Verbal Person Agreement

Verbal person marking on the inflected verb was investigated. The presence of this feature is exemplified by Nuristani Prasun in (1). The verb is marked for person (and number) in agreement with the subject, in intransitive and transitive clauses alike. The examples show different marking for first person singular, first person plural, third person singular, and third person plural.

1. Prasun [prn] (Nuristani)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | anzuː | kijur-an | aːtɕaːwo-**ma.** |  |
|  | 1sg.nom | child-obl.pl | help.pst-1sg |  |
|  | ‘I helped the boys.’ (PRN-ValQuestSM:015) | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. | asə | kijur-luw-an | ʑitɕi | aːblijo-**mtɕa.** |  |  |
|  | 1pl.nom | child-pl-obl.pl | book | give.pst-1pl |  |  |
|  | ‘We gave the books to the children.’ (PRN-ValQuestSM:036) | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| c. | iːʑeːŋ | amoːk-**sa.** |  |  |
|  | snake | die.pst-3sg |  |  |
|  | ‘The snake died.’ (PRN-ValQuestSM:061) | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| d. | wədʑmiː-luːg | baks-luw-an | mɑːrkiʈ | pan | pəmɕowo-**sta.** |  |
|  | man-pl | box-pl-obl.pl | market | to | carry.pst-3pl |  |
|  | ‘The men carried the boxes to the market.’ (PRN-ValQuestSM:038) | | | | | |

Verbal person agreement (in at least one tense-aspect category) is present in most of the sample languages, as far as was possible to determine.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 43 | 73 |
| Absent | 5 | 8 |
| Indeterminate | 11 | 19 |