Kinship: F=FB

Some languages display a certain kind of polysemy pattern in which the kinship term used for referring to an anchor’s father (F) is also used for referring to a father’s brother (FB). Usually, that is done by adding a modifying ‘big’ for a paternal uncle that is older than the anchor’s father, and ‘little’ for a paternal uncle that is younger. This pattern occurs in Tibeto-Burman Balti, as can be seen in ‎(1).

1. Balti [bft] (Tibeto-Burman)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | ata | ‘father’ (BFT-KinHS:001) |
| b. | ata tɕʰoʁo | ‘father’s older brother’ [lit. big father] (BFT- KinHS:022) |
| c. | ata tsʰuntseː | ‘father’s younger brother’ [lit. little father] (BFT- KinHS:023) |

The feature occurs in approximately a third of the sample, essentially in a central belt stretching through the geographical core of the region from west to east. This polysemy is sometimes in addition to a general term for a paternal uncle, lexically distinct from the term for ‘father’.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 19 | 32 |
| Absent | 38 | 65 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 3 |