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: 15/08/12

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

Associated Change request number : 2012-150  (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : cyt  (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:
      Kyitu

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Kyitu [kᶨɪ̀tʊ̀], Kyira [kᶨɪ̀rà]

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Siti, Sitige, Kireba

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Speakers use 'Kyitu' when referring to their language, yet Kyira, the ethnonym, may also be used to refer to the language. Speakers are also aware of Siti or Sitige (not Sitigo, as it currently appears in ethnologue); these ethnonyms were given to the Kyira by the Koulango, and are still used today. The Safaliba in Ghana call them Kireba.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Kyira, approximately 100 individuals in Vonkoro, approximately 30 in diaspora, maximum 50 fluent speakers today
f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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

Kyitu is a living language

(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:

Ivory Coast

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

Vonkoro (9.15871, -2.73688)

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 spoken

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Southern, Grusi, Western

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:

Since there exist no comparative work, any one of the 10 Western Grusi languages is
close to Kyitu. Vagla, Chakali, Dcg are probably the closest, yet Manessy (1969) put Siti together with Winyé and Phuie as a subcluster in his group C.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:

Products of documentation project SG0120 funded by ELDP are at the ELAR archive, SOAS, London. They consist mostly of audio recordings and various transcribed and translated texts.

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?:

If Mensah & Tchagbale (1983) is an "official document" in Ivory Coast then it is recognized. Yet it is not recognized for education purposes and there are no orthography (or literacy). The language is not taught in school nor used as a language of instruction. [Mensah, E.N.A.; Tchagbale, Z. (1983) Atlas des langues gur de Côte d'Ivoire. Abidjan, Paris: ILA.]

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

Most men in Vonkoro speak the language on an every day basis. A recent trend is for men to marry women from Ghana (especially Safalibas), these women rarely ever learn Kyitu. Residents of Vonkoro may meet Vaglas at the Bole market in Ghana, but there are practically no contact between speakers of Vagla and Kyitu, and the elders do not remember a time when Kyira and Vagla people had family, religious or economic ties. Koulango, Safaliba, Dioula and French are also spoken in Vonkoro.
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:
   
   Linguistic fieldwork in Vonkoro (approx. two months between January 2012 to June 2012)

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   
   Zina Baatu (Chief of Vonkoro), Zina Bakari (Landlord of Vonkoro), Zina Kipo Hadou (son of late Chief) and Zina Hasana, Zina Daare, Minanta Kaute (elderly Kyira women). These are the primary sources who provided me first-hand testimony on oral history and Kyira identity.

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. Ancient and Extinct Languages.
http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html

LinguistList. Constructed Languages.
http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html