Kinship: MZ=FZ

In some languages, the same kinship term is used for referring to an anchor’s mother’s sister (MZ) as for referring to father’s sister (FZ). This pattern occurs in Alasai Pashai, as can be seen in ‎(1). This term is lexically distinct from the term for ‘mother’.

1. Alasai Pashai [psh(ai)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | aːjə | ‘mother’ (PSHai-Kin-KD:002) |
| b. | maːmbiː | ‘mother’s sister’ (PSHai-Kin-KD:030) |
| c. | maːmbiː | ‘father’s sister’ (PSHai-Kin-KD:024) |

This pattern also exists in Korangali Pashai. Here, however, the polysemy includes the anchor’s mother, maternal aunts, and paternal aunts, alike, as can be seen in ‎(2).

1. Korangali Pashai [aee(kg)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | aːj | ‘mother’ (AEEkg-Kin-AM:002) |
| b. | kaniɕti aːj | ‘father’s sister’ [lit. little mother] (AEEkg-Kin-AM:024) |
| c. | aːj | ‘mother’s sister’ [lit. mother] (AEEkg-Kin-AM:030) |
| d. | kaniɕti aːj | ‘mother’s younger sister’ [lit. little mother] (AEEkg-Kin-AM:032) |
| e. | ɖəɕti aːj | ‘mother’s older sister’ [lit. big mother] (AEEkg-Kin-AM:031) |

The feature occurs in approximately a fourth of the sample. It has a distinctly subareal distribution, occurring in a geographical belt stretching from the region’s southwestern corner to the region’s northeastern corner.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 16 | 27 |
| Absent | 41 | 69 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 4 |