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) |

Lateral fricatives is a minority feature in the area, but with its presence in 13 of the sample languages it has an overall frequency that is considerably higher than its global presence. 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 |