Passive in Arabic and English

Passive is available in both Arabic and English. However, there are differences. In English, the process is syntactic but in Arabic it is morphological.

Consider the following examples:

1. a. Someone broke the window. (Active Voice)

   b. The window was broken.   (passive voice)

The object was thematized in the passive version, then the verb is made passive (Be + p.p.)

If we translate the above example into Arabic, we get the following:

2. a. كسر شخص النافذة

   b. كسرت النافذة

We can see that both active and passive versions start with the verb. The changes occurred only in the case marking. The first radical of the verb has Dhamma (nominative case) and the penultimate one has Kasra (genitive case) in the past tense.