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: 2008-8-29

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Associated Change request number : 2008-080
Tentative assignment of new identifier : gof

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:
      Gofa
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Unknown
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Goffa
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The name "Gofa" is established in the literature about this language and is a well-known common name for the language, ethnic group and administrative area involved.
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Gofa; population ~233,340
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: gof

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
For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Ethiopia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), Gamo-Gofa Zone. GPS: 7°N, 37°E.

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
   NA

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: □ Signed   ☒ Spoken   □ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Afro-Asiatic, Omotic, North, Gonga-Gimojan, Gimojan, Ometo-Gimira, Ometo, Central

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:
   Gamo

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   There is an ongoing Gofa Bible translation project. To the best of our knowledge no radio, TV or newspapers are available in the language.

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?:
   Gofa and Gamo are considered to be linguistically separate, each having their own language development project as of 2004. The old schooling materials that were a mix of Gamo, Gofa and Dawro are now being adapted to "pure" Gofa.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   The Gofa have an ethnolinguistic identity distinct from the Gamo and the Dawro.
**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)