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: 2011-8-18

Name of Primary Requester: Anthony Aristar, head of the MultiTree Project

E-mail address: multitree at linguistlist dot org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Claire Bowern (claire dot bowern at yale dot edu)

Associated Change request number : 2011-133 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : wgu (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:
Wirangu

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


Other sources quoted in AUSTLANG: "Weerung, Wirongu, Wanggan, Yulbara, Julbari Wonnga, Yulbara wonga, Ulbarara, Youlbara, Willuro, Willeuroo, Wilyaru, Kartawongulta, Nhangga, Titnie, Tidni, Hilleri, Hillery, Yilrea, Illarie, Ngadha Wangga, Ngadhuwangga, Warna-biri, Wambira"

d) Reason for preferred name:
AUSTLANG, Hercus and Simpson (2004), and Bowern (2011), among others, use this as the primary name

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated there were 2 speakers in 2005 (AUSTLANG 2011).

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: wgn

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:
   Australia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
   coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Dr. Claire Bowern places this language in the following coordinates in the Australian state
   of South Australia:
   Latitude: -35.38972043
   Longitude: 141.7027213 (Bowern 2010)

   To view on a map where this is located, please visit Dr. Bowern's website:

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
   As stated above, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated there were 2 speakers in
   2005 (AUSTLANG 2011).

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is:
   - Signed
   - Spoken
   - Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Pama-Nyungan, Thura-Yura

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:
   Hercus and Simpson note that Nauo and Wirangu have some similarities. As was quoted
   on the Change Request form, Hercus and Simpson explain that “phonotactically, it
   resembles Wirangu, rather than Barngarla, in allowing initial ‘ty(i)’, and ‘i-u’ sequences.
   Three distinctive Nauo properties are the morphemes ‘-yu’ and ‘-lye’, and the final vowel of
   the second person singular, ‘niino’. Finally, Schürmann’s observation that Nauo was vowel-
final is important: this links it with Barngarla and distinguishes it from Wirangu, Mirniny, and Kukata" (2001: 279).

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?: Wirangu has a score of 9 on the AUSTLANG documentation score, which goes from 0 to 16. The language has a word list, a small text collection, a small grammar, and some audio-visual recordings (AUSTLANG 2011).

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?: No

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

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:

