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

Name of Primary Requester: Eric C. Johnson

E-mail address: sociolinguistics_eastasia@sil.org

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 : zyn (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, Yongnan

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language: Boux Toj (pou⁴ tʰo³), Long'An (loŋ an), Nongz Anx (noŋ²an⁴)

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations: Long'an, Long An, Nung An, Southern Zhuang (to Chinese linguists: 壮语南部方言邕南土语, Zhuangyu nanbu fangyan Yongnan tuyu, the Yongnan vernacular of the southern dialect of the Zhuang language)

d) Reason for preferred name: In China this language is known as part of the Zhuang cluster of languages, and the speakers are classified as Zhuang nationality. As the autonym of Boux Toj used by many speakers is used by speakers of other Zhuang languages as well, and Long/Nong An is specific to one county, Chinese linguists have settled on the name "Yongnan" (meaning "South of the Yong river", which divides the Yongnan language area from the Yongbei Northern Zhuang language area) to describe this Central Tai language. This seems a good name to represent the language of the Chinese speakers, who form the majority of speakers, but an alternative name for Vietnamese speakers is "Nung An".

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language: Within China, the speakers are classified as part of the Zhuang nationality and often refer to themselves as "Long'An". The population is approximately 1,800,000. This is the total 2000 Census Zhuang population of the counties of Long'an, Fusui, Shangsi, Qinzhou and Fangcheng, 50% of the Zhuang population of Yongning county, 26,000 speakers in Jingxi county (cf. Edmondson) and a smaller number in Yunnan's Funing county.

Vietnamese speakers call their language "Nung An" and are part of the Nung nationality.
There were over 850,000 Nung nationality people in 2000, but we do not have figures for what proportion of the Nung nationality are speaking Nung An.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: zyn
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:
      P. R. China, 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:
      within China the language is primarily spoken in southern Guangxi in the counties of Long'an, Fusui, Shangsi, Qinzhou and Fangcheng. It is also spoken in the southern half of Yongning county, by those calling themselves "Long'An" or "Nongz Anx" in Jingxi and a smaller number in Yunnan's Funing county.

      In Vietnam, the language is "concentrated in Cao Bang Province at a location 37 km from Cao Bang City in Quang Ha District at Phuc Sen Village and neighboring Communes such as Doan Khon, Quoc Phong, and Quoc Dan, where the population is 99% Nung An; Beth Nicolson (p.c.) reports that Nung An speakers also live in Quang Ha District at Chi Thao and Tu Do as well as in Ha Quang District at Noi Thon Commune and in Ba Be District at Cao Che Commune. In this region the Nung An have a population of about 10,000." (cf. Edmondson et al "Lesser Known Languages of 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:
Zuojiang Zhuang (Nung Chao), Yongbei Zhuang, Yang Zhuang (Nung Giang), and 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 language is the primary language used in rural homes when no outsiders are present. Many speakers are partially or fully bilingual in one or more dialects of Chinese and often use these in business, education, government, market and other domains.

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: