Colexification: Woman=Wife

A polysemy pattern shared by a number of languages in the sample is a noun that corresponds to the semantic notion of ‘woman’ as well as that of ‘wife’. This is the case in Nuristani Ashkun, as seen in ‎(1); in Indo-Aryan Dameli, as seen in (2), although there is an additional term exclusively used for ‘wife’; as well as in Iranian Pashto (Pakistan), as in (3).

1. Ashkun [ask] (Nuristani)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | strimili | ‘woman’ (ASK-ValQuestWS:054) |
| b. | strimili | ‘wife’ (ASK-KinWS:038) |

1. Dameli [dml] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | ʑaːmi | ‘woman’ (DML-ValQuestHM:054) |
| b. | ʑaːmi, iɕtriː | ‘wife’ (DML-KinHM:038) |

1. Pashto, Pakistan [pbu(p)] (Iranian)

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| a. | χəza | ‘woman’ (PBUp-ValQuestKK:054) |
| b. | χəza | ‘wife’ (PBUp-KinKK:038) |

This colexification pattern is present in at least a third of the sample languages, of which almost all are Indo-Iranian, and spoken in the southern parts of the region.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 21 | 36 |
| Absent | 35 | 59 |
| Indeterminate | 3 | 5 |