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: 2007-5-4

Name of Primary Requester: Eric Johnson, Sociolinguistics Coordinator, SIL East Asia Group
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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2007-010 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : vwa (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:
      Awa
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Awa
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Wa, Awa Wa, Ava, Va
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      autonym
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
      The speakers are part of the official Va nationality in China. There are 66,000 (Shearer & Sun 2000) to 98,000 (Zhou & Yan 2004) speakers, speaking four different dialects: Masan (in Ximeng county, 33,000 - 60,000 pop.); Awalai (Ximeng county, 3000 pop.); Damangnuo (Menglian and Ximeng counties, 30,000 pop.); and Xiyun (Lancang and Menglian counties, 5000 pop.)
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: awa

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)
b) Countries where used: 
People's Republic of China, possibly Myanmar

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
China: Southwestern Yunnan, Simao Prefecture's Ximeng Va Autonomous County, Menglian Dai, Lahu & Va Autonomous County and Lancang Lahu Autonomous County.

(At this time we do not know which, if any, of the Myanmar Wa dialects Awa corresponds to or where Myanmar Awa speakers would be located.)

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 [x] Spoken [ ] Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Northern Mon-Khmer, Palaungic, Western Eastern Palaungic, Waic, Wa

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
Wa, Parauk, Blang

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
(unknown)

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 our knowledge; Aishuai dialect of Parauk is the government recognized reference dialect for the Va nationality.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Reportedly quite vital.
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 ISO change request form.)

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:

