

# ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

## Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2006-11-27

Name of Primary Requester: Anthony Aristar

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

Associated Change request number : 2006-061

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : pmh

(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:  
Māhārāṣṭri Prākṛit
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Prākṛit
- c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Maharashtri Prakrit, Maharastri Prakrit, Dākṣiṇātyā,
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
Most common amongst scholars
- e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of users, if in use today:
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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 

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 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:

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  
From the 5th Century BC

### 3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: ☐ Signed ☐ Spoken ☒ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:  
Indo-Aryan Southern Zone

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:  
Sanskrit

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
Hindu Drama; Jain religious works

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?:

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

## 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):  
Gathasaptashathi, an anthology of poems collected by the Satavahana Emperor Hala (150 BC).

### 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%2D3/default.asp>  
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:

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://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>