Genitive Noun Word Order

The order of a genitive noun phrase with respect to the head noun was investigated. The order GenN, i.e. the genitive noun phrase preceding the noun, is exemplified by Gawarbati of Pakistan in (1).

1. Gawarbati, Pakistan [gwt(p)] (Indo-Aryan)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a. | mumaː-na | | puɬ |  | |  | |
|  | mothers.brother-gen.msg | | son |  | |  | |
|  | GEN | | NOUN |  | |  | |
|  | ‘uncle’s son’ (GWTp-Kin-AS:083) | | | | | | |
| b. | kitaːb-aːna | faʈaː | |  |  | |  | |
|  | book-gen.msg | leaf | |  |  | |  | |
|  | GEN | NOUN | |  |  | |  | |
|  | ‘the page of a book’ (GWTp-Val-AS:032) | | | | | | |

Nearly all of the sample languages apply a genitive—noun word order. It is only entirely absent in a couple of the languages, and indeterminate for another few.

|  |  |  |
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| Feature value | # of varieties displaying it | % |
| Present | 51 | 87 |
| Absent | 2 | 3 |
| Indeterminate | 6 | 10 |