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 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : zyg (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:
      Zhuang, Yang

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      in China: ken² jan⁶, Yangx (jan⁶), Caj coux (tsa²tsow⁴), Fouh (fow⁶), Nong (nɔŋ),
      Tianpao/Dianbao (tjɛnpɑːu), ken²tʰo³
      in Vietnam: nung jang or pou jang.

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Nung Giang, Tuhua ('local speech'), Yangyu ('Yang language'), Dejing Zhuang, Jingxi Zhuang (to Chinese linguists this language is known as: 壮语南部方言德靖土语, Zhuangyu Nanbu fangyan Dejing tuyo "the De-Jing vernacular of the southern dialect of the Zhuang language")

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Central Tai languages in China (which has the majority of speakers of this Tai language) are known as "Zhuang", and the Chinese speakers are classified as belonging to the Zhuang nationality. (Vietnamese speakers are classified as belonging to the Nung nationality.) Although there are many different autonyms, "Yang" ([jan], in Vietnamese: "Giang") appears to be the name in most common use on both sides of the border. So I recommend "Zhuang, Yang" as the main name, with "Nung Giang" as an alternate name (esp. for the Vietnamese speakers).

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
      The speakers in China are part of the official Zhuang nationality. The people call themselves a variety of names (see above), including pu Yang, ken Yang ('pu' and 'ken' can both mean 'people' or 'ethnic group'), phu/pu Tu ("local people") and Tianbao (the old...
name for Debao county). The population is around 800,000 (2000) in China: 80% Zhuang nationality population of Jingxi (cf. Jingxi Xianzhi), the entire Zhuang populations of Debao and Napo counties, and possibly as much as 10% Funing county's Zhuang population. Speakers in Vietnam's Cao Bang province are known as "Nung Giang" and are part of the Nung nationality, but we do not have population figures at present.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: zyg

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)
☐ Recently extinct language
☐ Historical language
☐ Ancient language
☐ Artificially constructed language
☐ Macrolanguage

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

b) Countries where used:
People's Republic of China, and most likely the same language as Nung Giang spoken by members of the Nung nationality in Vietnam.

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
In China: in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the entire Zhuang populations of Jingxi, Debao and Napo counties, and in Yunnan Province, Funing county, scattered locations in Bo'ai, Xinhua, Zhesang, Dongbo, Guichao, Banlun townships and districts. In Vietnam: Cao Bang Province Ha Quang District of northern Vietnam.

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:
Nong Zhuang, Zuojiang Zhuang, Yongnan Zhuang, other Nung languages of Vietnam

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Religious practitioners have long used modified characters (Zhuang fangkuai zi) to record religious writings, stories, songs and history, but only a small percentage of speakers are adapt at reading these and the system is not standarized.

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?:
To our knowledge, the language is not recognized by any level of gov. The recognized standard for the entire Zhuang nationality is the Wuming dialect of Yongbei Zhuang. The language is not taught in schools, though it is often used informally by early elementary teachers rural areas to help young children (e.g. kindergarten and first grade) learn Chinese.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The Zhuang ethnolinguistic identity is very strong and the language is highly vital. Zhuang speakers constitute the vast majority of this area (99% of Jingxi, 98% of Debao and 89% of Napo counties), and most Zhuang are proud of their distinct culture and enjoy their traditional arts such as singing and embroidery. Jingxi even has a Zhuang culture museum.

Yang Zhuang is the main language used in home domains and also on the streets of towns and villages, although many Dejing Zhuang are also fluent in one or more dialects of Chinese, and Chinese is used when outsiders are present or in domains for which vocabulary does not exist in Dejing (e.g. government, western medicine).
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:
   (see code split application for ccy)

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: