Adpositions

This feature is defined as the occurrence of a distinct category of syntactic (vis-à-vis morphological) elements that combine with nouns or pronouns to express spatial or temporal relations. Admittedly, the distinction between such a category and that of morphological case marking is not always altogether straightforward. In some of the region’s languages, the adposition determines the grammatical case of its (nominal or pronominal) complement, as in Pashto of Pakistan. The use of the postposition *ta* ‘to’ requires the preceding complement to be coded in the oblique case, as shown in (1).

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| muŋ | maːʃuːm-aːn-oː | **ta** | kitaːb-uːna | wərkɽ-əl. |
| 1pl | child-pl-obl | to | book-pl | give.pfv-pst |
| ‘We gave the books to the children.’ (PBUp-ValQuestKK:036) | | | | |

In the region, there are no languages that clearly lack this property. However, the present data is insufficient for classifying two of the languages in the sample with certainty.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 57 | 97 |
| Absent | 0 | 0 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 3 |