

# 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 : tzp

(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, Zapotitlán Tablas
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Me'phàà Xirágáá (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 Zapotitlán(Tablas), tlapaneco, Me'phaa, Acatepec Tlapanec, tlapaneco del norte,
- 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. Zapotitlán Tablas 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:  
7,000
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: tzp

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 Zapotitlán Tablas: Zapotitlán Tablas, Ayotoxtla, Escalería Lagunas, Huiztlatzala.

- 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:  
Otomanguan

- c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:  
Me'phaa Huitzapula [thg?]. (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.?:  
No written materials exist in this language, and no investigation beyond simple recording for intelligibility testing has been done.

- 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/\\_tlapaneco.html](http://www.inali.gob.mx/catalogo2007/html/_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 .
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
 Used extensively 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 Zapotitlán Tablas 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](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>