Dental Affricates

The use of dental affricates contrasting with affricates with other places of articulation as well as with other dental sounds was investigated. The inventory of Wakhi of Pakistan contains a voiced dental affricate, as well as a palatal (or alveolo-palatal) affricate, a voiced dental fricative and a voiced interdental fricative, as shown in (1).

(1) Wakhi, Pakistan [wbl(p)] (Iranian)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | /dzaq/ | ‘small’ (WBLp-Kin-AK:010) |
| b. | /dɕɨmat/ | ‘wife’ (WBLp-Kin-SU:038) |
| c. | /zik/ | ‘tongue’ (WBLp-40list-AK:034) |
| d. | /ðas/ | ‘ten’ (WBLp-Num-AK:010) |

The presence of dental affricates is a strongly areal features, absent only in about a fifth of the sample languages. The feature is present in languages across five of the phylogenetic groupings, while absent in both of the Turkic sample languages.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 48 | 81 |
| Absent | 11 | 19 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |