Zero Copula for Predicate Nominals

Clauses with nonverbal predicates may or may not have a copula, i.e. an element explicitly linking a copula subject with a copula complement. For complements encoding identity, some of the sample languages do not need an overt copula, as shown for Indo-Aryan Kalasha in ‎(1) and Iranian Rushani in ‎(2).

1. Kalasha [kls] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ɕ-iːa | motɕ | iɕkaːri. |  |  |
| emph-prox.nom.sg | man | hunter |  |  |
| ‘This man is a hunter.’ (KLS-ValQuestLR:070) | | | | |

1. Rushani [sgh(r)] (Iranian)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| jim | tʃuruk | ɣiːwgar. |  |  |
| def.prox | man | hunter |  |  |
| ‘This man is a hunter.’ (SGHr-ValQuestZB:070) | | | | |

Although not a majority feature in the region in its entirety, this is a strongly sub-areal feature, occurring in Iranian, Indo-Aryan and Turkic in a contiguous area in the region’s northwest.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 16 | 27 |
| Absent | 42 | 71 |
| Indeterminate | 1 | 2 |