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: 2012-12-13

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Associated Change request number : 2013-004 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : tkv (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:
        Mur Pano

    b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
        Pano

    c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
        None

    d) Reason for preferred name:
        This language was identified by no other name than 'Pano.' Because Malasanga [mqz] has been recently changed to Pano [mqz] - and because both of these languages belong to the same family and are geographically proximate - we believe it is important to mark the Pano variety spoken in Mur village with the location identifier, calling it Mur Pano, to distinguish it from Pano [mqz].

    e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
        There are a number of clans in Mur village which may be a stronger identifier than the common language, but they would call their people the Pano. There are approximately 1000 residents in Mur village and its hamlets. All or nearly all speak Pano. For perhaps 3/4 of them (estimation) it is their primary language. The other 1/4 (est.) speak Molet as a primary language (no ISO code) but Pano as an LWC for the village.

    f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: tkv

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.

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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/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
Papua New Guinea

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Mur village and surrounding hamlets, Madang Province. Mur village is located at:
E146.52532  S-5.65909

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:
As described in Section 1.3 of the Mur Survey Report, we believe Mur Pano belongs with its related languages Arop-Lokep [apr], Pano [mqz], and Karnai [bbv] in the Korap subgroup. The full classification would be: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Central-Eastern, Eastern Malayo-Polynesian, Oceanic, Western Oceanic, North New Guinea, Ngero-Vitiaz, Vitiaz, Korap. This is borne out by the fact that Mur Pano has similar lexicostatistical percentages to these languages as they do to each other, if a bit lower: 58-63% vs. 65-71%; note also that it is not similar to other languages in the region, the highest being 27%.

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:
The languages most similar to Mur Pano along with the lexical similarity percentages to Mur Pano are as follows: Karnai [bbv] - 63%, Pano [mqz] (Singorokai dialect) - 63%, Pano [mqz] (Malasanga dialect) - 59%, Arop-Lokep [apr] - 58%.
4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
None known.

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?:
Recognized: no. It is used in the Mur elementary school as a language of instruction. This is a result of having local teachers and a community decision to use Tok Pisin and Mur Pano as languages of instruction in the school.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The cause for the mixing of people with different vernaculars (Mur Pano, Molet, Dawang) in Mur Village was explained in a variety of ways, some having to do with WWII, some with the Australian administration. It could well be that a combination of these factors encouraged these separate groups to come live together. Whatever the case, the majority of Mur's population is Pano-speaking and Pano by identity. The rest are Molet by identity, but the Molet population seems to be shifting towards Pano and Tok Pisin, and the Molet language appears to be decreasing in use. The Dawang population is virtually gone, with only a few speakers remaining; all know and use Pano. Mur Pano is used in all domains, in many cases alongside Tok Pisin. Even though the language seems to be in only Mur village, there is little to pull the local population away, and little to encourage them to shift to another language. We would confidently give Mur Pano an EGIDS 6a. If the use of Mur Pano in the local elementary and primary schools continues and materials are produced using the Mur Pano language, it might be scored EGIDS 5, but at this time we do not have sufficient evidence to justify this.
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:
   See other document.

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: