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: 2013-2-10

Name of Primary Requester: Hannes Kalisch

E-mail address: nempayvaam at enlhet dot org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Alain Fabre, University of Tampere, alain.fabre at tut dot fi

Associated Change request number : 2013-014  (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : enl  (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:
      Enlhet

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Enlhet ([enɬet])

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Lengua Norte

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The name Lengua is not recognized by the corresponding ethnic group, and is also no longer in use at the national level. At the official level, only the term Enxet is used today; this is the name given to the language by the ethnic group itself.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Enlhet, 7221 persons, 6439 speakers aged over 5 (National Census 2002).

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ENL

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

Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3, page 1
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:
   Paraguay

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Central Chaco, between Filadelfia (Departament of Boquerón) to the north and Paratodo (Departament of Presidente Hayes) to the south.

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:
   Enlhet-Enenlhet (or Maskoy)

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:

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Several religious materials exist (among them the whole Bible) in the Enlhet language, as well as several radio programs on one of the main local radio stations. In addition, Nengvaanemkeskama Nempayvaam Enlhet has published a monolingual dictionary and several books of accounts relating to the history of the ethnic group. It also holds an archive of aproximately 500 hours of accounts relating to the history of the ethnic group; since 2001 it has broadcast a weekly radio program of these accounts. It has published several films of the personal testimonies of older members of the group. (www.enlhet.org/audiovisual).

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?:
   The Enlhet language is officially recognized and figures in the National Census of 2002 and
2012. Like all the indigenous languages of Paraguay, however, it has only a marginal presence in schools.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Almost all Enlhet use their own language as their principal language. Beyond this, there are various levels of bilingualism, mainly with Spanish, but also with Paraguayan Guarani, Nivaclé and other languages of the Enlhet-Enenlhet family. Religious life (today christian) takes place in most cases in Enlhet, but, like all of the country’s indigenous languages, the language is almost completely excluded from school; although it is used in the first two or three years, this is done only with a view to facilitate the learning of Spanish. Nevertheless, the ethnolinguistic identity of the ethnic group is very strong, as evidenced by the fact that the whole ethnic group still uses its own language by preference.
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:

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: