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 Indo-Aryan Gawarbati of Pakistan in (1).

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. a. | 1. mumaː-na | | 1. puɬ |  | |  | |
|  | mothers.brother-gen.msg | | son |  | |  | |
|  | GEN | | N |  | |  | |
|  | ‘uncle’s son’ (GWTp-KinAS:083) | | | | | | |
| 1. b. | 1. kitaːb-aːna | 1. faʈaː | |  |  | |  | |
|  | book-gen.msg | leaf | |  |  | |  | |
|  | GEN | N | |  |  | |  | |
|  | ‘the page of a book’ (GWTp-ValQuestAS:032) | | | | | | |

An overwhelming majority of the sample languages apply a genitive—noun word order. It is only entirely absent in two of the languages.

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