Occurrence of Theme=Patient (Indirect Object Construction)

The occurrence of an indirect object construction was investigated, that is: whether the theme of a ditransitive verb is treated like the patient of a mono-transitive verb, whereas the recipient is given a different treatment. In Iranian Darwazi, as seen in (1), the patient in the mono-transitive clause (1a) is coded with the postpositional direct object clitic *=ra*, which is the same coding that the theme in the ditransitive clause (1b) receives, whereas the recipient is coded with the preposition *baj* ‘to’.

1. Darwazi [prs(d)] (Iranian)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | batʃa | miːwa=**ra** | bəχəwr. |  |
|  | [boy] | [fruit=do] | eat.pst |  |
|  | A | P |  |  |
|  | ‘The boy ate the fruit.’ (PRSd-ValQuestML:001) | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. | dəχtar-ɑː | aks-ɑː=**ra** | **baj** | maːlim-a | nəʃuː | dɑː-n. |
|  | [girl-pl] | [picture-pl=do] | [to | teacher-pl] | sign | give.pst-3pl |
|  | A | T | R |  |  |  |
|  | ‘The girls showed pictures to the teachers.’ (PRSd-ValQuestML:035) | | | | | |

This feature was evidenced (as the only possible construction or as a construction in addition to other constructions) in almost all the languages in the sample. For the remaining languages, it was not possible to determine whether the construction is possible based on the present data set.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 56 | 95 |
| Absent | 0 | 0 |
| Indeterminate | 3 | 5 |