Postpositions

Postpositions are adpositions that follow the noun phrase they occur with. In Kyrgyz, see ‎(1), the postposition (alternatively case suffix) *ga* encodes a goal relation.

1. Kyrgyz [kir] (Turkic)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| min | d͡ʒinin | miz | **=ga** | qoj-du-m. |
| 1sg.nom | cup | table | =(on).to | put-pst-1sg |
| ‘I put the cup onto the table.’ (KIR-ValQuestYB:041) | | | | |

In some of the languages, postpositions co-occur with prepositions to express certain spatial or temporal relations. This is the case in Pashto of Afghanistan, as can be seen in ‎(2).

1. Pashto, Afghanistan [pbu(a)] (Iranian)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| məɳa | **la** | wəniː | **t͡saχa** | wu-lw-eːdəl-a. |
| apple | of | tree.obl | from | pfv-fall-pst-3fsg |
| ‘The apple fell from the tree.’ (PBUa-ValQuestKO:084) | | | | |

The presence of postpositions is a majority feature in the region. Only four of the sample languages (all Iranian) do not show any evidence of having postpositions, while two are indeterminate in this respect.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 53 | 90 |
| Absent | 4 | 7 |
| Indeterminate | 2 | 3 |