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: 2007-6-19

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Associated Change request number : 2007-145 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : avk (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: Kotava
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language: Kotava
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations: Kotava
   d) Reason for preferred name: Official name
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language: Artificial language with approximately 40 fluent speakers around the world, mainly in France, Africa, Spain, Canada and Polynesia
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: AVK

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

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Artificially constructed language

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp)

b) Countries where used:
   Around the world, mainly in France, Africa, Spain, Canada and Polynesia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Where the speakers live, without particular area

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:
      a priori language, without link with actual or old natural languages
   c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      It’s a relatively recent artificial language (1978). Nevertheless, there is a significant number of texts written in this language, original texts and especially translations.

      See: Kotava.org. Official site:
      - section "Literature" www.kotava.org/fr/fr_suteroteem.php
      - section "Articles" www.kotava.org/fr/fr_telizeem.php
      - section "Traductions" www.kotava.org/fr/fr_remsutekseem.php

      See: Wikikrenteem, telo nuyanevaxo. Wiki of texts in Kotava:
      - "Homepage" www.europalingua.eu/wikikrenteem/index.php
      - Translations: Molière (Les fourberies de Scapin), Tolstoy (Anna Karenin), Saint-Exupéry (The little prince), La Fontaine (les fables), etc.
      - Accounts, tales, legends and myths of the world. Many texts and translations.

      See: Kotava Tamefa Xadola. Universal encyclopaedia in Kotava:
      - Free encyclopaedia in Kotava, with more than 1700 real articles, mainly about Africa, literature, explorers and history.

      To my knowlegde, no radio nor television in Kotava.

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?
This language is currently recognized by no government. It is also not taught within the framework of official institutions.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Kotava is a particularly flexible and original constructed language, with a very broad lexicon and very coherent mechanisms, without being nevertheless "mechanical". It voluntarily dissociates other artificial languages. Paradoxically considered to be "difficult" by the Westerners who cannot be pressed on a transparent lexicon. Conversely African acquires it easily.

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 the first document

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
See the first document

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
See the first document

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: