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: 2007-5-20
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Associated Change request number : 2007-086 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : nsd (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:
   Nisu, Southern

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

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   尼苏

d) Reason for preferred name:
   Nisu, Southern is a distinct language but closely related to other Nisu languages. Nisu, Southern is located to the south of the main Nisu population. Also, other Nisu languages are categorized by their geographic location in relation to one another, so using the term "southern" fits in with other Nisu languages' classifications.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Nisu, Southern is spoken by a community that identify themselves as Nisu speakers. Their population is approximately 210,000 (based on Yunnan Statistical Yearbook, 2004).

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: NSO

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)
(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:
   China

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Yunnan province, in Honghe, Yuanyang, Lūchun (Eastern), Jinping, Shiping (Southern), and Yuanjiang (Southeastern) counties

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:
   Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmic, Ngwi (Loloish), Northern

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:
   Nisu, Northern (requested new name for Eshan-Xinping Yi [yiv]) , Nisu, Southwestern

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   There is a traditional orthography for Nisu, related to but distinct from the traditional orthographies used by some other Yi languages. Few people nowadays can read this orthography.

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?:
   The language is officially recognized by the government. However, Nisu is not used in formal education as a language of instruction, nor is it taught in schools.
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Generally bilinguals in local Chinese dialect and Nisu. Language use higher for older
people, women, uneducated men, or villages further removed from main roads. Nisu living
in cities or counties are generally Sinicized.

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:

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:
