Accusative Alignment of Verbal Marking

In an accusative system of verb agreement, features of the more agent-line NP argument of a two-place transitive predicate and features of the core NP argument of a one-place intransitive predicate are reflected in the same way in verbal morphology. A positive value is given if this is the case in any tense-aspect category of the language system. An example is Khowar, as seen in (1). In (1a), the verb shows agreement in third person singular with the core NP of the intransitive clause. In (1b), the verb shows agreement in third person plural with the core NP of the intransitive clause. In (1c), the verb shows agreement in third person singular with the subject NP of the transitive clause. In (1d), the verb shows agreement in third person plural with the subject NP of the transitive clause.

1. Khowar [khw] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | **pʰuk** | **kumoːru** | oːs-it-**aj** |  |  |  |
|  | small | girl | laugh-pst-3sg |  |  |  |
|  | **S** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | ‘The little girl laughed.’ (KHW-Val-AA:057) | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. | **moːɕ**(-an) | kan-tu | us-it-**aːni** |  |  |
|  | man-(pl) | tree-loc | climb-pst-3pl |  |  |
|  | **S** |  |  |  |  |
|  | ‘The men climbed up the tree.’ (KHW-Val-AA:048) | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| c. | **kumoːru** | tan | waw-o | te | gamburij-an | anzeː-t-**aj** |
|  | girl | refl | grandmother-obl | to | flower-obl.pl | send-pst-3sg |
|  | **A** |  |  |  | P |  |
|  | ‘The girl sent flowers to her grandmother.’ (KHW-Val-AA:037) | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| d. | **moːɕ-an** | dar-aːr | duːr | sawzeː-t-**ani** |  |
|  | man-pl | wood-abl | house | make-pst-3pl |  |
|  | **A** |  | P |  |  |
|  | ‘The men built a house out of wood.’ (KHW-Val-AA:024) | | | | |

This feature is a majority feature, evidenced in the entire region (whether as the only alignment pattern, or in addition to an ergative alignment pattern) except for the far east, where the Sino-Tibetan sample languages lack agreement marking on verbs altogether.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 54 | 92 |
| Absent | 3 | 5 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 3 |