Prepositional Coding of Location

The strategy for marking a noun phrase as a location was investigated. The positive value of this feature reflects the presence of a marker preceding the noun phrase, whether clitical or adpositional. In Iranian Pashto of Pakistan, this semantic role is coded by a preposition, as shown in (1). For a location at, or near, a surface, as in (1a), the preposition *pə* is sufficient, while for the location inside something, as in (1b), a combination of the preposition *pə* and a postposition *kiː* is used.

1. Pashto, Pakistan [pbu(p)] (Iranian)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | maːʃuːm-aːn | **pə** | beːntʃ | naːst | diː. |  |
|  | child-pl | [at | bench] | seated | be.prs.3pl |  |
|  | ‘The children sit on the bench.’ (PBUp-ValQuestKK:051) | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b. | buːɖaː-gaːn | **pə** | kəliː | kiː | uːs-iː. |  |
|  | old.person-pl | [at | village | in] | live.prs-3 |  |
|  | ‘The old people live in town.’ (PBUp-ValQuestKK:056) | | | | | |

This is a minority feature and, in this data sample, limited to Iranian languages (primarily in the north). In those languages it is sometimes present in addition to other coding, such as suffixing or a postposition.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 11 | 19 |
| Absent | 48 | 81 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |