

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: 2007-9-18

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Associated Change request number : 2007-090

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : lhi

(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:
Lahu Shi
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Lahu
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Lahu Xi, Kur, Shi, Yellow Lahu, Kwi
- d) Reason for preferred name:
Autonym plus 'Yellow'--used to disambiguate Lahu Shi from Lahu Na
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Lahu Shi: 117,000 in China; 60,000 in Myanmar; 15,000 in Thailand; 3,000 in Laos; 1,200 in USA. Total population in all countries: 196,200 (Bradley 2007).
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lhs

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifier 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%2D3/types.asp>)

For individual languages, also complete:

- b) Countries where used:
China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, USA
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Southern Yunnan Province in Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture, Menghai county (Menghai District); Simao prefecture, Lancang Lahu autonomous county (Nuofu District), and other areas. Also in northern Laos, northeast Myanmar, north Thailand, and Vesalia, California, USA.
- 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), Central
- 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:
Lahu (Na)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Two competing romanizations: one similar to the Baptist Lahu orthography, the other more similar to the pinyin-based Lahu orthography. Native authored literature exists, but mainly published in Vesalia, California, USA.
- 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?:
Officially classified under the Lahu nationality in China
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Number of speakers is increasing.

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:
Dr. David Bradley, La Trobe University
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
BRADLEY, DAVID. 2007. East and South East Asia. Atlas of the World's Languages, 2nd edition., ed. by R. E. Asher and Christopher Moseley. London: Routledge.

Cooper, Arthur D. 1999. "An acoustic phonetic analysis of the vowels and tones of Lahu Shi Balan."

Cooper, Arthur D. and Pamela J. Cooper. 1996. "A preliminary phonology of the Banlan dialect of Lahu Shi."

Cooper, Arthur. 2002. "The Lahu Shi people."

TU-SIL-LRDP Committee, editors. 2002. Minority language orthography in Thailand: five case studies: in honor of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the auspicious occasion of his Sixth Cycle Birthday.

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/iso639-3/default.asp>
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:

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>