Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2009-049

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: 2010-01-18
Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2009-049: to create a new code element [scy] “Scanian”

The request to create a new code element for Scanian is rejected on the grounds that this speech variety is mutually intelligible with another language, Swedish, already identified in the ISO 639 family of standards. This mutual intelligibility is acknowledged by the requester himself. The appropriate part within the ISO 639 body of standards to have an identifier for the language variety Scanian is within the recently adopted ISO 639-6 standard.
Hi Joan!

Filip Larsson, skanes_kung@hotmail.com (apparently a self-proclaimed "King of Skåne/Scania") is in change request 2009-049 trying to resurrect the old SIL/Ethnologue code "scy" for "Scanian" (skånska). This code is not included in the 16th edition, the current edition, of Ethnologue. Modern-day skånska/Scanian is considered a dialect of Swedish. It may well be one of the more recognised dialects of Swedish, but it is no more a separate language than many other Swedish dialects. Many of the Swedish dialects are just as much, or even more, distinctive from "standard Swedish" as present-day Scanian/skånska.

The registration request also claims that present-day skånska/Scanian is most closely related to Danish. In fact, it is even closer to (standard) Swedish, and is, as mentioned, regarded as a dialect of Swedish. That SIL, for Ethnologue, at some point made a mistake and took a few arbitrary dialects of Swedish, among them present-day Scanian/skånska, and assigned them *language* codes should not be reason to have these codes in ISO 639-3. I understand that the Swedish national body (SIS) strongly objected to these "language" codes for dialects (among them 'scy') as well for the then-draft ISO 639-3.

I do hope that the registration authority, and the advisory committee, for ISO 639-3 will not resurrect this mistake.

Kind regards
/Kent Karlsson