

Re: Why does some culture's language become replaced but others don't?

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- *From:* Adam Funk <a24061@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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On 2008-08-04, LEE Sau Dan wrote:

Adam> I definitely agree that the frequencies differ. Personally,
Adam> I try to avoid using the passive voice in writing without a
Adam> good reason,

So, you seldom write formal documents, do you?

That's not the case. My teachers fairly consistently taught me to avoid using the passive voice very much (unless an editor demands it, of course).

- (1) Precision and recall were then calculated for all six classes.
- (2) We then calculated precision and recall for all six classes.
- (3) Table 4 shows the precision and recall figures for all six classes.

I think (2) and (3) sound better (if read aloud or sub-vocalized) and are easier to understand quickly than (1). I wouldn't write (1) unless an authority (boss or editor, for example) insisted on the passive voice. This is a conscious stylistic preference, of course, and I know not everyone agrees.

Adam> but in general, that's a good example of what I mean: the
Adam> construction exists in speech but is much more frequent in
Adam> writing; the same is true of nesting a relative clause.

Do you often write with slangs and constructions not in the standard language? e.g. "gonna", "gotta", ...

In formal writing, no. In informal writing, sometimes. I don't think my English output consists of a few clearly demarcate

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