ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2007-2-13
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Associated Change request number : 2006-083 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : cen (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:
      Cen
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Chen
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Cen was the name used by Blench who has established it as a separate language. The alternate name comes from the Linguistsphere Register where it is listed as a dialect of “i-zere”.
   e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of users, if in use today:
      Berom. 2,000
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: cen

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/iso639-3/types.asp)

b) Countries where used:
   Nigeria

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:
   About 5 villages around Duruk Kamang Village, 1 hour’s drive SE of Jos, Plateau State

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   ☒ Spoken   □ Attested only in writings
   b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
      Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Plateau, Central, South-Central
   c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
      Izere

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      No
   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?:
      No
   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
      Used by all ages and genders among themselves
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
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: