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 : 2011-178 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : rgy (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: 
      rGyalrong

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language: 
      kəruska, tsʰaŋlaska,

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations: 
      Jiarong, Rgyalrong, Gyarong

   d) Reason for preferred name: 
      Common name (often pronounced [ɟalroŋ] or [ɟarŋ] in many lects) for the region 
      decending from the historical 18 principalities of the rGyalrong kings.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete 
      individual language currently in use): 
      110,000-150,000

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: rgy

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%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   China, PRC.

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   1. Situ:
      Ma'erkang County 马尔康县 (WT Bar-kams, [mbarkʰom]), Aba: Zhuokeji 卓克基 (WT lCog.rtse, [lsoχtsi]), Suomo 梭磨 (WT So.mang, [sɤmŋo]), Songgang, 松岗 (WT rDzong.'gag, [rDzόŋ.ɡaŋ]), Jiaomuzu 脚木足 (WT Kyom-kyo, [kʊmʊko]), 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 Stud.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 Kho-rgyam ko'u), serves as a language boundary between Situ and Lavrun, with Situ spoken to the east of the Dajinchuan River 大金川 and Lavrun 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 Kho-chu), Aba: Sandoaban Village 三道班 (WT) and Shashiduo 沙石多 (WT Sa-stod) Township. Shashiduo serves as the northwesternmost boundary for rGyalrong.

2. bTsanlha:
   bTsan-lha can be divided into Chu-chen bTsan-lha and Southern bTsan-lha. Chu-chen is spoken in the following locations.
   • Jinchuan County: Kalajiao 卡拉脚 (WT), Sawajiao 撒瓦脚 (WT), Sha’er 沙耳 (WT
Gsal), Hexi 河西 (WT), Hedong 河东 (WT), Dusong 独松 (WT), Anning 安宁 (WT An-nying), Ma’erbang 马尔邦 (WT), Kajiao 卡脚 (WT), Cengda 曾达 (WT) and Ma’nai 马奈 (WT)
Townships and within and surrounding Jinchuan Town itself. The mountain ridge that
divides Jinchuan into east and west serves as a boundary between bTsan-lha rGyalrong
and Lavrung.

- Danba County, Ganzi: Badi 巴低 (WT Brag-steng) Township.
  Southern bTsan-lha is spoken in the following locations.
  - Xiaojin County 小金县 (WT bTsan-lha), A: Lianghe 两河, Mupo 木坡, Fubian 抚边,
    Bajiao 八角, Jiesi 结斯, Wori 沃日, Shuangbo 双柏, Rilong 日隆, Ri'er 日尔, Dawei 达维,
    Laoying 老营, Chongde 崇德, Xinqiao 新桥, Xinge 新格, Zhairong 宅垄, Wodi 窝底, and
    Hanniu 汗牛 Townships and in Xiaojin Town.

- Danba County, Ganzi: Taipingqiao 太平桥 (WT The-phan-ch'o), Yuezha 岳扎, and
  Banshanmen 半扇门 Townships and in Danba Town 但把县城.

- Baoxing County 宝兴县, Ya’an Municipality 雅安市: Yaoji Tibetan Autonomous
  Township 嘉父藏族自治乡.

- Li County southeast of Jiabi. Gatehouse (2011) calls these lects “Southeastern
  Situ.” Ji’ergou and Putou are rGyalrong speaking while Ganbao, Shangmeng, Xiameng
  and Xuecheng Townships and Xian Town all have rGyalrong speakers and Qiang
  speakers although the majority of Ganbao, Shangmeng and Xiameng is rGyalrong
  speaking. Xuecheng is the boarder, east of which are Qiang speaking populations
  (Gatehouse 2011).

- Wenchuan County 汶川县 (WT Wun-khron) of Aba is reported to have rGyalrong
  speakers in the following Townships: Caopo 草坡 (WT Tsho’o-pho), Wolong 卧龙 (WT O-
  lung), Sanjiang 三江 (WT San-cang), Gengda 耿达 (WT Kun-ta) and Mianhu 绵虎 (WT
  Man-kri) (Prins 1997:3). However it has been reported that Tibetans in Caopo now only
  speak Chinese, and those who were interviewed in Caopo were unaware of any surviving
  rGyalrong speakers in the County (Gatehouse, pc). Because of intense contact with
  Chinese over the last hundred or more years, it seems that rGyalrong has died out in
  Wenchuan County, except perhaps among the elderly. However, further research is
  needed to confirm this.

3. Tshobdun:
   Caodeng [草登] Township in Sidaba [四大坝 (WT Stod.pa)] District of Ma’erkang County
   (Sun 2000b:164).

4. Zbu:
   "Kangshan [康山] (WT Khang.sar), and Ribu [日部] (WT rDzong-bur, [zbu]) in Sidaba [四大
   坝 (WT Stod.pa)] District of Ma’erkang [C]ounty” (Sun 2000b:164). Also confirmed by
   Jacques (pc). Shangdashaigou 上大石沟, Zhongdashaigou 中 大石沟 and Xiadashaigou 下大
   石沟 Villages in Shili Township of southern Rangtang County 壤塘县 (WT ‘Dzam-thang),
   are Zbu speaking (Steve Penner, pc).

5. Japhug:
   Ja-phug is spoken in “the northeastern corner of Ma’erkang county, at Long’erjia [龙尔甲]
   (WT gDong.brgyad, [sduŋ rjyid]), Dazang [大藏] (WT Da-tshang, [tatsi]), and Sha’erzong [沙
   尔宗] (WT gSar.rdzong, [sarndzu]) Townships in Chabao [茶堡] (WT Ja-phug, [tʃapʰuŋ])
   District” (Sun 2000b:163, Jacques 2008:2).
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: Tibeto-Burman, rGyalrongic
   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:
      1. Situ rGyalrong
      2. bTsanlha rGyalrong
      3. Tshobdun rGyalrong
      4. Zbu rGyalrong
      5. Japhug 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.?:
      One book was recently published in the Situ language.
   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:
      Used in the home and among friends.
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 Situ and bTsanlha from 2006-2011. I have collected and analyzed data and I am writing my MA thesis on the synchronic and diachronic relationships of these 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, all of whom have published a number of scholarly articles in professional academic journals as well as books 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
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:
