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 : 2006-128

Tentative assignment of new identifier : zhn

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:
   Zhuang, Nong

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Kha:u Nong, Kha:u Tei ('Kha:u' means 'language')

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   Yan-Guang Southern Zhuang, Phu Nong, Phu Tei, Nong hua (Chinese name: Zhuangyu Nanbu fanyan Yan-Guang tuyu 壮语南部方言砚广土语)

d) Reason for preferred name:
   The speakers are classified as Zhuang and the language is linguistically related to other Zhuang languages (as well as Bouyei, Nung and Tày), but most speakers refer to themselves as "Nong" rather than Zhuang when speaking in their language.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
   The speakers call themselves "phu Nong" or "phu Tei" ('phu' means 'people' or 'ethnic group'. Their population is around 500,000 (2007)

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: zhn

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
   ☑ Living language
   ☐ Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)

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

b) Countries where used:
P. R. China (reportedly mutually intelligible with some Tày dialects near the Vietnam-Yunnan border)

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   southeast Yunnan province, Wenshan Zhuang & Miao Autonomous prefecture's eight counties: Guangnan, Yanshan, Wenshan, Maguan, Malipo, Xichou, Funing and Qiubei counties. (Over half the Nong live in the two counties of Guangnan and Yanshan. For the first six counties listed Nong speakers represent a majority of the Zhuang in those counties, but in Funing and Qiubei, only a small majority of those counties' Zhuang speak Nong, the rest speak Northern Zhuang languages.)

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:
   Tai-Kadai, Kam-Tai, Be-Tai, Tai-Sek, Tai, Central

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
   Dejing Zhuang, Tày, Ken Min Zhuang

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   A few elementary school textbooks, some transcribed poetry, traditional religious writings, songs, numerous audio and video recordings of folk singing, and daily radio news broadcasts

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?:
   Though Nong is not the Zhuang language officially recognized by the national government as the standard for the Zhuang language cluster, it is the most widely spoken Zhuang language in Yunnan, so serves as the de facto standard for some uses within Wenshan
prefecture. It is used as a language of instruction in some early levels of elementary schools, to help Nong-speaking students learn Chinese.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Most Nong Zhuang are proud of their language, and except for some urban Nong Zhuang, most speak Nong primarily in the home, even when fully bilingual in Chinese. Though a majority of Nong Zhuang can speak some Chinese, many rural Nong Zhuang are more fluent and comfortable in Nong than in Chinese.

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):
See accompanying change request

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:
