ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2009-086 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2009-8-28

Primary Person submitting request: Jason Lobel

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William Hall, SIL Philippines, william_hall at sil dot org. Monie and Marianne Chiong, cmuphilippines at yahoo dot com.

Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):

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 and will be posted on the ISO 639-3 website.

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the *ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. ☐ Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. ☐ Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. ☐ Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. ☐ Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. ☒ Split a language code element into two or more new code elements
6. ☐ Create a code element for a previously unidentified language

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: agp

Associated reference name: Paranan

1. Modify an existing language code element

    (a) What are you proposing to change:

        ☐ Language reference name; generally this is changed only if it is erroneous;
            if usage is shifting to a new preferred form, the new form may be added (next box)

        ☐ Language additional names

        ☐ Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)

        ☐ Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)

    (b) What new value(s) do you propose:

    (c) Rationale for change:

2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group

    (a) For an existing Macrolanguage, what change to its individual language membership do you propose:

    (b) Rationale for change:

For a new Macrolanguage proposal, please also complete the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCode RequestForm.rtf"), which must also be submitted to fully document the intended meaning for the new macrolanguage.

3. Retire a language code element from use

    (a) Reason for change:

        ☐ There is no evidence that the language exists.

        ☐ This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.

    (b) If equivalent with another code element, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) is it equivalent:

    (c) Rationale for change:

4. Expand the denotation of a code element through merging of one or more code elements

    (a) List the languages (identifier and name) to be merged into this code element and retired from use:

    (b) Rationale for change

5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

    (a) List the languages into which this code element should be split:
        (1) Paranan; (2) Pahanan Agta

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

> For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are followed:
>
> - Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional level.
>
> - Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.
>
> - Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages

    (b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages:
This is a case where although there is a high level of intelligibility between the two groups, this can be explained by the historical origins of the two groups. In isolated Palanan town, there was almost nobody for the Paranan non-Negritos and the Pahanan Negritos to talk to except each other, and they interacted for trade and other purposes, to the point that the language of the non-Negritos converged lexically (but not so much so grammatically) with the language of the Negritos. Lexicostatistical percentages are skewed by this convergence, and are completely incapable of representing the fact that the underlying stratum of the languages are different, indicating that one does not originate from the other and so one should not be considered a dialect of the other. The underlying substrata are a perfect match for the objectively-observable racial differences between the Pahanan Agta speakers (who are Black Filipinos, a.k.a. "Negritos") and the Paranan speakers (who are not "Negritos"). Despite their obvious convergence due to isolation of these two groups in the same area for centuries or longer, differences still remain that reveal the separate origins of the two groups and their respective languages, and the language of the Pahanan Agta in some ways remains closer to the languages of other neighboring Black Filipino groups (e.g. the Dupaningan Agta and the Casiguran Agta) than it does to the Paranan language. Besides the clear differences in the underlying substrata, the clearly distinct ethnolinguistic identities and the lack of a common body of literature or mutually-recognized standard reinforce the separate listing of these two languages.

    (c) Does the language code element to be split represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a

shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? If so, please comment.

No significant body of literature and research exists on these languages. Besides work being done by SIL linguists who have made clear that they feel that Pahanan Agta and Paranan are two different languages, Pahanan Agta and Paranan have been referred to as separate languages in the Robinson dissertation (see references), and will be treated as separate languages in the forthcoming Lobel dissertation as well as in a paper currently in preparation by Lobel and Robinson. No other prior literature or research exists on these languages, a fact attested to repeatedly in various recent articles by Laurie Reid. There is no common linguistic identity (in fact, these two groups are, and consider themselves, separate racially, culturally, and linguistically). There likewise is no "shared (or undistinguished) body of literature" and no "written form in common".

In order to complete the change request, the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf") must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar.

6. Create a new language code element

(a) Name of missing language:

(b) State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:

In order to complete the change request, the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf") must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

(a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
Jason Lobel, language researcher and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Hawaii, who has done extensive fieldwork on 180 languages in the Philippines, Sabah (Malaysia), Sulawesi (Indonesia), and Brunei.

(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
(1) Discussion with Laura Robinson, who wrote a Ph.D. dissertation on a closely-related language and included fieldwork on Pahanan Agta and Paranan; (2) Discussion with Monie & Marianne Chiong, Bible translators who have worked for over a decade on both Pahanan Agta and Paranan; (3) Discussion with native speakers of Pahanan Agta and Paranan, in Isabela Province, Philippines. (4) This change was discussed and approved by a panel of both SIL linguists and outside linguists at SIL-Philippines in July 2009.

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):
(1) Robinson, Laura C. 2008. Dupaningan Agta: Grammar, Vocabulary, and Texts. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Hawaii at Manoa. (2) Robinson, Laura C., and Jason W. Lobel. in preparation. The Northeast Luzon Languages.; (3) Lobel, Jason W. in preparation. Issues in Philippine and Philippine-type languages. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Hawaii (anticipated 2010 completion).

The change proposal process

A request to change the code set goes through a six-step process:

1. A user of ISO 639-3 proposes a change and submits it to the ISO 639-3 Registration Authority (ISO 639-3/RA) using this form.

2. The ISO 639-3 registrar processes the change request to verify that the request is compatible with the criteria set forth in the standard and to ensure that the submitter has supplied all necessary information. This may involve rounds of interaction with the submitter.

3. When the change request proposal is complete in its documentation (including all associated New Code Requests), the change request is promoted to "Proposed Change" status and the ISO 639-3 registrar posts the request on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA. Also at this time, an announcement is sent to anyone requesting notification of new proposals matching their specified criteria (region and/or language family of interest). Periodically, a message maybe sent to the general LINGUIST discussion list on Linguist List (http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html), and other appropriate discussion lists, inviting individuals to review and comment on pending proposals. Anyone may request from the ISO 639-3 registrar to receive notification regarding proposals involving languages in a specific region of the world or specific language family.

4. Individuals may send comments to the ISO 639-3 registrar for compilation. The consensus of early reviews may result in promotion to "Candidate Status" (with or without amendment), or withdrawal of the change request, if the conclusion is that the request is not in keeping with the stated criteria of the ISO 639-3 standard.

5. Three months prior to the end of the annual cycle of review and update, a new notice is posted on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA, and an announcement listing the Candidate Status Change Requests is posted to the LINGUIST discussion list and other discussion lists, as requested by their owners. All change requests are then open to further review and comment by any interested party for a period of three months. A Change Request received after the start of Candidacy phase must wait until the next annual cycle for consideration. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that a minimum of three months is allotted for the review of every proposal.

6. At the end of the formal review period, a given Change Request may be: 1) adopted as a whole; 2) adopted in part (specific changes implicit in the whole Change Request may be adopted separately); 3) rejected as a whole; or 4) amended and resubmitted for the next review cycle. All change requests remain permanently archived at the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA.

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
ISO 639-3/RA web site: http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: http://www.ethnologue.com/ .

Linguist List. Ancient and Extinct Languages. http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html

Linguist List. Constructed Languages. http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html