

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, LANGUAGE STUDIES, JOURNALISM
AND COMMUNICATION
DEPARTEMENT OF LINGUISTICS

**Forms and Functions of Impersonal Passive
in Muher**

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Abstract

The central theme of this study is to provide the different forms and functions of the impersonal passive verb forms in the Muher language. To address the objective the thesis is organized in four chapters. Chapter one consists of the introduction to the linguistic and sociolinguistic aspects of the language and its speakers. Statement of the problem and objectives along with the significance of the study and the methodology are also presented. In chapter two, the review of related literature and the theoretical framework have been presented. In chapter three, the forms and functions of impersonal passives of the language are analyzed at the levels of morphophonology, morphosyntax, and semantics. The use of impersonal passive in Muher has also been dealt with. Finally, in chapter four, the major findings of the study are summarized. Thus, labialization and palatalization are of impersonal passive markers in Muher language. Impersonal passive constructions in the language are used to make instrumental nouns, general facts, greetings, departures, and others. The feature of impersonal passive of the Muher language refers a human entity.

Abbreviations

A = agent	MAL = malefactive
ACC= accusative	Masc= masculine
ADV= adverbial marker	N= noun
APL = applicative	NEUT= neuter
BEN= benefactive	NP= noun phrase
CON = converb	O = object marker
COP= copula	P = patient
DAT= dative	PAL= palatalization
DCM= declarative marker	Pass= passive
DEF= definiteness	POS= possessive
Defau= default	PV = perfective
F = feminine	PRES= present
GEN= genitive	PST= past
IPR = impersonal	REFL= reflexive
IPV = imperfective	REL = relativizer
JUS = jussive	S = subject marker
LAB= labialization	SG = singular
Loc= locative	

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Fig 1 = classification of Ethio Semitic language

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Table 1= Muher consonants

Table 2= Muher Vowels

Symbols

: = colon after a consonant sound it indicates the preceded sound is geminated.

[] = shows the consonants are allophones

// = phonemic transcription

Appendix

Impersonal passive forms of Muher

Note: only the impersonal perfective form of a verb is translated to English

Active	Impersonal passive				
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss	
1. ad:əgəm	ad:əg ^w :im	jadg ^w it	jəd:ig ^w i	a. paid(ikub) b. it is thrown (lost)	
2. adrak:ətəm	adrak:ətʃim	jadraktʃit	jadraltʃi	‘one make him to be hurry’	
3. ad:ərəm	ad:ərim	jadrit	jəd:eri	‘one spend the night’	
4. æfəm	æf ^w im	jɛf ^w it	jɛf ^w i	‘one went’	
5. æl:am	æl:em	jel:et	jel:e	‘one targeted’	
6. æɲk’əfəm	æɲk’əf ^w im	jeɲk’if ^w it	jeɲk’əf ^w i	‘one embraces/hugging’	
7. æzəm	æzim	jezit	jezi	‘one hold him/it’	
8. æʔəm	æʔ ^w im	jeʔ ^w it	jeʔ ^w i	‘one tired to death’	
9. af:ətəm	af:ətʃim	jaftʃit	jəftʃi	‘while one scratched’	
10. afək:am	afək: ^w em	jafək ^w et	jafk ^w e	a. one took it b. it is stolen	
11. afət:ərəm	afət:rim	jafətrit	jafət:iri	‘one finished’	
12. afrəf:əm	afrəf:im	jafərəfit	jafərʃi	‘one got many children’	
13. ag:ədəm	agəɖzim	jagidzit	jəgdzi	‘one tied’	
14. agəɲ:əm	agəɲ:im	jagojit	jaguj	‘one found it’	
15. ak ^ʔ :əm	ak ^w :im	jaʔ ^w it	jək ^w :i	a. one chew(roasted grain) b. eat much	
16. akəb:ərəm	akəb: ^w ərim	jakəwrit	jakwiri	‘one gave respect to him’	
17. ak ^w əfəm	ak ^w əʃim	jak ^w əʃit	jak ^w əʃi	‘one split in too many pieces’	
18. al:əfəm	al:əf ^w im	jalf ^w it	jələf ^w i	‘one crossed/passed’	
19. am:ənəm	am ^w :ənim	jam ^w init	jəm ^w :əni	‘one trusted him’	
20. amak:ərəm	amak: ^w :rim	jamak ^w :urit	jamaxuri	‘one refused/ stroked’	
21. amar:am	amar:em	jamar:et	jamare	‘one planted in a row’	
22. aməf:əm	aməʃ:im	jaməʃit	jamʃi	‘one spent the day’	
23. amət’ət’əm	amətʃ’ətʃim	jamətʃ’it	jamʃ’itʃi	‘one worry about him’	

24. amb^watəɾəm amb^watərim jamb^watrit jamb^watri ‘stand one’s leg here and there’
25. am^waf:əm am^waf:im jam^wafit jam^wafi ‘one prepares a plate (to make injera or other....)’
26. an:əɖəm an:əɖ^wim jeɖ^wit jeɖ^wi a. (one) he strangled/throttled him
b. one become about to die
27. an:əβəm an:əwim janwit jən^wi ‘one milked the cow’
28. andibalæm andibalojim jandibaluji jandibaluji
29. ansirəsərəm ansirəsərim jansirəsrit jansərsiri ‘one boiled it highly’
30. ant’ilət’:ələm ant’ilət’:əlim jant’ilət’:ilit jant’ilət’:ili ‘one hung up him’
31. ar:ət’əm ar:ətʃ’im jartʃit jertʃi ‘one cut him/it’
32. ar:ərəm ar:ərim jar:it jər:ri ‘one become angry’
33. aslam:ət’əm aslam:ətʃ’im jaslamitʃit jaslamtʃi ‘one begged him’
34. asəfəfəm asəfəf^wim jasəf^wit jasfif^wi ‘one make unwanted things over’
the pure one
35. asrəm asrojim jasrojit jasəroj ‘one sold it’
36. at’əb:əɖəm at’əb:əɖ^wim jat’əβɖ^wit jat’iβiɖ^wi ‘be tight’
37. at’:əβəm at’:əwim jat’iwit jət’:iwi ‘one washed him/ it’
38. at’əf:am at’ef^w:em jat’əf^wet jat’f^we a. one got ruined b. turn off
39. at’əl;æm at’əlojim jat’əluji jat’iluj ‘one make it to be filtered’
40. at’imat’:əməm at’imat’:əm^wim jat’imat’im^wit jat’imat’im^wi ‘one cross ones hand to show he/she is in worry’
41. atçəçəm atçəçojim jatçəçuji jatçəçu ‘one introduced him with someone’
42. atifət:əfəm atifət:əf^wim jatfət:if^wit jatfət:if^wi one dip bread/enjera in to pepper
43. atʃ’əm atʃ’im jatʃ’it jətʃ’i one closed it
44. atβak’æm atβak’ojim jatβak’ujit jatβak’uj one use maximum effort
45. az:əzəm aɜ:əzim jaɜ:it jəɜ:ɜi one ordered him
46. aziməz:əməm aziməz:əm^wim jaziməz:əm^wim jaziməz:əm^wim one moisten/dampen
47. aɜ:əm aɜ:im jaɜ:it jəɜ:i one saw him
48. aɜəɜ:əm aɜəɜ:im jaɜəɜ:it jaɜəɜi one make it to be cold
49. aɖ^jəb:æm aɖ^jəb:ojim jaɖ^jəbuji jaɖ^jəbu one passes

50.	aʔ ^w ək ^ʷ :əm	em	aʔ ^w ək ^ʷ :əm ^w im	jaʔ ^w ək ^ʷ im ^w it	jaʔ ^w ək ^ʷ im ^w i	one toasted (k'otʃ ^ʷ :o)
51.	aβəlam	aβəl:em	jaβəlet	jaβle		one make it sharp
52.	aβəs:am	aβəf:əm	jaβəfet	jaβfe		one brought it
53.	aβəz:am	aβz:em	jaβəzet	jaβze		one multiplied
54.	aβrədʒədʒəm	aβrədʒədʒim	jaβrədʒidʒit	jaβərdʒidʒi		one make him to anxiety
55.	aβrəg:əgəm	aβrəg ^(w) eg ^w im	jaβirəgig ^w it	jaβərgig ^w i		one make him shocked
56.	ərət'əm	ərətʃ'im	jirotʃ'it	jərotʃ'i		one run
57.	ərwəfəm	ərwəfim	jirowəfit	jərowəfi		one become accustomed
58.	bæem	bojim	jiβujit	jəβoj		one said
59.	bəd:am	bədʒ:em	jiβedzet	jəβidze		one took from it/him
60.	bəd:ərəm	bəd:ərim	jiβədrit	jəβdri		one chased him
61.	bək ^j :æem	bək ^j :ojim	jiβək ^j :ujt	jəβək ^j :uj		one made traditional beer
62.	bək:ətəm	bək:ətʃim	jiβəktʃit	jəβkitʃi		one become dirty/ died without slaughtered (of cattle)
63.	bək ^j :əm	bək ^w :im	jiβəx ^w it	jəβx ^w i		one wept/cried
64.	bən:am	bən:em	jiβəʔit	jəβwe		one ate it
65.	bər:ərəm	b ^(w) ər:ərim	jiβərit	jəβriri		one made a fly
66.	bər:əsəm	bər:əfim	jiβərʃit	jəβirʃi		one destroyed (house, garden,etc)
67.	bəs:am	bəf:em	jiβəfet	jəβfe		one come
68.	bəsæem					
69.	bət:əxəm	bət:əx ^w im	jiβətx ^w it	jəβətx ^w i		one up rooted/pull up/pull out
70.	bəz:am	bəz:em	jiβəzet	jəβze		people are too much
71.	birəg:əgəm	birəg ^(w) əg ^w im	jiβrəgig ^w it	jəβərgig ^w i		one become shocked
72.	bisəb:əsəm	bisəb:əfim	jiβisəb:ifit	jəβəʃiβʃi		
73.	bit'əb:ət'əm	bit'əb:ətʃ'im	jiβt'əbitʃ'it	jəβət'ibitʃ'i		a. one dissolve b. stir violence
74.	bratʃ'əm	bratʃ'im	jiβratʃ'it	jəβratʃ'i		one dispersed it
75.	brəfəm	brəfim	jiβrəʃit	jəβriʃi		one destroyed (house,...)
76.	brəzəm	brəzim	jiβrəzit	jəbrəzi		run away (horse, ...)
77.	b ^w ər:əsəm	b ^w ər:əfim	jiβ ^w əriʃit	jəwiriʃi		one missed somebody
78.	ədəm	ədʒim	judʒit	jodʒi		one told (him)
79.	ən:am	ən:em	jənet	jəne		one put it down

80.	ɔp:əm	ɔp:im	jɪwəp:it	jɔp:i	one cried loudly
81.	ɔr:ədəm	ɔr:ədʒim	jɔ̃ardʒit	jordʒi	one put down
82.	ɔt':am	ɔtʃ':em	jɔtʃ'et	jotʃ'e	one made it to out
83.	darəm	darim	jidərit	jədari	one asked a woman in childbed
84.	dəb:æm	dəb:ojim	jidəβujit	jədβuj	one added
85.	dəb:am	dəb ^w :d̃em	jidəwet	jədwe	one become late
86.	dəl:ət'əm	dəl:ətʃ'im	jidəltʃ'it	jədlitʃ'i	one hit him strongly
87.	dəf:ərəm	dəf ^w :ərim	jidəf ^w rit	jədf ^w iri	a. one becoming bold b. one raped
88.	dəf:ət'əm	dəf:ətʃ'im	jidəf:ʃ'it	jədfitʃ'i	one hit strongly
89.	dəf:əʔəm	dəf:əʔ'im	jidəfʔ'it	jədfiʔ'i	one soaked (eg cloth in water)
90.	dəg:əfəm	dəg:əf'im	jidəgf ^w it	jədəgf ^w i	one supported him/one hold up
91.	dəg:əməm	dəg:əm ^w im	jidəgm ^w it	jədgim ^w i	one made incantation/ one prayed to god (not God) recite prayers
92.	dəg:əsəm	dəg:əʃim	jidəgʃit	jədəgʃi	one gave a feast
93.	dəm:ədəm	dəm:ədʒim	jidəmdʒit	jədɪmdʒi	it is mixed
94.	dər:əgəm	dər:əg ^w im	jidərg ^w it	jədɪrg ^w i	one hit him/it
95.	dər:əsəm	dər:əʃim	jidərʃit	jədriʃi	one danced/sang
96.	dər:əβəm	dər:əwim	jidərwit	jədər:ɪwi	a. double a cloth b. put sth on a top of sth
97.	difəd:əfəm	difəd:əf ^w im	jidfəd:if ^w it	jədəfdif ^w i	a. one press down slightly with hand b. make hop and yeast
98.	dɪməd:əmem	dɪm ^(w) :əd:əm ^w im	jɪdməd:im ^w it	jədəmdɪm ^w i	one leveled the floor of a house
99.	dɪnəd:ənəm	dɪnəd:ənim	jɪdnəd:ɪnit	jədəndini	one become fat
100.	dɪnəz:əzəm	dɪnəz:əʒim	jɪdnəz:ɪʒit	jədənʒɪʒi	one feel dizzy
101.	dɪrəd:ərəm	dɪrəd:ərim	jɪdrədɪrit	jədərd:ɪri	one pile up (eg book,)
102.	dɪrəm:əsəm	dɪrəm:əʃim	jɪdrəmɪʃit	jədərmiʃi	one destroyed (house, fence)
103.	dɪβal:əʔem	dɪβal:əʔ'im	jɪdβaliʔ'it	jədɪβalʔ'i	one mix up
104.	dɪβəʃ:əm	dɪβəʃ:im	jɪdβəʃit	jədəβʃi	one smashed (usually k'otʃ':o)
105.	dʒəbæm	dʒəb:ojim	jɪdʒəbuʒit	jədʒəboj	one took cattle from one place to other
106.	dʒɪnədʒ:ənəm	dʒɪnədʒ:ənim	jɪdʒɪnədʒɪnit	jədʒəndʒ:ɪni	one made a fence (using soil)
107.	dʒəʒəm	dʒəʒim	jɪdʒəʒit	jədʒəʒi	one hit (by hand)
108.	ebəm	eb ^w im	jeb ^w it	jeb ^w i	one refused him

109.	ek:səm	ek:əʃim	jekʃit	jek:iʃi	a.one waited b. one become late
110.	ərəggʲəm	ərəggʷim	jirrəggʷit	jərəggʷi	one throw
111.	faʔem	faʔʷim	jifəʔʷit	jəfaʔʷi	a. one rub something soft b. insət
112.	fədz:əm	fədz:im	jifədzit	jəfdzi	one finished it
113.	fək':ədəm	fək':ədzim	jifəʔdzit	jəfʔidzi	one allowed/permitted
114.	fək'am	fək'ʷem	jifəʔʷet	jəfiʔʷe	one split (wood)
115.	fək:am	fəkʷ:em	jifəkʷet	jəfkʷe	one went
116.	fər:ədəm	fər:ədzim	jifərdzit	jəfirdzi	one judged
117.	fər:əməm	fər:əmʷim	jifərmʷit	jəfər:imʷi	one signed
118.	fər:ət'əm	fər:ətʃim	jifərtʃit	jefirtʃi	a. fall strongly b. become blind c. hɑ
119.	fər:əxəm	fər:əxʷim	jifərxʷit	jəfirxʷi	one became patient
120.	fət:æm	fətojim	jifətujit	jəftuji	one spine (cotton, rope,etc)
121.	fət:am	fətʃ:em	jifətʃet	jəftʃe	one release him
122.	fət':am	fətʃ':em	jifətʃ'et	jəftʃ'e	one throw thin stick(for competition)
123.	fət':ənəm	fət':nim	jifət'init	jəft'ini	one became fast
124.	fətʃ':əm	fətʃ'im	jifətʃ'it	jəftʃ'i	one grinded
125.	finək'æm	finək':ojim	jifnək'ujit	jəfəŋk'uj	one dig up (eg stone)
126.	finət'am	finətʃ'em	jifnətʃ'et	jəfəŋtʃ'e	one poured away
127.	fit'əfət'əm	fitʃ'əfətʃ'im	jiftʃ'əftʃ'it	jəfətʃ'iftʃ'i	one throw to the ground
128.	fitəf:ətəm	fitəfətʃim	jiftʃəfitʃit	jəfətʃfitʃi	one make a crumb (of enjera, bread)
129.	fiʔəfəʔəm	fiʔəfəʔwim	jifʔəfiʔwit	jəfəʔfiʔwi	one rubbed it
130.	fʷatʃ'əm	fʷatʃ'im	jifʷatʃ'it	jəfʷatʃ'i	one cut a grass
131.	fʷəʃ:əm	fʷəʃ:im	jifʷeʃit	jəfʷeʃi	one farted
132.	indibalæm	indibalojim	jindibalojit	jəndibaluj	
133.	inklawəsem	inklawəʃim	jinklawiʃit	jənklawuʃi	one move here and there
134.	ɪŋnəm	ɪn:ojim	jɪn:ojit	jən:oj	one become asleep
135.	gʲən:am	gʲən:em	jigʲen:et	jegʲen:e	one feared him
136.	gafəm	gafʷim	jigəfʷit	jəgafʷi	ate a big quantity
137.	gəb:am	gəbʷ:em	jigəwet	jəgwe	one entered
138.	gəd:æm	gəd:ojim	jigədujit	jəgduji	made/put to sleep
139.	gəd:am	gədzem	jigədzet	jəgdze	one poured

140.	gəd:ədəm	gədzədzim	jigədzit	jəgdzidzi	one make a hole'
141.	gəd:əfəm	gəd:əf ^w im	jigədf ^w it	jəgdif ^w i	break a feast
142.	gidəg:ədəm	gidzəg:ədzim	jigizəgidzit	jəgədzigdzi	one built
143.	gəf:ərəm	gəf ^w :ərim	jigef ^w rit	jəgfwirione	one released him/it
144.	gəf:am	gəf ^w :əm	jigəf ^w et	jəgf ^w e	one pushed it
145.	gəm:əsəm	gəm:əfim	jigəmjit	jəgmifi	break in to two equal parts
146.	gəm:ət'əm	gəm:ət ^ʃ im	jigəmit ^ʃ :it	jəgmit ^ʃ i	munch/chew off
147.	gəm:ətəm	gəm:ət ^ʃ im	jigəmt ^ʃ it	jəgəmt ^ʃ i	one guessed/estimated
148.	gər:am	g ^w ər:əm	jig ^w əret	jeg ^w ure	one satisfied
149.	gər:əfəm	gər:əf ^w im	jigər ^w it	jəgrif ^w i	lash, whip
150.	gər:əzəm	gər:əzim	jigərzit	jəgrizi	a. be old b. circumcision
151.	gilam:ət'əm	gilam:ət ^ʃ im	jiglamit ^ʃ :it	jəglamt ^ʃ i	one look askance
152.	giləb:ət'əm	giləb:ət ^ʃ im	jigləbit ^ʃ :it	jəgəlb ^ʃ i	one turn it upside down
153.	girəd:əfəm	girəd:əf ^w im	jigrədif ^w it	jəgərdif ^w i	grind thickly(roughly)
154.	gisəg:səm	giḡəg:əfim	jigḡəgiḡit	jəgəḡiḡifi	travel fast
155.	g ^l əḡ ^l :ətəm	g ^l əḡ ^l :ət ^ʃ im	jig ^l əḡ ^l :it ^ʃ it	jəḡ ^l əḡ ^l :it ^ʃ i	one walk with him
156.	g ^l ət:əməm	g ^l ət:əm ^w im	jig ^l ətm ^w it	jəḡ ^l ətm ^w i	eat (k'ot ^ʃ o, bread,..) without stew
157.	g ^w əd:am	g ^w əd ^z :əm	jig ^w ədzet	jəg ^w ədze	harm, over charge
158.	g ^w ət:ətəm	g ^w ət ^ʃ :ət ^ʃ im	jigwət ^ʃ it ^ʃ it	jəgwət ^ʃ it ^ʃ i	pulled
159.	g ^w ər:əsəm	g ^w ər:əfim	jig ^w ərḡit	jəg ^w urifi	one eat
160.	hæəm	hojim	jiçujit	jəxoj	one knew
161.	həb:əβəm	həb:əwim	jihəbwit	jəhβiwi	surrounded (a. a place b. someone)
162.	hən:am	hən:əm	jihəjit	jəhije	prohibited/prevented
163.	hənəm	x ^w ənim	jih ^w ənit	jəh ^w ini	
164.	k'aməm	k'am ^w im	jiʔem ^w it	jəʔam ^w i	one chew (eg chat, sugar)
165.	k'əb:ərəm	kəb ^w :ərim	jiʔewrit	jəʔiwiri	a. buried b. planted
166.	k'əb:ət'əm	k'əbət ^ʃ im	jiʔəbt ^ʃ :it	jəʔiβət ^ʃ i	one don't found
167.	k'əd:əsəm	k'əd:əfim	jiʔedit ^ʃ it	jəʔədiḡi	a. one suckered b. gave a sermon in church
168.	k'əf:əfəm	k'əf ^w :əf ^w im	jiʔəf ^w it	jəʔifiḡi	cut the edges
169.	k'ələləm	k'əl:əlim	jiʔ ^w əl:it	jəʔ ^w ulili	'one become disrespected'

170. k'am:əsəm k'am:əfīm jɪʔəmʃit jəʔimʃi one tasted
171. k'ər:əfəm k'ər:əf^wim jɪʔər^wit jəʔɪr^wi cut down
172. k'ər:əm k'ər:im jɪʔərit jəʔ^wuri one didn't come
173. k'ər:əsəm k'ər:əfīm jɪʔərʃit jəʔɪrʃi one started
174. k'ər:əβəm k'ər:əwim jɪʔərwit jəʔɪrwi one can be near/ presented
175. k'əw:əsəm k'əw:əfīm jɪʔəwɪʃit jəʔəwɪʃi one become mad
176. k'ɪjak':æm k'ɪjak':ojim jɪʔjak'oʃit jəʔɪjaʔoj it is mixed up
177. k'ɪlam:ədəm k'ɪlam:ədʒim jɪʔɪlamɪdʒit jəʔɪlamdʒi one is incoherent/ one is lying
178. k'imamərəm k'imam^wərim jɪʔimam^wirit jəʔimam^wiri one cheat him/ one give him very little'
179. k'imək':əməm k'imək':əm^wim jɪʔimək'im^wit jəʔəm^wik'im^wi one cut the edges of an object
180. k'imətʃ'əm k'imətʃ':im jɪmətʃ':it jəʔəmitʃ'i one feels ashamed
181. k'inət':əsəm k'inət':əfīm jɪʔnət'ɪʃit jəʔənt'ɪʃi one cut with one side(eg of cabbage)
182. k'irək':ərəm k'irək':əwim jɪk'irək'^wirit jəʔər^wurɪ one marks not to take away/not to go
183. k'irək':əβəm k'irək':əwim jɪʔirək'iwit jəʔər^wurɪ one pressed highly
184. k'it'ək':ət'əm k'itʃ'ək'etʃ'im jɪʔit'ək'itʃ'it jəʔətʃ'ik'itʃ'i a. walloped/hit strongly b. one hammered/pound it
185. k'ɪbat':ərəm k'ɪbat':ərim jɪʔɪbat'irit jəʔɪbat'iri one talk nonsense
186. k'jəməm k'jəm^wim jɪʔjəm^wit jəʔjəm^wi one beat him
187. k'jət'əm k'jətʃ'im jɪʔjətʃ'it jəʔjətʃ'i one become tired
188. k'jɪfək'jəfem k'jɪfək'jəf^wim jɪk'jɪfək'jəf^wit jək'jɪfək'jəf^wi sprinkled
189. k'jɪrəm k'jɪrojim jɪʔjɪroʃit jəʔəroj one waited him
190. k'ufək^w:əfəm k'ufək^w:əf^wim jɪʔɪfək'uf^wit jəʔ^wəfk'uf^wi one knocked
191. k'unət':ərəm k'unət':ərim jɪʔwunət'irit jəʔwənt'iri take a small amount
192. k'urək'^w:ərəm k'urək'^w:ərim jɪʔ^wrək'urit jəʔ^weriʔ^wuri one established an area
193. k'urək'^w:ezem k'urək'^w:əʒim jɪʔ^wurək':uzit jəʔ^werʔuzi one remain ungrowth
194. k'^wəŋ:əm k'^wəŋ:im jɪʔojit jəʔoj one roasted (coffee, barley, etc)'
195. kasəm kaʃim jɪkəʃit jəkəʃi one paid (the money) to him
196. kəb:ərəm kəb^w:ərim jɪkəwrit jəkɪwuri one become rich/respected
197. kəd:ənəm kəd:ənim jɪxədɪnit jəxdini one thatched a house or close dish
198. kəf:ənəm kəf^w:ənim jɪkəf^wunit jəkəf^wuni covered (a corpse)
199. kəf:ətəm kəf:ətʃim jɪkəf:itʃit jəkəf:itʃi opened

200.	kəs:æm	kəs:ojim	jikəsujit	jəksuji	one become tiered of something
201.	kəs:ələm	kəs:əlim	jikəsli	jəksli	turn in to charcoal
202.	kəs:ərəm	kəs:ərim	jikəsrit	jəksiri	go bankrupt
203.	kət:əfəm	kət:əfwim	jikətfwit	jəktfwi	chop/mince meat/cabbage
204.	kisək:əsəm	kifək:əfim	jikfəkfit	jəkəfkiḥi	one cracked/smashed (stone, bone)'
205.	kitək:ətəm	kitək:ətjim	jiktəkɪtfit	jəkətɪtḥi	one made crush sth
206.	kiβəs:əsəm	kiβf:əfim	jikβəḥifit	jəkəbḥiḥi	one untangled a fiber
207.	k ^w ər:am	k ^w ər:em	jik ^w eret	jək ^w ure	one become proud (vanity)
208.	laxəm	lax ^w im	jiləx ^w it	jəla ^w i	one send him
209.	laʔəm	laʔwim	jiləʔwit	jəlaʔwi	one became grew
210.	ləb:əsəm	ləb:əfim	jiləβfit	jəlβḥiḥi	dressed
211.	ləg:ədəm	ləg:ədzim	jiləgdzit	jəligdzi	touch
212.	ləg ^j :əməm	ləg ^j :əm ^w im	jiləg ^j :əm ^w it	jələg ^j :əm ^w i	'one mount the horse or mule'
213.	lək':əməm	lək':əm ^w im	jiləʔim ^w it	jəlk'im ^w i	a.pick up unwanted things (from maize, etc) b. one gathered/collected (eg wood) c. eat (birds)
214.	ligag:ədəm	ligag:ədzim	jilgagidzit	jəlgagdzi	one makes him to become angry/enraged
215.	ligəl:əgəm	ligəl:əg ^w im	jilgəl:ig ^w it	jələg ^w liḥi	one pine for food
216.	malem	m ^w alim	jim ^w əlit	jəm ^w ali	swear
217.	mar:əxəm	marəx ^w im	jimarix ^w it	jəmarx ^w i	one is conquered
218.	məgg ^j æm	məgg ^j ojim	jiməgg ^j ujit	jəməgg ^j uj	one fires
219.	mək:ərəm	mək ^w :ərim	jimək ^w :urit	jəmək:uri	one advised him
220.	məl:ət'əm	məl:ətḥim	jiməltḥit	jəmlitḥi	one peel it/him
221.	mən:am	mən:em	jim ^w ajit	jəm ^w iwe	one fill it
222.	mər:ərəm	m ^(w) ər:ərim	jimər:it	jəmrəri	a. one become in low spirit b. bitter
223.	mər:əʔəm	mər:əʔ ^w im	jimər:it ^w it	jəmər ^w i	blessed him
224.	məs:ətəm	məs:ətjim	jiməstḥit	jəmsitḥi	behave badly
225.	məssæm	məssojim	jiməsujit	jəmsoj	one resembled
226.	mət':ət'əm	mətf'ətḥim	jimətf'it	jəmtḥitḥi	one suck it
227.	mət:ərəm	mət':ərim	jimət'irit	jəmət'iri	selected/choosed

228.	məz:əzəm	məzəzim	jiməzit	jəmziɜi	one draw the sword from the sheath/ uproot a plant
229.	mirəm:ərəm	mirəmwerim	jimirəmwirit	jəmərɪmwuri	one examined him
230.	misək:ərəm	misəkwerim	jimsekwurit	jəmeskuri	one testified
231.	mit'əm:ət'əm	mitʃ'əm:ətʃ'im	jimt'əm:itʃ'it	jəmət'imtʃ'i	one soaked by rain
232.	mizəm:əzəm	mizəm:əzim	jimzəm:izit	jəməzimzi	
233.	m ^w ək:ərəm	m ^w ək ^w :ərim	jim ^w əkuri	jəm ^w əkuri	one tries
234.	m ^w ət:ətəm	m ^w ət:ətʃim	jim ^w ətʃitʃit	jəm ^w ətʃitʃi	one deceived him
235.	m ^w ət'əsəm	m ^w ət'əʃim	jim ^w ət'ijit	jəm ^w ət'ijɪ	
236.	nəb:ərəm	nəb ^w :ərim	jinəwirit	jənb ^w :əri	one lived/exist
237.	nəd:ədəm	nədɜ:ədzim	jinədzit	jendzidzi	thirsty(we need cold water) /become burnt
238.	nəd:əfəm	nəd:əf ^w im	jinədf ^w it	jendif ^w i	sting
239.	nəf:am	nəf ^w em	jinəf ^w et	jənf ^w e	blew up
240.	nəf:əgəm	nəf:əg ^w im	jinəfg ^w it	jəɪfg ^w i	refused to give (stingy/greedy person)
241.	nəg:əsəm	nəg:əʃim	jinəgʃit	jəɪgʃi	one become reign
242.	nək':æem	nək':oʒim	jinəʔujit	jəɪk'uj	one pull up/ dig up
243.	nək:əsəm	nəkəʃim	jinəkijit	jəɪkijɪ	one bites him
244.	nəs:am	nəʃ:em	jinəʃet	jəɪʃe	one lifted up
245.	nət':ərəm	nət':ərim	jinət'irit	jənt'iri	melt/ bounce
246.	nət':əʔəm	nət':əʔ ^w im	jinət'itʔwit	jənt'itʔwi	one snatched him
247.	nətʃ':əm	nətʃ'im	jinətʃit	jəɪtʃ'i	one plucked out his/its hair
248.	niʔən:əʔəm	niʔən:əʔ ^w im	jinəʔən:itʔwit	jənəʔniʔwi	one shackled (it)
249.	rəg:əfəm	rəgəf ^w im	jirəgf ^w it	jərgif ^w i	fall down (leaves)
250.	samem	sam ^w im	jisəm ^w it	jəsam ^w i	one kissed
251.	ʃadəm	ʃadzim	jifədɜit	jəʃadzi	one divided it
252.	ʃaβəm	ʃawim	jifəwit	jəʃawi	one pull it
253.	səb:ərəm	seb ^w :rim	jisəwrit	jəsɪwri	one broke
254.	səd:ədəm	sədɜ:ədzim	jisədɜit	jəsdzidzi	one chased away him
255.	səd:əβəm	səd:əwim	jisədɪwit	jəsdɪwi	someone insulted him
256.	səf:ərəm	səfw:ərim	jisəfwirit	jəsɪfwiri	one measured it
257.	ʃəg:ərəm	ʃəg ^w :ərim	jifəg ^w :irit	jəʃəg ^w :iri	one changed

258.	səg:ədəm	səgedzim	jisəgdzit	jəsgdzi	one worshiped, prostrate oneself
259.	ʃək:ətəm	ʃək:ətʃim	jifəkɪtʃit	jəʃəktʃi	one adjust it
260.	sək ^j :əm	sək ^w :im	jisəx ^{wi} t	jəsx ^{wi}	one flee, run away (from the searches him/her)
261.	sək'æm	sək'ojim	jisəʔujit	jəsiʔuj	one raised up
262.	səl:am	səl:em	jisəlet	jəsle	one arrived/reached
263.	ʃəm	ʃojim	jifojit	jəsoj	one searched/wanted
264.	səm:am	sem ^w :em	jisəm ^w et	jəsm ^w e	one heard
265.	sər:əʔəm	sər:əʔ ^{wi} im	jisər:əʔ ^{wi} t	jəsriʔwi	one stole his property
266.	sihəs:əhəm	six ^w əs:əx ^{wi} im	jisix ^w əs:ix ^{wi} t	jəsəx ^{wi} s:ix ^{wi}	'one removed the hulls'
267.	silət:ətəm	silətʃ:ətʃim	jislətʃitʃit	jəsəltʃitʃi	one become tired of something
268.	silət:ətəm	silətʃətʃim	jisletʃitʃit	jəsəltʃitʃi	one become tiresome
269.	simatəm	simaʃim	jismətʃit	jəsmatʃi	one passed urine
270.	sinəb:ətəm	sinəb:ətʃim	jisnəbitʃit	jəsəmbitʃi	one spent the week
271.	sinət':ələm	sinət':əlim	jisnət':ilit	jəsənt'li	one become instructed/trained
272.	sirəm	sirojim	jisrojit	jəsəroj	one bought it
273.	sixəsəxəm	sixəsəxwim	jisxəsixwit	jəsəxisxwi	one squeeze/husk by pounding/ remove covers (of roasted barely)
274.	siβəs:əβəm	siwəs:əwim	jiswəsiwit	jəsəwusiwi	one collect it
275.	t'ən;am	t'ən:em	jit'əjit	jət'oj	one hate him
276.	t'əməm	t'əm ^w im	jit'om ^{wi} t	jət'om ^{wi} :i	one got feast
277.	t'əb ^w :əm	t'əb ^w :im	jit'əwit	jət'iwi	one suck a breast
278.	t'əf:am	t'əf ^w :em	jit'əf ^w et	jət'f ^w e	someone(we/you) ruined
279.	t'ək':ənəm	t'ək' ^w :ənim	jit'əʔ ^{wi} unit	jət'iʔuni	one hide
280.	t'əm:ədəm	t'əm:ədzim	jit'əmdzit	jət'imdzi	one yoke
281.	t'əm:əməm	t'əməm ^{wi} im	jit'əm ^{wi} t	jət'imim ^{wi}	one refused to help/response
282.	t'əram	t'ərem	jit'əret	jət'ire	one called him
283.	t'ifət'əβəm	t'ifət'əwim	jit'iwət'iwit	jət'əwut'iwi	
284.	t'ifət':əfəm	t'ifət':əf ^{wi} im	jit'ifət':if ^{wi} t	jət'əft'if ^{wi}	flatten (k'otʃ'o)slapping instrument
285.	t'inək:ərəm	t'inək ^w ərim	jit'inek ^{wi} rit	jət'enkwiri	one become strong
286.	t'inəs:əsəm	t'inəʃ:əʃim	jit'inəʃiʃit	jət'ənʃiʃi	one started brewing process
287.	tad:əgəm	tad:əg ^{wi} im	jitadəg ^{wi} t	jətadg ^{wi}	one got a loan

288.	tən:am	tən:em/tʃənem	jitən:et	jətone	one sat down
289.	təçəçæm	təçəçojim	jitçəçojit	jətçəçoj	know each other
290.	təf:am	təf ^w em	jitef ^w et	jətf ^w e	one spit out
291.	təgəd:æm	təgəd:ojim	jitgəd:ojit	jətgədoj	one lay down to sleep
292.	təg ^j ən:am	təg ^j ən:em	jitg ^j ən:et	jətg ^j əne	one crossed
293.	təglab:ət'əm	təglab:ətʃ'im	jitglab:itʃ'it	jətglaβitʃ'i	one rolled here and there
294.	təg ^w ətətəm	təg ^w ətʃətʃim	jitg ^w ətʃətʃit	jətg ^w ətʃətʃi	one become slack (work)
295.	təkəb:ərəm	təkəb ^w :ərim	jitkəb ^w :ərit	jətkəb ^w əri	one respected/honored
296.	tək:əsəm	tək:əʃim	jitəkʃit	jətkʃi	one burned it
297.	təkrak:ərəm	təkurak ^w :ərim	kurjitkurakwərit	jətkurakuri	one debated each other'
298.	tək ^w :əsəm	tək ^w :əʃim	jitək ^w uʃit	jətkək ^w uʃi	one fire the gun
299.	təmarəm	təm ^w arim	jitm ^w ərit	jətm ^w ari	one became learnt
300.	təm ^w aʃəm	təm ^w aʃim	jitm ^w aʃit	jətm ^w aʃi	one anointed oneself
301.	tənad:ədəm	tənadzədʒim	jitnadzədʒit	jətnadzədʒi	one become angry
302.	tənək:əsəm	tənək:əʃim	jitnakəʃit	jətnakəʃi	one become in conflict
303.	tənatʃ ^j :imum	tənatʃ ^j :im	jitnatʃ ^j it	jətnatʃ ^j i	two individuals plucked out(their hair reciprocally)
304.	tənəs:am	tənəʃ:em	jitnəʃet	jətenʃe	one stood up
305.	tər:əfəm	tər:əf ^w im	jitər ^w it	jətrəf ^w i	a. be saved b. be left or we got (unexpectedly) saved c. survived
306.	təsæm	təsojim	jis:ojit	jəs:oj	one asked
307.	təsəsemum	təsəsojim	jisəsojit	jəsəeoj	one visited each other
308.	təzɪnanam	təzɪnanem	jizɪnanet	jəzɪnane	one relaxes
309.	təʃkak:ətəm	təʃkak:ətʃim	jitʃkak:ətʃit	jəʃikakitʃi	prepared oneself
310.	tətʃ ^j ətəm	tətʃ ^j ətʃim	jitʃ ^j ətʃit	jəʃʃətʃi	a. played b. discussed each other
311.	təʔawəm	təʔawim	jitʔəwit	jəʔawɪ	one drink a coffee
312.	təʔəbərəm	teʔəb ^w ərim	jitʔəb ^w ərit	jəʔəwəri	one become buried (funeral)
313.	təʔərəfəm	təʔərəf ^w im	jitk ^j ərəf ^w it	jəʔərəf ^w i	cut down from the branch
314.	təʔəməm	təʔəm ^w im	jitk ^j əm ^w it	jətk ^j əm ^w i	one tired of something
315.	təβlafəm	təβlafim	jitβlafit	jəʔβlafɪ	one(3pl) became with bad character
316.	təβratʃ ^j əm	təβrats'im	jitbratʃ ^j it	jəʔbratʃ ^j i	one (the people=3pl) become dispersed

317. tɪrət':ərəm t'irət':ərim jɪt'irət'irit jət'ərt'iri one suspected him
318. tɪβətəβəm tɪβ(w)ətəwim jɪtiwətiwit jətəwtiwi a. tie up b. ነገር ጠመጠመ
319. tʃ'arəm tʃ'arim jɪtʃ'ərit jətʃ'ari one took fire
320. tʃ'əb:ət'əm tʃ'əb:ətʃ'im jɪtʃ'əbitʃ'it jətʃ'əbitʃ'i gave hand for greeting
321. tʃ'ək'w:əsəm tʃ'ək'w:əfim jɪtʃ'ək'wʊfɪt jətʃ'(t')ək'wʊfi a. prayed b. beg / ask for
322. tʃ'əl:əfəm tʃ'əl:əfwim jɪtʃ'əlɪfwit jətʃ'əl:ɪfwi a. one take out with ladle b. (aŋget tʃ'ələf'wim)cut
323. tʃ'ətʃ':əm tʃ'ətʃ':im jɪtʃ'ətʃ':it jətʃ'ətʃ':i one make the bed
324. tʃ'əɲ:əm tʃ'əɲ:im jɪtʃ'əɲ:it jət'əɲ:i one have birth
325. tʃ'ərəm tʃ'ərim jɪtʃ'ərit jətʃ'ori one caries
326. tʃ'otəm tʃ'otʃ'im jɪtʃ'otʃ'it jətʃ'otʃ'i one worked
327. tʃ'ək:əmem tʃ'ək:əmwim jɪtʃ'əkɪmwit jətʃ'əkɪmwi one swallowed quickly
328. tʃ'əm tʃ'ojim jɪtʃ'ojit jətʃ'oj one left it
329. wakʃ':əm wakʃ':im jɪwakʃ'it jəwakʃ'i one swims
330. wəd:ədəm wədʒ:ədʒim jɪwədʒit jodʒɪdʒi one loves/likes
331. wəf:ərəm wəf'w:ərim jɪwəf'wirit jəwəf'wiri one become fat
332. wəg'am wəg'w:em jɪwəg'wet jəg'we one pierced
333. wək':əsəm wək':əfim jɪwək'ɪfɪt jəwk'ɪfi one blame
334. wek'am wək'w'em jɪwək'wet jək'we one hit strongly/threshed
335. wər:ədəm wər:ədʒim jɪwərədʒit jərədʒi one go down ward
336. wər:əsəm wər:əfim jɪwərʃit jəwrɪfi one inherited
337. wət':am wətʃ'em jɪwətʃ'et jətʃ'e one go out
338. wət':ərəm wət':ərim jɪwət'irit jəwət'iri one stretched it
339. wət':əʔəm wət':əʔ'wim jɪwət'ɪʔ'wit jət'əʔ'wi a. felt down b. ate much (negative outlook)
340. wæəm wojim jɪwojit jəwoj a. one spend the day b. ከብት አገደ
341. xəb:əβəm xəb:əwim jɪxəb'w:it jəxβiwi one surrounded the place/ one is surrounded
342. xəd:am xədʒ:em jɪxədʒit jəxɪdʒe one denied him
343. xər:əməm xər:əm'wim jɪxərɪm'wit jəxɪrɪm'wi spent the year
344. xumət':ət'əm xumətʃ'ətʃ'im jɪxumətʃ'ɪfɪt jəxwəmtʃ'ɪf'i bitter/sour (non human)
345. zæg'em zæg'wim jɪzæg'wit jəzæg'wi one become poor
346. zəg'am zəg'w:em jɪzəg'wet jəzg'we one closed it

347. zəg:ədəm zəg:ədzim jizəgdzit jəzgdzi one remembered him
348. zəl:æm zəl:ojim jizəlujit jəziloj one jumped
349. zəm:ədəm zəm:ədzim jizəmdzit jəzmidzi one pull it
350. zəm:ətəm zəm:ətʃim jizəmtʃit jəzimtʃi campaign
351. zən:əfəm zən:əf^wim jizənf^wit jəznf^wi one hit him
352. zimam:ədəm zimam:ədzim jizmamdzit jəzmadmzi one mix the cheese with cabbage
353. ziməz:əməm ziməzəm^wim jiziməzim^wit jəzəməzim^wi one sew edge of a cloth
354. zinəg^j:əm zinəg^w:im jiznəg^w:it jəzəŋg^w:i one talks
355. zirag:am zirag^w:əm jizrag^wet jəzrag^we one make spread out
356. zirəz:ərəm zirəz:ərim jizirəzirit jəzərziri one changed money in to their small changes
357. zar:əgəm zar:əg^wim jizarg^wit jəzarg^wi one go
358. zəb:ərəm zəb^w:ərim jizəb^wurit jəzəb^wuri one returned back
359. zərəm zərim jizorit jəzori one turned back/ around or spent time without any purpose

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Appendix

CHAPTER ONE

1. Background of the study

1.1 The people

M^wəhir is one of the communities found in the multi-ethnic country, Ethiopia, which is located in the Gurage clusters. The name *m^wəhir* (as the native speakers called it) indicates both the name of the people and the place where they live. The community (Muher: as used in this thesis) lives in the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS) in the north-western part of the Gurage Zone. The zone in turn is located in the south east direction of Addis Ababa.

The Muher people lives in one of the 15 weredas of the Gurage zone called Muher Aklil wereda. Of the 1,442,716 total populations of the Gurage people 97,718 are Muher (Central Statistical Agency 2011:38). From the total number of Muher Aklil people 45,689 (46.76%) are males and 52,029 (53.24%) are females. The administrative town of the wereda, which is called Hawariyat, is located on about the distance of 52 km from Wolkite (Gurage zone administrative town) and 207 km from Addis Ababa.

There is only a few written documents about the origin of Muher people. Thus, some information shows the name Muher is known during the regime of Emperor Amde Tsiyon.

Some historical documents tell us that the name “Muher” is taken from the son of Azmach Sibhat, who came for the purpose of strengthening the governance of Gurage and to expand Christianity, and settled in Aymeel when Amde Tsiyon was, Emperor of the country (Dinberu Alemu et al.1988E.C:90).

Therefore, the name Muher comes from the name of the son of Azmach¹ Sibhat called “Mokir”. Beside this, the original place of the people

¹ Commander (a military title)

is assumed to be Eritrea. Seifu (1966 E.C:19) suggests “.....Muher people are originally came from the placed called Amhor which is found in Eritrea.”

In Gurage there is a cluster called *sebat bet Gurage* ‘seven houses of Gurage’. Muher is one of the members of this cluster. The cluster includes: *Cheha-Gumer, Muher Akilil, Mek^werk^wer, Yinor-Enner, Geto, Endegagn, and Ezha*. (Worku 1983 E.C:109; Gebreyesus 1991:1). According to Worku, *Sebat bet* is the name of a tribal confederation of the seven tribes of Gurage long before Menilik II’s incorporation of the entirely Gurage in the empire (Worku 1996:134).

The geographical area of Muher people borders with Kokir Gedebano and K’ebena weredas in the north; Mesk’an wereda in the east; Ezha wereda in the south and K’ebena and Ezha weredas in the west. As a result, many of the Muher speakers at the border of the areas are bilingual in one of these languages. According to Dinberu et al. (1988 E.C.: 92), there are 38 or more clans within Muher. The member of a clan belonging to the same generation considered themselves as brothers and sisters. Therefore, there is no marital relationship between the same clans.

In respect to religion, the majority of the Muher people are followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox religion; a few are Muslim and other religion followers. Whether the number of the followers is varying in a large amount, it creates no problem. All religious followers live together peacefully and respectfully without any religious conflict. In some areas of the wereda church and mosque are built alongside. We can take the way Orthodox Christians and Muslims respect each other, as an example. Any Christian or Muslim cannot care whether a church or mosque can be built beside or far of each other.

The rural people are mostly farmers and much of the economy is based on agriculture. They mainly produce *insat* “false banana”, potato, cabbage, barely, maize, pea and other cereals, and breed domestic animals. *Chat* is an additional product in the lowland area of the wereda. Most young people of the Muher community are scattered all over the country and are engaged in trade activities (Awlachew 2010:6). Muher has a cultural conflict resolution system called *jəḍgoka k’ič’a* ‘elders punishment’ as the other Sebat bet Gurages have (Worku 1983 E.C:26).

1.2 The language

Different scholars of the Semitic languages argue on the classification of the Gurage languages. The controversy is both on the exact group classification of the languages and whether they are languages or dialects. Some scholars argue that there are no different languages in the Gurage cluster but there are different dialects the language. Others say Gurage has different languages as well as dialects. Ullendorff (1955:26) suggests that Gurage is referred to as a dialect cluster. Leslau also, divides the twelve dialects in to three groups: Northern, Western and Eastern Gurage (Leslau 1969:96). On the other hand, Bender (1976:28) argue that Central and Peripheral Western Gurage are two dialect clusters representing two languages, because the dialects within the Central Western Gurage are mutually intelligible as well as the dialects within Peripheral West Gurage. But he argues that there are different languages in Gurage clusters. The other argument is on the issue of grouping the languages, especially regarding to Muher and Goggot scholars do not have common agreement. Leslau puts Muher and Goggot as a sub-branch of Western Gurage (Leslau 1969:96). On the other hand, Hetzron (1969) suggests Soddo, Goggot and Muher are representatives of Northern Gurage. Leslau (1968) and Rose (1996) classify Muher as a western Gurage variety; however, according to Hetzron (1972, 1977) Kistane, Dobbi and Muher constitute one typological sub-unit called Northern Gurage. Muher is also grouped under Northern and Western Gurage Groups assuming Muher shares different properties of both groups. Thus, the *adi bæet* dialectal variety of Muher is close to North Gurage, on the other hand, the *anə bæet* variety is close to Western Gurage group. Generally speaking, Muher is close to Western Gurage groups more than North Gurage languages, as Hetzron (1972), based on linguistic properties.

Even though these are the controversies of scholars in classification of Gurage languages let us leave it for further investigation. For now, the classification of Muher within Ethiosemitic languages taken from Hetzron (1972: 119) on the basis of shared morphological innovations is given on the next page.

The three groups of Gurage languages (Northern Gurage, Western Gurage, and Eastern Gurage (Hetzron 1977 page; Bender 1976 page) are the common classification of Gurage languages in which most of the scholars agreed on.

No orthography is available to the Muher-speaking community. The official language of the community is Amharic. The medium of instruction in elementary schools and working language in government organizations is also, Amharic language. Therefore, the children learn Amharic as a subject as well. As a result most children and other community members are bilingual of Amharic and Muher.

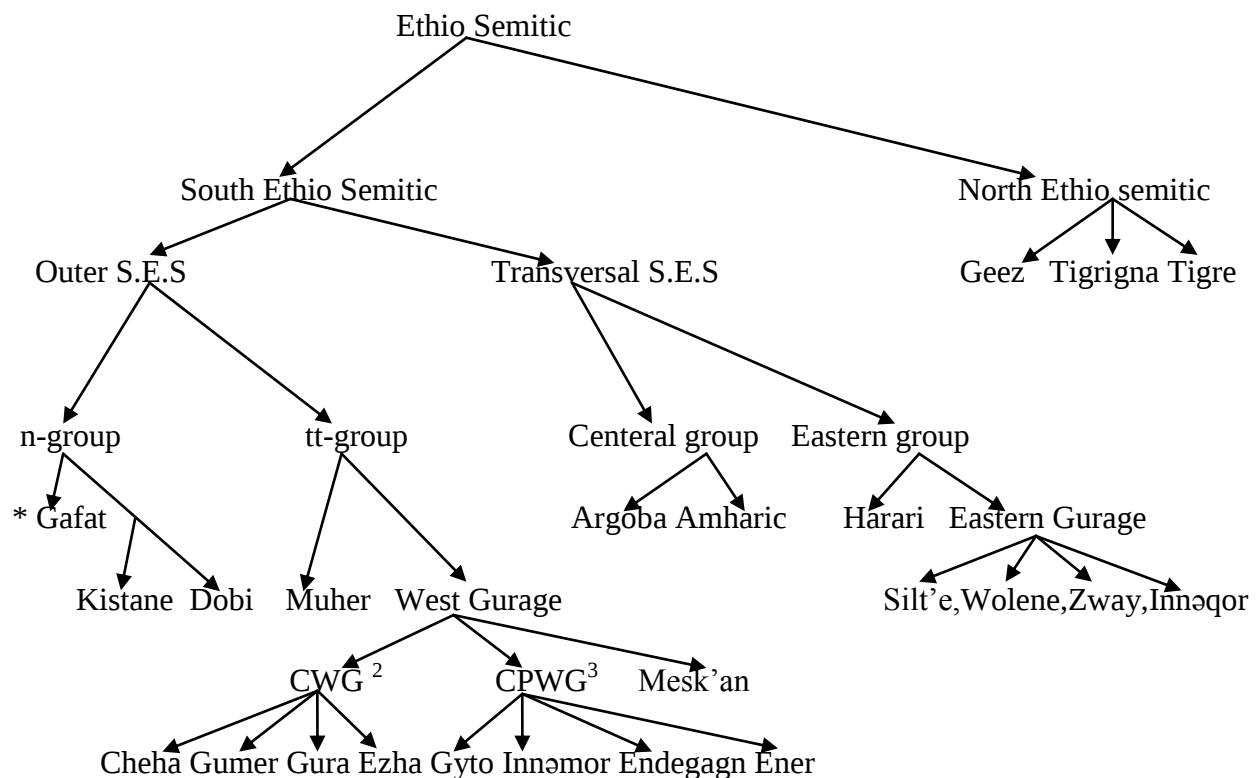


Figure 1: Classification of Ethio-semitic languages (adopted from Hetzron 1972: 119)

Muher verbs are inflected to express person, gender, number, aspect/tense and negation. Muher verbs can also indicate cross-reference to objects by a set of suffixes following the subject pronominal affixes. (Awlachew 2010:22 citing Rose 2004)

² Central W Gurage ³ Central Peripheral West Gurage

The passive construction in Muher is applied on transitive verbs using the morpheme *tə-*. For example: *səb:əram* ‘break’= *tə-səb:əram* ‘be broken’. Beside this the language also has the verb form called impersonal passive, for example *səb:əram* ‘break’= *səb^w:ərim* ‘one broke’.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Muher is one of the languages studied insufficiently in Ethio-semitic language groups (Ethiopian language research center 2005:28) proves that Muher is one of the least studied languages from Ethiopian languages. Especially there is no described and analyzed work found on Muher language regarding passive construction. Therefore, the present study focuses on the forms and functions of impersonal passives in Muher.

1.4 Objectives of the study

This study aimed at the investigation of the impersonal passive construction in Muher. The study focused on the following specific objectives;

1. Investigate kinds of morphological operations used in the language to mark impersonal passive constructions.
2. Analyze properties of syntactic and semantic structure of impersonal passive in the language.
3. Investigate functions of Muher impersonal passive constructions.

1.5 Scope of the study

The thesis is concerned with the study of impersonal passive construction in Muher language. Therefore, the study focuses, mainly, on the forms and functions of impersonal passive constructions, particularly to the *anə bæet* variety of the language.

1.6 Significance of the study

There is a lack of cross-linguistic studies on impersonal passive constructions and it is also a least studied aspect of linguistics (Malchukov & Siewierska 2011:1). This also works on the Ethiopian languages, particularly Ethio semitic language of Gurage groups. More specifically, there is no considerable study of impersonals in Muher. Therefore;

- The study contributes to the detailed morphophonological and pragmatic description of the impersonal in Muher.
- This study will lay a ground for further researches on Muher.
- The study also uses as initial work for the future studies on impersonals.
- It also provides a significant input for the study of linguistic typology of impersonals of Gurage languages.

1.7. Methodology of the study

The research is done using introspection and simple interview. Since I am a native speaker, the knowledge of the language helped me to get data as well as to cross-check the reliability of other data.

Consultants in this work were Hana Befkadu (age 38), Siyoum Kediru (age 25) and my father Mr. Kediru Chiksa (age 61). I used many words (verbs) from my father's speech when I went to Hawaryat on February, 2013 and my father's stay in Addis Ababa on April, 2013. The data collected from the individuals was not via questionnaires or formal interviews but I used simple interviews, and listening when they make a speech. The entire consultant's speech was recorded with tape recorder and list out the impersonal passive forms of verbs found in their speech. The lists are arranged alphabetically and then classified in to their number of verb stem radicals for an appropriate use of analysis.

Since the data type is qualitative, the data obtained from data collection method were elicited and transcribed phonetically and translated. The translation from the target language to English is done using free translation method.

CHAPTER TWO

Review of Related Literature and Theoretical Framework

2.1 Review of Related Literature

In this chapter the literature written on the Muher language and the literature on impersonal passive construction will be reviewed.

There are some comprehensive (inclusive studies on Muher language only) and a few comparative (with other Gurage language) studies found on Muher language.

Leslau (1981) and Awlacheu (2010) did more comprehensive study on Muher language compared to other scholars. Both deal with description of Muher grammar focuses on phonology, verb morphology, and syntax. In addition to grammatical sketches of the language both of them provide some oral text collections with translation and annotations.

Leslau (1981: 6-7) identified 37 consonant sounds and 34 consonant phonemes and nine vowel phonemes for Muher. Muher consonant and vowel sounds are shown in table 1 and table below. The consonant phonemes include labialized velar (k^w , k'^w , g^w ,) and glottal (x^w) sounds and palatalized and glottal (k^j , k'^j , g^j and x^j) consonants. These palatalized velars and labialized phonemes as Leslau (1981) stated, are the feature of Western Gurage languages and are not found in many languages. He also proposed that Muher has three forms of Jussive structure, these are $jək'təl$ 'let he kill', $jək'til$ 'let he kill', and $jək'itl$ 'let he kill' form of Geez jussive forms. He stated that these jussive structures are formed from intransitive and transitive verbs. In this regard $jək'təl$ formed from intransitive verb, $jək'til$, and $jək'itl$ are formed using transitive verbs. But in Muher case the number of verb roots matters the structure, not the change of the structure of the verb types bring the stated structures.

For example,

Word	Gloss	Jussive	Gloss	transitivity
<i>bəs:am</i>	'he came'	<i>jəbsa</i>	'let him come'	intransitive

təgəd:æm ‘he slept’ *jətgədə* ‘let him sleep’ intransitive

təmarəm ‘he learnt’ *jətmər* ‘let him learn’ transitive

bən:am ‘he ate’ *jəbjə* ‘let him eat’ transitive

Manner of Articulation	Vocal cords condition	Place of Articulation					
		Labial	Alveolar	Post Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stops	Voiced	b	d		g ^j	g	
	Voiceless		t		k ^j	k	[ʔ]
	Ejectives		tʼ		kʰ ^j	kʰ	[ʔʷ]
	Rounded	b ^w				g ^w k ^w kʰ ^w	
Fricatives	Voiced	[β]	z	ʒ			
	Voiceless	f	s	ʃ	x ^j /ç	x	
	Ejectives						
	Rounded	f ^w				x ^w	
Affricatives	Voiced			dʒ			
	Voiceless			tʃ			
	Ejective			tʃʼ			
Nasals	Voiced	m	n		ɲ		
	Rounded	m ^w					
Trill	Voiced		r				
Lateral	Voiced		l				
Semivowel	Voiced	w			j		

Table 1: Muher consonants

	Front vowels	Central vowels	Back vowels
High vowels	<i>i</i>	<i>ɨ</i>	<i>u</i>
Mid vowels	<i>e</i>	<i>ə</i>	<i>o</i>
Low vowels	<i>ɛ</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>ɔ</i>

Table 2: Muher vowels

Thus, as we observe in the above examples that the difference in the transitivity does not change the structure in the jussive form of the language. As a result, we can say the jussive forms of Muher are *jək'təl* and *jək'til*.

In his work, Leslau (1981) put Muher verbs under uniradical, biradical, triradical, quadriradical, and composite classes. And there are three types of verbs: type A, B, and C. This classification is done using the vowel after the first radical and in the gemination or non-gemination of the second radical in the various verb forms (perfective, imperfective and jussive). Leslau (1981: **page**), also describes another verb form called impersonal in Muher. Impersonal verb form is used in all verb forms (perfective, imperfective, jussive). For example, *səb^w:ərim* ‘one broke’ (perfect); *jisəwrit* ‘one will breaks’ (imperfective); *jəswiri* ‘let one broke’ (jussive). Therefore, there are phonetic changes in the impersonal constructions. A final palatalized consonant in the regular verb form is palatalized in the impersonal verb form. A labializable consonant is labialized and the velars can be palatalized or labialized in the impersonal passive

For example,

Regular perfective	Impersonal perfective	Gloss
dəm:ədəm	dəm:ədʒim	‘one brought together’
ad:əgəm	adəg ^w im	‘one lost it’

Thus, the alveolar *d* in the regular form is changed in to palatalized *dʒ* in the impersonal form and the velar consonant *g* is changed in to labialized consonant *g^w*.

As Leslau (1981), Awlachev (2010) also identifies the same number of consonant and vowel sounds of Muher. But in Awlachev’s study labialized and palatalized consonants are considered phonemic. Because the sounds are occurred in word initial, medial and final positions and also constitute a minimal pairs. For instance, we can take the following as an example.

/k^w/ vs. /kʲ/ == *k^wər* “navel”
kʲər “peace”

Awlachev (2010) stated that gemination is phonemic in Muher whereby /*ɲɲ*/ is always geminated.

Awlachew (1978) argued that there are no words initially /i/ and /u/ contrary to Leslau (1981), who believed on that there is word initially in /u/, because the only word Leslau took as an example (*unətaɲ:a* ‘truthful’) is not Muher word but a loanword from Amharic. Thus, there is no /i/ and /u/ word initially.

Palatalization and Labialization are also stated as main phonological processes in Muher language (Awlachew 2010: 15-16).

Muher has no gender and number marker attached to nouns. As described (in Awlachew 2010; Leslau 1981) number is identified by morphemes attached to the verb in the sentence. The distinction in number is indicated by the number marker of the verb referring to the noun. In specific nouns, by repeating the last radical, plural forms are occurred.

- a. *ət:əm^w* ‘sister’ → *ət:əm^wam^wit* ‘sisters’;
- b. *g^wəb:e* ‘brother’ → *g^wəb:abit* ‘brothers’

This may are the only examples for reduplicating last radical for plural marker.

Gender is indicated grammatically by verb agreement or by the use of personal pronouns. Some nouns have suppletive forms for masculine and feminine entities. Here in Awlachew’s work I observed unsaid gender marker in Muher. He put *təbat* for the expression of ‘male goat’ and ‘male dog’ (Awlachew 2010: 19). But *təbat*, as my knowledge of the language is used only for ‘male sheep’. Instead we can use the general masculine marker in Muher- called *wur* for both nouns *fəɲɲə?* ‘goat’ and *gijə* ‘dog’. Thus, the nouns are constructed as *wur fəɲɲə?* ‘male goat’, *wur gijə* ‘male dog’.

In Muher definiteness is marked using /-we/ but there is no indefinite marker in the language (Awlachew 2010; Leslau 1981).

For example:

- a. *jidʒ:i-we tə-jima bəs:a-m*
boy:DEF LOC:jima come:3SGMasc:PV-DCM
‘The boy came from Jima.’

b. *jidʒ:i tə-jima bəs:a-m*

boy LOC:jima come:3SGMasc:PV-DCM

‘A boy came from Jima.’

Awlachew (2010) gave some explanations about the case system in Muher. As he said Nominative case is not marked morphologically, but accusative, datives and genitives are marked by the morpheme /*jə*-/ and locatives are marked by the morphemes /*bə*-/ and /*tə*-/. On the other hand Meyer (2005) explained that nominatives and accusatives are not differentiated through case markings, “subject NPs and accusative object NPs in Muher are not differentiated by case markers” (Meyer 2005: 10). It is because, *jə*- occurs optionally through different constructions. As a result, subject and direct object are identified using word order or using object agreement markers on the verb or by the context. Meyer stated that, about the function of *jə* - regarding case marking, it is functioning as pragmatic not morphosyntactic. Awlachew (2010) argued that morpheme *jə* - functions morphologically as accusative marker.

Regarding dative case the function of *jə* -, as Meyer (2005), is said to mark a noun phrase as beneficiary or directional.

Regarding syntax, Muher has *subject- direct/indirect complement- verb* word order. In this word order the qualifier precedes the qualified. Example: *gəllifwe miss t’e sirəm* (tall.DEF man sheep buy3sgS.Masc.PV) ‘the tall man bought a sheep’. Meyer (2005) describes the different functions of the morpheme *jə*- in Muher syntax. According to stated above, morpheme *jə*- can mark accusative, dative and genitive case, whereby accusative marking in Muher depends on pragmatics but not on syntax. In addition to this, he stated that the order SOV can be changed to OSV.

“The ordering of subject and (object), however, follows no strict syntactical pattern but depends on the definiteness of the involved phrases. The noun phrase in the topic position sentence initially is never less definite in discourse than the NP occurring the comment of the sentence. Due to this constraint the most frequent word order SOV can change to OSV in case where the object is more definite than the subject.” (Meyer 2005:16).

For example, (Meyer 2005:6)

jə-innam-we gətʃə agənnə-nn-m

ACC-cow-DEF hyena find3SGMascPV-3SGMascObj-DCM

‘A hyena found a cow’

Meyer (2007) identified common syntactic and semantic features of motion verbs in the *adi bet* variety of Muher which is spoken in T’at’essa. According to him two types of destination have to be distinguished in a motion event: stationery or moveable. Only the latter type is marked by the locative clitic *-ət*, but stationary destinations are unmarked. A motion verb with no lexicalized path or manner component in Muher is *zar:əgəm* ‘move (go, walk, pace, tread, etc) (Meyer 2007:129). Apart from *zar:əgəm* ‘move’, as Meyer (2007:142) puts, the self-agentive motion verbs in Muher belong to a continuum in which verbs which conflate motion and path form one end point and verbs which conflate motion and manner to the other one. In case the destination is not the endpoint of motion but only serves as orientation, it is marked by the directional clitic *-nnijə*, for example, *zak:in:ijə fək:am* (there:LOC go:3SGMasc:PV) ‘he went to there.’

There are also a few comparative studies on Muher with other Gurage languages. Tsehay Abza (2008) dealt with the comparative and historical aspects of three Gurage languages in her MA thesis. The data was taken from Kistane (North Gurage), Ezha and Muher (Western Gurage) and investigated that Muher and Ezha share many features with each other than they do with Kistane based on phonological and morphological properties of the languages. Thus, Tsehay (2008: 87) recommended that Muher is closer to members of the western Gurage groups than to that of the Northern Gurage groups to which Kistane belongs.

Sharon Rose (1994) examined how secondary articulation arose in Gurage languages and proposes the different stages corresponding to the types of consonantal targets. As a result she took data from Kistane, Ezha, Cheha, Dobbi, Muher, and other Gurage language groups for comparison and she came up with some of the following points, related to Muher language.

- a. Palatalization is the sole indicator of the 2SG.F subject in all western Gurage languages including Muher.
- b. Muher Impersonal has labialization, and yet velars are still not palatalized.

- c. In Western Gurage and Muher languages velars and coronal sonorants may also be palatalized.
- d. In the development of secondary articulation only coronal obstruents could undergo palatalization across West Gurage languages and Muher.

Hetzron (1968) studied about the main verb markers in three Gurage languages in which he grouped under the North Gurage languages (Kistane, Dobbi and Muher). In his investigation:-

- In the perfective and imperfective forms the main verb markers are nearly the same in the three languages. Perfectives have *səb:ər-* ‘broke’ and imperfectives have the form *jisəbr-* ‘breaks’ in all the three languages (Hetzron 1968: 163). Comparing data for the perfect of Soddo and Goggot and present of “there is” of Muher, and imperfect of all the three language for the main verb marker Hetzron (1968) said they are almost identical but the only difference is the *-tt* of Muher against the *-n* of Kistane and Dobbi (Hetzron 1968: 158-159).
- Impersonal forms have heavy suffixes and the same main verb markers in the languages. As Rose (1996:206) ‘Heavy suffixes occur with the 2fs, Impersonal and plural subjects, whereas light suffixes occur with the other non-2fs singular subjects.’ Thus, for example in Muher */-i-/* is heavy 3SGMasc object marker both in the perfective and imperfective templates of impersonal passive (*k’əb:ət/’-i-m* (left:PV:IPR-3SGMascO-DCM) ‘one did not found’ and *ji-ʔəβit/’-i-t* (3SGSIMV-left:IPR-3SGMascO-DCM) ‘one will not find’).
- In his study Hetzron (1968:171) put “the category of Main verb markers appears nearly in the same way in the three Gurage languages: Soddo, Goggot, and Muher”.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This section deals with the theoretical parts of the thesis, in which it holds the difference between personal and impersonal passive; the definition, properties and types of impersonal passive construction including impersonal passive in different languages.

2.2.1 Definition of impersonal passive

There are two approaches to the definition of impersonal passive construction. As scholars said, these are: function first and structure first approaches. A function-first approach grounds the

definition of an impersonal passive based on agent defocusing. On the other hand, a structure-first approach to impersonal passive constructions grounds on the construction having either no subject or a non-canonical subject. Thus, as to Payne (2011: 257) typologists argue on that is it right, assuming the definition is grounded first in semantics or function, then go to which construction have communicative or semantic meaning. Or is it correct, assuming that the proper definition is grounded first in a certain morphosyntactic element, and then determine what communicative or functions concepts that structure fulfills?

Malchukov and Ogawa (2011) states that there are functional and formal varieties of impersonal passive constructions. In their explanation the property of subject in the impersonal passive construction can be: no referential argument, indefinite subject, non-topical subject, inanimate subject and non-agentive subject.

Leaving whether functional first or structural first is the ground for the definition of impersonal passive construction let me give a common definition given by many scholars, in the following lines;

Impersonal passive refers to a construction in which the subject position in a sentence is empty or unspecified human subject. (Kulikov 2011:8; Siewerska 2008:116). It construed active indefinite interpretation “Impersonals also tend to retain an active interpretation, associated with an indefinite, canonically human, agent” (Blevins 2003:475). Simply the subject is expressed by undefined third person element. “By impersonal ...we mean simply that the third person element is not understood to refer to any specific group of individuals” (Keenan 2007:4). In general impersonal passive constructions do not recognize overt subject. The subject is not specified overtly.

2.2.2 Passives and Impersonals

In passive form the patient in the active sentence comes as a subject of the passive sentence/clause/. A prototypical definition of passive, as, Payne (1997: 204), is characterized by both morphosyntactically and in terms of its discourse function. Morphosyntactically, a passive is semantically derived from transitive verb with agent and patient, whereby the agent is demoted in the passive derivation. Thus, the patient possesses all properties of subjects relevant for

language as a whole; and the verb possesses any and all language specific formal properties of intransitive verbs. In terms of discourse function passive is used in contexts where the agent is relatively low in topicality with respect to the patient. On the other hand, Haspelmath (1990) defines passive constructions as a construction in which a non-agent argument has been promoted to subject (or, at least, has taken on a subset of the morphosyntactic properties of subjects in a given language, e.g. it controls agreement of the verb) and the verb is morphosyntactically derived in some way from the form used in the unmarked active voice construction.

When we say impersonal passive lacks lexical/canonical subject, it means it does not have explicitly identified subject in the construction. This means, the subject is not fully referential, construction that lacks an overt subject at all. Some languages like Polish (Kibort 2008) have constructions with overt expletive subjects. The definition in Siewerska (2008:116) proves this idea, which is stated as “a verbal argument which is fully referential and manifests the morphosyntactic properties of subjects in a language.”

Basically, there are two types of passives: personal and impersonal passives. In some literatures “personal passives” referred to “passives” in general. In such literatures, then, impersonal constructions are seen differently and the scholars said passives and impersonals have different position. For example, Blevins (2003: 474) states “passive and impersonal constructions have a strikingly different status in current theoretical and descriptive studies”. According to him personal passives exhibit all of the properties associated with the passive construction. Therefore, passives are considered as personal passives or both are used interchangeably in this thesis work. Thus, the difference between personal and impersonal passive constructions is identified based on morphosyntax and semantics.

On the other side, there are scholars who argue that personal and impersonal passives are variants of passive construction. The personal passive and the impersonal passive are variants of a single passive construction that should be agreeable to a unified analysis. Pinkser (1992: 161) states that personal and impersonal passives are under the umbrella of passive form; “... Passive

forms (both personal and impersonal) are relatively rare.” In this thesis, also personal and impersonal are used as types of passive constructions.

Morphosyntactically, personal passive is an intransitive verb with the patient as subject which is used as a subject; whereas impersonal passive can be an intransitive or transitive verb with a dummy subject or no subject at all. Personal passive, simply, means the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. Thus, any verb that needs an object (transitive verb) can form a personal passive. This means, verbs without an object (i.e. intransitive verbs) cannot form a personal passive, because there is no object that can become the subject of the passive sentence. Therefore, if we want to use intransitive verb in passive voice, we need another construction-called impersonal passive. Payne (1997: 204) described personal passive as “constructions for which some specific agent is implied, but either is not expressed or is expressed in an oblique role”. On the other hand, in personal passive change of argument structure of a verb will occur; but there is no change of argument structure in the impersonal passive.

Semantically, both personal and impersonal passives focus on the patient (or activity regarding of impersonals of intransitive verbs). Therefore, in this regard both personal and impersonal have the same function. Siewerska (2008: 122) says that both passive and impersonal construction serve the function of defocusing the main initiator of the event.

2.2.3 Impersonal passive in different languages

Impersonal passives are constructed in different ways in different languages. In most of the languages morphology displays the construction to express the different forms of verbs in which, in all cases, the patient do not promoted to a subject. In the next few paragraphs impersonal passive construction of some of the world languages will be considered.

In **Maa** (Eastern Nilotic language) impersonal passive construction occurs with intransitive, (di) transitive, active and stative verb stems. It implies either no agent or at most unspecified non-referential “people” as a possible agent. The Maa Impersonal may focus on an event or situation, and is sometimes functionally used where passive constructions are found in other languages.

The Maa impersonal construction is formed with a suffix –*i* or *i* (IPR marker) on the verb (Payne 2011: 261).

Example:

E-duŋ-i (ninyé).

3-cut-IPR 3SG.ACC

‘He/it will be cut.’

Polish has a wide range of impersonal passive constructions identified on the basis of their lack of a referential subject. Impersonal passive construction in the language uses the participle –*n/-t-* omitted or covert syntactic subject which could participate in syntactic operations such as control or binding. As Kibort (2011: 390) notes syntactically, the impersonal –*ne/-te* or *no/to* construction of Polish overlaps with both the impersonal passive of the intransitive, and with the impersonal predicative adverbial construction.

Example:

a. *Tutaj tan´czono.*

here danced.IPR

‘There was dancing here.’/‘[They] danced here.’ (Kibort 2008:265)

b. *Dano mu ksiazke*

Given:N he:DAT book:ACC.SGF

‘He was given a book.’ (Abraham & Leiss 2006:511)

The **Dutch** impersonal passive is an analytic construction formed by combining the auxiliary verb *worden* ‘become’ (or *zijn* ‘be’, for the perfect forms) with the past participle of a lexical verb, typically an intransitive. In a Dutch impersonal passive clause the initial (subject/topic) position, immediately preceding the auxiliary is often occupied by the weak locative deictic *er* ‘there’.

Example:

Er werd goed gespeeld door de jongens, resultaat winst met 4-3.

there became well played by the boys result gain by 4-3

‘That was some good playing by the boys; result: gain by 4 to 3.’

(Schaik-Rădulescu 2011: 63)

The Swedish language identifies between active and passive clauses; and between personal and impersonal passive clauses. To distinguish the impersonal passive from other constructions the language uses the expletive subject *det* (it). Impersonal passive clause of Swedish has a class of "extraposed" sentential subjects, "extraposed" noun phrases and impersonal copula clause with cleft sentences and related constructions (Anward 1981:1-5).

In **Italian** *si* is impersonal morphology which shows reflex action. The impersonal *si*-construction in present-day Italian appears with every kind of intransitive (or intransitively-used) predicates, including reflexives, reciprocals, the copula, and the periphrastic passive:

In Italia si mangia spaghetti

In Italy si[REFL.] eats spaghetti[pl]

‘In Italy, one eats spaghetti’ it is usual to eat spaghetti.

(Ramat and Sanso 2011)

Impersonal passive in Gurage languages

Goldenberg (1977: 468) states that impersonal passive is recognized in Gurage languages first by Polotsky. Thus, he discussed that the internal labialization in which it implies impersonal passive in the *tt*-groups of ethio-semitic languages by citing Hetzron 1977 and Leslau 1967. So that it is -*u* that is reflected in the internal labialization of the impersonal. Therefore, most Gurage language uses impersonal passive construction extensively. For instance, Leslau (1967) point that Chaha (Western Gurage language) has an impersonal passive. Examples: *m^wəzərim* ‘one counted him’; *nəkəʃim* ‘one bites him’; *ant/ʾijam* ‘one cut her’ (Leslau 1967: 181-182). Thus, the impersonal passive marker in the language is LAB/PAL.

Bedilu (2010) stated that Kistanigna (north Gurage language), also, use impersonal passive extensively. For example: *tʾig:ərijn* ‘one sold me.’, *tʾig:ərwə* ‘one sold her’ Bedilu (2010:121). The impersonal passive construction of Kistanigna is marked by 3SGMasc.

2.2.4. Properties of Impersonal passive

There are different properties of impersonal passive construction, which are discussed by different scholars. The following five general properties of impersonals are taken from Keenan (2007:346-348). These are:

- i. Impersonal passives exist and seem to have a reasonable distribution across language areas and genetic families. Languages like Dutch, German, Latin, Bantu, and others use the same syntactic and morphological means with basic passives to drive impersonals. For example, Taramahua (Uto-Aztecan) uses the same bound morphology on verbs in both cases.

Impersonal passive	basic passive
a. <i>tashigoci-ru</i> not:sleep-PASS “One doesn’t sleep”	b. <i>gao ne: a- ru</i> horse I(Subject) give-PASS “I was given a horse.”

- ii. Impersonal passives using the same verbal morphology as basic passives typically take their agent phrases marked in the same way as in basic passives, if they accept agent phrases at all.

Example: (Dutch)

Er wordt (door de jongens) gefloten
There become (by the young men) whistled
‘There was some whistling by the young men’

Sometimes, languages like Turkish, the passives on intransitives do not accept agent phrases whereas those from transitives do.

- iii. Impersonal passives are not limited to lexical intransitive verbs. In passivized transitive verb, the NP will remain an object after passivization.

Example: (North Russian)

U mena bylo telenka zarezona
at me was(3SG:NEUT) calf(F:ACC) slaughtered (SG:NUET)
‘By me there was slaughtered a calf.’

Latin employs impersonal passives with transitive verbs whose object occurs in the dative case, as illustrated in the following example.

a. *Boni cives legibus parent*

good citizens law(DAT:Pl) obey

‘Good citizens obey laws.’

b. *Legibus (a bonis civibus) paretur*

law (DAT:Pl) (by good citizens) is obeyed(3SG)

‘(By good citizens) there is obeying laws.’

- iv. Impersonal passive appears in a few languages that ‘reflexive’ forms come to function with an impersonal passive meaning. The following illustration is from Polish, note that including an agent phrase is impossible.

Example:

*Idzie sie szybko (*przez uczniow)*

is.walked REFL quickly by schoolboys

‘One walks quickly; there is quickly walking.’

- v. A language may have impersonal constructions which are syntactically and morphologically independent of the existence of basic passives. The following example is from Irish.

a. *Bhuail si e* (Active)

hit she him

‘She hit him.’

b. *Bhi se buailte aici* (basic passive)

aux he hit(PART) at.her

‘He was hit by her.’

c. *Buaileadh (lei) e* (impersonal passive)

hit (IPR) (with her) him

‘There was hitting him (by her).’

- In Irish the basic passive can be subjected to impersonal construction.

Bhiothas buailte (aici)

aux (IPR) hit (PART) (at her)

‘There was being hit (by her).’

In Dutch, just like a personal passive, an impersonal passive involves the demotion of the core argument, which in the active counterpart of the passive would play the subject role.

2.2.5 Types of impersonal passive constructions

Different scholars divide impersonal passive construction differently, as their experience and based on the languages in which the data they took.

Siewierska (2011) divides impersonal passive constructions into MAN-IMPERSONAL and THIRD PERSON PLURAL IMPERSONAL based on European languages. The term *man-imp* is used in her work to refer to an impersonal construction which denotes an unidentified human subject expressed by a word etymologically related to ‘human’ or ‘man’, such as *on* in French, *hom* in Catalan and *man* in German. By 3pl-imp, will be meant in this study a construction with an unspecified human subject expressed by a third person plural pronominal which, in contrast to what is the norm for personal pronouns, lacks an overt antecedent in the discourse, even a non-specific one such as *everyone*, *all* or *anybody*. The third person plural subject may be a morphologically free though phonetically unstressed (and often reduced) form (Siewierska 2011:58-60).

On the other side Creissels (2008) divides impersonal passive construction into three parts. These are simple, special and covert impersonal passive construction.

i. Simple impersonal passive construction

Simple impersonal constructions concern verbs occurring in canonical predicative constructions, and involve no change in the argument structure or in the encoding of terms other than the subject. The interpretation of the subject is triggered by other means than the use of a canonical indefinite NP in subject role.

Formally, simple impersonals can be divided into unmarked simple impersonal constructions using the same verb forms as predicative constructions with a referential NP in subject role, and marked simple impersonal constructions involving morphological marking of the verb.

Unmarked simple impersonal from Russian language is stated in the following example (a) and marked simple impersonal from Polish in example (b).

- a. *Včera tancevali na stole*
 yesterday dance.PST.PL on table.SG.LOC
 ‘Yesterday people were dancing on the table’ (Creissels 2008: 7)
- b. *Oglądano swoje zbory*
 looked at.IPR POSS.REFL.PL.ACC collection.PL.ACC
 ‘One looked at one’s collection/They looked at their collection’ (Kibort 2001: 5)

Functionally, simple impersonal constructions must be characterized with reference to the particular type of arbitrary reading they admit, and the semantic restrictions they may impose on the understood subject. The following example expresses that the third plural arbitrary readings

Tocan a la puerta
 knock.PRS.A3PL to DEF.SGF door.SG
 ‘Someone is knocking at the door’ (Creissels 2008: 6)

ii. Special impersonal passive construction

Special impersonal constructions involve verbs that cannot combine with a referential noun phrase showing the coding characteristics of canonical subjects or deviate from canonical constructions of the same verb in such a way that the introduction of a referential noun phrase showing the coding characteristics of canonical subjects implies formal changes in the rest of the construction or a modification of argument structure.

There are pragmatic and lexico-semantic construction types under special impersonal passive construction.

Pragmatic impersonal constructions do not affect the argument structure of the verb and do not block the expression of an argument either. They modify the logical structure of the predication, canceling the default topic status of the S argument of intransitive verbs and triggering a ‘thetic’ (or ‘existential’, ‘presentational’, ‘sentence-focus’) interpretation.

Example: (French)

Il viendra une femme
 A3SGM come.FUT.3SG INDEF.SGF woman.SG

‘It will come a woman’ (Literal meaning). The sentence has a denotative meaning like ‘There will be a woman coming’ (Creissels 2008:16).

Lexico-semantic impersonal constructions either constitute the only possible constructions of the verb they involve, or imply an argument structure different from that encoded by canonical constructions of the same verb. In Occitan (a Romance language) the impersonal use of *aver* ‘have’ in existential clauses involves a locative dummy (*i* ‘there’, which in this construction is not understood as referring to a specific place).

Example:

Davant l’ostal i avia un òme
in front of DEF.SGMasc-house.SG there have.IPV.A3SG INDEF.SGMasc man.SG
‘There was a man in front of the house’ (Creissels 2008:21)

iii. Covert impersonal passive construction

Covert impersonal passive implies the use of subjecthood tests whose interpretation is not always straightforward, and whose validity may be debatable. As a result authors have described the same constructions of a language in different ways. Thus, many languages do not provide the necessary data to prove whether covert impersonal passive exists or not. As Creissels (2008) describes cross-linguistically, covert impersonals are typically found, either in constructions in which their function is to block the expression of the A argument of a transitive verb, or in constructions fulfilling the functions of pragmatic impersonals or affective impersonals of special impersonal passive constructions (Creissels 2008: 26). In the following construction, for example, in impersonal active *SI* of the Italian the reflexive morphology blocks the expression of the S/A argument without changing anything else in the construction.

Stanotte si scrutinano i voti
tonight REFL count.PRES.A3PL DEF.PL Masc vote.PL
‘The votes are counted tonight / One counts the votes tonight’ (Creissels 2008: 27)

CHAPTER THREE

Data Analysis and Description

This is the main part of the thesis work in which the data will be discussed. The analysis and description of a data in the chapter is classified into three main sections in order to address the objective of the research. These are the formation, the pragmatics and semantics of Muher impersonals. The formation of Muher impersonal is treated under morphophonology, morphosyntax sub sections.

Note: a. The glossing of all data in this chapter is translated from the perfective verb form of the impersonal passive.

b. *æ* in italics style means æ

3.1 Formation of Muher impersonal passive

3.1.1 Morphophonology of Muher impersonal

Muher impersonal passives are formed by different changes on the base of verbs. Labialization and palatalization cause several changes of the morphology on impersonal forms of Muher verbs. The labial, velar, glottal consonants in the third person singular masculine active perfective verb changed to labialized consonants in the impersonal passive verbs; on the other hand alveolar consonants and velar/glottal consonants change to palatalized consonants. The general phonological changes in Muher language impersonals are the realization of the feature labialization and palatalization.

Generally, morphologies found in the impersonal passive forms of Muher can be categorized in to consonantal and vocalic changes in the impersonal passive. The applicability of the labialization and palatalization process can be depend on the consonant and vocalic radicals of verb root in one hand and on the position of radicals in the stem on the other hand.

The changes in consonant sounds in Muher impersonal passive construction can be categorized in to CORONAL and NON-CORONAL consonant sounds in which the sounds will appear in the final position of a verb stem.

3.1.1.1 Coronal consonants

Coronal consonants are sounds which are articulated with the tip and/or blade of the tongue (Katamba 1989 :44). This can be dental, alveolar, alveo-palatal, retroflex and palatal sounds. When alveolars, post alveolar (palatals) sounds appear at the end of active perfective verb base, they will keep a palatalization feature in the impersonal passive construction in Muher.

3.1.1.1.1 Verbs ending with alveolar

When alveolar consonants appear at final position of active perfective verb root, the consonants change into palatal sounds in the impersonal passive.

Example 1

Active		Impersonal passive with			Gloss
Perfective		Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	
a. <i>ag:ədəm</i>		<i>ag:əɟim</i>	<i>jagidzit</i>	<i>jəg:idzi</i>	‘one tied’
b. <i>kasəm</i>		<i>kaɟim</i>	<i>jikəfit</i>	<i>jəkəfi</i>	‘one paid (him)’
c. <i>k’əb:ət’əm</i>		<i>k’əb:ətɟ’im</i>	<i>jiʔəβtɟ’it</i>	<i>jəʔiβtɟ’i</i>	‘one don’t found’
d. <i>gəm:ətəm</i>		<i>gəm:ətɟim</i>	<i>jigəmtɟit</i>	<i>jəgəmtɟi</i>	‘one guessed’

As we observe from the data the alveolar consonants *d*, *s*, *t*, and *t’* in the active perfective are changed to palatals *ɟ*, *f*, *tɟ*, and *tɟ’* respectively in the impersonal verb forms. Beside the palatalization there is a vocalic sound *i* following the base sounds of each impersonal templates. It is the 3SGMasc heavy object agreement marker not part of impersonal passive form. Verbs beginning with *a* sound have a special occurrence in the jussive form of the impersonal. It deletes the first radical and geminates the second one (actually germination of the second radical in the jussive form is appear also in the regular verbs of jussive form).

When the vowel radical *a* comes as final element in which it precedes alveolar consonants in a verb base, it is changed to palatalized *e*, even though it is not a marker of impersonal passive, in the impersonal passive form. As we have discussed the preceded alveolars are also changed to their respective palatalized form in the impersonal construction.

Example 2

Active		Impersonal passive			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss	
a. <i>xəd:am</i>	<i>xədʒ:em</i>	<i>jixədʒet</i>	<i>jəxidʒe</i>	‘one denied him’	
b. <i>bəd:am</i>	<i>bədʒ:em</i>	<i>jibədʒet</i>	<i>jəβidʒe</i>	‘one took from it/him’	
c. <i>fɪnət'am</i>	<i>fɪnətʃ'em</i>	<i>jɪfɪnətʃ'et</i>	<i>jəfəɲtʃ'e</i>	‘one poured away’	
d. <i>bəs:am</i>	<i>bəʃ:em</i>	<i>jibəʃet</i>	<i>jəbʃe</i>	‘one come’	
e. <i>fət:am</i>	<i>fətʃ:em</i>	<i>jifətʃet</i>	<i>jəftʃe</i>	‘one release him’	

3.1.1.1.2 Verbs ending with palatals

Palatal sounds found at the end of active perfective verb root remaining the same in the impersonal passive construction.

Example 3

Active		Impersonal passive with			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss	
a. <i>aməʃ:əm</i>	<i>aməʃ:im</i>	<i>jaməʃit</i>	<i>jamʃi</i>	‘one spent the day’	
b. <i>k'imətʃ'əm</i>	<i>k'imətʃ':im</i>	<i>jiʔimətʃ':it</i>	<i>jəʔəmitʃ'i</i>	‘one feels ashamed’	
c. <i>nətʃ':əm</i>	<i>nətʃ'im</i>	<i>jɪnətʃit</i>	<i>jəɲtʃ'i</i>	‘one plucked out his/its hair’	

3.1.1.1.3 Verbs ending with /p: /

In Muher verbs /p:/ always is geminated. Thus, the geminated /p:/ is not affected by the feature labialization or palatalization of the impersonal passive. But in some verbs it is changed in to other form of sound as in example in the imperfective and jussive verb forms of impersonal.

Example 4

Active		Impersonal passive			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss	

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. | <i>k^wən:əm</i> | <i>k^wən:im</i> | <i>jiʔojit</i> | <i>jəʔoj</i> | ‘one roasted (coffee, barley, etc)’ |
| b. | <i>agən:əm</i> | <i>agən:im</i> | <i>jagojit</i> | <i>jaguj</i> | ‘one found it’ |
| c. | <i>ən:əm</i> | <i>ən:im</i> | <i>jiwən:it</i> | <i>jən:i</i> | ‘one cried loudly’ |
| d. | <i>tʃən:əm</i> | <i>tʃən:im</i> | <i>jitʃən:it</i> | <i>jətʃən:i</i> | ‘one had birth’ |

The regular imperfective and jussive form of the verbs in (example 4c and 4d) is also having different form. In fact, the palatal consonant *tʃ* in the jussive form of the impersonal, also form with its alveolar form *t* (*jətʃən:i*). In the following examples we can examine the impersonal counterparts of the active regular forms of the verbs.

Example 5

Active				Impersonal		
Perfective imperfective jussive gloss				Perfective imperfective jussive		
a.	<i>agən:əm</i>	<i>jagew</i>	<i>jagi</i> ‘found’	<i>agən:im</i>	<i>jagojit</i>	<i>jaguj</i>
b.	<i>k^wən:əm</i>	<i>jiʔew</i>	<i>jəʔe</i> ‘roasted’	<i>k^wən:im</i>	<i>jiʔojit</i>	<i>jəʔoj</i>

jagew /j-age-w/ (3SGMasc-find.IPV-DCM) ‘he finds’ in the regular imperfective appears as *jagojit* /j-ago-ji-t/ (3SGMasc-find.IPV.IMP-3SGO-DCM) ‘one will be found’ in the impersonal passive. Thus, /j/ is deleted in the imperfective and jussive of the active and impersonal passive forms. Then it has the form *oj* both in the imperfective and jussive of the impersonal passive (example 5b), but *oj* in the imperfective and *uj* in the jussive (example 5a) of the impersonal form respectively.

3.1.1.1.4 Verbs with palatalized velar/glottal consonants

Palatalized velar/ glottal sounds are remaining palatalized velar/glottal sounds in the impersonal passive when they appear with other palatalized consonants, which means there is no change of morphology occurred with the velar or glottal sounds. But the consonant following the palatalized velar/ glottal consonant will have a PAL in the impersonal passive.

Example 6

Active	Impersonal
--------	------------

	Perfective	Perfective	imperfective	jussive	Gloss
a.	<i>kʲət'əm</i>	<i>kʲətʃ'im</i>	<i>jiʔətʃ'it</i>	<i>jəʔʲitʃ'i</i>	‘one become tired’
b.	<i>gʲəgʲ:ətəm</i>	<i>gʲəgʲ:ətʃim</i>	<i>jiɡʲəgʲ:itʃit</i>	<i>jəgʲəgʲ:itʃi</i>	‘one walk with him’

3.1.1.2 Non-Coronal Sounds

Non coronals are consonants sounds that are articulated when the blade of the tongue remains in a neutral position (Katamba 1989 :44). Labial, velar, uvular and pharyngeal consonants can be grouped under noncoronal. Consonants that are ending with non-coronals in the active perfective verb stem can be changed to labialization in the impersonal passive form.

3.1.1.2.1 Verbs ending with labials

Labial (*b*, *m*) and labiodental (*f*) in the active perfectives became labialized in the impersonal passive verb forms,

Example 7

	Active	Impersonal passive with			
	Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a.	<i>gəb:am</i>	<i>gəbʷ:em</i>	<i>jiɡəwet</i>	<i>jəɡwe</i>	‘one entered’
b.	<i>diməd:əmem</i>	<i>dim^(w)əd:əm^wim</i>	<i>jidməd:im^wit</i>	<i>jədəmdim^wi</i>	‘one leveled the floor of a house’
c.	<i>fər:əməm</i>	<i>fər:əm^wim</i>	<i>jiʃərm^wit</i>	<i>jəʃər:im^wi</i>	‘one signed’
d.	<i>at'əf:am</i>	<i>at'əfʷ:em</i>	<i>jat'əf^wet</i>	<i>jat'f^we</i>	a. one got ruined b. turn off
e.	<i>gəd:əfəm</i>	<i>gəd:əf^wim</i>	<i>jiɡədʃ^wit</i>	<i>jəɡdiʃ^wi</i>	‘one broke a feast’
f.	<i>dəb:am</i>	<i>dəbʷ:æem</i>	<i>jidəwet</i>	<i>jədwe</i>	‘one become late’ ³

³ Regularly *b* is changed to *bʷ* but since *w* and *θ* are variants of *b* it keeps the form *w* or *β* in the imperfective & jussive forms. This works also the change from *w* to *β* and *β* to *w*.

As we have observed from example (7a and 7f) *b* changed in to labial approximant *w* in the imperfective and jussive forms of impersonal passive.

3.1.1.2.2 Verbs ending with velar sounds

Velar sounds are sounds which are articulated with the back of the tongue and velum. Verbs ending with these sounds in the active perfective form can be changed to labialized consonants in the impersonal construction.

Example 8

Active	Impersonal passive with				
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss	
a. <i>ad:əgəm</i>	<i>ad:əg^w:im</i>	<i>jadg^wit</i>	<i>jəd:ig^wi</i>	‘one thrown (lost) it’	
b. <i>fək:am</i>	<i>fək^w:em</i>	<i>jifək^wet</i>	<i>jəfk^we</i>	‘one went’	
c. <i>fək’:am</i>	<i>fək^w:em</i>	<i>jifəʔ^wet</i>	<i>jəfʔ^we</i>	‘one split (wood)’	
d. <i>wəg:am</i>	<i>wəg^w:em</i>	<i>jiwəg^wet</i>	<i>jəg^we</i>	‘one pierced it’	
e. <i>wək:am</i>	<i>wək^w:em</i>	<i>jiwək^wet</i>	<i>jək^we</i>	‘one hit strongly’	

Velar sounds *g*, *k*, and *k'* in the active verb form became labialized (*g^w*, *k^w* and *k^ʷ* respectively) in the impersonal passive form. In the data (example a, d and e), there is a deletion of the first radical in the jussive form of the impersonal construction. In example (a) the first radical vocalic sound *a* is deleted and the second radical became geminated; in examples (d and e) the labial approximant *w* deleted but there is no gemination in the second radical. There is another special occurrence in example (c) because the second radical (*k'*) in the perfective verb form is changed in to glottal sound *ʔ* in the imperfective and jussive templates. Actually, the sound change also occurs in the imperfective and jussive of the regular form of the verb, it is *fək'am* (3SGMasc.PV.) ‘He splited’; *jifəʔo* (3SGMasc.IPV) ‘He will split’; *jəfʔa* (3SGMasc.JUSS.) ‘Let him split’. Sometimes velar *k'* and glottal *ʔ* are used interchangeably without meaning change. For example, imperfective forms of the impersonal *sər:əʔ^wim* ‘one stole’ can be *jisərʔ^wit* or *jiserk^ʷit* ‘one will steal’ ; *finək'æem* ‘he dug up’ *jifnək'ujit* / *jifnəʔujit* / ‘one will dig up’.

3.1.1.2.3 Verbs ending with glottal sounds

Glottal sounds are also making labialization in the impersonal passive construction. In the following examples glottal sounds (*x* and *ʔ*) are converted into *x^w* and *ʔ^w* in the perfective, imperfective, and jussive forms of impersonal passive.

Example 9

Active	Impersonal passive with			Gloss
	Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive
a. <i>laxəm</i>	<i>lax^wim</i>	<i>jiləx^wit</i>	<i>jəlax^wi</i>	‘one send him’
b. <i>fər:əxəm</i>	<i>fər:əx^wim</i>	<i>jifər^wx^wit</i>	<i>jəfir^wx^wi</i>	‘one became patient’
c. <i>faʔəm</i>	<i>faʔ^wim</i>	<i>jifəʔ^wit</i>	<i>jəfaʔ^wi</i>	‘one rub something soft’
d. <i>laʔəm</i>	<i>laʔ^wim</i>	<i>jiləʔ^wit</i>	<i>jəlaʔ^wi</i>	‘one became grew’

3.1.1.2.4 Labial fricative /β/ as last radical

The labial fricative /β/ in the regular perfective passive forms a labial approximant /w/ in the impersonal passive template.

Example 10

Active	Impersonal Passive			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a. <i>at':əβəm</i>	<i>at':əwim</i>	<i>jat'iwit</i>	<i>jət':iwi</i>	‘one washed it’
b. <i>k'ər:əβəm</i>	<i>k'ər:əwim</i>	<i>jiʔərwit</i>	<i>jəʔirwi</i>	‘one can be near/ presented’
c. <i>xəb:əβəm</i>	<i>xəb:əwim</i>	<i>jixəb^w:it</i>	<i>jəxβiwi</i>	‘one surrounded the place/ one is surrounded’
d. <i>k'irək':əβəm</i>	<i>k'irək':əwim</i>	<i>jiʔrək'iwit</i>	<i>jəʔərək'iwi</i>	‘one pressed highly’

There is a special occurrence in imperfective and jussive forms when β precedes labial in the regular perfective as in the example (c), because β becomes b^w in the imperfective and β in the jussive forms of impersonal.

In the imperfective and jussive form of active verbs $/\beta/$ retains as it is. For example, *at':əβəm* 'he washed'; *jat'iβu* 'he will washes'; *jət':iβ* 'let him wash' are the perfective, imperfective and jussive forms of the active verb, consecutively.

3.1.1.2.5 Verbs ending with Palatalized velar consonants

Verbs with palatalized velar consonants as last radical replace the feature palatalization with the labialization feature in the impersonal passive form of a verb.

Example 11

Active		Impersonal Passive			Gloss
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive		
a. <i>zinəg^j:əm</i>	<i>zinəg^w:im</i>	<i>jiznəg^w:it</i>	<i>jəzəŋg^w:i</i>	‘one talks’	
b. <i>əɾəg^j:əm</i>	<i>əɾəg^w:im</i>	<i>jirəg^w:it</i>	<i>jəɾəg^w:i</i>	‘one throw’	

Other palatalized velar sounds like $/k^j, k^j, \zeta/$ will show the same feature, which is changed to labialization in the impersonal passive.

Some consonants in different verb forms do not change palatalized velars to labialized velars, regularly as shown in example 11 above. But they may have different sound forms like ζ, x^w and ζ^w in the following example 12 of the impersonal passive construction.

Example 12

Active	Impersonal passive			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a. <i>sək^j:əm</i>	<i>sək^w:im</i>	<i>jisəçit</i>	<i>jəsx^wi</i>	‘one flee’
b. <i>bək^j:əm</i>	<i>bək^w:im</i>	<i>jibəx^wit</i>	<i>jəβx^wi</i>	‘one wept’

c. *ak^j:əm* *ak^w:im* *jaʔ^wit* *jək^w:i* ‘one chew(roasted grain)’

Thus, the sound /ç/ and /x^w/ in example (a) of the imperfective and jussive respectively, /β/ in example (b) of the imperfective and jussive templates; and /ʔ/ in the imperfective form in example (c) appeared instead of /k:/, /k:/, and /k^j:/ respectively.

There are exceptional verbs recorded regardless of the same feature both in the active perfective and impersonal passive forms in which palatalization remains palatalization in the impersonal form.

Example 13

Active	Impersonal Passive			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
<i>wak^j:əm</i>	<i>wa k^j:im</i>	<i>jɪwak^jit</i>	<i>jəwak^ji</i>	‘one swims’

Generally, non-coronal sounds form labialization in the impersonal passive construction. As a result the labialization process in the impersonal passive is formed from velars (*g, k, k^j*); glottal sound (*x, ʔ*), labials (*b, f, m*) and palatalized velars and glottal (*g^j:, k^j:, h^j:*) yields (*g^w, k^w, k^w*); (*x^w, ʔ^w*), (*b^w, f^w, m^w*) and (*g^w:, k^w:, h^w*) respectively. Labialization appears with no restriction of position of radicals (i.e, it can be appear in the first, second, third or fourth radicals).

Example 14

Active	Impersonal passive				
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss	
a. <i>afək:am</i>	<i>afək:^wem</i>	<i>jafək^wet</i>	<i>jafk^we</i>	‘one took it’	
b. <i>al:əfəm</i>	<i>al:əf^wim</i>	<i>jalf^wit</i>	<i>jələf^wi</i>	‘one crossed/passed’	
c. <i>gər:am</i>	<i>g^wər:em</i>	<i>jig^wəret</i>	<i>jəg^wure</i>	‘one become satisfied’	
d. <i>ləg^j:əməm</i>	<i>ləg^j:əm^wim</i>	<i>jiləg^j:im^wit</i>	<i>jələg^j:im^wi</i>	‘one mount the horse or mule’	
e. <i>sək^j:əm</i>	<i>sək^w:im</i>	<i>jisəx^wiit</i>	<i>jəsx^wi</i>	‘one flee, run away (from the searches	
	him/her)’				

3.1.1.3 Special impersonal passive forms

Most Muher verbs use labialization or palatalization in their impersonal passive construction. But some verbs have special forms in the impersonal passive template.

3.1.1.3.1 Impersonal passive with the vowel radical /æɛ/

The vocalic diphthong /æɛ/ in the regular perfective form of Muher verb is changed in to /oj/ in the impersonal passive construction. The diphthong /æɛ/ has a character of ε^j - ε in the active and ε^w - i in the IPR forms. For example, *tagəd:æɛm* /*tagəd: ε^j - ε -m*/ ‘he slept’ in the active and *tagəd: ε^w - ε -m* which yields *tagəd:ojim* /*tagəd:o-ji-m*/ ‘one slept’ in the impersonal passive. Thus, the diphthong /æɛ/ appears after both with coronals and non coronals. This works in all number of verb radicals (i.e. verb which has two, three, four, etc radicals).

Example 15

Active		Impersonal Passive		Gloss
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	
a. <i>dʒəb:æɛm</i>	<i>dʒəb:ojim</i>	<i>jidʒəbujit</i>	<i>jəɖʒəbuj</i>	‘one took cattle from one place to other’
b. <i>k’ijak’:æɛm</i>	<i>k’ijak’:ojim</i>	<i>jiʔjak’ojit</i>	<i>jəʔijaʔoj</i>	‘it is mixed up’
c. <i>tagəd:æɛm</i>	<i>tagəd:ojim</i>	<i>jitgəd:ojit</i>	<i>jətgedoj</i>	‘one lay down to sleep’
d. <i>bæɛm</i>	<i>bojim</i>	<i>jiβujit</i>	<i>jəβoj</i>	‘one said’
e. <i>hæɛm</i>	<i>hojim</i>	<i>jiçujit</i>	<i>jəxoj</i>	‘one knew’

In this regard, verbs which have one root as shown in example (15d) and (15e) and some two roots (the following examples) make different forms in their imperfective template. They did not keep /oj/ structure but form /uj/.

Example 16

Active		Impersonal passive		Gloss
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	
a. <i>mæssæɛm</i>	<i>mæssojim</i>	<i>jiməsujit</i>	<i>jəmsoj</i>	‘one resembled’
b. <i>zəllæɛm</i>	<i>zəlløjim</i>	<i>jizəlujit</i>	<i>jəzloj</i>	‘one jumped’

On the other hand some verbs with two roots also have the same feature with the above verbs in their imperfective and jussive forms of impersonals. The following examples in 23 show this change:

Example 17

Active		Impersonal passive		
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a. <i>məgʲ:æɛm</i>	<i>məgʲ:ojim</i>	<i>jiməgʲ:ujit</i>	<i>jəməgʲ:uj</i>	‘one fires’
b. <i>bəkʲ:æɛm</i>	<i>bəkʲ:ojim</i>	<i>jibəkʲ:ujt</i>	<i>jəbəkʲ:uj</i>	‘one made traditional beer’
c. <i>atβakʲ:æɛm</i>	<i>atβakʲ:ojim</i>	<i>jatβakʲ:ujit</i>	<i>jatβakʲ:uj</i>	‘one use maximum effort’
d. <i>aʔəb:æm</i>	<i>aʔəb:ojim</i>	<i>jaʔəb:ujit</i>	<i>jaʔəb:uj</i>	‘one pass to him’

As we observed from the examples /æ/ and /ɛ/ are co-articulated, in which /æ/ holds the feature palatalization (i.e. æ has the vocalic /ɛ/ with its raising feature /j/ which together yields /ɛʲ/ and read as æ). Thus, we can say that the diphthong /æ/ has /ɛ/ vocalic radical and another consonantal radical /j/. This is diachronically come from their regular imperfective forms. To explain this let us see the regular forms of the verbs as follows:

Example 18

Perfective	Gloss	Imperfective	Jussive
a. <i>bæɛm</i>	‘he said’	<i>jiβiw</i>	<i>jeβe</i>
b. <i>hæɛm</i>	‘he knew’	<i>jiçiw</i>	<i>jəhe</i>

Therefore, for example, the imperfective *jiβiw* has /j-bʲ-w/ (3sgMasc-say:IPV-DCM) ‘he says’. So *b* and *j* stand for two radicals so that *w* is not part of the root. The feature PAL totally disappears in the impersonal passive form in the imperfective. Alternatively, in some verb forms the initial radical *b* or *bʷ* gets labialized to *bʷ* or β consequently it is pronounced as *w* intervocalically. For example, *dəb:am* ‘he became late’ = *jidəwet* ‘one will become late’.

The regular imperfective of *hæem* keeps the palatalization of the initial radical which was triggered by the immediate following feature PAL in the imperfective. The regular imperfective of *hæem* is *jiçiw* /j-ç^j-w/ (3sgMasc-know:IPV-DCM) ‘he knows’. Note that in phonological process /h/ is changed to /ç/ in the imperfective template. Again *h* and *j* represents two radicals. Thus, it seems that the palatalization of *h* which occurs due to the meeting of the glottal fricative and the feature PAL is keep although the feature PAL as such is deleted.

3.1.1.3.2 Verbs ending with a vowel radical /ə/

Verbs whose base ends with the vowel /ə/ also change the vowel in to /oj/ like the diphthong /æε/ does in the impersonal passive.

Example 19

Active	Impersonal passive			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a. <i>fə̌m</i>	<i>fə̌jim</i>	<i>ji/ə̌jit</i>	<i>jə̌soj</i>	‘one searched/wanted’
b. <i>k^jirə̌m</i>	<i>k^jirojim</i>	<i>ji^jirə̌jit</i>	<i>jə̌ʔə̌roj</i>	‘one waited him’
c. <i>srə̌m</i>	<i>srojim</i>	<i>jisrojit</i>	<i>jə̌sə̌roj</i>	‘one bought it’

In such, rare, verbs the vowel /ə/ is part of the root morpheme, because it appears in all inflected forms. For instance, *srə̌m* ‘he bought’; *srə̌t/im* ‘she bought’; *srə̌mum* ‘they (masc) bought’; *srə̌nə̌m* ‘we bought’; and others.

3.1.1.4 Other morphological properties of impersonal passive

3.1.1.4.1 Verbs with reduplicated consonants

There are some verbs with reduplicated consonants in Muher. These consonants can apply palatalization/ labialization on both consonants in the impersonal passive form. The feature PAL/ LAB is applied when the last two radical has the feature to be labialized or palatalized.

Example 20

Active perfective	Impersonal perfective	Gloss
a. <i>aziməz:əməm</i>	<i>aziməz:əm^wim</i>	‘one moisten/dampen’
b. <i>k’imək’:əməm</i>	<i>k’imək’:əm^wim</i>	‘one cut the edges of an object’
c. <i>kisək:əsəm</i>	<i>kɪfək:əfim</i>	‘one fractured’

As we observed from the data commonly the feature labialization/ palatalization is applied when the last radical in the verb gets palatalized or labialized. But the labializable /palatalizable consonants get labialization and palatalization in the impersonal passive as they appear in the regular perfective template.

If the last two radicals in regular perfective verbs are identical alveolars, both are changed to identical palatalized consonants in the impersonal passive.

Example 21

Active	Impersonal Passive			Gloss
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	
a. <i>məz:əzəm</i>	<i>məzəzim</i>	<i>jiməzit</i>	<i>jəmzizi</i>	‘one picked out’
b. <i>gəd:ədəm</i>	<i>gədʒədʒim</i>	<i>jigədʒit</i>	<i>jəgdʒidʒi</i>	‘one make a hole’
c. <i>amət’:ət’əm</i>	<i>amətʃ’:ətʃ’im</i>	<i>jamətʃ’:it</i>	<i>jamtʃ’itʃ’i</i>	‘someone feel for him’

As observed from the data, most identical last radical verbs of alveolars have the same reduplicative palatalized counterparts in the impersonal passive forms.

This kind of change will also work on labialized consonants. The verb form in the perfective form of the impersonal is used interchangeably.

Example 22

Active	Impersonal			
Perfective	Perfective	imperfective	jussive	gloss
a. <i>k’əf:əfəm</i>	<i>k’əf^w:əf^wim / k’əf:əf^wim</i>	<i>jiʔəfwit</i>	<i>jəfiʔwi</i>	‘one cut the edges’

- b. *aβræg:əgəm aβræg^wəg^wim/aβrəgeg^wim jaβrəgigwit jaβirəgigwi* ‘one make him shocked’

But both in palatalized and labialized cases, PAL/LAB changes do not work in all reduplicated alveolar and labial consonants.

Example 23

Active perfective impersonal perfective

- a. *t'əm:əməm t'əməm^wim* ‘one refused to help/response’
 b. *asəfəfəm asəfəf^wim* ‘one make unwanted things over the pure one’
 c. *m^wət:ətəm m^wət:ət/im/ m^wət/:ət/im* ‘one deceived him’

Unless the palatalization feature is realized through vocalic sound /i/; palatalized consonants in the regular verb remain the same in the impersonal passive form.

Example 24

Active	Impersonal			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a. <i>aβrədʒədʒəm</i>	<i>aβrədʒədʒim</i>	<i>jaβrədʒidʒit</i>	<i>jaβərdʒidʒi</i>	‘one make him to anxiety’
b. <i>aʒəʒ:əm</i>	<i>aʒəʒ:im</i>	<i>jaʒəʒ:it</i>	<i>jaʒəʒi</i>	‘one makes it to be cold’

As the process of identical last alveolar sounds in the active verb forms are palatalized in the impersonal passive form do not work on sonorant consonants in all forms of impersonal passive forms.

Example 25

Active	Impersonal			
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a. <i>mər:ərəm</i>	<i>mər:ərim</i>	<i>jimər:it</i>	<i>jəmrəri</i>	‘one become in low spirit’
b. <i>k'ələləm</i>	<i>k'əl:əlim</i>	<i>jiʔəl:it</i>	<i>jəʔ^wulili</i>	‘one become disgraced’
c. <i>at'ələləm</i>	<i>at'ələlim/at'əlojim</i>	<i>jat'əlujit</i>	<i>jat'iluj</i>	‘one make it to be filtered’

In the case of four radical verbs, if alveolar and bilabial consonants come together in one verb the change will be on the last and second radicals (example 26a and 26c) or the change will appear only on the last radical (example 26b)). This also works with glottal sound /ʔ/. Alveolar consonants do form in the same way as in example (26 d).

Example 26

Active	Impersonal Passive				
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss	
a. <i>sifəs:əβəm</i>	<i>sif(w)əsəwim</i>	<i>jiswəs wit</i>	<i>jəsəws iwi</i>	‘one collect it’	
b. <i>difəd:əfəm</i>	<i>difəd:əf^wim</i>	<i>jidfəd:i f^wit</i>	<i>jədəfdi f^wi</i>	‘one press down slightly with hand’	
c. <i>niʔən:əʔəm</i>	<i>niʔ^(w)ən:əʔ^wim</i>	<i>jiniʔən:i ʔ^wit</i>	<i>jənəʔni ʔ^wi</i>	‘one shaken (it)’	
d. <i>kisək:əsəm</i>	<i>kifək:əfim</i>	<i>jikfəkfit</i>	<i>jəkə/kifi</i>	‘one cracked (stone, bone)’	

Verbs like *k’ijak’:æm* in the reduplicative forms can have different verb form. Thus, only the last radical gets replaced by the palatalization of the impersonal passive but not its reduplicated counterpart /j/ (i.e. *k’ijak’:æm* → *k’ijak’:ojim*). The /j/ in the impersonal comes from the use of /æj/ in the regular perfective verb form.

3.1.1.4.2 Sonorants (l,r,n) in the impersonal passive

Most of the verbs with consonants as last radical can be palatalized or labialized in the impersonal passive. But when sonorants (l, r, and n) appear as last radical in the active form of a verb they are not palatalized or labialized.

Example 27

Active	Impersonal Passive				
Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive		Gloss
a. <i>səl:am</i>	<i>səl:em</i>	<i>jisəlet</i>	<i>jəsle</i>		‘one arrived/reached’
b. <i>sinət’:ələm</i>	<i>sinət’:əlim</i>	<i>jisnət’ilit</i>	<i>jəsənt’ili</i>		‘one become instructed’
c. <i>bəd:ərəm</i>	<i>bəd:ərim</i>	<i>jibədrit</i>	<i>jəbdri</i>		‘one chased him’

- d. *kəd:ənəm* *kəd:ənim* *jixədɲit* *jəxdɲini* ‘one thatched a house or close dish’

As we have seen in example 27 there is no feature of PAL/LAB on any consonant in the impersonal passive, but when non coronal sounds like labials and velars precede sonorants they will have a labialization feature in the impersonal passive forms.

Example 28

Active		Impersonal Passive			Gloss
Perfective		Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	
a. <i>amak:ərəm</i>		<i>amak^w:rim</i>	<i>jamak^w:urit</i>	<i>jamaxuri</i>	‘one refused/ stroked’
b. <i>am:ənəm</i>		<i>am^w:ənim</i>	<i>jam^w:init</i>	<i>jəm^w:əni</i>	‘one trusted him’
c. <i>malem</i>		<i>m^walim</i>	<i>jim^w:əlit</i>	<i>jəm^w:ali</i>	‘one swore’
d. <i>fəg:ərəm</i>		<i>fəg^w:ərim</i>	<i>ji/fəg^w:irit</i>	<i>jəfəg^w:iri</i>	‘one changed’
e. <i>kəf:ənəm</i>		<i>kəf^w:ənim</i>	<i>jikəf^w:init</i>	<i>jəkəf^w:ini</i>	‘one covered a corpse’

3.1.1.4.3 Alternations in the impersonal constructions

By default some verbs in Muher have alternative form of sounds in the impersonal passive template. The alternatives are formed with labialization and without labialization.

Example 29

Active perfective	Impersonal Perfective	Gloss
a. <i>gər:am</i>	<i>gər:em/g^wər:em</i>	‘one satisfied’
b. <i>afət:ərəm</i>	<i>afət:ərim/af^wət:ərim</i>	‘one finished’
c. <i>fəg;ərəm</i>	<i>fəg:ərim/fəg^w:ərim</i>	‘one changed’
d. <i>tək’:ənəm</i>	<i>t’ək^w:nim/ t’ək’:nim</i>	‘one hide (it)’
e. <i>k^wəf:ələm</i>	<i>k^wəf^w:əlim/k^wəf:əlim</i>	‘one became very tired’

This kind of alternation is not equally mirrored in the imperfective and jussive forms of the impersonal passive. Here the labialization is most appropriate to use. However, verbs without the labialization of the respective common out also occur but are very rare in Muher. These forms are indicated in brackets in example 30:

Example 30

Impersonal			
Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a. <i>afət:rim/af^wət:rim</i>	<i>jafətrit/jaf^wətrit</i>	<i>jafətri/jaf^wətri</i>	‘one finished’
b. <i>gər:em/g^wər:em</i>	<i>(jigeret)/ji^wəret</i>	<i>(jəgre)/jəg^wure</i>	‘one satisfied’
c. <i>ʃəg:ərim/ʃəg^w:ərim</i>	<i>(jiʃəg:irit)/jiʃəg^w:urit</i>	<i>(jəʃəg:iri)/jəʃəg^w:uri</i>	‘one changed’

3.1.2 Morpho-syntactic properties of impersonal passive

Perfective, imperfective and jussive forms of impersonal passive have different morpho-syntactic properties regarding subject marker. Basically, there is no subject marker in the impersonal passive verb form. But the imperfective and jussive form of impersonals has /j/ and /jə/ default prefixes as subject marker, respectively. These two (/j/ and /jə/) default markers are morpho-syntactically obligatory in imperfective and jussive forms of impersonal passive. I will give some examples to explain this point with the contrast of regular and impersonal verb again with their negative counterparts.

Example 31

- a. *atf^ʔ:ən:im /atf^ʔ:ə-n:i-m/* (closePV:3SGMascS:-3SGMascO-DCM) ‘he closed it’
an:ətʃən: /an-ətʃə-n/ (NEG-close:3SGMascS:PV-3SGMascO) ‘he did not close it’
- b. *atf^ʔ:im /atf^ʔ:i-m/* (close:3SGOPV:IPR-DCM) ‘one closed it’
an:ətʃi /an-ətʃi/ (NEG close:3sgOPV:IPR) ‘one did not close it’
- c. *jatf^ʔin:it /j-atf^ʔi-n:i-t/* (3SGMascS close:IPV 3sgmascO DCM) ‘he will close it’
ejatf^ʔin: /ej-atf^ʔi-n:/ (NEG:3SGMascS-close:IPV-3SGMascO) ‘he did not close it’

d. *jatfit* /*j-at/i-t/* (3SGSIPV close:IPR DCM) ‘one will close it’

ejatf'i /*e-j-atf'i/* (NEG-3SGS-close:IPV) ‘one will not close it’

e. *jətf'in* /*jə-tf'i-n/* (3SGMascS close:JUS 3SGMascO) ‘let him close it’

etf'in /*e-jə-tf'i-n/* (NEG-3SGMascS-close:JUS-3SGMascO) ‘let him not close’

f. *jətf'i* /*jə-tf'i:/* (3SGSIPV-close:IPR) ‘let one close it’

etf'i /*e-jə-tf'i:/* (NEG-3SGS:IPV-close:IPR) ‘let one not close it’

The impersonal passive verb also can be formed with applicatives (i.e. derivations which introduce a direct object which lacks in the initial structure) instead of object agreement markers.

Example 32

a. *atf':ənam* /*atf':ə-na-m/* (close:3SGMascPV:A-3SGF:APL-DCM) ‘he closed for her’

atf':in:am /*atf':i-n:a-m/* (close:3SGMascPV:IPR-3SGF:APL-DCM) ‘one closed for her’

b. *jatf'inat* /*j-atf'i-na-t/* (3SGMascS-close3SGMascIPV:A-3SGF:APL-DCM) ‘he will close for her’

jatf'in:at /*j-atf'i-n:a-t/* (3SGMascS-close3SGIPV:IPR-3SGF:APL-DCM) ‘one can close for her’

c. *jətf'inəm^w* /*jə-tf'i-nə-m-^w/* (3SGMascS-close3SGJUS:-3PlMasc:APL-DCM) ‘let him close for them’

jətf'in:əm^w /*jə-tf'i-n:ə-m-^w/* (3SGMascS-close3SGJUS:IPR-3PlMasc:APL-DCM) ‘let one close for them’

d. *lahətiβimba* /*lah-ət-β-i-m-ba/* (send:PV:A-3SGFS-MAL-1SGO-CON-AUX:P) ‘She had asked for me by someone’ (lit. she had sent to me)

lahub:imba /*lah^wu-b:i-m-ba/* (send:3SGPV:IPR-MAL:1SGO-CON-AUX:P) ‘one had sent to me’

When /j/ appears with consonant initial verbs in the imperfective verb form the epenthetic vowel /i/ is inserted and when /jə/ appears with vowel initial verbs in the jussive form there is a deletion of /ə/.

Example 33

Active Impersonal passive

	Perfective	Perfective	Imperfective	Jussive	Gloss
a.	<i>kasəm</i>	<i>kafim</i>	<i>jikəfit</i>	<i>jəkafi</i>	‘one paid (the money) to him’
b.	<i>aβəlam</i>	<i>aβəl:em</i>	<i>jaβəlet</i>	<i>jaβle</i>	‘one make it sharp’

Regarding the jussive template sometimes the impersonal passive verbs may, alternatively, be formed without /jə/. This situation will occur when the speaker wants any addressee (one of from the group of people he/she may know) to fulfill his/her command. When the prefix *jə* is used the addressee will be somebody (not from a group of people), but the speaker only wants to be called.

Example 34

- a. *fəʔa lax^wu-n:*
 shewa send:Defau3SIPR-1SGO
 ‘let one (of you) send me Shewa(Addis Ababa).’
- b. *fəʔa jə-lax^wu-n:*
 shewa JUSS-Defau3SIPR-1SGO
 ‘let one send me Shewa (Addis Ababa).’
- c. *ədarə ti-səla t’irə-n:!*
 lunch when-reach call:Defau3SIPR-1SGO
 ‘let one (of you) call me when the lunch is ready!’
- d. *bazəna-we ti-βəsəm^w jə-t’irə-n:!*
 guest-DEF when-come:3PlMasc JUSS-Defau3SIPR-1SGO
 ‘let somebody call me when the guests will come!’

In the personal passive the subject position is taken over by the object of the related transitive verb. As a result, a noun with a patient role occurs in the syntactic position of agents, which often yields a semantic specification of the personal passive verb which may only be applicable in certain discourse contexts. In the impersonal passive, in contrast, the number of arguments and

their semantic roles are not changed. The subject remains the agent in the verbal event, although it is bleached out semantically, and the objects keep their patient role.

Example 35

- a. *ab:a-ŋŋa* *t'e* *asrəm*

father-1SGPOS sheep sell:3SGMasc:PV

‘my father sold a sheep.’

- b. *t'e-we* *tə-asirəm*

sheep:DEF pass-sell:3SGMasc:PV

‘the sheep was sold’

- c. *t'e-we* *asrojim*

sheep:DEF sell:3SG:PV:IMP

‘one sold the sheep’

The passive in example (35b) contains additional semantic information (i.e. it is in the context when the speaker wants to inform back to the person who saw him/her when he/she goes to sell) in addition to emphasizing the object *t'e*. The impersonal passive emphasizes on the verbal event including the object.

3.2 Use of Muher Impersonals

The study of language use in social contexts and the ways in which people produce and comprehend meanings through language is known as Pragmatics. Thus, in this section the use or function of impersonal passive construction in Muher will be discussed.

3.2.1 Impersonal passive with arguments and adjuncts

Muher impersonal passive constructions are used with arguments and adjuncts of a verb. In such formations of impersonal passive the human actor as subject of a verb will not be seen.

Example 36

- a. *gəβæε ji-fək^wə-m əxi ji-sr-oji-t*
 market 3SGSIPV-go:IPR-CON grain 3SGSIPV-buy-IPR:3SG DCM
 ‘When one goes to market one will buy a grain.’
- b. *əxi bə-ʔəbətʃⁱ aŋbi ji-sr-oji-t*
 grain if-lost:IPR cabbage 3SGSIPV-buy-IPR:3SG-DCM
 ‘If a grain is not found one will buy a cabbage.’
- c. *t’e bə-ʔərə inam j-aβəfe-t*
 sheep if-lost:PV cow 3SGSIPV-come:IPR:3SG-DCM
 ‘If a sheep is lost one can bring a cow’

The actor is not known overtly but the sentence implies that the verbal action is showed by a human entity. Thus, the impersonal passive cannot be formed from verbs which cannot have a human entity as subject.

3.2.2 Impersonal passive with human actor

The impersonal passive in Muher formed, mostly from transitive verbs with a human actor. Even though there is no identified subject, by default there is 3SG default human actor in Muher impersonals. Thus, it is known by default, that the pronoun ‘one’ in the impersonal passive represents 3SG default human actor.

Example 37

Active Perfective	Gloss	Impersonal Perfective	Gloss
a. <i>bəs:am</i>	‘he came’	<i>bəf:em</i>	‘one came’
b. <i>nəb:ərəm</i>	‘he became live’	<i>nəb^w:ərim</i>	‘one become lived’

Some verbs in Muher make impersonal form syntactically, but pragmatically they are not meaningful.

Example 48

Active Perfective IPR perfective gloss

amət'ət'am *amət/'ət'fim* 'worry about'

Since the subject and object of this kinds of verbs are human entity they need both subject and object agreement marker. Thus, it should be formed like *amət'ət'ihunim* 'he is worried about me'

3.2.3 Impersonal passive with intransitive verbs

The impersonal passive can be also formed from intransitive verbs which are marked by a default 3sgmasc object marker or applicatives.

Example 39

- a. *tʃət/i-m* *bə-səβ* *ji-səle-t*
work:IPR:PV:3SGO-CON Loc-man 3SGS-reach:IPR:IPV:3SG-DCM
'When one works hard one will reach at people.'
- b. *tə-g^wəb:e* *ge* *ji-nəwuri-t*
with-brother with 3SGS-live:IPR:IPV3SGO-DCM
'One lives with (one's) brother.'
- c. *jə-adot* *tə-ab:a* *ji-g^jən:e-t*
Acc-mother with-father 3SGS-fear:IPR:IPV-DCM
'One will frighten one's parent (mother and father).'

3.2.4 Impersonal passive with ditransitive Verbs

Ditransitive verbs obligatorily denote their dative object or use applicative markers; they cannot mark the direct object on the verb.

Example 40

- a. *jə-g^wəb:e-ɲna* *bizə* *giβir* *sərəʔ^wi-m* *tənadədə-m.*
DAT-brother-1SG:GEN many material steal3SGMascPV-CON angry:3SGMascPV-DCM
'Many of my brother's materials are stolen. Therefore, he became angry.'

b. *jə-təm^wə-ŋŋa bizə giβir sərə^{ɔ̃}u-ja-m tənadədə-tʃi-m*

DAT-sister-1SG:GEN many material steal3SGFPV-MAL-CON angry:3SGPV-3SGF-DCM

‘Many of my sister’s materials are stolen. Therefore, she became angry’

c. *jə-in:am-we sər afək^w:ə-b^w:ə-m*

DAT-cow-DEF grass take:3sgIPR:PV-MAL-DCM

‘One took the cow’s grass.’

In addition to dative object marker, the verb (*sərə^{ɔ̃}u-ja-m*) in sentence (b) and (c) adds malifactive marker (*ja*) and (*b^w:*) respectively. *in:am* in example (c) is 3sgMasc grammatically as used commonly.

3.2.5 Impersonal passive with the verb /bæɛm/ ‘say’

Exceptionally the verb *bæɛm* refers the quotation by the third singular masculine object markers in the impersonal construction.

Example 41

a. *zindirə ʃə ji-wətʃ'e-t bæɛm*

this year shewa 3SG.IPV-out.IPR-CON say.3SGMasc.PV

‘He said one will go to Shewa this year.’

b. *k'awa ji-t'əre-t bæɛm*

coffee 3SG.IPV-call.IPR-DCM say.3sgMasc.PV

‘He said one will call for coffee.’

Thus, the verb *bæɛm* comes after the impersonal verb form to show the quotation in the impersonal construction. The verb by itself has impersonal form, which holds, *bojim* ‘one said’.

Example 42

- a. *geɲ:i ji-gəwe-t boji-m.*
country 3SGMasc.IPV-enter-DCM say.3SG.IPR-DCM
‘One said that one went to home county.’
- b. *je-teni kʲəm^wi-m boji-m.*
DAT-Teni defeat.3sg.IPR.PV-CON say.3SG.IPR-DCM
‘One said Teni is defeated.’

All the variants of *bæm* (*bojim* /3SGMascO/, *bojam*/3SGFO/, etc) also, use as object marker in a sentence.

The object marker, too, can refer to the addressee to whom something has been said.

Example 43

- a. *zərmətʃʰ j-ədʒ aməl nənə-βa-t boji-m*
Zermechi GEN-hand character has-COP-DCM say.3sgIPR-DCM
‘one says that Zermechi is a thief.’ (lit. one says Zermechi has a character of stealing.)
- b. *aləmjirga muʃira aqəb:a-m boji-m*
Alemjirga bride enter.3SGMascPV.DCM say.3sgIPR-DCM
‘One said Alemjirga is married.’ (lit. one says Alemjirga entered a bride to him)

On the other side to focus on the addressee of the verbal event, the verb *bæm* is used with beneficiary applicative.

Example 44

- a. *jiβəso bon:om / ji-βəso bon:o-m/*
3SGMascS-come.IPV say.3SGOIPR-DCM
‘One said that he will come’
- b. *t’urija bon:am / t’uri-ja bon:a-m /*
witty-3SGF.be say.3SGO.IPR-DCM
‘One said she is skilled.’

An impersonal form of *bæm* is also used to emphasize on something and to admiration in discourse (speech).

Example 45

- a. *k'itf'ək':ətʃ'im bojim /k'itf'ək':ətʃ'i-m boji-m/*
 wallop.3SGMascO-DCM say.3SGIPR-DCM
 'One said he was walloped/ hit strongly.'
- b. *zəβərga fək;am bojim? /zəβərga fək:a-m b-oji-m/*
 Zeberga go.3SGMasc.PV-CON say-3SG.IPR-DCM
 'Did one say Zeberga had gone?'

Impersonal passive constructions in Muher are also used to express general facts. Thus, it is expressed using the imperfective form of the impersonal form of the verb.

Example 46

- a. *gurage nəgade-n ji-βuji-t*
 gurage merchant-be(is) 3SGMasc.IPV-call/say.IPR-DCM
 'Gurage is said to be a merchant' (lit. 'one said Gurage is a merchant')
- b. *səβ j-ərwaʃ:e insisa-n ji-βuji-t*
 man DAT-accustom.3SG.PV animal-COP 3SGMasc.IPV-say.3SG.IPR-DCM
 'Man is said to be domesticated animal.'

3.2.6 Impersonal passive in greetings and departures

A greeting in Muher uses impersonal passive form. Muher greetings can occur with second person agreement markers. For example, *mam^{wə} ad:ərħəm?* 'Did you (2sm) spent the night well?' *mam^{wə} ad:ərçim?* 'Did you (2sf) spend the night well?'. But there is no gender and number consideration in the impersonal forms of greetings in the language. Thus, the following are terms used in greetings with impersonal forms: *arəf:ədɟim* 'spent the morning'; *wojim* 'spent the day'; *aməf:iim* 'spent the evening'; *ad:ərim* 'spent the night' in which the regular perfective forms are *arəf:ədəm* 'he spent the morning', *wæem* 'he spent the day', *aməf:əm* 'he spent the evening', and *ad:ərəm* 'he spent the night' respectively. We can see in the following examples, how these terms are applied in the day to day conversations in Muher.

Example 47

- a. *mam^{wə} ad:ərim?*
good spend the night.IPR.PV
'Good morning' (lit. Did one spend the night well?)
- b. *mam^{wə} wojim?*
good spend the day:IPR.PV
'Good afternoon' (lit. Did one spend the day well?)
- c. *mam^{wə} aməf:im?*
good spend the evening.IPR.PV
'Good evening' (lit. Did one spend the evening well?)
- d. *m^wam^{wə} sinəb:ət/im?*
good spend the week.IPR.PV
'Did one spend the weeks well?'

As we observed from the data, impersonal passives used for greetings are not affirmatives but interrogatives. This types of constructions dominantly the issue of discourse. When one asks one's healthiest status the way he/she utter the words may have, even, tone. In the actual discourse contexts the number and gender of the addressee depends on the context but in the impersonal passive constructions the addressee is (example 47 a-d) always unidentified second person. However, usually 3rd person is implied in the impersonal passive forms.

Not only in the above way, there is another way of asking greetings with impersonal passive form. That is using one of the WH question pronoun (*bəmin*).

Example 48

bəmin ad:ərim? 'How did one spend the night?'

bəmin arəf:ədʒim? 'How did one spend the morning?'

nənit 'one is presented' is also the form of impersonal passive in Muher greetings. This is the way to know the general healthy condition of the person. This usage is stronger than the above two. It may describe to ask how the person spent the night or the day, etc.

Example 49

mam^{wə} nənit? / mam^{wə} nəni-t /

good present.2SG.IPR-DCM

‘Did one (live) well?’

The impersonal passive forms of the verb in greetings are used without any social distance. Which means the construction does not show how distant the interaction is socially. But if the speaker and addressee do not know each other this type of construction use as the only way to ask greetings.

The following examples are words to say goodbye (words of departure), in Muher.

Example 50

a. *bə-m^wam^{wə}ə woj!*

ADV:good spend the day.IPR.JUSS

‘Have a good day! (lit. spend the day in a good manner)’

b. *m^wam^{wə}ə sənbət/i*

good spend the weeks:IPR:Juss

‘Have a good weeks!’ (lit. let one spend the weeks, well)

The jussive marker *jə* is omitted in both sentences, but semantically there is no change in the sentence. Adverbial marker *bə* is used interchangeably. No matter if we say *bə-m^wam^{wə}ə woj!* or *m^wam^{wə}ə woj*. In general, departures in Muher can be used by a phrase called *bə-m^wam^{wə}e/ m^wam^{wə}* ‘goodbye (lit. in good mode)’ without describing the time.

3.2.8 Impersonal passive to form instrumental nouns

Impersonal passive also, use as to form instrumental nouns. When instrumental nouns are formed *-b^w.ə* is used commonly with the imperfective template, and it appears word finally.

Examples 51

- a. *jɪtəfʷəbːə /ji-təfʷə-bːə/* (3SGIPV-slapp.IPR-MAL.3SGMasc) ‘instrument for slapping
k’otʃːo’ (lit. an instrument used for baking k’otʃːo)
- b. *jagdʒibːə /j-agdʒi-bːə/* (3SGIPV-tye.IPR-MAL.3SGMasc) ‘(usually) rope’ (lit.
instrument used for tying something)
- c. *jɪtgədobːə /ji-tgədə-bːə/* (3SGIPV-sleep.IPR-MAL.3SGMasc) ‘lit. instrument used for
sleeping’
- d. *jɪsətʃːibːə /ji-sətʃːi-bːə/* (3SGIPV-drink.IPR-MAL.3SGMasc) a. ‘instrument used for
drinking’ b. ‘instrument used to buy drinking’ (lit. money to buy drinking)
- e. *jɔnəbːə /j-ɔnə-bːə/* (3SGIPV-keep.IPR-MAL.3SGMasc) ‘lit. an instrument for
keeping/ placing something’
- f. *jɪkəftʃibːəʔe /ji-kəftʃi-bːəʔe/* (3SGIPV-open.IPR-MAL.3SGMasc-REL) ‘opener’ (lit.
instrument used for opening)

We can examine these nouns how they form impersonal passive in discourse by taking two of them as follows.

Example 52

- a. *jagdʒibːəʔe namə (ji-agdʒi-bːəʔe nam-e)*
3SG-tie.IPR-INST-REL bring.2SGMascS.PV-1SG.O
‘Bring me the rope.’ (lit. Bring (you 2SGMasc) me the one that used for tying)
- b. *zi jɪsətʃːibːəʔen (zi ji-sətʃːi-bːəʔe-n)*
this 3SGMasc-drink.IPR-INST-REL-COP
‘This is the one used for drinking (lit.)’

The examples show us that instrumental nouns have productive constructions.

Productively described instrumental nouns are usually accompanied by the relational noun *k’e* ‘thing’ while has the variant *ʔe* after vowels.

3.2.3.9 Impersonal passive with augmentation discourses

Augmentation is the expression of varieties of emotions and feelings of discourse participants. These are curse, anger, surprise, greediness, etc. The actual expression of the impersonal passive verb can be obtained in the actual discourse context.

Example 53

- a. *nɪβrət bə-agəɲ:i-ge ik:i ji-k^wəre-t!?* (greediness)
 Property REL-get:3SG-REL like this 3SGMasc.IPV-proud.IPR-DCM
 ‘Did one become proud of his property/wealth!’
- b. *ik':i fək^w:ər-im jəma ji-g^jən:e-t* (anger)
 like this fat.3SGMascS.IPR-DCM who 3SGMascIPV-fear3SGMascO.IPR-DCM
 ‘If one becomes fat like this, no one can fear.’

The verb *bəs:am* ‘come’ and *fək:am* ‘go’ have augmentation function in impersonal passive form, with restricted discourse contexts to express certain emotions of the speaker.

Example 54

- a. *miŋge fək^w:em!/?/miŋge fək^w:e-m/* (when go.3SGMascPV.IPR-DCM) ‘When did one leave’ (surprising of one’s going unexpectedly)
- b. *bəf:em təβəf:emhəma! /bəf:e-m tə-βəf:e-m-həma/* (come.3SGMasc.PV.IPR-CON REL(as)-come.3SGMasc.PV.IPR-CON-as) ‘We/I/ arrived from the trip very exhaustedly’ (lit. One come as one arrived.)
- c. *ahuj:an jiβəfe? /ahuj:a-n ji-βəfe/* (now-COP 3SGMasc.IPV-come.3SGMasc.IPR) ‘Why you come now? /you came late!’ (li. Did one (2sgNUE) come now!? (anger)

Example (54b) implies a context in which people come from a long journey. They may be thirsty, hungry, and exhausted. And they do not want to talk with anyone about their journey. They expect the addressee to understand their tiredness. Example 54c is a context in which the speaker was waiting the addressee for a long time (in a day) and was in anger situation, thus, expects the addressee to apologize. The addressee may be one or more with no restriction to gender and person.

Other than *bəs:am/fək:am*, verbs like *nəbərəm* ‘lived’ can have impersonal function. Let me illustrate with the following (example 58) dialogue.

Example 55

x: *bemini?* ‘How are you doing?’ (lit. how is it?)

y: *nənit!* ‘am fine’ (lit. one lived well)

x: *nurɔax bəminin* ‘how is your live?’

y: *zix jinəwurit aŋm^wət/i!* ‘still I am alive’ (lit. here is one(I) lives and do not died).

This is when the speaker in the context of bad situation regarding his live. He may not want to live because of he is in scarcity of basic needs.

Some verbs can be used in the impersonal passive most commonly whose subject is not human entity. For example, the verb *nəd:ədəm* ‘become burned’ can be used for exaggerating ones feeling or needs.

nədʒ:ədʒim! I/we are thirsty, we need cold water. (lit. one is burned for water)

Here is the feeling and need of water expressed in the exaggerating way. They want the addressee to give them something to drink.

3.2.11 Impersonal passive with reciprocals

Impersonal passive in Muher can be also used with reciprocal verbs. But it is known that the actor is human and the speaker can have pre-knowledge about the doer of the event.

Example 56

- a. *tənak:əsəm* a. he quarrel with somebody b. he bite someone
tənak:əʃim ‘quarrel each other’
- b. *təzan:əfəm* ‘he hit someone’
təzan:əf^wim ‘hit each other’
- c. *təmak:ərəm* ‘give advice each other’
təmak^w:ərim ‘advice one another’

3.2.3 Semantics of impersonal passive

Semantically, the covert subject in the impersonal passive refers to a human entity. Dominantly, the impersonal passive forms in Muher are supposed to be found in verbs which have a human

agent as a subject. Therefore, the impersonal form does never occur with verbs whose subject cannot be a human. Here are some verbs with no human subject.

Example 57

- a. *nət':ərəm* 'melt/ bounced'
- b. *rəg:əfəm* 'fall down (leaves)'
- c. *t'əb:əʔəm* 'be tight'

Even though this kind of verbs do not have human subject and do not yield impersonal passive, we can form impersonal passive by adding a prefix /a-/, which functions as a causative marker. Then it shows the action performed is caused by another external agent.

Example 58

Impersonal perfective	Gloss
a. <i>anət':ərim</i>	'one caused to melt/bounced'
b. <i>arəg:əf^wim</i>	'one caused to fall down'
c. <i>at'əb:əʔ^wim</i>	'one caused to be tight'

The examples in 58 also work with all the verb forms of the impersonal passive, i.e. perfective, imperfective and jussive holding with the regular impersonal passive properties.

The following examples are impersonal passive forms which imply only human actor, on the other hand.

Example 59

- a. *təʔəb:ərəm* a) he become buried (funeral) b) become rooted (newly seed)
teʔəb^w:ərim 'one becomes buried'
- b. *təʔijak':æm* a) it is mixed up b) become part of a meeting
təʔijak':ojim 'one become gathered in a meeting'
- c. *dəb:am* 'he become late'
dəb^w:pæm 'one become late'
- d. *an:əʔəm* a) he strangled/throttled b) it became over
an:əʔ^wim a) one become about to die b) one strangled/throttled him

i. Verbs which do not form impersonal passive

Some verbs do not form impersonal passive construction. The verbs can have syntactical impersonal passive form but they are not semantically, meaningful.

Example 60

Active Perfective	Gloss	Impersonal Perfective form
a. <i>fəl:am</i>	‘it is boiled’	<i>fəl:em</i>
b. <i>bəsæem</i>	‘it is ripened ’	<i>bəsojim</i>

But these verbs can form impersonal passive using causative marker /a-/ by adding at the beginning of the verb stem.

Example 61

Active		Impersonal	
Perfective	Gloss	Perfective	Gloss
a. <i>fəl:am</i>	‘it is boiled’	<i>afəl:em</i>	‘someone made it to boiled’
b. <i>bəsæem</i>	‘it is ripened’	<i>abəsojim</i>	‘someone made it to ripen’

Some verbs in Muher also form impersonal passive when they come with *tə-* (personal passive) as shown in example 62 and 63 below.

Example 62

- a. *bətʃʔən:ən: təkəb:ərəm*
 ‘He becomes respected/honored through his children.’
- b. *bətʃʔən:i təkəbw:ərim*
 ‘One become respected/honored through his children’

Example 63

Active perfective	Passive perfective	Impersonal perfective	Gloss
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<i>m^wa/ə̃m</i>	<i>təm^wa/ə̃m</i>	<i>təm^wa/im</i>	‘one anointed oneself’
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Thus, the verb *kəb:ərem* ‘be respected/be honored’ cannot form an impersonal passive, while the verb with /tə-/ *təkəb:əram* ‘become respected/honored’ does. Therefore, the impersonal passive form of *təkəb:əram* is *təkəb^w:ərim* ‘one becomes respected/ honored’. The verb *m^wa/ə̃m* also does the same as the verb *kəb:ərem*.

ii. Verbs with different interpretations

Regarding semantics property of impersonal passive there are verbs with different interpretations or meanings.

Example 64

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| a. <i>jɪwab^w:ə</i> | a. instrument to eat |
| | b. item of food that complements another (cheese for <i>k’otf’o</i> , wot for <i>enjera</i>) |
| b. <i>nədʒ:ədʒim</i> | a. one become burnt |
| | b. one become thirsty |
| c. <i>k’ər:əf^w:im</i> | a. one cut down (leaves) |
| | b. one slit one’s neck (one makes to die) |

CHAPTER FOUR

Summary and Conclusion

The objective of this chapter is summarizing and concluding the points which are discussed in the preceding chapters. This thesis has four chapters: chapter one introduction, chapter two reviews of literature and theoretical framework, chapter three data analysis and this chapter, chapter four is summary and conclusion.

A review of previous works on Muher language and basic concepts on the impersonal passive has been discussed in the second chapter of the thesis. Thus, a few works on the grammar of the language are found. Properties of impersonal passive and how the impersonal passive is formed in different languages are presented on the theoretical section of the chapter.

The main part of this thesis, Chapter three consists of the analysis and description of Muher impersonal passive. The chapter has three major sections; these are: formation, use and semantics of Muher impersonal. In the morphophonology part in the formation of Muher impersonal section consonants are discussed by classifying into coronal and non-coronal consonant. As a result when coronal sounds appear at the end of a verb root they are changed into palatalization in the impersonal passive, whereas, non-coronals are labialized in the impersonal passive verb form. Thus, labialization and palatalization are investigated as they are impersonal passive markers in the language. There are other consonantal and vocalic (vowel) sound changes when the active verbs are changed to the impersonal passive forms, in which labialization or palatalization features are realized. Morphologically, the different verb forms of Muher impersonals do not have subject markers. But the imperfective and jussive templates have /j/ and /jə/ default or 3SGMasc subject markers, respectively. Impersonal passive verbs in the language imply different usages. They can be used to form exaggeration in discourse, instrumental nouns, general facts, greetings, etc. Semantically, verbs in the impersonal passive should have human agent as a subject but sometimes non human actors are appeared as a subject. The subject implies neither gender nor number.

Generally, the Muher impersonal passive verb implies several morphologies in order to conduct different functions. The usual impersonal passive markers in the language are labialization and palatalization features and the feature realization on other sounds. Thus, Muher impersonal passive construction is morphological with unidentified subject.

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