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: 2007-5-9

Name of Primary Requester: Eric Johnson, Sociolinguistics Coordinator, SIL East Asia Group

E-mail address: sociolinguistics_eastasia@sil.org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2007-013
Tentative assignment of new identifier : zgm

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, Minz

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      language is called: [kan²²²min²²² ] (/kan1 minA2/ , Gangj Minz)
      ethnic group is called: [kan³³³min²²² ] (/kan1 min A2/ , Gwn Minz)
      (Gangj means 'language'; Gwn means 'people, ethnic group'.)

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Kon Min, Bu Xiong

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The speakers are classified in the Zhuang nationality in China, and the language appears to be Central Tai, like the neighboring Yang Zhuang and Nong Zhuang languages. Minz is their own name for their distinct language and ethnic group, spelled according to the official Zhuang orthography which marks the A2 tone with a -z. (Spelling the name with the tone helps to distinguish it from unrelated Fujian Chinese languages and Mienic languages also called "Min".)

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      At least 2,600 Kwn Minz (2000) Zhuang people speak this language.

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: zgm

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)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   People’s Republic of China (possibly some speakers in Northern 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:
   Southeastern Yunnan Province, Wenshan Zhuang & Miao autonomous prefecture, Funing county, Langheng district (now part of Tianbeng township), in at least eleven villages: Sankeshu, Xionggu, Shangmabu, Tianfang, Getao, Gezao, Gecai, Bagan, Na’en, Longnong, Anha.

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

c) Closest language linguistically. For a Macrolanguage, list the individual languages (adopted and/or proposed) to be included in its group. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
   Nong Zhuang or Yang 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.?:
   no
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 officially recognized. Some Gwn Minz teachers use the language with the youngest elementary students until they learn Chinese.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   Although a small language, the language appears vital. The Gwn Minz are surrounded by speakers of other Zhuang languages (most numerous in their area is Kang Yei, or Guibian Northern Zhuang), Chinese-speaking Han, Hmong-speaking Miao and Kim Mun-speaking Yao. Many are bilingual (or trilingual) in Chinese (local Xinan Guan dialect, that is, Southwestern Mandarin) or Kang Yei Northern Zhuang, but still use Gwn Minz primarily when only Gwn Minz are present, and a minority are monolingual in Minz.

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:
   Personal research (March 2007) in the Gwn Minz Zhuang village of Anha, Funing county, Yunnan.

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:
LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)