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: 2009-1-9

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

Associated Change request number: 2009-077 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier: nkq (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:
      Nkami

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Nkami

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Kubetsa in Benin, This has not been verified.

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      1a=1b, and this is also the name for them by other speakers.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      7,000

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: NKQ

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%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Ghana, Benin

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Main Nkami town is Amankwakrom, 7°03'09.24"N 0°01'32.22"E (from Google Earth)
   Afram Plains District, Eastern Region Ghana
   Nkami is reported to be spoken in and around the town of Kubetsa 25 km north of Savé, Benin. See map on final page

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:
   Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Guang, North Guang

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:
   Nkonya, Ethnologue [nko]

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   None

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:
   The Nkamis are under Akan (Kwahu) chiefs. Nkami is the language used in worship of the local land god, the Afram fetish. There is a sizable minority (majority for Donkorkrom) of Akan speakers in towns where Nkamis live. Nkami-Akan interaction is more likely in Akan than Nkami, although there are Akans who have second language ability in Nkami.
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:

An trip was made to the Afram Plains District on the 26th-27th April 2005 to investigate the existence and status of the Nkami language community. The presence of the Nkami community was verified, and a survey of the Nkami community was carried out. Later, from a Nkami speaker living in Nkonya, I collected a Swadesh word list and list of Guang cognates useful for categorization of the language.

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:


Maps of Nkami Area

Location of Nkami within Ghana