

ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2008-8-30

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Associated Change request number : 2008-092

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : thg

(completed by Registration Authority)

Do not be concerned about your responses causing the form text spacing or pagination to change. 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:
Me'phaa, Huitzapula
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Me'phàà Àguàà (in that order- first word is different in each language except 2); (single prime is l.c."saltillo", grave accents=macron-under vowels)
- c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
tlapaneco de (San Pedro) Huitzapula, tlapaneco, Me'phaa, Huitzapula Tlapanec, tlapaneco del noroeste alto,
- d) Reason for preferred name:
"Me'phaa" identifies the language family according to the policies of the Me'phaa Language Development Committee (Comité de Desarrollo Lingüístico de la Lengua Me'phaa) in opposition to the pejorative "Tlapaneco" used by the colonists. Huitzapula is the Spanish name of the the main town, and the ancestral community considered the center of the language in the native taxonomy of ethnic regions. (Huitzapula is a "comisaría", a subordinate town in the Municipio of Atlixac. The majority of towns in the Atlixac municipality speak Nawatl.)
- e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of users, if in use today:
3,000
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: thg

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. Language identifiers are 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

(Select one. See explanations of these types at <http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp>)

- b) Countries where used:

Mexico

- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used:

Located in the "Región de la Montaña" of the State of Guerrero: larger towns in the Municipio of Atlixac: (San Pedro)Huitzapula, Zopilotepec, Totolapa, Ahuacatlán. (The full name of the main town is San Pedro Huitzapula, but it is often cited only as Huitzapula as there are no other towns with which to confuse it.)

- 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:

Otomanguean

- c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:

Me'phaa Zapotitlán Tablas [tzip?]. (The traditional centers of these languages are only 2 km apart, and the true degree of linguistic difference has not been investigated. The primary reason for listing them as separate is sociolinguistic: the strong native tradition of treating them as separate, and their mutual denial that they speak the same. Printed materials perceived as representing the speech of one area would not be accepted in the other.)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:

Mr. H.V. Lemley of the former Tlapaneco Indian Mission promoted the translation of some scripture portions in this language by commissioning speakers of Me'phaa Tlacoapa to work

with people from Huitzapula in the 1970s. If any of that material was published it is long out-of-print, and not in use.

- 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?:
INALI, the national indigenous language institute
http://www.inali.gob.mx/catalogo2007/html/l_tlapaneco.html, recognizes this as one of 9 varieties of the language family. The federal bilingual education program uses the books printed in the Malinaltepec language, expecting teachers to adapt the texts to the speech of their students.
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Used almost exclusively in homes, local government, stores, on the street, etc.

5. 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 have visited Huitzapula several times, starting in 1972 for the intelligibility testing (which we discovered later was mostly a measure of acquired multilingualism, not true genetic relationships).
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
None exist, to my knowledge.

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%2D3/default.asp>
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:

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://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://cf.linguistlist.org/cfdocs/new-website/LL-WorkingDirs/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>