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: 2007-8-29

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

Associated Change request number : 2007-231 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : kbi (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:
      Kaptiau

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

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Kaptiauw, Kapitiauw (these alternate names come from the alternate names that were listed with Tarpia, from which this language is split).

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The speakers of this language said that their language name is Sobei. However, we did not want to use this name as a language name because it is already in use. Also, we understood the people's use of the term to refer to a group of languages that exist along the coast to the west of this area. During the survey of all these languages, we often heard the term Sobei to refer to all these languages. So we decided to use the village name for the language name, which is the language name that any outsiders would use for this language. Using the village name for the language name is also consistent with many of language names in this area.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      The name of the ethnic group very likely is Kaptiau, and the number of speakers who use this language is 230.

   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)

☐ Recently extinct language

☐ Historical language

☐ Ancient language

☐ Artificially constructed language

☐ Macrolanguage

(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:

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:

Province of Papua, Sarmi Regency, Bonggo Subdistrict, village of Kaptiau. GPS Coordinates: 02°23.321' South, 139°47.780' East

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:

This language has not been classified, but since there is such a high similarity with Tarpia (37% apparent lexical similarity) it should very likely be classified the same (Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Western Oceanic, North New Guinea, Sarmi-Jayapura Bay, Sarmi).

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:

Closest to Tarpia (37% apparent lexical similarity).

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

none
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?

As far as we know this language is not officially recognized by any level of government. It is not used in any levels of formal education as a language of instruction, nor is it taught in schools.

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

Used in private domains where it is often mixed with Indonesian/Malay, and for public prayer.

**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:

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:**


LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)