Accusative Alignment (Nouns)

In an accusative system of case marking, P, the more patient-like NP argument of a two-place transitive predicate, is encoded differently from S, the core argument of a one-place intransitive predicate. Any occurrence (whether consistently or in a sub-domain of a language) of such (P≠S contrastive) marking of full noun phrases has been taken as positive evidence of this feature. In Uzbek (see ‎(1)), the P argument carries a case suffix *–deː*, while the S argument remains zero marked for case. (The case marking *‑de* in addition encodes various locative relations. A direct object with definite reference may also occur with a suffix *–niː*.)

1. Uzbek [uzs] (Turkic)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | iːlɑːn | wiːl-deː. | | | |
|  | snake | die-pst | | | |
|  | **S** |  | | | |
|  | ‘The snake died.’ (UZS-ValQuestAL:061) | | | | |
| b. | uːʁul | iːlɑːn=deː | jaʁɑːt͡ʃ | minan | uːr-deː. |
|  | boy | snake=loc | stick | with | hit-pst |
|  | A | **P** |  |  |  |
|  | ‘The boy hit the snake with a stick.’ (UZS-ValQuestAL:028) | | | | |

Accusative alignment is clearly subareal in its distribution. While it is not a feature associated with the geographical core of the Hindu Kush, it is strongly represented in the northwestern sub-region (in Indo-Aryan, Nuristani, Iranian and Turkic), and then again in the southeastern sub-region (Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman).

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 24 | 41 |
| Absent | 35 | 59 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |