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: 2012-10-14

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Associated Change request number : 2013-002 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ygs (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:
      Yolŋu Sign Language
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Hands in action (colloquial term used by the Aboriginal people)
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      This is the name that is currently used in research by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Yolŋu people, approximately 5000 speakers of different Yolŋu languages
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: YSL

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

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(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:
   Australia,

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Elcho Island, NT, 0822, Australia: (-11.9768598552244, 135.69557189941406)

   Milingimbi Island, NT, 0822, Australia (-12.093913, 134.897305)

   Maningrida, NT, 0822, Australia: (-12.048428, 134.229476)

   Yirrkala, NT, 0880, Australia: (-12.25505, 136.891248)

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:

   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:
      Djambarrpuyŋu, Gupapuyŋu as spoken Yolŋu languages

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      video recordings from the current EuroBABEL project

   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, it is not yet. We are disseminating information, organising workshops tec. to raise the awareness of educators, teachers and non-Aboriginal people involved in education
c) It is taught from birth to Aboriginal children in these communities as this signed language coexist with spoken languages.

d) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   This sign language qualified as an alternate sign language according to Kendon’s (1988) classification because it is used when speech is culturally inappropriate (speech taboos). It is used nowadays by both a small group of deaf people and hearing people to communicate in nearly all domains.
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:
   as stated in first form

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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:

