

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 : 2008-093

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : thb

(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, Huehuetepic
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Mè'phàà Bátháá (in that order; single prime is l.c."saltillo", grave accents=macron-under)
- c) Alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
tlapaneco de Zilacayotitlán, Eastern Tlapanec, Mè'phàà Smájíín, Mè'phàà Tsírà'khàmájíín, tlapaneco de este.
- 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. Huehuetepic is the Spanish name of 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:
12,000
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: thb

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:

Extreme eastern region of the State of Guerrero: towns in Municipio of Atlamajacingo del Monte: Huehueteppec, Zilacayotitlán, towns in Municipio of Metlatónoc: San Juan Puerto Montaña, Francisco I. Madero, Juanacatlán, towns in Municipio of Tlapa de Comonfort: Santa María Tonaya, San Pedro Acatlán, Las Pilas; a major emigrant community in Municipio of Acapulco: San Martín del Jovero.

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 Malinaltepec [tcf>>txk], other features make it closer to Me'phaa Acatepec [tpx>>txp}

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

None

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 preschool and primary teachers have tried using materials from Me'phaa Malinaltepec, and have given up (2006). Some are developing materials in their own "Huehuetepic" variety.

- 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:
The various regions of the larger Me'phaa community recognize this as a distinct language and cultural region. There is strong local opposition to the use of written materials from the neighboring "prestige" Me'phaa of Malinaltepec, and teachers from that region have been expelled. Bilingual teachers of this area are promoting a written form which respects their unique phonology and grammar. Although this variety, represented by Zilacayotitlán, scored over 90% on intelligibility tests with Malinaltepec in 1972, we have discovered that was the result of acquired bilingualism, not close genetic relationship
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
Official government sites were consulted in initial research. INALI has the only data.

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>