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: 2008-8-25

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

Associated Change request number : 2008-069  
Tentative assignment of new identifier : lrz

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:
Lemerig

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

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Päk, Bek – Leon – Sasar

d) Reason for preferred name:
"Lemerig" designates an area of the island, where a set of close dialects, now almost extinct, used to be spoken. It is the name used and preferred by the speakers and their descendants, over any other (geographically & dialectologically more specific) name.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Now probably only 2 speakers are left.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: LMG

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
[X] 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)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Vanuatu

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Vanua Lava island, northwest coastal villages  [-13.74272 South,167.435503 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
   Only two fluent speakers are left alive, perhaps just one now. This language is going to disappear very soon.

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, Central-Eastern Oceanic, Remote Oceanic, North and Central Vanuatu, Northeast Vanuatu-Banks Islands, East Vanuatu

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:
   The closest language is the one currently called Vatrata [vlr] in Ethnologue. (but note I’m re-naming it Vera’a). Lemerig was considered originally a dialect of Vatrata)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Only a few sound recordings by myself, Dr Alex François (2003). I have also produced a story book:
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?: Not at all.

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

**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:
   I've been doing fieldwork in the whole Banks & Torres area since 1997. More specifically, I worked on Lemereig during several sessions in 1998, 2003 and 2006.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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

**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)