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  
Name of Primary Requester: Jesse Gates  
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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:  
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Associated Change request number : 2011-156  
Tentative assignment of new identifier : sty  

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:  
      sTau  
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
      [stawəska]  
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
      rTau, Daofu, Dawu  
   d) Reason for preferred name:  
      sTau (with the lower case 's') is based on the Wylie system of Tibetan transliteration, widely accepted by Tibetologists. The pronunciation of ‘sTau’ is based phonetically on the autonym of these people. sTau was adopted as the region's name and was written down using written Tibetan (the language of religion) many years ago.  
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:  
      stawəva, 17,000 (Shearer and Sun 2002)  
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: sta  

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)

b) Countries where used:
P. R. China

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
sTau is spoken in both Daofu 道孚 (WT rTau/sTau rdzong) and Luhuo 炉霍 (WT Brag-'go rdzong) Counties. In Daofu, sTau is spoken in Wari 瓦日, Muru 木茹 (WT Mi-r-ungs), Gexi 格西 (WT dGe-bshes), Geka 葛卡 (WT Khug-chags), Yuexue 约学, Mazi 麻孜 (WT Ma-zur), Jiasikong 甲斯孔 (WT Legs-rkong), and Kongse 孔色 (WT Khang-gser) Townships as well as in Daofu County Town (Xianshuizhen 鲜水镇). In Luhuo, sTau is spoken in Simu 斯木, Yimu 宜木, Renda Townships 仁达.

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:
Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, rGyalrongic

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
1. dGe-bshes-rtsa;
2. Nyagrong-Minyag
3. Shangzhai [jih]

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 few recorded wordlists and sentences, otherwise nothing.
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 [stawəva] ('people of sTau').
   sTau 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 and Jackson Sun, both of whom have published a number of scholarly articles in professional academic journals on these languages.

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

Please return this form to:
ISO 639-3 Registrar
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:

