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: 2011-2-16

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2011-026 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : tjl (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:
Tai Laing

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Tai Lai or Tai Laing for those who live along the river south of Myitkyina. Tai Nai or Tai Naing for those who live near Homalin in Sagaing (this is due to a pronunciation difference - the meaning is the same)

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Tai Lai; Tai Nai; Shan Bamar; Shan Kalee; Shan Ni; Tai Laeng

d) Reason for preferred name:
Although pronounced as Tai Lai by some contemporary speakers, the longer name Tai Laing is preferred because it is closer to the written form (t-ai l-ae-ng) and the historical derivation. The name means ‘Red Tai’.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
The Tai Laing community lives in many villages along the Irrawaddy River starting from Myitkyina to Bamaw Township, within Kachin State. They also live along the banks of the Irrawaddy, Chindwin, and Uru Rivers in Sagaing Division. Speaker population is unknown, but is estimated to be about 100,000.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: tla

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/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Myanmar

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   The Tai Laing community lives along the Irrawaddy River starting from Myitkyina to Bamaw Township within Kachin State and also in Homalin Township within Sagaing Division in Myanmar. They mainly live along the banks of the Irrawaddy, Chindwin, and Uru Rivers.

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:
   Tai-Kadai, Kam-Tai, Be-Tai, Tai-Sek, Tai, Southwestern, Northwest

c) Closest language linguistically. For a Macrolanguage, list the individual languages (adopted and/or proposed) to be included in its group. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
   Khamti [kht]

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Tai Laing has an ancient script, although contemporary usage is limited. There is a Tai Laing Cultural and Literature Committee.
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? 
   The script is not taught in schools but the Cultural and Literature Committee organises some teaching of the script during school vacations.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   language vitality is not strong in some areas and language shift to Burmese is in process in some communities
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:
   same as on "Request for Change" form

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
   same as on "Request for Change" form

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:

