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: 2009-4-22

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Associated Change request number : 2009-026　　　　　(completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : pys　　　　　(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:
        Paraguayan Sign Language

    b)   Autonym (self-name) for this language:
        Lengua de Señas del Paraguay

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

    d)   Reason for preferred name:
        Paraguayan Sign Language is the English translation of the Spanish name typically used by the Paraguayan deaf community for their sign language. When deaf people refer specifically to their own sign language as distinct from other sign languages, they typically sign "LSPY".

    e)   Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
        Paraguayan Deaf Community, approximately 15,000

    f)   Preferred three letter identifier, if available: pys

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:
Paraguay

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Throughout Paraguay

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:
Deaf Sign Language

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:
Local deaf people indicate that early roots of LSPY were influenced by Uruguayan Sign Language.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Since 2007, the channel 2 television station has broadcast the noon news with interpretration into LSPY. During our survey, we recorded several LSPY texts. LSPY dictionaries are currently being worked on by local deaf associations. The following works were published by Lichtenberger, based on early research of LSPY:

Lichtenberger, Wilfried. Manual mimico paraguayo. Asunción, Paraguay: Instituciones de Educacion Especial del pais por el Ministerio de Educacion y Culto, 1989.

Lichtenberger, Wilfried. Habla Conmigo: primer libro de aprendizaje de la lengua para escolares principiantes con difficultades en el lenguaje. (asesoramiento y revision por el

Ministerio de Educacion y Culto.) Asunción, Paraguay: Centro Editorial Paraguayo S.R.L. 1990.

Lichtenberger, Wilfried. Guia linguistica y didactica del Habla Conmigo: primer libro de aprendizaje de la lengua para escolares principiantes con difficultades en el lenguaje para el Profesor especial. Asunción: Ministerio de Educacion y Culto- Departamento de Educacion Especial. 1990.

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 not currently recognized by the government. Paraguayan deaf schools have traditionally been oral (encouraging speech and lipreading and forbidding sign language) but, as of 2008, teachers are beginning to learn LSPY from a deaf staff member and are increasing its use in the classroom.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
LSPY is the indigenous sign language of the Paraguayan deaf ethnolinguistic community. Deaf Paraguayans generally acquire LSPY from friends during school (outside of the classroom), in deaf associations, or religious meetings. Deaf associations and religious meetings use LSPY in their formal proceedings and deaf people use LSPY in their casual interactions. Standardization and documentation of LSPY is being pursued by deaf associations through dictionary projects. LSPY is the only sign language used by most deaf Paraguayans, although some living near the borders of Brazil also use Brazilian Sign Language as a second language.

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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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

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
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