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) | | | | |

An overwhelming majority 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 three of the languages.

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