag butén. ‘This house should have been sold.’

Drégatá é ketáb hechbar nebisag mabutén.
‘How good if this book had never been written.’
drégatá = I wish that, how good if, what if