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: 2008-3-7

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

Associated Change request number : 2008-044 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : aah (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:
Abu' Arapesh

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Abu'

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Abu'; Ua

d) Reason for preferred name:
The autonym (Abu') on its own is easy to confuse with other languages known as "Abu", e.g. [ado], [bky], [jid]. The name "Abu' Arapesh" makes obvious the link with other languages in the same language chain. This name is acceptable to Dr Otto Nekitel, a first-language speaker of the language and the primary academic source on it, since he uses it in his published work (Nekitel 1992) and also in his dissertation (Nekitel 1985: 285). The alternate name "Ua" means "no", and is used in some of the northern villages (Gray et al 2008).

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Abu' Arapesh, population 2555 (2000 census)

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:
Papua New Guinea

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Sandaun province, Aitape/Lumi District, East Aitape Rural LLG, wards 23, 24, 25; East Sepik province, Maprik District, Albiges/Mablep Rural LLG, ward 8. Approximately 142 deg 48' E to 143 deg 5' E, and 3 deg 23' S to 3 deg 33' S, roughly 300 square kilometres in area (Nekitel 1985: 1).

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:
Torricelli, Kombio-Arapesh, Arapesh.

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:
Bukiyip, Mufian

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 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?:
No.
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Strong ethnolinguistic identity (Nekitel 1985). However, language vitality is endangered. Nekitel (1998:226) reported that Tok Pisin was the predominant language for 40% of Abu' youth. Gray et al (2008) also found that in the northern villages Abu’ is being replaced in most domains of language use by Tok Pisin.

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):
Published sources previously identified.

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: