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: 2011-8-30

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Associated Change request number : 2011-155 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : tzi (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:
      Situ rGyalrong
   
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      kəruska

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Eastern rGyalrong

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      “The only denomination that seems to encompass all varieties in Situ [is] Chinese, and I am not aware of a clear Tibetan equivalent…Local placenames like Cogtse/Somang are not appropriate since this language is spoken over a large area.” (Jacques, pc).

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
      rGyalrong, 70-80,000

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: tsh

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   [X] Living language
              [ ] Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
b) Countries where used:

P. R. China

Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:

Ma’erkang County 马尔康县 (WT Bar-kams, [mbarkʰom]), Aba: Zhuokeji 卓克基 (WT ICog.rtse, [Isoχtsi]), Suomo 梭磨 (WT So.mang, [s–mŋo]), Songgang, 松岗 (WT rDzong.’gag, [rzunga]), Jiaomuzu 脚木足 (WT Kyom-kyo, [comuco]), Baiwan 百湾 (WT) and Dangba 党坝 (WT Dam.pa) Townships. Pushikou Village 蒲市口 (WT Phu-skor) of Jiaomuzu Township is the point furthest north with Situ speakers in Ma’erkang County. The confluence of the Jiaomuzu and Chabu 茶布 (WT Ja-phug) rivers serve as a boundary between Situ and Stod.pa (Prins 1997:3).

Hongyuan County 红原县 (WT Hong-yon), Aba: Sanwusandaoban Village 三五三道班 (WT) of Shuajingsi 刷经寺 (WT) Township and within and surrounding Shuajinsi Town itself. Sanwusandaoban Village serves as a northern boundary for Situ, north of which are primarily speakers of Amdo varieties (Gatehouse 2011).

Jinchuan County 金川县 (WT Chu-chen), Aba: Jimu 集木 (WT Kye-mo), Taiyanghe 太阳河 (WT tha’i-dByang-ho), and Maori 毛日 Townships. The Township of Jimu, stretching along the Ke’eryin Valley 可尔因沟 (WT Khro-gyam ko’u), serves as a language boundary between Situ and Lavrung, with Situ spoken to the east of the Dajinchuan River 大金川 and Lavrung spoken to the west (Prins 1997:3). Yet still further west, Situ speakers can be found on the eastern side of the Taiyang River in Taiyanghe and Maori Townships, performing the westernmost boarder of the Situ frontier. South and southwest from Dangba, the rGyalrong clade lects become increasingly less intelligible with Situ. Kalajiao 卡拉脚 (WT) should be considered belonging to bTsan-lha (as argued in §). From north of Sha’er 沙耳 (WT) to perhaps as far south as Hedong 河东 (WT), is a continuum of lects that could be classified as either Situ or bTsan-lha (or neither!), but more research should be conducted before a more conclusive statement can be made.

Li County 理县 (WT bkra-shis-ling), Aba: Miyaluo 米亚罗 (WT) and Jiabi 夹壁 (WT) Townships. Jiabi could be the farthest southeast point for Situ (see below for further discussion of other rGyalrong lects and language boundaries in Lixian).

Heishui County 黑水县 (WT Khro-chu), Aba: Sandaoban Village 三道班 (WT) and Shashiduo 沙石多 (WT Sa-stod) Township. Shashiduo serves as the northwesternmost boundary for rGyalrong.

c) 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  [x] Spoken  [ ] Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, rGyalrongic

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
1. Zbu rGyalrong
2. Japhug rGyalrong
3. Tshobdun
4. bTsanlha rGyalrong

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
A book was recently published. There are also some ancient texts. Recordings have been made for religious purposes and linguistic research.

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:
Identify themselves as Tibetan (藏族), but qualify that they are rGyalrong Tibetans. Situ is used in the home and among the children as they play with one another (especially in the townships and villages).
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:
   I, SIL researcher Jesse Gates, have conducted first hand research into this language from 2007-2011. I have collected and analyzed data and I am writing my MA thesis on the synchronic and diachronic relationships of this and related languages entitled rGyalrongic dialectology: integrating synchronic and diachronic perspectives (Gates, forthcoming).

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   I have had personal communication via emails, phone conversations and face-to-face conversations with Hiroyuki Suzuki, Guillaume Jacques, Mariella Prins, Sun Hongkai and Jackson Sun.

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:**


LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)