Postpositional Coding of Source

The strategy for marking a noun phrase as a source or an origin was investigated. The positive value of this feature reflects the presence of a marker following the noun phrase, whether clitical or adpositional. In Torwali, this semantic role is coded by a postposition, as shown in (1).

1. Torwali [trw] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | seːrɛːn-eː | kitaːb | **maː** | paːʂ | pʰaːl-uː |  |
|  | girl-erg | [book | from] | leaf(m) | tear-msg |  |
|  | ‘The girl tore the page from the book.’ (TRW-Val-UD:032) | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. | tʰaːm | **maː** | bʰawaj | laːr | gɛː |  |
|  | [tree | from] | apple(f) | down | go.pst.fsg |  |
|  | ‘The apple fell from the tree.’ (TRW-Val-UD:084) | | | | | |

This is a feature of nearly all the sample languages, either as the only explicit marking or in addition to other coding, such as prepositions or suffixes.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 55 | 93 |
| Absent | 3 | 5 |
| Indeterminate | 1 | 2 |