ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Date: 2007-1-26

Primary Person submitting request: Conrad Hurd
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Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):
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PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set.

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 new language code elements, or 4) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. 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.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. ☒ Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. ☐ Retire a language code element from use through a merge
3. ☐ Split a language code element into two or more new code elements
4. ☐ Create a code element for a previously unidentified language

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

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: bej

Associated reference name: Bedawi

1. Modify an existing language code element

(a) What are you proposing to change:

☒ Language reference name
☒ Language additional names
☐ Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
☐ Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)
(b) What new value(s) do you propose: Bedawi; Bedawi; Beja

(c) Rationale for change:
According to researchers working with linguistically qualified native speakers, this form most closely represents the autoglotonym and is most acceptable to native speakers for use in English and other languages in that it avoids confusion with Bedawi Spoken Arabic [aay], and Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken Arabic [avl].

The name Beja is most frequently found in literature (not only as common usage, but also as the authorized Library of Congress Subject Heading), but it is not recommended as the reference name because it is an Arabic term.

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:

(b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages:

(c) Does the language code element to be split represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? If so, please comment.
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 or has not been included within 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:
Knowlegeable friends who travel widely

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):
http://www.angelfire.com/az/rescon/mgcbeja.html
http://authorities.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?AuthRecID=4665766&v2=1&HC=2&SEQ=20070202144953&PID=26203
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 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 the general LINGUIST discussion list on Linguist List ([http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html](http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html)), and other appropriate discussion lists, inviting individuals to review and comment on the proposal. Any list owner may request from the ISO 639-3 registrar to receive an announcement regarding proposals involving languages in a specific region of the world or specific language family.

4. Individuals may send comments to the ISO 639-3 registrar for compilation. The consensus of these first 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.

5. Three months prior to the end of the annual cycle of review and update (ordinarily October 1st), 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 the LINGUIST discussion list and other discussion lists, as requested by their owners. All change requests are then open to further review and comment by any interested party for a period of three months. A Change Request received after the start of Candidacy phase must wait until the next annual cycle for consideration. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that a minimum of three months is allotted for the review of every proposal.

6. 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
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:


Linguist List. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)