Kinship: MZ=FZ

In some languages, the same kinship term is used for referring to an anchor’s mother’s sister (MZ) as for referring to father’s sister (FZ). This pattern occurs in Indo-Aryan Alasai Pashai, as can be seen in ‎(1). This term is lexically distinct from the term for ‘mother’.

1. Alasai Pashai [psh(ai)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | aːjə | ‘mother’ (PSHai-KinKD:002) |
| b. | maːmbiː | ‘mother’s sister’ (PSHai-KinKD:030) |
| c. | maːmbiː | ‘father’s sister’ (PSHai-KinKD:024) |

This pattern also exists in Korangali Pashai. Here, however, the polysemy includes the anchor’s mother, maternal aunts, and paternal aunts, alike, as can be seen in ‎(2).

1. Korangali Pashai [aee(kg)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | aːj | ‘mother’ (AEEkg-KinAM:002) |
| b. | kaniɕti aːj | ‘father’s sister’ [lit. little mother] (AEEkg-KinAM:024) |
| c. | aːj | ‘mother’s sister’ [lit. mother] (AEEkg-KinAM:030) |
| d. | kaniɕti aːj | ‘mother’s younger sister’ [lit. little mother] (AEEkg-KinAM:032) |
| e. | ɖəɕti aːj | ‘mother’s older sister’ [lit. big mother] (AEEkg-KinAM:031) |

The feature occurs in approximately a fourth of the sample. It has a distinctly subareal distribution, occurring in a geographical belt stretching from the region’s southwestern corner to the region’s northeastern corner.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 16 | 27 |
| Absent | 41 | 69 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 4 |