Non-Nominative Experiencer

The use of a case form or construction other than the basic/direct or nominative as a subject to encode a noun phrase as an experiencer was investigated. In Indo-Aryan Kashmiri of India, as seen in (1), the experiencer of the sensation of coldness is expressed as a recipient, with the first person pronoun form used for dative and ergative alike.

1. Kashmiri, India [kas(i)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **me** | ləd͡ʒ | tɨːr. |  |  |  |
| 1sg.dat | strike.pst.fsg | cold(ness) |  |  |  |
| ‘I feel cold.’ (KASi-ValQuestAN:060) | | | | | |

In Indo-Aryan Aret Pashai, as in (2), the experiencer is expressed as the possessor of the stimulus, i.e. the ‘cold’ or the ‘coldness’, the NP itself appearing as the object of the transitive verb ‘to do’, the latter lacking an explicit subject.

1. Aret Pashai [aee(at)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| eːʃ-**əm** | kər-iː. |  |  |  |  |
| cold(ness)-1sg.poss | do.prs-3sg |  |  |  |  |
| ‘I feel cold.’ (AEEat-ValQuestHH:060) | | | | | |

This feature was evidenced in approximately half of the sample. However, this is not to say that it couldn’t be expressed non-nominatively in the languages given a negative value.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 30 | 51 |
| Absent | 26 | 44 |
| Indeterminate | 3 | 5 |