

# 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: 30-8-2008

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Associated Change request number : 2008-089 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : lzh (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:  
Literary Chinese

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

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Classical Chinese

d) Reason for preferred name:

It is the most correct translation of the Autonym, 文言, which means that it is mainly used as written language.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
The Chinese scholars and writers, also some students too. Since It is part of the regular education in Chinese high school, and is included the same level in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau. In a lessen extent, some Korean and Japanese Scholars also use this.

Thus it is hard to estimate the population.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lzh, which gets from the first letter of literary and the ISO 639-1 code of Chinese (zh).

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:  
China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:  
Mainly in Academic level, thus cannot specify the location within the counties.
- 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  
not applicable

## 3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

- a) This language is:  Signed                       Spoken                       Attested only in writings
- b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:  
Chinese, zho
- 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:  
och

## 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
Here are some of the Literary Chinese works in ancient times:
1. 昭明文選
  2. 古文觀止
  3. 全唐詩

#### 4. 六朝文繫

Here are the some of the Literary Chinese works in recent years (the evidences that Literary Chinese is not an Ancient nor Historical Language):

1. Book name: 儒學論稿, Author: 蘇文擢 (1921-1997), ISBN: 962-86703-1-X
2. Book name: 邃加室詩文集, Author: 蘇文擢 (1921-1997), Sources: <http://hkall.hku.hk/search~S0?/t{u9083}{u52A0}{u5BA4}{u8A69}{u6587}{u96C6}/t{233e34}{213426}{213a75}{21585c}{214258}{215f41}/1,1,2,B/d etlframeset&FF=t{233e34}{213426}{213a75}{21585c}{214258}{215f41}&2,2>
3. Book name: 管錐編, Author: 錢鍾書 (1910-1998), ISBN: 9787108027467
4. Book name: 楚望樓詩, Author: 成惕軒 (1910-1989), ISBN: 6660508651
5. Book name: 楚望樓駢體文續編, Author: 成惕軒 (1910-1989), ISBN: 6660508864
6. Book name: 萍廬文集, Author: 嚴一萍, ISBN: 957-520-011-X

- 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?:

It is the core part of Chinese learning in secondary school in Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, which learns together with the Vernacular Chinese (the written form of Mandarin Chinese, cmn). In the public examination, the writing part of Chinese subject, the students can choose Literary Chinese or Vernacular Chinese (as the answering language; in the reading part, there are some Literary Chinese and Vernacular Chinese articles at the same time.

In University level, the students who choose Chinese as major, need to study Literary Chinese and Vernacular Chinese at the same ratio, some university even more focus on Literary Chinese.

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
Sorry about this, we do not have any comments.

## 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:

Prove of the learning of Literary Chinese in Secondary School:

1. <http://www.kachi.edu.hk/subjects/Chineselanguage/Document/p4.doc>

Prove of the learning of Literary Chinese in University:

1. <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/chi/cn/Course/Subjects-pro.htm>
2. <http://hku.hk/chinese/undergraduate/clh2.html>
3. <http://www.cl.ntu.edu.tw/main/course/course1.htm>
4. <http://www.hksyu.edu/chinese/main.htm>
5. <http://server.cl.nthu.edu.tw/course/pages.php?ID=course>
6. <http://www.chinese.nccu.edu.tw/new/in/class.htm>
7. <http://www.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/chiphil/kougi07.html>

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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

Dictionaries:

1. Book name: 說文解字, Press: 中華書局, ISBN: 962-231-231-4
2. Book name: 康熙字典, Press: 中華書局, ISBN: 9622310060
3. Book name: 中學生文言字典, Press: 三聯書店(香港)有限公司, ISBN-13: 978-962-04-0181-7, ISBN-10: 962-04-0181-6

Grammar Books:

1. Book name: 文言文法, Author: 楊伯峻, Press: 中華書局, ISBN: 962-231-204-7
2. Book name: Apprentissage de la langue classique usage : d'apprendre la langue classique chinoise specialement pour les etudiants etrangers, Press: 北京商務印書館, ISBN: 7100006333
3. Book name: 進階文言文讀本, Literary Chinese for advanced beginners, Press: 南天書局有限公司, ISBN: 9576384192

### 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  
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp>  
Email: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto: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:**

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>