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: 2007-9-1

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Dr. Bob Cochran (SIL Papua survey team leader; bob_cochran@sil.org)
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Dr. Mark Donohue (research professor; mark@donohue.cc)

Associated Change request number : 2007-183 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : pmy (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:
      Malay, Papuan
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Melayu Papua
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      There are many informal names given by speakers of this language, which translated mean things like 'language of the earth', 'market language', 'simple language', 'relaxed language'; however, these language names reveal nothing particular about the language in question.
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
      Inhabitants of various urban centers of the island of Papua (e.g. Jayapura, Sorong, Fak Fak, Merauke, Nabire, Manokwari); mother-tongue speakers at least 500,000 plus greater than that number of second-language speakers.
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:
      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)
b) Countries where used:
Indonesia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
See 1e for list of major urban centers.

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:
(same as Malay, Ambonese, Malay, Kupang, etc.)

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
Malay, Ambonese [abs]

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 are current newspaper editorials, road signs, health-related calendars, as well as Catholic religious educational materials from the 1950's. There is at least one 15-minute daily radio 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?:
Papuan Malay is not officially recognized but it is used unofficially in many school settings as a means of enhancing student understanding.
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

Relative to other varieties of Malay (Standard Indonesian or other regional Malay languages like Ambon, Kupang or Manado), Papuan Malay speakers recognize that there is a substantive difference between what they speak and those other varieties, they have difficulty comprehending the other varieties, and express a strong preference for the variety that they speak. Papuan Malay shows strong evidence of being internally cohesive, clearly defined and distinct vis-à-vis its linguistic neighbors, though the exact boundaries of the language remain to be determined. It also has a large mother-tongue population with strong feelings of affinity for the language expressed by its speakers. Papuan Malay is essentially used in all domains except in religious preaching and formal government or educational settings.

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:
SIL initiated a substantive and ongoing language survey of Papuan Malay beginning January 2007. Karl Anderbeck is a member of the technical oversight committee, and Bob Cochran coordinates the activities of the team, which includes native speakers of Papuan Malay. Much of the knowledge reflected above have been directly informed by survey activities undertaken, such as observation in a variety of domains, informal group questionnaires, individual interviews, targeted linguistic elicitation, and presentation of recorded and written materials.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
Mark Donohue has extensive direct experience with native speakers of Papuan Malay and published on a variety of linguistic features of Papuan Malay (see below). Dr. Donohue has been provided samples of collected data and his advice was solicited on its interpretation.

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


Donohue, Mark. 1997. Merauke Malay: some observations on contact and change. ms. Manchester: Department of Linguistics, University of Manchester.

Donohue, Mark. 2006. Variation in voice in Indonesian/Malay: historical and synchronic perspectives. In Yoshiko Matsumoto, David Y. Oshima, Orrin R. Robinson, and Peter Sells,


van Velzen, Paul. 1995. Some notes on the variety of Malay used in the vicinity of Serui. In Connie Baak, Mary Bakker & Dick van der Meij, eds., Tales from a concave world: Liber amicorum Bert Voorhoeve: 311-343. Leiden: Projects Division, Department of languages and cultures of Southeast Asia and Oceania, Leiden University

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: