Colexification: Hide=Steal

A polysemy pattern shared by a number of languages in the sample is a verb that corresponds to the semantic notion of ‘hiding’ as well as that of ‘stealing’. This is the case with Pashto of India, as seen in ‎(1). It should be noted that this verbal meaning in Pashto is jointly expressed with a light verb ‘to do, make’ and an adjectival element ‘hidden’.

1. Pashto, India [pbu(i)] (Iranian)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | alək | χpəl-e | | moːr | na | tsindzaχa | | **paʈ-a** | **kɽ-a** |
|  | boy | refl-fsg.obl | | mother | from | frog(f) | | hidden-fsg.nom | do.pfv.pst-fsg |
|  | ‘The boy hid the frog from his mother.’ (PBUi-Val-NK:034) | | | | | | | | |
| b. | ʁal | buɖaj | χəz-e | | na | peːse | **pəʈ-e** | | **kɽ-eː** |
|  | thief | old.f | woman- obl | | from | money.pl | hidden-fpl.nom | | do.pfv.pst-fpl |
|  | ‘The thief stole money from the old lady.’ (PBUi-Val-NK:076) | | | | | | | | |

This colexification pattern is present in about a third of the sample languages, of which all are either Indo-Aryan or Iranian, and spoken in the southern and central parts of the region.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 21 | 36 |
| Absent | 38 | 64 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |