Postpositional Coding of Location

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

1. Alishang Pashai [glh(ag)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | baːlkulan | tɕoːkiː | **ɕəraː** | niːgiːz |  |  |
|  | boy.pl | [bench | on] | sit.down.pst.3pl |  |  |
|  | ‘The children sat down on the bench.’ (GLHag-Val-SF:051) | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. | kuːnuː | adam-aːn | χaːr | **kutɕaː** | ʑun | kət-un |
|  | old | man-pl | [city | in] | life | do.prs-3pl |
|  | ‘The old people live in town.’ (GLHag-Val-SF:056) | | | | | |

This is a feature of a majority of the sample languages, either as the only explicit marking or in addition to other coding, such as prepositions or suffixes. Languages that lack this feature are found in the region’s northwest.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 47 | 80 |
| Absent | 10 | 17 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 3 |