Nasalized Vowels

The presence of contrastive vowel nasalization was investigated, exemplified by Pakistani Gojri words with oral vs corresponding nasalized vowels in (1).

1. Gojri, Pakistan [gju(p)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a. | /nuː/ | ‘nine’ (GJUp-NumRN:009) |
|  | /nũː/ | ‘daughter-in-law’ (GJUp-KinRN:044) |
| b. | /naː/ | ‘to, for’ (GJUp-ValQuestRN:035) |
|  | /nãː/ | ‘name’ (GJUp-40listRN:022) |
| c. | /tijiː/ | ‘daughter’ (GJUp-KinRN:005) |
|  | /dĩː/ | ‘sun’ (GJUp-40listRN:033) |

Constrastive vowel nasalization occurs in at least a third of the sample languages, but its occurrence is both geographically and phylogenetically restricted. It is typical of Indo-Aryan languages in the south and east. In our sample, it is not evidenced in Turkic, Iranian or Tibeto-Burman.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 23 | 39 |
| Absent | 36 | 61 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |