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: 2009-8-30

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

Associated Change request number : 2009-072 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : lbk (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:
      Bontok, Central
   
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      None, each dialect area labels its own form of speech with a term based on the name of their community, or by the general expression translatable as "our language".

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Bontoc, Central Bontoc, Bontoc Igorot

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The spelling of Bontok, with a final k, rather than c, is needed for two reasons, 1) to match the proposed macrolanguage group name, Bontok, and 2) to distinguish the language from the municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province, since the municipality is home to three distinct languages, Central Bontok, Southern Bontok, and Southwestern Bontok. Other Bontok languages (Northern and Eastern) are found in municipalities which were formerly part of the sub-province of Bontoc but are no longer so. The sub-province of Bontoc was created in 1906 to provide a political base for what was perceived at that time to be a number of communities in the Central Cordillera (hence the name originally taken from Tagalog _bondok_ 'mountain' [English boondoks]), which although traditionally head-hunting enemies, shared a language distinct from Ifugao to the south, and Kalinga to the north. The former sub-province of Bontoc was re-named in 1966 as Mountain Province, while the name Bontoc is restricted to the name of the municipality, to the central town of the municipality, and the capital of the province.

      While there are a number of older publications that have labeled the central language form as 'Central Bontoc', recent publications, such as Benn (1987) and Lee (2006, 2007, 2008) use Central Bontok. The only major dictionary of (one of the dialects) of the language (Reid 1976) as well as Reid's new on-line Talking Dictionary of Khinina-ang Bontok (2009), use the spelling with a final k.

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3, page 1
c) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
19,573 population in the following communities of Bontoc municipality: Bontoc Poblacion, Bontoc Ili, Caluttit, Dalican, Guina-ang, Ma-init, Maligcong, Samoki, and Tocucan (2007 Census). http://www.census.gov.ph/data/census2007/index.html. (Note that the population figures for the current Central Bontoc [bnc] --even with the current definition--are hugely inflated, 540,000, with 10,000 monolinguals (SIL 2007).

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:
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
- [x] 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:
Philippines

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
The following communities of Bontoc municipality, Mountain Province: Bontoc poblacion, Bontoc Ili, Caluttit, Dalican, Guina-ang, Ma-init, Maligcong, Samoki, and Tocucan

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
- [x] Spoken
- [ ] Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Philippine, Northern Luzon, Meso-Cordilleran, South-Central Cordilleran, Central Cordilleran, North Central Cordilleran, Nuclear Cordilleran, Bontok-Kankanay, Bontok
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:
Northern Bontok, Southwestern Bontok, Southern Bontok, Eastern Bontok

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Some thirty or more vernacular publications (currently listed under Bontoc, Central [bnc]).
A large body of text materials (Reid 1992), one published dictionary (Reid 1976), and an on-line Talking Dictionary, with thousands of linked recordings of the actual pronunciation of headwords and example sentences in the language of the Central Bontok community of Guina-ang (known as Khinina-ang) (Reid 2009).

There are no newspapers or television media using the language. Some community radio broadcasts use the language (as spoken in the main town of Bontoc), but Ilokano (the local trade language) is the main language used on the radio, because of the limited range of intelligibility of Central Bontok across the province.

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?:
The language (as spoken in the town of Bontoc) is recognized and used in meetings of the municipal council. However, Ilokano is typically preferred, because counsellors from Southern and Southwestern communities consider Ilokano to be the tongue that unites them with Bontok speakers from other communities in the municipality. The language is not taught in the schools (and rarely used in the churches) despite the availability of some literacy materials and of translations of the New Testament and other portions of the Bible into the language of the town.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
A large percentage of the residents of what is known as Bontoc Poblacion do not speak the Central Bontok language, but have married or migrated into the town. Young people typically use the national language, Tagalog, or Ilokano when speaking with each other, especially in high school and college contexts. The language is maintained primarily among older people who maintain stalls in the Central Market, and who mainly reside in the Ili, or "village" that spreads up the hillside away from the main road where most commercial establishments are found. The great majority of older people are also bilingual in Ilocano, as well as in English, although fewer of the older people speak Tagalog.
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:
   Based on 50 years of on and off residence in Bontoc municipality, and numerous data collecting visits to each of the communities mentioned above.

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
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: