ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2006-048 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2007-1-10

Primary Person submitting request: Conrad Hurd

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):
Ethnologue Managing Editor, ILC, 7500 W. Camp Wisdom Rd., Dallas, TX 75236

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)

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the *ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 3) split an existing code element into two or more separate language code elements, or 4) create a new code element. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, or 4 below as appropriate, plus section 5 to document the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

For changes of type 1, 2 or 3 (proposing a change to an existing code), please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: cit

Associated reference name: Chittagonian

1. Modify an existing language code element

(a) What are you proposing to change:
☐   Language name
☐   Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
☐   Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)

(b) What new value(s) do you propose:

(c) Rationale for change:

2. Retire a language code element from use

(a) Reason for change:

☐   There is no evidence that the language exists.
☐   This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.
☐   This is a variety that is fully intelligible with another
          ISO 639-3 language and should be merged with it.

(b) If one of the latter two reasons, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name)
should it be merged :

(c) Rationale for change:

3. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

(a) List the languages into which this code element should be split:
Chittangonian (new identifier needed) and Rohingya ([rhg] requested)

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not
enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

> For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or
> different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a
> common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning
> the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are
> followed:

> - Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each
>   variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on
>   knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional
>   level.

> - Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or
>   of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be
>   strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.

> - Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the
>   existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that
>   they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages

(b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element
into two or more languages:
The Rohingya people claim to be indigenous to Rakhine State of Myanmar. They claim
descent from Arab traders who settled on the coast well over 1,000 years ago and their
local Muslim converts, and were the ruling class of the ancient Kingdom of Arakan which
until the mid 18th century covered part of Bangladesh's Chittagong Division as well as
Rakhine State. Proof of their long presence in Myanmar is found in the ruins of many
ancient mosques in Rakhine State, some over 500 years old. The Myanmar government,
however, claims that the Rohingya are recent immigrants from Bangladesh, and has

suppressed their language and attempted to drive the entire population to Bangladesh whose government has not accepted them. The language is Indo-Aryan, with an admixture of Persian, Arabic and some Burmese vocabulary. Tonal distinctions exist, a feature of Burmese but not usual in Indo-Aryan languages. Rohingya is closely related to but distinct from Chittagonian, which is reported to be understood by most men but not by most women.

In order to complete the change request, the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf") must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar.

4. Create a new language code element

(a) Name of missing language:

(b) State the case that this language is not the same as any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:

In order to complete the change request, the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf") must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

5. Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

(a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:

(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):
Rohingya language website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohingya_language
Various reports by human rights organizations:
UNHCR, eg www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/news/opendoc.htm?tbl=NEWS&id=43316f084;
Refugees International www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article/detail/872/?;
Christian Solidarity Worldwide
www.csw.org.uk/Countries/All/AnnualReportOfHumanRights2005.pdf;
Amnesty International
http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA160052004?open&of=ENG-MMR

The change proposal process

A request to change the code set goes through a five step process:

1. A user of ISO 639-3 proposes a change and submits it to the ISO 639-3 Registration Authority (ISO 639-3/RA) using this form.

2. The ISO 639-3 registrar processes the change request to verify that the request is compatible with the criteria set forth in the standard and to ensure that the submitter has supplied all necessary information. This may involve rounds of interaction with the submitter.

3. When the change request proposal is deemed to be sufficiently complete in its documentation (including all associated New Code Requests), the change request is promoted to "Proposed Change" status and the ISO 639-3 registrar posts the request on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA. Also at this time, an announcement is sent to appropriate discussion lists (those which express in their statement of purpose an interest in the language or language family in focus in the proposal, inviting individuals to review and comment on the proposal. The source of list information is the LinguistList Mailing List index, http://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/lists/index.html. Responses are sent to the ISO 639-3 registrar for compilation. The concensus of reviews may result in promotion to "Candidate Status" (with or without amendment), or withdrawal of the change request, if the conclusion is that the request is not in keeping with the stated criteria of the ISO 639-3 standard.

4. Three months prior to the end of the annual cycle of review and update, a new notice is posted on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA, and an announcement listing the Candidate Status Change Requests is posted to LINGUIST, http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html, and other general language and linguistics discussion lists, as well as lists relating to specific languages or language families. All change requests are then open to further review and comment by any interested party for a period of three months.

5. At the end of the formal review period, a given Change Request may be: 1) adopted as a whole, 2) adopted in part (specific changes implicit in the whole Change Request may be adopted separately), 3) amended and resubmitted for the next review cycle, or 4) withdrawn from consideration. All change requests remain permanently archived at the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA.

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
ISO 639-3/RA web site: http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachement of this completed form is preferred.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: http://www.ethnologue.com/ .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. http://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. http://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html