Initial Interrogative in Content Question

Crosslinguistically, interrogative phrases occur either obligatorily at the beginning of the sentence (as it does in English), or in other positions, such as in the position in which the corresponding non-interrogative phrase occurs. The adjectival interrogative in the Alingar Pashai content question in (1) occurs immediately before its noun phrase head, just like corresponding non-interrogative adjectival modifiers do.

1. Alingar Pashai [psi(ar)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| alə | **kutar** | mət͡ʃ | aːs. |  |
| this | what.kind | fly | be.3.an.msg.prs |  |
| ‘What kind of bug is this?’ (PSIar-DemHA:003b) | | | | |

In the sample, none of the languages display an obligatory sentence-initial occurrence. Instead, interrogative phrases occur in the same position as in non-interrogative sentences.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 0 | 0 |
| Absent | 59 | 100 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |