

Lie back and enjoy it: The Expression of Passive Sense in Non-Finite Forms in English and German

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The starting-point: the German *sein* + *zu* V-*en* infinitive and passive marking in English

- **German:** *zu* V-*en* preceded by a form of *sein* has the capacity to express both active and passive sense through one morphological form, if infinitive of a transitive verb
- **English:** *to*-infinitive has to mark for passive sense with *be* plus the passive *-ed* or *-able/ible* morpheme:
 - (1a) Unser ehemaliger Premierminister vermag seine Prüfungsergebnisse nicht aufzuzählen
 - (1b) Our ex-Prime Minister is not able to add up his exam results
 - (2a) Ihre Angst war in ihren Augen klar *zu* erkennen
 - (2b) Her fear could *be* clearly *seen* in her eyes
 - (2c) Her fear *was* clearly *visible* in her eyes

Exceptions and false exceptions: a derivational excursion (1)

- Very few exceptions to the above in English:
- (3) He is *to blame*
□ (4) This house is *to let*
- Both petrified expressions or unitary lexical entries?
- (3) derived from
- *X blame Y for Z?*
- (4) derived from
- *X let Y to Z* or *Z let Y from X?*
-
- pragmatic and semantic problems:
- (3) saying that blame is attributable to someone is not the same as blaming them
- (4) inherent ambiguities of actor-beneficiary and beneficiary-source relationships in parallel *let* derivations,
- *for-to* analysis does not help
- Thus better to adopt a lexical approach viewing (3) and (4) as paradigms of (5).
- (5) Her chicken soup is *to die for*

Exceptions and false exceptions: a derivational excursion (2)

- (5) Her chicken soup is to die for -
Some interesting predictions:
 - a) if things can be died for in the same way they can be paid for, *die for* is a phrasal verb like *pay for* and can be passivised in the same way as the German *bezahlen*,
 - b) is *die* denotative of an activity perceived as passivisable and occurring linguistically in the environment of a prepositional phrase?

German impersonal passives:

- (14a) Heute wird getanzt
(14b) There is/will be dancing today
- (15a) Hier darf nicht geraucht werden
(15b) Smoking is not allowed here
- (16a) Jetzt wird gefeiert
(16b) Now there is/will be some celebrating
- *tanzen*, *rauchen* and *feiern*, etc., can have a direct object, possibly directly cognate or implicative, thus passivisable: for example *einen Tanz tanzen* "to dance a dance", *eine Zigarre/Zigarette/Pfeife rauchen*, "to smoke a cigar/cigarette/pipe", *eine Feier / einen Geburtstag feiern* "to celebrate a festival/birthday" BUT
- Is the process designated by *die* transitive?

Exceptions and false exceptions: a derivational excursion (3)

- Non-standard: now fossilised import into some variants of American English, probably derived from German via Yiddish.
- Existential sentences do not counteract:
 - (6) There was nothing to see
 - (7) There was nothing to be seen
- Different senses of *see* –
 - a) *see* [perceive something of note]
 - b) *see*[allow to impinge on the visual cortex
- Do not allow indexical expressions to appear as subject: then no longer existential.
- (8) *Fred was not to see
- (9) Fred was not to be seen
- (10) Fred was nothing to write home about
-
- (8) and (9) standard, but do not conforming to *nothing* pattern. On the other hand (10) does seem at first sight to vitiate the point.

Exceptions and false exceptions: a derivational excursion (4)

- ▣ quantified *to* + *Vinf* expressions - semantic argument
- ▣ (11) There was a lot to do in the cottage (and we did it)
to + *Vinf* expressions with active form but passive sense - positive implication?
- ▣ (12) There was a lot to be done in the cottage (so we didn't buy it) :
either no implicative presupposition at all, or to tend to the negative).
- ▣ (13) There was a lot for us/me/ ... to do:
more accessible to basic *for-to* analysis, hence more flexible for agent insertion on pragmatic grounds.
- ▣

Exceptions and false exceptions: a derivational excursion (5)

- (17a) My father died a painful death BUT
- (17b) ?A painful death was died (by my father)
- (17c) ##Ein schmerzhafter Tod wurde (von meinem Vater) gestorben

- (14a) Heute wird getanzt
(15a) Hier darf nicht geraucht werden
(16a) Jetzt wird gefeiert

- agentless, referring to the process rather than its protagonists, but might just allow a human agent
- if anything the already highly questionable acceptability of (17b) and (17c) even further reduced when the agent is deleted.
-

Exceptions and false exceptions: a derivational excursion (6)

▣ Death, Life and In Between

(18a) Dort wird vielleicht wüst gelebt

(18b) There's some pretty wild living going on there

(19a) Im Salzkammergut läßt es sich gut leben

(19b) There's good living in the Salzkammergut

(20a) Das ist ja zum Kotzen

(20b) It's enough to make you throw up

(21a) Sie ist zum Sterben schön

(21b) She is beautiful enough (for one) to die for (her)

- ▣ (18a) (21a), middle *sich lassen* systematically and the verb *leben* perhaps idiomatically can be seen to render passive sense.

- ▣ Loop completed : the structural derivation of directly-derived full German deverbal nouns *Kotzen* (vomit) (20a) , *Sterben* (to die) (21a) apparent: transitive derivation of *die foris* a false exception, accessible by a diverse route to *for-to* analysis, but doesn't solve all the problems.

Exceptions and false exceptions: a derivational excursion (7)

- German does not even use a verb-based predicate structure to render
- (22a) He is to blame
(22b) Er ist (daran) schuld /er soll (dafür) getadelt/beschuldigt werden) ⁴,
(22c) He is guilty of it/he should be admonished for it/declared guilty of it.
- (23a) This house is to let
(23b) Dieses Haus ist *zu vermieten*
(23c) Cette maison est *à louer*
- (23a) uses *zu*-infinitive, cf. French equivalent (23)
- *for-to* analysis cannot be brought to bear unless by a very tortuous and elliptical, thus highly suspect, route. Other apparent exceptions may be accounted for by extraposition and deletion transformations, but (22a) and (23a) must be seen as true exceptions.

The modal function of sein + zu + infinitive (1)

- Use of *sein + zu + infinitive* to express potential and necessity or purpose: *Duden-Grammatik*:
- "Die Tür *ist* (von Hans) *zu öffnen* (= Die Tür kann/muß/soll [von Hans] geöffnet werden.)
Der Schmerz *ist kaum zu ertragen* (= Der Schmerz kann kaum ertragen werden.)
- Wie die Beispiele zeigen, entspricht die Konstruktion im allgemeinen einem mit einem Modalverb umschriebenen Passiv." (DG 84, para 304 p185)
- Durrell (1996, 306)
"The infinitive with *zu* with some semi-auxiliary verbs has the force of a passive. Depending on the verb, this construction expresses possibility, obligation or necessity, i.e. it has the sense of können, müssen or sollen followed by a passive infinitive.
- Die Anträge sind im Rathaus abzuholen
(= Die Anträge können / müssen im Rathaus abgeholt werden)
- The applications may/must be collected from the town-hall/are to be collected from the town-hall
- Diese Frage ist noch zu erörtern
(= Diese Frage muß noch erörtert werden)
- This question must still be discussed/is still to be discussed
- Dieser Text ist bis morgen zu übersetzen (= Dieser Text muß / soll bis morgen übersetzt werden)
- This text must be translated by tomorrow/is to be translated by tomorrow

The modal function of *sein* + *zu* + infinitive (2)

- ▣ Helbig & Buscha (1988: 131):
- ▣ *sein* + Infinitiv mit *zu* (= Möglichkeit, Notwendigkeit)
- ▣ Die Arbeit ist in 3 Tagen kaum zu schaffen. (= Die Arbeit kann in 3 Tagen kaum geschafft werden)
Die Arbeit ist unbedingt in einer Woche zu erledigen (= Die Arbeit muß unbedingt in einer Woche erledigt werden)
- ▣ *sein* + Infinitiv bedeutet öfter eine Möglichkeit, manchmal auch eine Notwendigkeit (z.B. in Vorschriften). Welche Bedeutung im konkreten Satz gegeben ist, wird jedoch nur aus dem Kontext (in den obigen Beispielen durch *kaum* bzw. *unbedingt*) deutlich. Im Gegensatz zu den *haben*-Verbindungen sind die *sein*-Verbindungen passivisch, das mit *von* anzuschließende Agens der Handlung fehlt häufig.

The modal function of *sein* + *zu* + infinitive (3)

- Beedham (1981, 320)
[The passive is] "the portrayal simultaneously of an event and the state which results from that event". Above, both state and event as yet unrealised and lack an agent: henceforward **potential** passives.
- Case for positing a *zu*-infinitive potential passive verb - adjective - noun squish in German (cf. Ross 1972), with an intermediate stage engendering something like the Latin gerundive, the *zu* V-end adjective, to which it is morphologically remarkably similar:
 -
 - (24a) Amanda amanda est
 - (24b) Amanda is to be loved
 - (24c) Amanda ist eine sehr zu lobende Frau
 - (24d) Amanda is a very laudable woman
- *Duden-Grammatik* 1984:185, para 304, fn2:
"Als transformationelle Variante der *sein*-Konstruktion ist das attributive Gerundivum zu betrachten (*die zu öffnende Tür* = *die Tür*, *die zu öffnen ist* = *die Tür*, *die man öffnen kann/muß/soll*)." (DG)
- "Dem 1. Partizip [(Präsenspartizip oder 1. Mittelwort)] gleich gebildet ist die Form *zu billigend*, *zu fürchtend*. Sie entspricht dem lateinischen Gerundiv[um] und wird in der Standardsprache ziemlich häufig, in der Dichtung und in der Umgangssprache kaum verwendet:
- Das ist ein nicht *zu billigender* Schritt. Sein *anzuerkennender* Fleiß ... "Sie hat passivische Bedeutung: mit ihr wird eine Notwendigkeit oder Möglichkeit ausgedrückt. Sie kann nur von transitiven Verben gebildet werden und wird nur attributiv gebraucht." (DG 1984:192, para 316)
[precisely outlines phenomenon, but does not go deeper into the tangled semantic problem of derivation]

The modal function of *sein* + *zu* + infinitive (4)

- Durrell (1996: 272:

"present participles can be used adjectivally with an accompanying *zu* e.g. das abzufertigende Gepäck "the baggage for checking" This is an adjectival form of the construction with *sein* and an infinitive with *zu* expressing possibility or necessity. As in that construction the participle has passive force:

ein nicht *zu* übersehender Fehler

A mistake which cannot be overlooked

ihre anzuerkennende Leistung

her achievement[,] which must be acknowledged

ein Auszubildender

a trainee

"As the last example [above] shows, these forms, too, can be used as nouns. This construction is common in official written registers, but is rare in informal speech."

- Tendency is manifest in the relative clause-derived pre-nominal *erweiterter Adjektivsatz*, and retained into the regular deadjectival noun - Ross' *Endstation Hauptwort* (Ross 1972).⁶

The modal function of *sein* + *zu* + infinitive (5)

- Developmental derivation from the infinitive to the deverbal deadjectival noun
- **The German Squish**
- **Infinitive**
[+Verb] [+ infinitive] [+ transitive] [+/- active, +/- passive]
erkennen
- **Infinitive phrase**
(+ [+Adverb]) *zu* + [+Verb] [+ infinitive] [+ transitive] [+/-active, +/- passive]
zu + erkennen
- **Predicate/verb phrase**
sein(+ [+Adverb]) + *zu* + [+Verb] [+ infinitive] [+ transitive] [- active, + passive]
ist + zu + erkennen
[Active option has now been irretrievably deselected.]
- **Extended adjective phrase**
[+det](+ [+Adverb]) + *zu* + [+Adjective [+Verb] [+ infinitive] [+ transitive] [+ gerundive] [- active, + passive] + ending] + noun
die + in ihren Augen + klar + zu + erkennen + d + e + Angst
- **Deadjectival deverbal noun**
[+det] [+ neuter] +(+ [+Adverb]) [+ Noun + *zu* + [+cap] [+Adjective [+Verb] [+ infinitive] [+ transitive] [- active, + passive] + ending]]
das + klar + zu + Erkennende

The modal function of *sein* + *zu* + infinitive (6)

- The German Squish
- A) Initial selection of a predicative structure with a transitive verb,
- B) Selection of *zu* is then determinant of passive sense selection
- C) Selection of an attributive structure with a transitive verb will fail: incorrect semantic readings - i.e. active instead of passive sense - will be ascribed to the verbal element: selection of an intransitive verb with predicative structure will result in oddities from the beginning:

- (25a) *Er ist zu kommen

- Jussive sense of *sollen/müssen* rendered in the *zu*-infinitive by *haben*:

- (25b) Er hat zu kommen

- English fairly lax on this score:
- (25d) He has to come
- (25c) He is to come

- Pragmatic differences between (25c) and (25d), but basic deontic functionality quite similar, though (25d) more markedly, but not canonically, **epistemic**: (25c) it has been appointed by some authority that he shall come, whereas in (25d) either circumstances demand that he come or it is **logically unthinkable** that he will not come.

- (26a) Die noch zu Kommenden werden sich über unsere Errungenschaften bestimmt freuen
- (26b) Those yet to come will certainly be pleased with our achievements

- (26a) selection of an attributive *zu* + infinitive-derived structure with an intransitive verb apparently no syntactic problems, but directly contradicts DG's stricture that such forms are restricted to transitives:
- Semantic problem: discussion has so far posited passive sense for *zu V-end* deverbial adjectives.

Markedness and squishiness in English potential passives (1)

- English diametrically opposite position.
- two present-tense paradigms, the simple and continuous
- one German present tense form has to carry continuous, iterative and "hot news"
- Thesis: more morphological mechanisms available in English to express passiveness than in German: certainly the English *to*-infinitive is far less flexible syntactically, semantically and functionally than its German counterpart.

- Very few cases of the English simple *to*-infinitive bearing passive sense.
German bifunctional transitive *zu*-infinitive with *sein* also has "proper" periphrastic passive infinitive form - *werden* + past participle for *Vorgangspassiv* and *sein* + past participle for *Zustandspassiv*,
- English selects explicit *to be* + past participle infinitive at the earliest stage to convey potential passive sense in infinitive. If necessary to convey continuous aspect, explicit form must be selected.

- **The English non-Squish** : pattern for the passive infinitive
- **Infinitive phrase:**
to + be + [[+Verb] [+ transitive] [- active, + passive] [+ past participle]]
to + be + recognised
no active option available, but aspect and phase options are overtly available],
Predicate/verb phrase (for modifying function incorporated in a relative clause, not as pre-modifier),
(have -en) (+be -ing) + be (+ [+Adverb]) + [[+Verb] [+transitive] [- active, + passive] [+ past participle]]
is/can be + clearly + recognised
- [Position of the optional adverb is of course variable, and plays no further part in this study. Aspect and phase options are still available, as also below.] Postposed infinitive phrase, derived from relative clause:
to (+ have -en) (+be -ing) + be (+ [+Adverb]) + [[+Verb] [+ transitive] [- active, + passive] [+ past participle]]
to + be + clearly + recognised
- [The relative clause cannot by the rules of English jump to precede the noun, and modification can take place only by appending the postposed infinitive phrase to the nominal antecedent, which not infrequently will be premodified by a limiting expression, such as *the first/only*.]
- **Deverbal phrasal noun:**
[+wh-] [+ neuter] + be + to (+ have -en) (+be -ing) + be (+ [+Adverb]) + [[+Verb] [+ transitive] [- active, + passive] [+ past participle]]
what/that which + is +to be + clearly + recognised

Markedness and squishiness in English potential passives (2)

- Notes on the English non-squish
- Nominalised form of the German *erweiterter Adjektivsatz* generally regarded as stylistically ugly and tends to be restricted to officialese, but quite compact. Following same derivational path as German is for English an arcane monstrosity, results in a construction which is grammatically and semantically barely acceptable, definitely not squishy, but indeed used - for the purpose of foregrounding a rheme, however.]
- English derivation restricted by the obligatory and determinant selection of explicit passive infinitive structure with a transitive verb.
- Selection of an attributive structure with a transitive verb will fail, but in this case not on a specifically semantic, rather on the straight syntactic level if postposition is not observed. The selection of *to* + infinitive of an intransitive verb with predicative structure seems unproblematical, any passive reading being impossible:
 -
 - (27) The best is yet to come
 - (28) The shape of things to come

The German *lassen* construction

- German causative configuration *infinitive + lassen* a hurdle for English native speakers: frequently fail to read the infinitive transitive verb as passive, and interpret *lassen* as *let*, not always categorically unacceptable, may be contextually ambiguous between active and passive, causative or permissive at times:

- (29a) Er ließ seine Frau erwürgen
(29b) He had his wife strangled
(29c) He let his wife be strangled
(29d) ?He made/let his wife strangle
(29e) Er ließ seine Frau den Hamster erwürgen
(29f) He made/let his wife strangle the hamster
(29g) Er ließ seine Frau kommen
(29h) Er ließ es zu, dass seine Frau erwürgt wurde
(29i) *Er ließ seine Frau erwürgt werden

- (29a) more likely causative rather than permissive (29c).

- (29d), Il perhaps (just) within the realms of grammaticality, unacceptable as version of German original. Where full valency is employed, the passive interpretation will be blocked, as in (29e), but perhaps some marginal ambiguity as to the causative/permissive interpretation of *lassen*.

- The related separable verb *zulassen* ("to allow") incontrovertibly permissive and will not permit a causative interpretation: (29h) will incontestably render (29c), but German native speaker informants unable either to vouch for the acceptability of (29i) or to ascribe a meaning to it, certainly not as a rendering of (29b). In the case of an intransitive there is no question of a passive interpretation, though there might be ambiguity: (29f) could for example indicate causation or complicity in his wife's presence.

Gehören + past participle and deserve/need/want + V-ing (1)

- Above: German apparently more explicit in its marking than English, or English displaying more ambivalent tendencies: the case of a subjective judgment that a particular state should obtain - the potential passive - expressed through German *gehören + past participle* and English *deserve/need/want + V-ing*.
- When the English *-ing* form occurs categorially as a gerund, it is as potentially ambiguous as the German *zu*-infinitive between active and passive interpretations:
- (31) That child needs/wants spanking
(32) That Member of Parliament needs/wants/likes spanking
(33) That man needs/wants/deserves locking up
- (31) and (33) will typically, but not canonically, have passive sense ascribed to the *-ing* form. (32), particularly when *like* is selected, points up, but again not canonically, the active-passive ambiguity. Convention and real life have their part to play in assigning passive sense, but active sense could equally apply.
- Social and dialectal variation :
need and *deserve* + passive *V-ing* are more deeply embedded in British English standard language. *want* + passive *V-ing*, particularly vis-à-vis *need* + passive *V-ing*, to some extent regarded as a substandard colloquial or regional variant, though the *-ing* form has long been regarded as endowing a more concrete sense than the infinitive.

Gehören + past participle and deserve/need/want + V-ing (2)

- Regional variation - British English and at least one version of American English
- Some forms of Northern , e.g. Northumberland, Irish, Scottish select the past participle as opposed to the gerund with *need/want* as in
- (34) The grass needs/wants cut, the weeds need/want pulled ...
- German, which for this purpose selects the non-finite form, the uninflected past participle of a transitive verb for the German equivalent of (35a): or uses the full passive configuration as in (36a) and (36b):
- (35a) The fellow deserves locking up
(35b) Der Kerl gehört eingesperrt
(36a) Der Kerl müsste eingesperrt werden
(36b) The fellow ought to be locked up
(37a) Der Kerl verdient eingesperrt zu werden
(37b) The fellow deserves to be locked up

Selection and derivation

- The selectional and derivational procedures in the two languages can be formally summarised thus:
- **English:**
- *need/deserve/want*: - to be V-ed - **deselect active**
OR: - V-ing - active/passive open, context to determine
- *modal should/ought to*: - V - **select active**
OR: - be V-ed - **deselect active**
[*want* regional/colloquial or sometimes regarded as substandard]
- **German:**
- *gehören*: -Vpast participle (+ werden, to be obligatorily deleted?) - **deselect active**
- Modal *sollte/müsste* : - Vinf - **select active**
OR: - geV-t werden - **deselect active**
- [*gehören* regional/colloquial or sometimes regarded as substandard]
- German seems to BE pre-deselecting the option of any non-passive interpretation unless the modal option is taken, in which case it behaves in a similar manner to English.

Further perception problems: the potential passive in compound nouns

- Active/passive opacity also in compound nouns. Semantic relations obtaining between the components are notoriously arbitrary:
- (38a) Bratwurst, (eine Wurst, die gebraten wird)
(38b) Bratwurst, (a sausage which is roasted)
- (39a) Brühwurst (eine Wurst, die gebrüht wird)
(39b) Brühwurst, (a sausage which is boiled)
- (40a) Knackwurst (eine Wurst, die knackt)
(40b) Knackwurst (a sausage which goes bang)
- *Blutwurst* and *Leberwurst* contain liver and sausage, BUT *Leberkäse* and marginally more politically correctly *Fleischkäse*... ?
- English offers us, for example, rather blandly analysed (41a-43a),)
- (41a) slicing tomato -a tomato for slicing
(42a) cooking apples -apples for cooking
(43a) braising steak -steak for braising
- In fact the relation is much closer:
(41b) the tomato is sliced
(42b) the apples are cooked
(43b) the steak is braised
- This regularity is different from that observable in some instrumentally-based compounds, as in
- (44a) ein Kochmesser
(44b) a cooking knife
(45a) Lehrmittel
(45b) teaching aids
(46a) pickling vinegar
(46b) Essig zum Einlegen
(46c) ?Einlegeessig
- The knife is used for the purposes of cooking, but it is not cooked, nor does it do the cooking. Teaching is done, but the aids are not taught, nor do they teach, rather they are the means of that teaching. The vinegar is used for pickling, but is not pickled.
- Where potential passives occur in nominal compounds, neither systematic semantics nor morphology help to predict interpretations, and we must rely on real-world knowledge.

V-end and V-ing

- German *V-end* form occurs with true verbal function only attributively, whether as present participle or as gerundive. directly deverbal German *gerund* is identical in form to the infinitive, apart from specifier and capitalisation.
- English *gerund* and *present participle* are morphologically identical, but as shown English lacks a morphological gerundive. The *gerund* in both English and German may be freely used as subject, object or predicative complement.
- The German present participle occurs in attributive adjectival guise only. When apparently used predicatively it is in fact a petrified adjectival form and has no participial function:
 - (54a) Sein Benehmen war einfach ätzend
 - (54b) His behaviour was simply foul (lit. corrosive)
 - (54c) *Die Säure ist einfach das Metall ätzend
 - (55a) Amanda ist einfach reizend/verlockend
 - (55b) Amanda is simply charming
 - (56a) Amanda is simply charming a senior member of government into indiscretion
 - (56b) *Amanda ist einfach ein höheres Regierungsmitglied reizend/verlockend
- English *-ing* form is functionally far more flexible than the uninflected German *-end*. Ergative forms still abound:
 - (57) The tea's brewing
- Jane Austen:
 - (58a) Your supper's preparingshows passive sense in *-ing* form in present participle but feels odd in modern English: nominalises but in true nominal form:
 - (58b) Your supper's in preparationcf. German
 - (58c) ?Dein Abendessen ist in Vorbereitung
 - (58d) Unsere neue Webseite ist in Vorbereitung
 - (58e) Our newweb-site is in preparation
- Usage seems to be increasing (ATM message: Your transaction is processing. AE?)

Agency, subjecthood and process

- Transitivity/intransitivity active/passive metric is not wholly waterproof, so best to concentrate on verbal process, not as part of a semantic inventory, but in communicative terms:
- Agent optional
Patient/Recipient obligatory.
Other exponents facultative:
Aspect ,process and event primarily progressive and perfective.
Deontic and epistemic modal function (necessity, purpose, possibility, futurity). in constructions, but not within verb
- Durrell (1996:297)
"[t]he werden-passive can be used without a subject to denote an activity in general [...] The agent is unspecified, so that there is no indication of who is performing the action. [...] A subjectless passive can be formed from any verb which expresses an activity by an agent, whether the verb is transitive or intransitive. [...] This construction thus forms a notable exception to the general rule that the passive is restricted to transitive verbs" .
Not only werden-passives of intransitives but also *zu V-end* deverbial adjectives derived from intransitives show similar behaviour:
- (59) Die noch zu Kommenden werden sich über unsere Errungenschaften bestimmt freuen
- Non-finite, or potential, passives have modal function. Potential passives derived from intransitives have an essentially jussive/hortative/authoritative function.
(60) Heute wird getanzt
(61) Hier darf nicht geraucht werden
(62) Jetzt wird gefeiert
- BUT: red herring: function disappears in past tense:
- (63a) Gestern wurde getanzt
(63b) There was dancing yesterday
(64a) Dort durfte nicht geraucht werden
(64b) There was no smoking allowed there
(65a) Dann wurde gefeiert
(65b) Then there was some celebrating
perhaps more a question of examples with conventionally prescribed utterance context , thus misleading; rhematic consideration really at stake.
Process under scrutiny: assertive and non-assertive illocutionary function, agency and subjecthood matters of indifference.
- werden-passive of intransitives but also *zu V-end* deverbial adjectives derived from intransitives showing similar behaviour, as noted in (66).
- (66) Die noch zu Kommenden werden sich über unsere Errungenschaften bestimmt freuen

A one-off: *sein zu + V-en* structures and their derivatives future -oriented potential activities rather than their exponents: in the thematic phrase here are foregrounded rheme, .

Concluding remarks

- ▣ An attempt at a brief comparative and contrastive survey of passive expression in some non-finite structures in English and German.
- ▣ Data wide and disparate, and range from the original verbal starting point over the nominal and adjectival categories, too.
- ▣ Certain features emerge:
 - a concentration on process rather than exponent
 - rather than constant relationship between transparency and opacity in form and function
 - with divergent patterns of systematicity and inconsistency in both languages.

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