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: 2009-12-17
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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2010-018 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : aqd (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:
      Ampari Dogon.
   
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      See d).
   
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Formerly called Kolum so (meaning sunset dialect) when it included Mombo.
      Pignari (because it is the name of the township).
      Edyenge don (or similar) is a term used by Mombo (but not Ampari) people to denote the
      language of all Dogon people. Literally, it means ‘Dogon language’ (éjé ‘Dogon person’) as opposed to Fula, Bamana, Songhay, etc., but it’s never used to specify a particular Dogon variety (e.g. Mombo, Ampari). Strictly speaking it is not an alternate name for Mombo, let alone Ampari, although it is the term that Calame-Griaule used. (correspondence with Prokhorov)
   
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Quote from Blench’s report: “The name Ampari is definitely an outsiders’ name, probably a
      version of the name ‘Ambeenge’, given to us in Kema, but it is generally accepted and is not offensive, so is provisionally adopted here”.
      Prokhorov’s extended research discredits the quote above from Blench’s report. He says, "ampari" is not an outsiders’ name. The word not only means “Ampari person” as opposed to e.g. Mombo or Tommo, but also “Dogon person” as opposed to Fulbe, Bamana, Songhay, etc. The people of Kema village do not call themselves “Ambeenge”. They call their language Mombo, and if necessary further specify it as Kema don (Kema language). “Ambeenge” seems to be very similar to the terms used by Mombo speakers towards Ampari people (e.g. ámbálìŋgè in the dialect of Sogho village). (correspondence

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with Prokhorov 1-20-2010)

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:

   From Blench's report: "The language and ethnic name in this whole region are extremely confused in the literature, partly because ethnicity is only weakly defined. Most groups know one another by their greetings. Thus the Pa are known as the Afere bye, which means roughly 'Good morning!'. Beyond that, they have directional names that refer to other villages that speak something similar and their location in relation to the village of the speaker."

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

   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)

   b) Countries where used:
      Mali

   c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
      Location: Mopti Region, Bandiagara Circle, Pignari Commune (District)

      Ampari is spoken just east of the road going from San to Sevaré, around 25 kms south of Sevaré. Based on the geographic coordinates given in Blench's Ampari report, it is clear that he mistakenly thought that the village of Pa, in the Ampari homeland where he collected his data, was the same village as Pahandaga which is located about 70 kms south of there.

      | Pop. 1998 | Map name   | Latitude  | Longitude |
      |-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
      | 376       | Pahandaha  | 13:29:10  | 4:10:40   |
      | 174       | Baboye     | 14:16:00  | 3:56:40   |
      | 475       | Bolimmba   | 14:14:40  | 3:52:50   |
      | 179       | Danga      | 14:19:30  | 3:55:30   |
      | 192       | Guenndé    | 14:09:00  | 3:56:30   |
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, Dogon

Whether or not Dogon should be classified as Niger-Congo is unclear. Dimmendaal prefers making it a separate group. http://www.sorosoro.org/en/languages-around-the-world/language-groups-throughout-the-world/dogon-languages

Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:

In 2009 I analysed the following Dogon wordlists in Wordsurv 6.0.2: Miambo de Makou, Mombo de Bandiougou, Mombo Kolu So, Mombo de Kori-Kori, Mombo Pignari, Nyambaleenge de Ficko, Mombo de Kema, and Ampari de Pahandaga, Ampari de Pa, Ampari de Danga, Ampari de Baboye. Raw scores between Mombo varieties range from 71-88%. Raw scores between Ampari varieties range from 70-88%. Raw scores between Mombo and Ampari varieties range from 40-53%. Total number of items compared range from 64 to 180. Although Blench wrote in his survey report (Ambeleenge of Kema) that elders at Kema group it with Ampari villages, my wordlist analysis aligns Kema with the Mombo group. Prokhorov’s comments below support this grouping and analysis.

Pertaining to Mombo: "What Blench calls Nyambenge and the Dialect of Kema which he (I guess by mere mistake) calls “Ambaleenge” in his paper…are mutually understandable varieties that
both are significantly different, but again intercomprehensible with the variety spoken in Songho and the neighboring villages." (correspondence with Prokhorov 1-20-2010)

"…Mombo and Ampari are separate non-intercomprehensible varieties, which, however, are genetically much closer to each other than to any other Dogon language." (correspondence with Prokhorov 12-19-2009)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      No existing literature.

   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?:
      Not recognized by government. Not used as a medium of instruction. Not taught in schools.

   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

5. 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:

   b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
   www.dogonlanguages.org (Prokhorov's forthcoming research)

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: