

Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2009-08;

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: 2010-01-18



SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

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Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2009-069: to rename the current code element [acf] “Saint Lucian Creole French” as “Martiniquan Creole French”

The request to rename this code element from “Saint Lucian Creole French” to “Martiniquan Creole French” is rejected as being an issue within the scope of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, and not directly within the purview of the ISO 639-3 standard. The ISO 639-3 RA acknowledges the confusion concerning the relationship between the French creole used in Martinique and the French creole used in adjacent island nations of the Lesser Antilles, as described by the *Ethnologue*, 16th ed. However, it seems that this issue is one to be corrected within the *Ethnologue* itself, to associate the language as spoken in Martinique with [acf] and not with [gcf], as it does currently. Discussion of this proposal (which, unfortunately, was not offered in the format of a formal comment to the RA), focused on two issues closely associated with this request:

- The misrepresentation caused by referring to all the very closely associated creoles of the southern Lesser Antilles varieties (Martinique, St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago) by the name with which it is associated in a single country. Trading Martinique for St. Lucia does nothing to improve this state of affairs. No more widely applicable name for this group was found to be satisfactory.
- The appropriateness of having two separate code elements for the French-lexified creole of the Lesser Antilles as a whole. Several commentators noted that many linguists consider all to be within a single language, typically known as “Lesser Antillean Creole French”, and sometimes simply as “Antillean Creole”.

Neither matter was satisfactorily decided in the discussion. The ISO 639-3 RA determines this name change would not assist users of the code set at this time, and that this pair of code elements requires further consideration. The RA invites additional input on this matter.