Zero Copula for Predicate Adjectives

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 properties, some of the sample languages do not need an overt copula, as shown for Iranian Ishkashimi in ‎(1) and Turkic Uzbek in ‎(2).

1. Ishkashimi [isk] (Iranian)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| aw | χɑːn | faj | friː |  |
| that | house | very | good |  |
| ‘That house is very beautiful.’ (ISK-DemSO:006a) | | | | |

1. Uzbek [uzs] (Turkic)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| uː | uːj | koːp | jaχsiː |  |
| that | house | very | good |  |
| ‘That house is very beautiful.’ (UZS-DemWD:006a) | | | | |

Although not a majority feature in the region in its entirety, this is possibly a significant sub-areal feature, occurring mainly in the northern parts of the region, evidently in Iranian, Indo-Aryan and Turkic.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 11 | 19 |
| Absent | 40 | 68 |
| Indeterminate | 8 | 13 |