ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2013-022 (completed by Registration authority)
Date: _17/07/2013_
Primary Person submitting request: _Agustín Valverde Viguera_
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Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):
_c/ Dr. Marañón 11, 1ºA; CP: 14004 Córdoba (Spain)_

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 (include here a request for a new code element for a divergent dialect of a major language)
6. [x] 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: _spa_
Associated reference name: _Spanish_

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 (what evidence do you have that the earlier name was erroneous or offensive, or that the new name should also be included):

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, or the major language and the divergent variety (or varieties) for which a new code element is being requested: spa (Spanish)
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:

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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, or for requesting a separate identifier for the divergent variety:

When it comes to Andalusian, there is some controversy. Most people are taught that Andalusian is just a variety of Spanish, as long as we're part of the same country, but some others, and specially people that has studied our linguistics and way to express, see that we don't speak actual Spanish. I'll explain myself:

The main point is some phonetic peculiarities, such as forming the plurals with open vowels, instead of an 's', like it happens in standard Spanish. It is believed, and there some authors that point this out too, that it is so because of the mozarabic language influence in our homeland, that when the Christian conquest happened, this phenomena remained in our way to speak the new conquerors' language. And it has stayed this way all the way long until now. I have to say there is not an unique way of speaking Andalusian.

There are quite differences between different regions and counties in Andalusia. I can say there are regions where the Andalusian way of speaking is stronger, and some other where it is more alike to the Spanish, like in the big cities. In this counties it could be hardly understandable, even for an Andalusian coming from a big city. But we could extract some common general rules:

- In general, we tend to not saying the final consonant of a word, except for the n; and we replace it for the open version of the prompt vowel.
- Also, we don't say most of the time the d between vowels, as in our verbs participles: comío instead of comido, etc. This affects to the adjectives coming from participles too, like colgado from colgado, or colgado from colgada.
- This creates also another phenomenon: most of the times, we form the genitive with just two
sustantives one after another, as we tend to not pronounce the *de: el coche mi padre* instead of *el coche de mi padre*.

- We have too another phenomenon, very present in other romance languages, but not in standard Spanish: the apostrophizing of *de* with the following word when it begins with a vowel. This happens also with the determinate article *el*. *El almuerzo* for *el almuerzo*, or *este pan es d’ayer* instead of *este pan es de ayer*. This happens too with other letters, like in the case of the pronominal verbs: *s’a comió* instead of *se ha comido*.

- In general, we could say we omit the letter *e* at the beginning of a word, when it's followed by two consonants. *stúpido* for *estúpido*, *contrar* for *encontrar*, *mapa* for *empatía*.

- There is also a tendency, is some places more common than in others, to replace the *l* by an *r*, specially at the end of a syllable. *Arcarde* instead of *alcade*, for instance.

- Within the words, we tend to not pronouncing the consonant in the end of a syllable. Instead we make a sound that is between extending the previous vowel and doubling the following consonant. For instance, *sartre* or *shtre*, instead of *sastre*. This usually doesn't happen with the sound /nl/, but it does with almost all the other consonants: *cogello* instead of *cogerlo*, *ocepción* instead of *opción*, etc.

- There is too the ceceo-seseo' phenomenon ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonological_history_of_Spanish_coronal_fricatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonological_history_of_Spanish_coronal_fricatives)), but it is not something homogeneous. This depends on the region or village where you live, or even the quarter in the same city. As it is not something homogeneous, I prefer to not establish a rule about it.

- Regarding the vocabulary, we have, or we use more we should say, because those words exist also in standard Spanish, many words coming from Andalusian arabic and Mozarabic, and even caló (language code: rmq), like *zagüán, cafre, búcaro, churumbel*, etc. They are more largely used in Andalusia than in other parts of Spain or Spanish-speaking regions, due to the stronger influence of these languages here.

- In Andalusia we don't make differences between the *y* and the *ll*, neither between the *b* and *v*, like in most of the rest of the Spanish language, and I don't see the point in having to write two different letters for the same sound like in standard Spanish, when there is just one sound.

- We pronounce the /x/ sound as /h/, like you do in English, for the Spanish *j* or *g*.

- As I have explained before, we tend to not saying the *e* or the *d*, so many times we omit short words that are form by these letters, like in the case of 'he' (to form present perfect forms): *esta noche* 'he bevido lo más grande' for *esta noche he bebido lo más grande*. In the case of the third person present indicative of *ser* (es), as we don't say the final *s* in words, we would say /e:/ instead, but in the middle of a sentence we quite often omit it; like *nol pa menor* (or *nò, as I'd propose to note it for an open vowel), instead of *no es para menos*. Note that here, to make the sentence understandable, we give to the previous vowel an open sound to point out that there is a verb that we don't pronounce.

As you can see we have in Andalusia a quite different phonetic system, that I think justifies this division. There isn’t an armonized norm to write it yet, but there are already several proposals.

Additional comments:

What is said in that interview between the two football players happens more or less everyday here when someone who speaks standard Spanish comes to my region for the first time. Normally it requires a small time of adaptation, but at first and for some time it is very hard for the Spanish speakers to understand us normally. But you have to
bear in mind too that we have always been taught that we speak a 'bad Spanish' (what now we begin to realize it is not true), so people tried to force their normal way of speaking into something more similar to standard Spanish.

However I can show you some more examples of this. But note that languages in Spain are something very politicized (they're used as political weapons more often than we would like).

- For instance, the words of Artur Mas (Catalan president): "y no le hablo ya de Sevilla, de Málaga, de Coruña, etcétera, porque allí hablan el castellano, efectivamente, pero a veces a algunos no se les entiende." (http://www.vozbcn.com/2011/09/29/87230/rivera-incoherencias-linguisticas-mas/)

- These are words of another Catalan politician, Montserrat Nebrera: "yo que algunas veces llamo a Córdoba (..) y no acabo de entender..." (http://youtu.be/pXwfNADIzEo).

- This article is an answer to these two politicians: "(...) Los niños andaluces hablan tan rápido que no se les entiende. Ciierto es. (....)"). And here the author talks too about the indoctrination I have talked to you about. (http://blogs.publico.es/juanjosetellez/2011/10/03/por-que-habla-tan-rapido-el-andaluz/)

- Here they answer too to the previous controversy: "(...) que hay andaluces a los que no se les entiende bien cuando hablan y eso no es un insulto para los nacidos en el Sur de España." (http://diegoarmario.wordpress.com/2009/01/13/montserrat-nebreda-tiene-razon/)

- Here you have a dialogue of two people with a very strong Andalusian accent, beginning with the title "Español Lengua Extranjera" and with subtitles, like to say they don't understand it. Notice it is used to remark how 'bad' (I would rather say 'different') people in my region speaks. http://youtu.be/Sbda9ENpmXg

(c) Does the existing language code element 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 languages in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? Please comment.

Yes. Well, until now, even if we speak with different sounds in many or most cases, we have been writing just in standard Spanish until now. There are several examples of writers in Andalusian, but somehow (and also for political reasons) none of them, or their system, has never become popular until now. And that's the thing I'm (and us) trying to change now.

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, provided that sufficient information on the rationale is given in (b) above.
In the case of a minority language that has been considered in some contexts to be a dialect of a major language, yet is divergent enough to be unintelligible to speakers of the standard variety of the major language, it may be more beneficial for the users of the ISO 639-3 and 639-2 code sets to create a new code element for the divergent language variety without splitting the existing code element of the major language. The ISO 639-3 Registration Authority may make this determination when considering a request involving a major language and a highly distinct dialect. If such a course is followed, the rationale for the decision will be published in a comment by the Registration Authority on approval of the requested addition for the divergent variety.

6. Create a new language code element

(a) Name of missing language: _Andalusian_
(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:

It is nowadays part of the Spanish, I mean, understood as a way of speaking Spanish. We live reading and writing in Spanish, but it's quite far from our true way of expression, so me and many more people think we need a common grammar to be able to write it. There are many proposals, but it is still necessary to armonize them.

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:

There is a man, Mr. Jose María Pérez Orozco, professor of Spanish Language and Literature, specialized about Andalusia and the Andalusian language modalities, that has several speeches around the web defending the Andalusian as something different from Spanish, like (I hope you understand Spanish):

http://youtu.be/5po3PmnpMxc

http://youtu.be/6-Hy2jwkSAo

This man doesn't list the Andalusian as a different language, but as something between language and dialect. I agree with him, but I think it is still different enough to become differently written (I think that, seeing all the reasons I have given you before, it would accomplish your 80% rule).

There are many other examples in everyday life. For instance, not very long ago I read an interview to a Spanish Football National team member (Javi Martínez), from Euskadi, that said he doesn't understand another team member (Jesús Navas, from Los Palacios, near Seville) when he speaks
'Castilian' ('cause actually he's speaking Andalusian)
http://deportes.elpais.com/deportes/2013/06/18/actualidad/1371582313_254442.html. So, this is another example of what we are discussing here.

(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

Well, I've always wondered why I have to write in a different way than the way I use to express myself. Thanks to this concern I formed a grammar for the Andalusian I feel more next to me, the one I wrote in my blog: http://dosvariables.wordpress.com/2008/12/27/una-gramatica-pal-andalu/. After that I've found many people with my same concern, and that's why I've felt that I have to follow this path. I also used my grammar in a blog, where I have experimented a little with it http://dobariable.wordpress.com/. Now I would change some things, but I think the basis would be the same.

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

I'm not a linguist, but I've known some movements around the Andalusian as a language that may be interesting for you. There is a 'Writers Society in Andalusian' (ZEA, http://www.zea-andalu.com) that supports the acknowledgement of the Andalusian as a language, and they have some proposals of a grammar themselves. They also link to a lot of documents and studies about the Andalusian dialect/idiomatic modality/language in their website: http://www.zea-andalu.com/dokumentoh-d-inter%C3%A9s-arre%C3%B3-del-andal%C3%BA/ehtudioh-z obr-el-andal%C3%BA/). You can check too the records of every meeting, where they have some works in Andalusian (for instance http://es.scribd.com/doc/40751622/Poesia-en-andaluz-con-traduccion-al-castellano), or in some of the grammars proposed, as we don't have one only homogeneous grammar yet.

And besides them, there are more people that write in an hypothetic Andalusian, as myself (http://dosvariables.wordpress.com/2012/03/08/andaluzia-mare-mia/), JM Persanch (http://www.sarasuati.com/creacion-literaria-viii-historias-de-perseverancia/), Amaya Blanco García (http://foroabenhumeya.blogcindario.com/2009/01/00231-ganadora-del-1er-certamen-de-poesia-en-andaluz-rey-poeta-al-mutamid-i.html), and some more that I don't know. As you can see there isn't a unique homogeneous grammar norm yet, but what there is, it's the concern that in Andalusia we speak something different and that it's necessary some official or international acknowledgement, so here we are, to achieve it.