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: 2009-8-26

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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 : rbk (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, Northern

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   None, each dialect area labels its own form of speech with a term derived from 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:
   Northern Bontoc, Central Bontoc, Bontoc

d) Reason for preferred name:
   The change of spelling from Bontoc to Bontok is needed to match the proposed macrolanguage name (Bontok), and to distinguish the language name from the name of the municipality (Bontoc). While all the dialects of Central, Southern and Southwestern Bontok are spoken in the Bontoc municipality, the dialects of Northern Bontok are not, they are spoken in the municipality of Sadanga, Mountain Province which was formerly a part of Bontoc sub-province, now renamed as Mountain Province.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Total population: 9706. Sadanga municipality, Mountain Province, the Philippines (Philippine Government Census 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

[ ] 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/iso639-3/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:

All the communities of Sadanga municipality, northern Mountain Province. The names of the communities, most of which have their own dialect of the language are: Anabel, Bekigan, Belwang, Betwagan, Demang, Sacasacan, Saclit, and the municipal center, Sadanga Poblacion.

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:

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:

Other languages within the Bontok macrogroup, i.e., Bontok, Central (presently Bontoc, Central); Bontok, Eastern (presently Finallig); Bontok, Southwestern; Bontok, Southern.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

Macabuyay and Goshnick (1979) contains some text material from the municipal center, Sadanga. They refer to the language as Central Bontoc.

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?:
   No

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   Residents of the various communities of Sadanga municipality do not identify their language as Bontok. They identify only with the dialect of their own community, and label it distinctively. It is used only in the home, especially among older members of the community. Most are also bilingual in Ilokano, and some can communicate also in their adjacent language, Central Bontok. Young, educated people are no longer using the language, preferring to communicate in either Ilokano or 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 villages of Bontoc municipality, and 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: