Grammatical Gender

Agreement is taken as the defining characteristic of grammatical gender. This is exemplified in ‎(1); the verb in Sawi takes a masculine agreement suffix *-****u*** with the masculine noun ‘rain’ as a subject and a feminine agreement suffix *-****i*** with the feminine noun ‘sun’.

1. Sawi [sdg] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | **baʂ** | uʈiʈ-**u.** |
|  | rain(m) | fall.pfv-msg |
|  | ‘It rained.’ (SDG-ValQuestFR:069) | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| b. | **suri** | ukeːt-**i**. |
|  | sun(f) | get.up.pfv-fsg |
|  | ‘The sun rose.’ (SDG-NorthwindFR:004a) | |

A majority of our sample languages display evidence of two or more genders lexically associated with nouns. Approximately a fifth of the sample varieties lacks this property altogether, among them the Turkic and Tibeto-Burman varieties.

|  |  |  |
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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 47 | 80 |
| Absent | 12 | 20 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |