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: 2007-3-25

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

Associated Change request number : 2006-127 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : kaf (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:
   Katso

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   ka55 tso31

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

d) Reason for preferred name:
   it's their autonym

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
   The speakers are Mongolians (part of official Mongolian nationality) who descend from a Yuan dynasty outpost. They number between 4000 (1982) and 6400 (2000).

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: kat

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifiers is 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
   [X] Living language
   [ ] Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
   [ ] Recently extinct language
   [ ] Historical language
   [ ] Ancient language

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Artificially constructed language
Macrolanguage
(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp)

b) Countries where used:
P R China

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Yunnan Province, Yuxi prefecture, Tonghai county, in the Xingmeng Mongolian Autonomous Township

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:
Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, South-easter, Burmese-Lolo(Ngwi)/Burmic, Loloish (Ngwi), Northern

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.?:
none that I know of

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?:
not to my knowledge

Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Though the language is Ngwi (Loloish) and therefore closely related to surrounding
languages spoken by Yi and Hani nationality people, the Katso speakers are Mongolian
nationality. Reportedly the entire Katso-speaking population is bilingual in Chinese (either
standard Mandarin or the local Southwest Mandarin Dialect of Tonghai). There are many
Chinese loanwords in Katso
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:
