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 neat, 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)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | maːʃuːm-aːn | **pə** | beːnt͡ʃ | 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 limited to Iranian languages (primarily in the north). It is present (sometimes in addition to other coding, such as suffixing or a postposition) in eleven of the sample languages.

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