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 : vbk (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, Southwestern

   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

   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 Southwestern Bontok are spoken in the Bontoc municipality, other languages under the same macrolanguage, such as Finallig, i.e., Eastern Bontok, are not part of the Bontoc municipality.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      This language is spoken in the communities of Alab, Balili, Gonogon and associated villages in the municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province, Population 2,467 (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](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:

This language is spoken in the communities of Alab, Balili, Gonogon and associated villages in the municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province, the Philippines. These communities are found in the valley of the Chico River, southwest of the municipal capital of Bontoc, along the Halsema Highway, the main route between Bontoc and Baguio City.

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

b) Other languages within the Bontok macrogroup, i.e., Bontok, Central (presently Bontoc, Central); Bontok, Eastern (presently Finallig); Bontok, Northern, 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.?:
No written materials are available, and it is not used in other media.

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 these communities do not refer to their language as Bontok. They identify only with the dialect of their own community, and label it distinctively: Alab (Ina-ab), Balili (Binalili), Gonogon (Ginonogon), however they maintain a sense of community with other speakers or Southwestern Bontok based on the perceived phonological and other linguistic differences from the Central Bontok language which are outlined in the associated request to split the language code element [bnc]. The degree of mutual intelligibility between Central and Southwestern Bontok languages decreases depending on the geographic distance between the outer ends of the two languages, and on where a person went to school. Since many students from Alab and Balili formerly went to High School or College in Bontoc town, they have a higher degree of understanding of the dialect of the town, than people from Gonogon, at the extreme southern end of the chain.

The dialects of Southwestern Bontok are used only in the home, especially among older members of the community. Most are also bilingual in Ilokano, and many can communicate also in their adjacent languages Central Bontok, and Kankanay.
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: