Abstract


This paper investigates constructions with få ‘get’ + participle in corpora of written and spoken Swedish, as well as in the regional dialects. Three different readings, with partly different structural properties, are distinguished: one causative, one benefactive/malefactive and one agentive reading (cf. e.g. Egerland 1996, Taraldsen 2010). The causative and benefactive/malefactive constructions allow both passive and active readings, in the sense that the subject of få can, but need not, be interpreted as the Agent of the participial verb. The two differ partly with respect to which participial verbs are possible, but are both restricted to passive participles of transitive verbs. The agentive construction always carries an active reading, and allows participles of (agentive) intransitive and reflexive verbs. Word order, agreement and particle placement typically distinguish the agentive construction from the other two, but some variation within the constructions can be noted in the corpora. In present-day Swedish, the agentive construction is not accepted by all speakers, and it is generally restricted to spoken language.

Keywords: non-canonical passive, participle, supine, aspect, particle placement, agreement, word order variation, Swedish.