Adjective Noun Word Order

The relative order of a noun and an adjective modifying it was investigated. The order AdjN, i.e. the adjective preceding the noun, is exemplified by Indo-Aryan Gawarbati of Afghanistan in (1).

1. Gawarbati, Afghanistan [gwt(a)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| poːl-iː | ʈeːkuriː |  |  |  |
| small-fsg | girl |  |  |  |
| ADJ | N |  |  |  |
| ‘the little girl’ (GWTa-ValQuestAG:057) | | | | |

Nearly all of the sample languages apply an adjective—noun word order (either as the only option, or in addition to the reverse order). It is only entirely absent in a few of the languages.

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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 55 | 93 |
| Absent | 3 | 5 |
| Indeterminate | 1 | 2 |