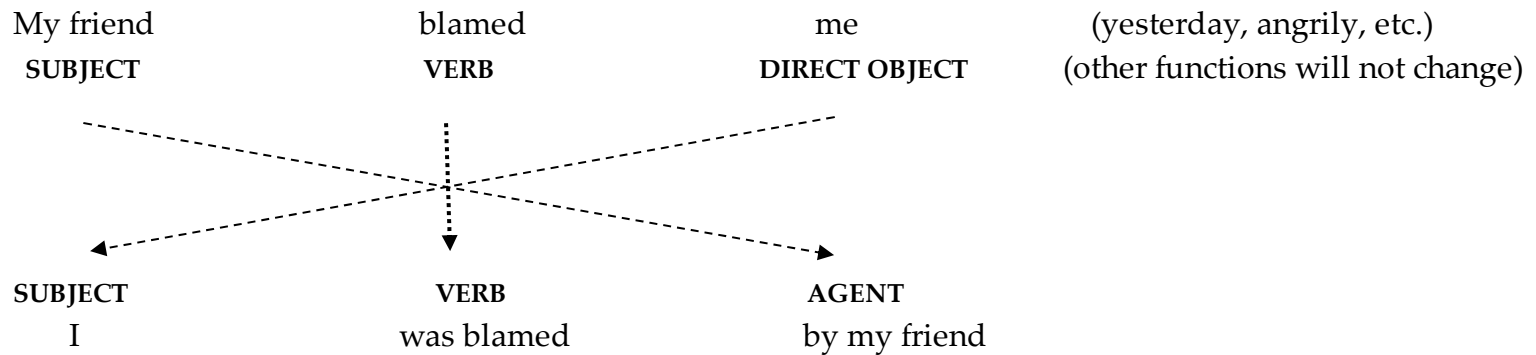


8.2b: Complement of the agent and Dative of Means

The structure of a passive sentence in Greek.

If an active sentence is restated in the passive voice, these changes take place



The doer of a passive verb action is sometimes, but not always, identified. If the action of a Greek passive verb is carried out by a person (These books were not written by Homer), the doer or **agent** is identified with the following structure (**complement of the agent**).

PERSONAL AGENT ὑπό + Genitive

EXAMPLE

ὁ ἄνθρωπος θεραπεύεται ὑπὸ τοῦ ἰατροῦ

S Passive V agent

The man is healed / is being healed by the doctor.

If, on the other hand, there is no personal agent, but rather the action is done **by something**, Greek expresses it with a **Dative of means**. As you know because we found it in active constructions, this is a Dative without preposition.

NON-PERSONAL AGENT = DATIVE OF MEANS (no preposition)

EXAMPLE

ὁ ἄνθρωπος θεραπεύεται τῷ φαρμάκῳ
 S Passive V Dative of means

The man is healed by / with a drug.