ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2009-071 (completed by Registration authority)

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Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):

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 and will be posted on the ISO 639-3 website.

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. [&] Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. [ ] Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. [ ] Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. [ ] Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. [ ] Split a language code element into two or more new code elements (include here a request for a new code element for a divergent dialect of a major language)
6. [ ] Create a code element for a previously unidentified language.

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: djk
Associated reference name: Aukan
1. Modify an existing language code element

(a) What are you proposing to change:
   - Language reference name; generally this is changed only if it is erroneous;
   - if usage is shifting to a new preferred form, the new form may be added (next box)
   - Language additional names
   - Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
   - Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)

(b) What new value(s) do you propose: Nenge; Businenge Tongo

(c) Rationale for change:
   SUMMARY: Aukan (Okanisi, Ndyuka) is the name of one of the varieties of the language here identified; the other varieties are Aluku, Pamaka. They are not considered or termed "dialects of Aukan" by both linguists and native speakers; it is simply the variety with the largest speaker community (cf. Price 2002). Especially speakers of the Aluku variety do not appreciate it at all if their native language is referred to by the name of Ndyuka or Aukan. Therefore the name for the language as a whole should be different from the name of one of its varieties. We propose, following the general use among the speakers in Suriname and French Guiana, to refer to that language by the name "Nenge"—short form for "Nenge Tongo" or "Businenge Tongo".

   LONG: Suriname was a slave colony from the early 17th century until 1873. It was first populated by British settlers, who brought African slaves with them. It became a Dutch colony in 1667, but a range of varieties of English had already established in the colony. During the 18th century, several groups of slaves of African descent fled the plantations to found independent villages in the forest. They were called the "bush negroes" because they lived in the forest. The runaways used similar terms to designate themselves and to differentiate themselves from the African(-descend) population who remained on the plantations. The terms businenge/busikonde sama do not carry negative connotations among Maroons. However, it may, at times be assigned negative connotations by non-Maroons. Note though that the term Djuka is the negatively connotated name for Maroons in Suriname. The term "bush negro" has an equivalent in Dutch ("bosneger"). The most important community was the Ndyuka (or Aukan), but other ones also emerged later, and were not fused with the Ndyuka (instead, they had a complex history of alliances, wars, and subordination to the Ndyuka); those other communities include the Saramaccan, the Aluku, the Pamaka, and the Kwinti.

   Linguistically, the languages spoken by the "businenge" have started to diverge from the mainstream English-based creole spoken in the plantations and towns of Suriname (the Sranan-Tongo) from the 18th century onwards. They have kept some archaic features, but have also had linguistic innovations (such as the loss of "r" in words such as "nenge" [viz. Sranan "nengre"]). On the lexical level, they have much less borrowings from Dutch than Sranan has. Among them, they also have diverged to some extent. Saramaccan is quite particular, with a strong influence of Portuguese in the lexicon. Kwinti is generally recognized as fairly different from Ndyuka. On the contrary, Aluku and Pamaka have a high mutual intelligibility with Ndyuka, even if they have clear and regular specific features. Linguists generally agree that they can be considered variants of the same language. Yet the use of the name "Ndyuka" (or the alternate name "Aukan") to refer to the whole language (with its three variants) is
misleading since it primarily refers to one of the variants, albeit the most numerous. It is reported (Bilby, 2002) that no native speaker of Aluku or Pamaka would agree with their language being described as "Ndyuka". When the need to name the common language occurs, the term used by speakers is "Businenge Tongo" [language of the bush negroes], or in short "Nenge". It is also a term used by several specialized linguists, even if they also often use the technical phrase "Eastern Maroon English Creole of Suriname". A thorough review of the various names used to refer to the above-mentioned dialects by different communities of speakers (their own native speakers; speakers of other languages in Suriname and French Guiana; linguists) can be found in (Léglise & Migge 2006, 2007). As the argument in the introduction of the most recent reference work on the topic (Goury & Migge 2003) suggests, the most common, neutral and generally agreed description for the whole language is "Nenge" (or the extensive alternate "Businenge Tongo"). We therefore suggest that the reference name for the language be changed to "Nenge" (without need to change the established 3-letter mnemonic code, 'djk').

In parallel, we suggest that the terms "Nengee" (Ndyuka orthographic variant of "Nenge") "Businenge(e) Tongo", "Nenge(e) Tongo", "(Surinamese) Eastern Maroon Creole", and "Taki-Taki" (a vulgar generic description, slightly derogative, mainly used by non-speakers in French Guiana and by native speakers when speaking with non-speakers) be inserted in the "Alternate Names" description category. 'Aukan' (and its synonym 'Ndyuka') should be restricted to referring to the variety spoken by the Ndyuka community proper, and remain in the "Dialects" description category of the "Ethnologue" database (where they belong), and in the IETF language subtag registry (three variant subtags for 'djk' have been submitted there for addition in the next version: 'aluku', 'ndyuka' and 'pamaka').

2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group

(a) For an existing Macrolanguage, what change to its individual language membership do you propose:

(b) Rationale for change:

For a new Macrolanguage proposal, please also complete the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”), which must also be submitted to fully document the intended meaning for the new macrolanguage.

3. Retire a language code element from use

(a) Reason for change:
- There is no evidence that the language exists.
- This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.

(b) If equivalent with another code element, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) is it equivalent:
(c) Rationale for change:

4. Expand the denotation of a code element through merging of one or more code elements

(a) List the languages (identifier and name) to be merged into this code element and retired from use:

(b) Rationale for change

5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

(a) List the languages into which this code element should be split, or the major language and the divergent variety (or varieties) for which a new code element is being requested:

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are followed:

- Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional level.

- Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.

- Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages.

(b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages, or for requesting a separate identifier for the divergent variety:

(c) Does the existing language code element represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? Please comment.
In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

(a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:

(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):


- Isabelle LÉGLISE and Bettina MIGGE, 2006. "Language naming practices, ideologies and linguistic practices: Toward a comprehensive description of language varieties". *Language in
The change proposal process

A request to change the code set goes through a six-step process:

1. A user of ISO 639-3 proposes a change and submits it to the ISO 639-3 Registration Authority (ISO 639-3/RA) using this form.

2. The ISO 639-3 registrar processes the change request to verify that the request is compatible with the criteria set forth in the standard and to ensure that the submitter has supplied all necessary information. This may involve rounds of interaction with the submitter.

3. When the change request proposal is complete in its documentation (including all associated New Code Requests), the change request is promoted to “Proposed Change” status and the ISO 639-3 registrar posts the request on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA. Also at this time, an announcement is sent to anyone requesting notification of new proposals matching their specified criteria (region and/or language family of interest). Periodically, a message maybe sent to the general LINGUIST discussion list on Linguist List (http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html), and other appropriate discussion lists, inviting individuals to review and comment on pending proposals. Anyone may request from the ISO 639-3 registrar to receive notification regarding proposals involving languages in a specific region of the world or specific language family.

4. Individuals may send comments to the ISO 639-3 registrar for compilation. The consensus of early reviews may result in promotion to “Candidate Status” (with or without amendment), or withdrawal of the change request, if the conclusion is that the request is not in keeping with the stated criteria of the ISO 639-3 standard.

5. Three months prior to the end of the annual cycle of review and update, a new notice is posted on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA, and an announcement listing the Candidate Status Change Requests is posted to the LINGUIST discussion list and other discussion lists, as requested by their owners. All change requests are then open to further review and comment by any interested party for a period of three months. A Change Request received after the start of Candidacy phase must wait until the next annual cycle for consideration. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that a minimum of three months is allotted for the review of every proposal.

6. At the end of the formal review period, a given Change Request may be: 1) adopted as a whole; 2) adopted in part (specific changes implicit in the whole Change Request may be adopted separately);
3) rejected as a whole; or 4) amended and resubmitted for the next review cycle. All change requests remain permanently archived at the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA.

**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  
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

**Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:**
Linguist List. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)