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 : 2009-073  
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ebk

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, Eastern

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". (See Fukuda 1997:11 for Eastern Bontok).

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   Eastern Bontoc, Finallig, Southern Bontoc

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 macrogroup name, Bontok, and 2) to distinguish the language from the municipality of Bontoc, Mountain Province, since Barlig is no longer part of what was formerly (1906-1966) the sub-province of Bontoc, 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 to the capital of the province.

   The name Southern Bontoc was proposed by Busenitz (1973) in an unpublished SIL survey, in which he included some of the dialects (such as Tinoveng, the language of Talubin), that are very different from those to be included as Eastern Bontoc. The speakers of Eastern Bontok dialects consider Talubin to be their mortal enemies, and is inappropriate as the name for the Eastern Bontok group.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   The language is spoken in the townships of Barlig, Mountain Province, specifically Barlig, Kadaklan and Lias. Total population 6,168 (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

- [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/iso639-3/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:

- Townships belonging to the municipality of Barlig, Mountain Province, the Philippines. Specifically Barlig, Kadaklan and Lias, located in the eastern part of the province, relative to the capital, Bontoc.

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:

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, Northern; 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.?:
There is a New Testament and other religious and secular literature in the dialect spoken in Barlig town, and labeled Finallig. These are listed in the Ethnologue under the current code [bkb]

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 the language (unofficially) recognized in municipal and some church activities, although Ilokano is also commonly used.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
There are some 13 'barangay' administrative units within the Barlig municipality constituting a chain, labeled here as Eastern Bontok. Two groups of these units are more closely related to each other, and have been referred to as Barlig-Kadaklan, while the third group, associated with the Lias township is clearly distinct, and may in fact be more closely related to one of the other Bontok groups. More research is needed to clarify the genetic relationship of this dialect, but until this is done, they should be considered part of the Eastern Bontok language, based on their geographic proximity to the other dialects of this language and their political affiliation in the Barlig municipality.

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, 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: