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: 2007-9-15

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Associated Change request number : 2007-092 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : bzi (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:
       Bisu

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

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
       Mbisu, Misu, Mibisu, Mbi, Laopin, Lawa, Lua, Hpyen, Hpin. Bisu in Menghai County are called 'Laopin' or 'Pin' by Chinese locals.

   d) Reason for preferred name:
       Most common transcription of autonym

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
       Bisu: 240 in China, 1,000 in Thailand

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: bsu

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

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3, page 1
(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, Thailand

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
   coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Southwestern Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Menghai
   County: in Menghai County, Mengzhe District, Laopinzhai Village Also spoken in Thailand
   and Myanmar.

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 [x] Spoken [ ] Attested only in writings

   b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmic, Ngwi (Loloish), Southern

   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:
      Laomian

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
      radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      Thai-based orthography used in Thailand.

   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?:

   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

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

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:

