

Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2009-017

Outcome: Rejected

2009-018

2009-019

Outcome: Adopted with modification

Effective date: 2010-01-18



SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

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Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2009-017: to update the name of the code element [ife] “Ifè” to “Ede Ifè”.

Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2009-018: to update the name of the code element [nqg] “Ede Nago” to “Southern Ede Nago”.

Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2009-019: to update the name of the code element [xkb] “Manigri-Kambole Ede Nago” to “Northern Ede Nago”.

Comments regarding these three requests are made in a single document because of the close relationship among the requests and the RA response.

The request to rename the code element [ife] from Ifè to Ede Ifè is rejected. The usual form of the name of this language (whether in English, French, or the language itself) does not appear to include the word “ede”, as demonstrated by usage in the titles of publications about and in the language (see http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=ife for the Ethnologue page describing this language and listing numerous works related to it). The word “ede”, according to J. Bendor-Samuel (p. 279), is the term used for “language” in the lects of this group, and for this reason is commonly used as the group name. The argument to make this name parallel with other names in the Ede group, so that it will sort alphabetically with them, is founded on an improper premise with regard to usage of language names in the standard. (The resource *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* affords such grouping by language classification when it is needed; this is not intended to be a feature of the ISO 639-3 standard.) One might better ask how many of the other languages in the group are normally also called simply by their individual names (“Ica”, “Ije”, etc.) without the use of “Ede”. This is certainly the case with Yoruba, the most prominent member language of the group.

The request to rename the code element [nqg] to “Southern Ede Nago” is accepted in part, adopting the name “Southern Nago” rather than “Southern Ede Nago”. Likewise, the request to rename the code element [xkb] from “Manigri-Kambole Ede Nago” to “Northern Ede Nago” is accepted in part, adopting the name “Northern Nago” rather than “Northern Ede Nago”. As with change request 2009-017, the argument to include the group name “Ede” as a part of the individual language name is not compelling, based largely on the desire to have all the group names sort together in an alphabetical list of language names. Within the documents submitted in support of the name change (specifically, the forthcoming survey report), the linguists typically refer to “Southern Nago”, “Northern Nago”, etc., and not “Southern Ede Nago”, etc.

REFERENCES

Bendor-Samuel, John, ed. 1989. *The Niger-Congo languages: a classification and description of Africa's largest language family*. Landham: University Press of America and SIL.

Lewis, M. Paul (ed.), 2009. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Sixteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/>.