ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2006-3-15
Name of Primary Requester: Barb Waugh
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Associated Change request number : 2006-012 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ima (completed by Registration Authority)

Do not be concerned about your responses causing the form text spacing or pagination to change. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed)

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION
   a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
      Mala Malasar

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:

   c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Maha Malasar, Malai Malasar, Malasir

   d) Reason for preferred name:

   e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of
      users, if in use today:
      spoken by the Mala Malasar, population no more than 1,000

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ima

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. Language identifiers are not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble a language name in every case.

2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION
   a) Is this a
      ☒ Living language
      ■ Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
      ■ Recently extinct language
      ■ Historical language
      ■ Ancient language
      ■ Artificially constructed language
(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp)

b) Countries where used:
   India

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:
   Kerala [Palakkad district- Parambikulam wildlife sanctuary]; Tamil Nadu [Coimbatore
district - Annamalai hills]

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language,
give the approximate date of the last known user’s death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION
   a) This language is: [ ] Signed  [X] Spoken  [ ] Attested only in writings
   b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
      Dravidian, Southern
   c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken
      languages:
      similar to Tamil, Malayalam, Irula; also related to Malasa, Eravallan, Muduga, other tribal
      languages without an iso code yet.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
      radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      none
   b) Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal
      education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?:
      The Mala Malasar are recognized as a Scheduled Tribe in India. The language is not used
      in schools. Some sources indicate they speak "a dialect of Tamil".
   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
      Strong vitality, children learn the mother tongue first. Used in home, village and religious
      domains and sometimes with outsiders. Positive attitude toward the mother tongue.
5. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code”

a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

Please return this form to:

ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
Email: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto:iso639-3@sil.org)
An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Further information:

If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList asking you to provide additional information.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:

