

ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2013-009 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2013-4-15

Primary Person submitting request: Damir Cavar, the PI of MultiTree

Affiliation: The LINGUIST List, Eastern Michigan University

E-mail address: multitree at linguistlist dot org

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

Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):

The LINGUIST List
Eastern Michigan University
2000 Huron River Dr., Suite 104
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

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 and will be posted on the ISO 639-3 website.

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the *ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. ☐ Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. ☐ Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. ☐ Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. ☐ Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. ☐ Split a language code element into two or more new code elements
6. ☒ Create a code element for a previously unidentified language

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier:

Associated reference name:

1. Modify an existing language code element

(a) What are you proposing to change:

- ☐ Language reference name; generally this is changed only if it is erroneous; if usage is shifting to a new preferred form, the new form may be added (next box)
- ☐ Language additional names
- ☐ Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
- ☐ Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)

(b) What new value(s) do you propose:

(c) Rationale for change:

2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group

(a) For an existing Macrolanguage, what change to its individual language membership do you propose:

(b) Rationale for change:

For a new Macrolanguage proposal, please also complete the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”), which must also be submitted to fully document the intended meaning for the new macrolanguage.

3. Retire a language code element from use

(a) Reason for change:

- ☐ There is no evidence that the language exists.
- ☐ This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.

(b) If equivalent with another code element, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) is it equivalent:

(c) Rationale for change:

4. Expand the denotation of a code element through merging of one or more code elements

(a) List the languages (identifier and name) to be merged into this code element and retired from use:

(b) Rationale for change

5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

- (a) List the languages into which this code element should be split:

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are followed:

- Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional level.
 - Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.
 - Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages
- (b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages:
- (c) Does the language code element to be split represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? If so, please comment.

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar.

6. Create a new language code element

- (a) Name of missing language: Eviya
- (b) State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:
Eviya (Geviya) is listed as an independent language by SOROSORO, Prof. Lolke van der Veen and in the sources listed below. Prof. Lolke van der Veen has described the tone

system of Eviya. Together with Sébastien Bodinga-Bwa-Bodinga Prof. Lolke van der Veen has carried out research on Eviya and created a Geviya-French dictionary as shown among the sources listed below. Based on the book of Van der Veen and Bodinga-Bwa-Bodinga there has been made a movie about the Eviya language "Le dictionnaire" that is available online; in addition to that there is a text description of the movie on Eviya that is also available online.

In order to complete the change request, the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf") must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

(a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:

Sébastien Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga and Moïse Modandi wa-Komba are native speaker of Eviya who (together with Lolke van der Veen) compiled Eviya-French Dictionary. In the 1980s Sébastien Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga realized that his language was under threat and began to collect vocabulary, statement samples, proverbs, narratives, elements of pharmacopeia, etc. Once his record was completed, he brought in Lolke van der Veen and his nephew Moïse Modandi wa-Komba to help checking, completing and finishing this gigantic project. Sébastien Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga together with Prof. Lolke van der Veen wrote two papers on Eviya that are listed in the Sources section below: "Plantes utiles des Eviya : pharmacopée" (1993) and "Les proverbes evia et le monde animal, La communauté evia à travers ses expressions proverbiales" (1995), as well as Geviya-French dictionary that was mentioned above.

(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):

Geviya. SOROSORO. 2009. <http://www.sorosoro.org/en/geviya> (Accessed 04/12/2013)

Van der Veen, L. J., Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga, S. 2002. *Gedandedi sa Geviya, Dictionnaire geviya-français*. Collection Langues et littératures de l'Afrique Noire. XII. Leuven-Paris: Peeters Publishers. p. 569.

Van der Veen, L. J. 2001. La propagation des tons et le statut des indices pronominaux précédant le verbe en geviya. In: Muller, C. (ed.), *Actes du colloque Clitiques et cliticisation*. Bordeaux. Octobre 1998. Honoré Champion. pp. 443-457.

Van der Veen, L. J. 2010. Le dictionnaire: film documentaire de Laurent Maget. In: Grinevald, C. et Bert, M. (eds.), *Locuteurs de langues en danger et travail de terrain sur des langues en danger*. Collection «Bibliothèque». *Faits de langue* (Special issue of the *Faits de langue* review). Paris. http://maget.maget.free.fr/Filmo/Le.Dictionnaire_Part1.htm (Accessed 04/12/2013).

Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga, S., Van der Veen, L. J. (1993). Plantes utiles des Evia : pharmacopée. Pholia, 8, pp. 27-66.

Bodinga-bwa-Bodinga, S., Van der Veen, L. J. (1995). Les proverbes evia et le monde animal, La communauté evia à travers ses expressions proverbiales. Paris, L'Harmattan. 96 p.

«Le Dictionnaire»: a documentary film directed by Laurent Maget. Text by Volke Van der Veen. http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/fulltext/Van%20Der%20Veen/Van%20der%20Veen_%C3%A0%20para%C3%A9tre%20en%202008.pdf (Accessed 04/12/2013).

Van der Veen L. J. 2000. The Tone System of Geviya. In: Proceedings of the Typology of African Prosodic Systemes. Bielefeld, University of Bielefeld. http://www.ddl.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/fulltext/Van%20Der%20Veen/Van%20der%20Veen_2001_TAPS.pdf (Accessed 04/12/2013).

Van der Veen L. J. 2012. Personal Communication on Geviya.

De Martino, Stefano, Jean-Pierre Grelois. 1998. Gedandedi sa geviya. Dictionnaire geviya-français. In: Bibliotheque des Cahiers de l'Institut de Linguistique de Louvain (BCILL) Series, Vol. 43. Peeters Publisher.

Grollemund R., J-M Hombert. 2012. Use of Plant Names for the Classification of the Bantu Languages of Gabon. In: Connell, B., and Rolle, N. (eds.), Selected Proceedings of the 41st Annual Conference on African Linguistics: African Languages in Contact. Cascadilla Proceedings Project Somerville, MA. Available online: <http://www.lingref.com/cpp/acal/41/paper2745.pdf>. (Accessed 04/15/2013)

Maho J. F. 2009. The online version of the New Updated Guthrie List, a referential classification of the Bantu languages. Available online: <http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf> (Accessed 04/15/2013)

(d)

The change proposal process

A request to change the code set goes through a six-step process:

1. A user of ISO 639-3 proposes a change and submits it to the ISO 639-3 Registration Authority (ISO 639-3/RA) using this form.
2. The ISO 639-3 registrar processes the change request to verify that the request is compatible with the criteria set forth in the standard and to ensure that the submitter has supplied all necessary information. This may involve rounds of interaction with the submitter.
3. When the change request proposal is complete in its documentation (including all associated New Code Requests), the change request is promoted to “Proposed Change” status and the ISO 639-3 registrar posts the request on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA. Also at this time, an announcement is sent to anyone requesting notification of new proposals matching their specified criteria (region and/or language family of interest). Periodically, a message maybe sent to the

general LINGUIST discussion list on Linguist List (<http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html>), and other appropriate discussion lists, inviting individuals to review and comment on pending proposals. Anyone may request from the ISO 639-3 registrar to receive notification regarding proposals involving languages in a specific region of the world or specific language family.

4. Individuals may send comments to the ISO 639-3 registrar for compilation. The consensus of early reviews may result in promotion to “Candidate Status” (with or without amendment), or withdrawal of the change request, if the conclusion is that the request is not in keeping with the stated criteria of the ISO 639-3 standard.
5. Three months prior to the end of the annual cycle of review and update, a new notice is posted on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA, and an announcement listing the Candidate Status Change Requests is posted to the LINGUIST discussion list and other discussion lists, as requested by their owners. All change requests are then open to further review and comment by any interested party for a period of three months. A Change Request received after the start of Candidacy phase must wait until the next annual cycle for consideration. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that a minimum of three months is allotted for the review of every proposal.
6. At the end of the formal review period, a given Change Request may be: 1) adopted as a whole; 2) adopted in part (specific changes implicit in the whole Change Request may be adopted separately); 3) rejected as a whole; or 4) amended and resubmitted for the next review cycle. All change requests remain permanently archived at the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA.

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
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

Linguist List. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

Linguist List. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>