Kinship: Grandchildren by Sex

Terms referring to one’s grandchildren were investigated. One of the relevant features is that grandchildren are distinguished according to their biological sex, i.e. differentiating terms corresponding to ‘grandson’ and ‘granddaughter’, respectively, are used. That is the case in Brokskat, as can be seen in (1).

1. Brokskat [bkk] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | poːʈo | ‘grandson’ (BKK-Kin-TL:017, 019) |
| b. | pøːʈi | ‘granddaughter’ (BKK-Kin-TL:018, 020) |

The absence of this value is exemplified by Wakhi of Pakistan, as shown in (2). A single term for ‘grandchild’ is used, regardless of sex.

1. Wakhi, Pakistan [wbl(p)] (Iranian)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| nəpɨs | ‘grandchild’ (WBLp-Kin-AK:017-020) |

Differentiation by the grandchild’s sex is a majority feature. It is absent only in a few of the sample languages.

|  |  |  |
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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 47 | 80 |
| Absent | 10 | 17 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 3 |