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: 2008-9-1

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Associated Change request number: 2008-088 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: lst (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:
      Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Trinidad Sign Language, TTSL, TSL

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Name used in previously published dictionary of this sign language, name used by native
      speakers of the language

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete
      individual language currently in use):
      Trinidad and Tobago Deaf Community, Population: approximately 2000

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lst

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/iso639-2/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Trinidad and Tobago

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

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:
   Deaf Sign Language

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:
   American Sign Language and English

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language Dictionary, published by the Ministry of Education in May 2007. This book can now be purchased through the Ministry of Social Development and Disability Affairs Unit. Some important government sponsored programs have been interpreted into TTSL and broadcasted on national television stations.

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?:
   The Ministry of Education has recognized the value of TTSL and financially supported a team of Deaf and hearing members of the Deaf Community to create the first TTSL dictionary published in May 2007. Because this dictionary was unsatisfactory to a number of people in the Deaf community because it was not viewed to truly represent TTSL, they are now funding a second version of this dictionary which will be published both with photographs and in live-sign on a DVD. American Sign Language (ASL) is used in formal education and officially taught in schools, while TTSL is used by the Deaf community in their daily activities and meetings. However, the Deaf community hopes that this will

change with the publication of the TTSL dictionaries, the second of which is set to be published in the fall of 2009.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Deaf adults in Trinidad consider TTSL to be the language most tied to their ethnic identity, even though some of them first learned ASL in schools. Some younger members of the Deaf community hold ASL in higher prestige than TTSL because of its use by the upper class who have access to education and because hearing people tend to promote it. Deaf people generally acquire TTSL after leaving school, if they choose to interact with the Deaf community. However, isolated deaf people who do not go to school are taught TTSL and not ASL by Deaf adults. Deaf adults generally hold TTSL in high regard and are working toward standardization and documentation of TTSL through the current dictionary project. Most Deaf associations and clubs and some churches use a mixture of TTSL and ASL, depending on the people attending the meetings. Deaf adults indicate that they would like to remain bilingual in ASL and TTSL, using ASL for international travel but maintaining and increasing TTSL as the language of the local community.

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:

