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: 2011-9-1

Name of Primary Requester: Zachariah Yoder

E-mail address: zach underscore yoder at wycliffe dot org

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

Associated Change request number: 2011-150 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: ynq (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 denotat ion:
   Yendang

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Yendang, Nya Yendang, or Nya Korok. (Note that Korok is also the autonym for Yotti, see NewCodeRequest form for Yotti)

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   Yandang (used by government), Yadang (by Mumuye), others formerly listed in the Ethnologue: Nyandang, Yendam, Yundum

d) Reason for preferred name:
   Reflects the most basic form of the more commonly known autonym.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Yendang, population unknown, perhaps 50,000 in 1987. Subtracted about 10,000 (5 thousand each for Yotti and Poli) from the population listed for the former Yendang (62,600) then rounded to nearest ten thousand. Would still list the year as 1987, since I haven't adjusted for exponential growth since that date.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: yan

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

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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:
   Nigeria

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Adamawa state, Mayo Belwa; Taraba state, Yoro, Lau, Zing, and Karim Lamido LGAs

   Jalingo is the capital of Taraba State and probably there is a Yendang neighborhood or town there. Some also live in a village quarter of Yola.

   9.0N 11.8E

   Ethnologue formerly listed: Adamawa state, Numan LGA; I cannot determine where in Numan Yendang live, though sure some individuals live in the town of Numan, such places aren't usually listed in the Ethnologue.

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, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Adamawa, Leko-Nimbari, Mumuye-Yandang, Yandang

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:
   Speakers in Kpankwai report that Waka [wav] is the easiest for them to understand.

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 information available
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?:
As with most languages in Nigeria, Yendang is recognized by the government at some level, but it is not an official language or used in formal settings to my knowledge. People in Kpankwai village say the language is known as Yandang to the government. Not use in school or taught in school.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Did not investigate, but no obvious indications of the language being threatened.

Note: Ukule (also known as Yakule or Poli) is probably NOT a dialect of Yendang and should not be listed as such. In Kpankwai people interviewed said that Ukule speakers speak Yendang and not Ukule in order to communicate with Yendang speakers. Yendang speakers cannot understand Ukule speakers unless they live among them. Pending further research, it is not clear to what language Ukule belongs, but probably not Yendang. I think for now I would prefer the Ethnologue simply state: "Ukule is probably not intelligible to Yendang"

Yofo is listed in the 16th edition of the Ethnologue as a village where Kumba is spoken. It was not mentioned as a dialect of Yendang by speakers in Kpankwai and is not listed as a dialect of Yendang in Hansford et al. (1976). I don't think this should be listed as a dialect of Yendang either.

The Yendang interviewed in Kpwankwai did list several other languages as dialects of their language including Wakka [wav], Teme [tde], Ukule (see above), Yotti (see separate submission for a new ISO code), Kumbe [ksm], Gah [ttb], Gengle [geg], and Kugama[kow]. Despite claiming that these are socially dialects of Yendang and even calling them the "same language", the Yendang speakers reported that many speakers of these languages use Yendang rather than their own varieties in order to communicate with the Yendang. They reported that children do not understand these varieties until they are 18 years old, or for some of the varieties unless they live among them. These reports imply that the ISO639-3 and the Ethnologue are correct in listing them as separate languages.

This leaves only Kuseki as a dialect of Yendang. I have not heard or found the term anywhere except _An Index of Nigerian Languages_ (Hasnford, Bendor-Samuel and Stanford 1976: 193) and its derivatives. Perhaps it should be listed as an alternate name for Yendang and not a dialect pending further clarity.

Second note: Bali [bcn] is not intelligible to Yendang as verified with Recorded Text Testing.
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:
   Participated in a rapid survey focusing on Bali [bcn], Kpasham [pbn], and Yotti ([new code request submitted]) to identify languages that could possibly work together on language development. As part of this village I interviewed a group of men in Kpankwai. My colleagues on that survey Rev Barau Kato and Tabwarakai Ali went to one of the Yendang villages known as Gorobi and did comprehension testing.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   John Kenan, a Yendang student at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria has shared some of his own initial survey work including a map.

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: