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: 2011-3-26

Name of Primary Requester: Dr. Ted Bergman
E-mail address: ted underscore bergman at sil dot org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Prof. Gyorgy Kara, Univ. of Indiana, gkara at indiana dot edu

Associated Change request number : 2011-057 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : dkh (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:
      Dukha

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Dukha

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Tukha, Tsaatan

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The term Tsaatan is not the name of the language of the Dukha people, but the Mongol word indicating the Dukha's way of life, namely their reindeer breeding. (Modern Mongol tsa means 'reindeer' and tsaatan 'those having reindeer'.)

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      200

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: dkh

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
      [X] Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
      [ ] Recently extinct language
      [ ] Historical language
      [ ] Ancient language
      [ ] Artificially constructed language

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3, page 1
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:
   Mongolia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Spoken in the region near Hanh, north of Hövsgöl lake, in the province of the same name, located in the northwestern part of Mongolia

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:
   Uighur-Turk subgroup of Uighur Oguz group of Turkic languages or simpler: a South Siberian Turkic language [Tukyue is the old-style Russian transcription of the Chinese transcription of the early medieval (6th to 7th century) ethnonym Turk]

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:
   Tofalar or Karagas [kim] and Soyot or Tuva [tyv] (Rassadin).

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Rassadin reports documentation of some scientific materials in the Tsaatan language by Mongolian colleagues

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?:
   It is not taught or used in formal education.

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

An email with John Gibbens about his interview with a family from Hanh who state,

- Tsaatan is still spoken somewhat [these are also called by foreigners ‘the reindeer people' as that is what they breed]
- it used to be written in vertical clear script, as used in Xinjiang by Mongolians. They do not write either nowadays
- all are fully literate and attend 10 years of school in Mongolian, watch Mongolian TV and radio, books and all is in Mongolian and speak more Mongolian than they their language.
- schools do not teach the language. However, there is some private study of Tsaatan.
- it is not comprehensible to a Mongolian

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

http://www.iias.nl/iiasn/26/regions/26CA1.html

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:
