Retroflex Affricates

The use of retroflex affricates contrasting with affricates with other places of articulation as well as with other retroflex sounds was investigated. All of the sample languages that have retroflex affricates in their inventory also have dental affricates, while the reverse does not hold true. The inventory of Hunza Burushaski contains voiceless retroflex affricates, voiceless retroflex fricatives, voiceless dental affricates, as well as voiceless palatal (or alveolo-palatal) affricates, as shown in (1).

1. Hunza Burushaski [bsk(h)] (isolate)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | /ʈʂop/ | ‘jumping’ (BSKh-ValQuestSK:052) |
| b. | /ʂimi/ | ‘ate’ (BSKh-ValQuestSK:001) |
| c. | /tsaːp/ | ‘touch’ (BSKh-ValQuestSK:029) |
| d. | /huntɕo/ | ‘nine’ (BSKh-NumSK:009) |

While the presence of retroflex affricates is not a majority feature in the region in general, it is a strongly subareal feature. All of the languages spoken at the geographical core of the Hindu Kush have retroflex affricates, whether Indo-Aryan, Iranian, Nuristani or Burushaski.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 24 | 41 |
| Absent | 34 | 57 |
| Indeterminate | 1 | 2 |