

# ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

## Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

Date: 2008-8-30

Name of Primary Requester: Mark Weathers

E-mail address: mark\_weathers@sil.org

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

Larry Williams, Director of Field Programs, SIL MXB; field\_programs\_mexico@sil.org,

Associated Change request number : 2008-092

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : txp

(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, Acatepec
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Me'pàà Wí'ín (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 Acatepec, Western Tlapanec, Me'phaa, Me'pa, Acatepec Tlapanec, tlapaneco del suroeste,
- 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. Acatepec is the Spanish name of the the municipal head town, and the ancestral community considered the center of the language in the native taxonomy of ethnic regions.
- e) Name of ethnic group or description of people who use this language and approximate population of users, if in use today:  
35,000
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: txp ≠tpx

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 Acatepec: Acatepec, Apetzuca, Barranca Pobre, Llano Grande, Mezcaltepec, Tres Cruces, Caxitepec, Xilotlancingo, El Fuereño, Escalería Zapata; towns in Municipio of Ayutla: El Salto, El Timbre, Barranca Tecoani, Acalmani.

- 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 Teocuitlapa [txw?], different features are shared in common with others of the Me'phaa languages, especially Huehuetepic [thb?].

## 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
This language has been part of an SIL "cluster" program since 2000, with trial literacy and scripture portions circulated. Some informal recordings have been made. INALI has distributed a CD with an audio rendering of the 2003 "Law of linguistic rights of indigenous peoples of Mexico".

- 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](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. Students are supposed to write the way they speak, but in practice they imitate the speech of their teachers, many of whom are from Malinaltepec or Tlacoapa. Some Acatepec Me'phaa teachers have promoted writing the language the way they speak, and many members of church congregations have been learning to read materials written as they speak.
- 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 visited 10 towns of the Acatepec area between 1997 and 2008. During that time I have been invited to teach several literacy courses and workshops, which provided good opportunities to observe language use and attitudes toward the speech of other areas.
- 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](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://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>