Noun Adjective Word Order

The relative order of a noun and an adjective modifying it was investigated. The order NAdj, i.e. the adjective following the noun, is exemplified by Ladakhi in (1).

1. Ladakhi [lbj] (Sino-Tibetan)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| pomo | tɕun |  |  |
| girl | small |  |  |
| NOUN | ADJ |  |  |
| ‘the little girl’ (LBJ-Val-IS:057) | | | |

This is a minority feature. Only a few sample languages apply a noun—adjective word order (either as the only option, or in addition to the reverse order).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 7 | 12 |
| Absent | 49 | 83 |
| Indeterminate | 3 | 5 |