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: 2007-8-27

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2007-188 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : hrm (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:
   Horned Miao

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   possibly Hmo or A-Hmo (personal communication from a Chinese Miao scholar, 24 August 2007); Hmongb Khuat Shuad Ndrangl--this applies only to one sub-group (unpublished paper, Johnson 1998, "Farwestern Hmongic," p. 13)

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:

   d) Reason for preferred name:
   The people who speak the “Horned Miao” lect are best known for the large horn-shaped wooden combs around which the women who speak this language wrap their hair. Why not use the term “Hmong”? The term “Miao” is not derogatory in China as the terms “Miao” or “Meo” sometimes are in Thailand. Furthermore, over-use in English of the term “Hmong” is not appropriate in a Chinese context, as it may be interpreted as failing to contribute to the nation’s efforts to unify the various Miao subgroups and to encourage the various ethnic groups to live in harmony. And finally, while some speakers may refer to themselves as “Hmong,” other speakers of the Horned Miao lect use a different self-designation, Hmo or A-Hmo, so it would not be completely accurate to list this entry as “Hmong.”

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
   Horned Miao: 50-60,000 (Hattaway 2000, p. 215)

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: hmh or hrm

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

- [x] 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/iso639-3/types.asp](http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp))

b) Countries where used:
- China

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:

- Horned Miao: Zhenxiong county in northeastern Yunnan; Guiyang, Bijie and Qingzhen cities and Dafang, Nayong and Zhijin counties in northwest and central Guizhou (Hattaway 2000, p. 215)

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:

- Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Chuanqiandian

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:

- Horned Miao shares features with Gha-Mu [Small Flowery Miao] and Sinicised Hmong [Sinicized Miao]; may have good intelligibility with local Northern Hua Miao [Guizhou Bijie Miao, a Chuanqiandian Cluster Miao lect] and Sinicised Hmong (Johnson 1998, p. 13)

### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:

- no published literature known

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?
Mentioned and described in Chinese linguistics articles, for instance, Xian Songkui, “Miaoyu Xibu Fangyan Cifangyan Ji Tuyu de Huafen (2).”
Probably used as a medium of instruction in the initial grades of primary school in Horned Miao villages, as an aid for transition to Mandarin Chinese.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Speakers consider themselves part of the Miao nationality in China but unique in culture and language from other Miao groups (Xian Songkui, p. 749). The mother tongue is used in the home, community and market by speakers of all ages when speaking with other Miao, but a local dialect of Chinese or standard Mandarin is used when speaking with non-Miao people. The mother tongue is being passed on to the younger generation.

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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
2. A researcher who has traveled extensively in Miao areas in western Guizhou considers Horned Miao to be a culturally distinct group from subgroups in Chuanqiandian Cluster Miao (personal communication 7 July 2007).
3. A Chinese Miao scholar considers Horned Miao to be a widely divergent lect within the Chuanqiandian sub-dialect, not mutually intelligible with lects in Chuanqiandian Cluster Miao (personal communication 24 August 2007).

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
Hattaway, Paul. 2000. Operation China. p. 215. Suggests that Horned Miao is a separate variety from Chuanqiandian Miao cluster lects, although it does share features with Gha-Mu and Sinicized Hmong, and states that speakers have a distinct ethnolinguistic identity from other Miao.

Xian Songkui, in speaking of branches of the Miao nationality in the Zhijin area of western Guizhou, including Horned Miao, writes: 不同的支系不但表现在语言、服饰及头饰方面的不同，而且不同的支系还不互相通婚。我们承认苗族内部有不同的支系，这并不影响苗族内部的团结， “正如一个家庭共分为几支或几房一样。”(Xian Songkui. 织金苗语方言记略 [Zhijin
[Rough translation to English: Different branches of the Miao not only exhibit different languages, clothing styles and head ornamentation styles, but they also do not intermarry. We acknowledge that there are different branches among the Miao, but this does not at all affect the unity among them, "just as one family may be found in several branches or several houses."]


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: