

# ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

## Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2007-5-23

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Associated Change request number : 2007-031

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : ssc

(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:

Suba-Simbiti

- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:

- c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:

Kisuba, Kisimbiti

- d) Reason for preferred name:

Suba is spoken by four small ethnic groups, and Simbiti is another ethnic group speaking a variety that is linguistically very close to the Suba varieties. The name Suba-Simbiti reflects the ethnic and linguistic identities of the speakers of the language.

- e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of users, if in use today:

Suba-Simbiti is spoken by five ethnic groups in Tarime District, Mara Region, Tanzania: Hacha (4,200), Kine (14,500), Surwa (4,200), Sweta (12,800) and Simbiti (33,000). The Kiroba people (30,000) of Musoma Urban and Musoma Rural Districts also speak a variety that could be considered linguistically a dialect of Suba-Simbiti although they have a distinct ethnic identity. This would give a total population of almost 100,000 speaking Suba-Simbiti.

- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. Language identifiers are 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

(Select one. See explanations of these types at <http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp>)

- b) Countries where used:  
Tanzania

- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:  
Heartland is in Nyamagaro, Nyamtinga, Nyahongo, Kisumwa, Komuge, Nyamunga and Kyang'ombe Wards of Tarime District, Mara Region. Speakers of the Kiroba dialect are located in Nyankanga Ward of Musoma Rural District and Bweri Ward of Musoma Urban District, Mara Region.

- 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:  
Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kuria (E.10)

- c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:  
Kuria (Tanzania).

## 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 known writings, recordings or broadcasts in this language

- 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?:  
No.

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
The Suba and Simbiti dialects are very vital and used in most domains of day to day life by members of the Hacha, Kine, Surwa, Sweta and Simbiti ethnic groups. The Kiroba dialect is under threat from Swahili, with many speakers having a high proficiency in Swahili and placing little emphasis on passing on their language to the younger generation.

The Rieri people (numbering around 14,000) are also ethnically a Suba clan but have now shifted to speaking the Luo language.

## 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:  
The SIL Tanzania Language Assessment Team carried out a sociolinguistic survey of the Suba peoples of Tarime District, Mara Region, Tanzania in January and February 2006. The findings are presented in a sociolinguistic report (forthcoming). Simbiti is one of the language groups taking part in the UTB Mara Cluster Project. Two orthography workshops have been held and further research will be done in the course of developing Simbiti to ensure that all Suba varieties in Tanzania (including Kiroba) can use written material in Simbiti.
- 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  
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/default.asp>  
Email: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto: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:

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>