Lateral Fricatives

The occurrence of voiceless lateral fricatives was investigated. In languages where it occurs, it appears to contrast phonologically with voiceless lateral approxmants. Indo-Aryan Gawarbati is one of those languages. See examples in (1).

1. Gawarbati, Pakistan [gwt(p)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | /ɬe/ | ‘three’ (GWTp-NumAS:003) |
| b. | /puɬ/ | ‘son’ (GWTp-KinAS:004) |
| c. | /ɡaɬ/ | ‘skin’ (GWTp-40listAS:030) |

The presence of lateral fricatives is a minority feature in the area, but its presence is still considerably higher than its corresponding global frequency. It is found in Tibeto-Burman as well as among the region’s Iranian and Indo-Aryan languages.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 13 | 22 |
| Absent | 46 | 78 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |