Final Polar Question Particle

Questions that elicit a response equivalent to ‘yes’ or ‘no’ are formed with an utterance-final question particle in some languages. Ladakhi is one of those languages. An example is given in (1). The question particle *a* is cliticized to the preceding equative copula.

1. Ladakhi [lbj] (Sino-Tibetan)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ote | polo | kʰuri | in=**a** |  |
| that | ball | 2sg.gen | eq=q |  |
| ‘Is this your ball?’ (LBJ-Dem-IS:005a) | | | | |

Nearly half of the languages in the sample use final polar question markers. These represent all six phylogenetic groupings included in the sample.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 26 | 44 |
| Absent | 33 | 56 |
| Indeterminate | 0 | 0 |