Lateral Fricatives

The occurrence of voiceless lateral fricatives was investigated. In languages where it occurs, it appears to contrast phonologically with voiceless lateral approxmants. Gawarbati of Pakistan is one of those languages. See examples in (1).

1. Gawarbati, Pakistan [gwt(p)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | /ɬe/ | ‘three’ (GWTp-Num-AS:003) |
| b. | /puɬ/ | ‘son’ (GWTp-Kin-AS:004) |
| c. | /ɡaɬ/ | ‘skin’ (GWTp-40list-AS:030) |

The presence of lateral fricatives is a minority feature in the area, but its presence is still considerably higher than its corresponding global frequency. It is found in Sino-Tibetan as well as among the region’s Iranian and Indo-Aryan languages.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 13 | 22 |
| Absent | 46 | 78 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |