Initial Interrogative in Content Question

Cross-linguistically, interrogative phrases occur either obligatorily at the beginning of the sentence (as it does in English), or in other positions, such as in the position in which the corresponding non-interrogative phrase occurs. The adjectival interrogative in the Alingar Pashai content question in (1) occurs immediately before its noun phrase head, just like corresponding non-interrogative adjectival modifiers do.

1. Alingar Pashai [psi(ar)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| alə | **kutar** | mətɕ | aːs |  |
| this | what.kind | fly | be.3.an.msg.prs |  |
| ‘What kind of bug is this?’ (PSIar-Dem-HA:003b) | | | | |

In the sample, none of the languages display an obligatory sentence-initial occurrence. Instead, interrogative phrases occur in the same position as in non-interrogative sentences.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 0 | 0 |
| Absent | 59 | 100 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |