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: 2007-6-14
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Associated Change request number : 2007-040 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : gyl (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: Gayil
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language: Gayil
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Gayl, Gayi, Galila, Gelila, Northern Ari
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      There is very little published literature mentioning the Gayil people and their language, and much of what exists (Gebre 1993, Naty 1992, Tucker et. al. 1966) mentions their self-name. Since there is no strong precedent for referring to this language by anything other than its self-name, "Gayil" should be preferred.
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
      Gayil (including Bargid and Goza, speakers of dialects of the same language); Ethnic population: currently estimated at 55,700 (North Aari Administration Office, 2007).
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: gyl

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

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3, page 1
b) Countries where used:
   Ethiopia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
   coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   North Aari Wereda, South Omo Zone, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples
   Regional State (SNNPR) of southwestern Ethiopia; 6.179850 °N, 36.660783 °E.

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
   NA

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION
   a) This language is: ☐ Signed  ☒ Spoken  ☐ Attested only in writings

   b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
      Afro-Asiatic, Omotic, South

   c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken
      languages:
      Aari is probably the closest language linguistically. Dime, Hamer-Banna and Karo are all
      closely related.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
      radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      Literacy rate in first language: 0%. To date there is no native-authored literature or
      language development of any sort, though there is great interest in starting a language
      development program.

   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:
      Language vitality is very high. It is used in the home, at the market, and in church.
      According to Gayil interviewees, from their point of view they have a separate
      ethnolinguistic identity from the southern Aari. The Gayil people’s distinct ethnolinguistic
      identity is reinforced by the fact that they are geographically isolated from the southern Aari
      area and have little to do with the southern Aari people, dealing mostly with the Basketo
      people to the north.
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 change request form.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   See change request form; also e-mail communication with Carolyn Ford (SIM), who worked on the Aari New Testament translation, and staff members of Word for the World, the organization currently coordinating the Old Testament translation.

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
   See change request form. Also:

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: