ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2007-08-30
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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2007-186 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : adz (completed by Registration Authority)

Do not be concerned about your responses causing the form text spacing or pagination to change. 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: Adzera
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language: Adzera
   c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations: Azera, Atzera, Atsera, Acira
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      This is the name/spelling preferred by most Adzera speakers and used most in the literature. This spelling most accurately reflects the pronunciation of the name in the orthography of the language.
   e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of users, if in use today: Adzera, 28,900
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: [adz] or [dzr]

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. Language identifiers are 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

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

b) Countries where used:
   Papua New Guinea

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:
   upper Markham Valley, Markham District, Morobe Province

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:
      Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic,
      Western Oceanic, North New Guinea, Huon Gulf, Markham, Upper
   c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken
      languages:
      Sukurum, Sarasira, Wampur, and Mari (all of Upper Markham subfamily)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
      radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      limited copies of old literature from SIL literacy programs (1960s-70s), booklets from elementary program,
      worship song recording (2005). There are no newspapers, radio or television broadcasts.
   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?:
      Yes, it is recognized by the national government, and has been used since 2001 as the
      language of instruction in government-sponsored Adzera elementary schools teaching
      Elem. Prep, E1, and E2, as a precursor to English community schools (grade 3 and up).
   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
      Adzera people have a strong sense of ethnolinguistic identity and language pride. They
use their language in the home, in church, in village meetings, at the market, and in many other domains where they encounter other Adzera speakers. They also use Tok Pisin in many of these domains, switching between Adzera and Tok Pisin or even mixing the two.

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:
My family and I have worked with the Adzera people since 1999, as SIL language/translation program advisors. We have a home in an Adzera village, where we live part of the time.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
I have had both personal communication with Adzera speakers and with the previous SIL team, Morris and Wendy Johnson. Morris also gave me a copy of his unpublished and unfinished social organization paper.

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: