ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

This form is to be used in conjunction with a “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code” form

Date: 2007-2-14

Name of Primary Requester: David Beck

E-mail address: dbeck@ualberta.ca

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Yvonne Lam, University of Alberta, yvonne.lam@ualberta.ca

Associated Change request number: 2006-085 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier: tku (completed by Registration Authority)

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.

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:
      Upper Necaxa Totonac

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

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Accurately designates the region in which this variety of Totonac is spoken, on the upper reaches of the Necaxa River

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
      The group refer to themselves as Totonacos; according to INEGI (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática), there are approximately 6,800 people living in the four Upper Necaxa communities, 3,400 of whom identify themselves as speakers. 5,800 people live in households headed by Totonac speakers (this might be a more accurate figure for the size of the ethnic group)

   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

- [] 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:
Mexico

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:
Chicontla, Patla, Cacahuatlán, San Pedro Tlalontongo in the Necaxa River Valley in the Sierra Norte of Puebla State, Mexico

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:
Totonac-Tepehua language family

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

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 significant literature

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?:
it is currently included in the catalogue of Mexican indigenous languages being put together by the Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas (INALI); there is a bilingual primary school in Patla and a bilingual school in San Pedro.

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:
   as specified in Request for Change form

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   as specified in Request for Change form

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: