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 : zzj (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, Zuojiang

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
       kəntʰo³, pʰo⁶tʰai², pu⁴tʰo³

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
       Nung Chao, Longzhou, Southern Zhuang, (to Chinese linguists: 壮语南部方言左江土语, Zhuangyu nanbu fangyan Zuojiang tuyu, the Zuojiang vernacular of the southern dialect of the Zhuang language)

   d) Reason for preferred name:
       In China, Central Tai languages are all considered Zhuang and the speakers are classified in the Zhuang nationality. Chinese linguists have proposed “Zuojiang" as a cover-term for this language, named for the Zuojiang river that runs through this area (from N Vietnam into Longzhou, Chongzuo, and Fusui counties). Because the autonym ken Tu is used by speakers of other languages as well, and Long Zhou/Nung Chao refers to only one county's speakers, Zuojiang seems a useful name, even though not used by most of the speakers themselves. However, as the Vietnamese speakers are part of the Nung nationality and refer to their language as "Nung Chao", Nung Chao is a good alternate name for this language (e.g. for the Vietnamese Ethnologue page).

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
       Within China the speakers are part of the Zhuang nationality and call themselves ləŋ an, Nongz Anx (nɔŋ²an⁴), kəntʰo³. Within China approximately 1,500,000 speak this language (from 2000 Census figures, entire Zhuang populations of Tiandeng, Daxin, Chongzuo, Ningming, Longzhou and Pingxiang counties.)
In Vietnam, speakers are part of the Nung nationality and call themselves Nung Chao (probably cognate with Longzhou). The total Nung nationality had a population of over 850,000 in 2000, of which around 40% live in Lang Son province. If all Lang Son province Nung speak varieties of Nung Chao/Zuojiang Zhuang then there are at least 340,000 speakers in Vietnam.

So possibly a total population of 1.8-1.9 million speakers.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: zzj

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, 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: Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region: in Tiandeng, Daxin, Chongzuo, Ningming, Longzhou and Pingxiang counties, and possibly also some speakers in Yunnan's Funing county.
   in Vietnam: Lang Son Province and possibly elsewhere.

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:
   Yang Zhuang, Yongnan Zhuang, Nong Zhuang, 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: