

# ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

## Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2013-029 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2013-8-5

Primary Person submitting request: Joseph Brooks

Affiliation: University of California, Santa Barbara

E-mail address: josephdbrooks at u mail dot ucsb dot edu

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):  
2102 Bath Street, Apt 1

Santa Barbara, CA 93105

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: Magiyi [mayiyi]
- (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:  
In the introduction to his book on the Southern Adelbert Range languages of Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, Z'graggen (1980) states that there were three areas (and

their languages) which he did not manage to access. One of these corresponds to exactly the same place where the proposed additional language of Magiyi is spoken. On his map of the Madang languages, there is a question mark immediately right/east of the M7 zone which represents the neighboring Akrukay/Chini language. It was during my fieldwork in June-July 2012 on Akrukay/Chini that I encountered a speaker who had walked over from that exact area and introduced me briefly to his language. In addition to the exact correspondance between the question mark on Z'graggen's map and the description the speaker provided as to the location of his language, the (albeit short) wordlist I recorded of the language show clear similarities but also significant differences with the Southern Adelbert Range languages of the greater Trans-New Guinea family (see attached comparative wordlist). Although the wordlist is short, Magiyi appears to have most cognates in the Paynamar [pmr] language of the Wanang subgroup and the Mum [kqa] language of the Josephstaal subgroup. The cognates in Mum are closer to the forms in Magiyi. This fits precisely with Magiyi's location on the map, wedged as it is right on the Josephstaal-Wanang subgroup divide.

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:  
In summer 2012 I met a speaker of Magiyi and recorded a short text as well as a short wordlist in his language.
- (b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
- (c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):  
The two main sources of information on the languages of the various subgroups of the Southern Adelbert Range languages do not include any language which corresponds to Magiyi. These are:  
Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2013. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Seventeenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.  
Z'graggen, John. 1980. A comparative word list of the Southern Adelbert Range Languages, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. *Pacific Linguistics D*: No. 33. Australian National University, Canberra.

## 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 may be 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](mailto: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>

Comparative wordlist between Magiyi [IPA: mayiyi] and apparent or possible close cognates in the Southern Adelbert Range languages recorded by John Z'graggen (1980).

Languages in Z'graggen's wordlist which contained no cognates whatsoever with the Magiyi data I collected in 2012 were not included.

Based on a superficial look at the forms below, underlined forms indicate clear or possible cognates. Note that very few cognate pairs/sets are as similar as Paynamar *maba* and Magiyi *maβa-ya* 'sago'. All non-underlined forms appear less likely to be cognate, most very clearly so.

English gloss	[NONE] Magiyi	[pmr] Paynamar Manat (10 cognates)	[kqa] Katiati Mum (10 cognates)	[imi] Ikundun Anamgura (8 cognates)	[pda] Pondoma Anam (9 cognates)	[sbq] Sileibi (7 cognates)	[omo] Osun Utarmbung (8 cognates)	[ate] Atemble (4 cognates)	[faj] Faita (4 cognates)	[ena] Emerum Apali (2 cognates)	pg # (Z'graggen 1980)
'betelnut'	<b>akusa-ya</b>	<u>awusa</u>	maynda	arimba	maynd e	kA:ri	maŋda-	<u>aguas</u>	karia	menda	p. 26
'sago'	<b>maβa-ya</b>	<u>ayanga</u>	<u>maba</u>	<u>mawapa</u>	<u>mawa</u>	anɛ	<u>mawam</u>	<u>awaŋ</u>	mend	asi	p. 29
'taro'	<b>aŋgini-ya</b>	<u>aŋgana</u>	sis	undəpa	sis	sA:ri	<u>raŋar-</u>	osa	mamən da	tA:su	p. 28
'pig'	<b>kipa-ya</b>	muna	samba	tawumba	savuŋ	samba	<u>iwiŋi</u>	mbər	sika	sambaŋ	p. 23
'water'	<b>tsjunguβa</b>	yamba	kuku	aniŋamb a	anuŋ	aŋi	ani-	anda, isain	anam	abri	p. 40
'crocodile'	<b>maβra-ya</b>	<u>mabura</u>	suŋgi <u>mabra</u>	matəkup aŋ	<u>mabraŋ</u>	<u>ma:mur</u> ɛ, kanza	matak-	cu	akəna	yame	p. 24
'man'	<b>wuru-ya</b>	<u>urum</u>	<u>kuru</u>	<u>kura</u>	<u>kural</u>	<u>kura</u>	<u>uro-</u>	<u>kuram</u>	<u>kura</u>	<u>kura:ŋ</u>	p. 1
'cassowary'	<b>ani-ya miki-ya*</b>	niminda	muya	matuŋu mba	muyaŋ, masugu ŋ	muya	gamay-	oyam, kura:gur ɛ	waiba	muyaŋ	p. 19
'kundu/ hand drum'	<b>ɣimbima- ya</b>	gimbuma	tamar	uŋgupa	uŋk	tamar	rowote-	uku	paturu	kimumb a	p. 45
'woman'	<b>naβundi- ya</b>	<u>nandi</u>	<u>nawundi</u>	<u>awundə</u>	<u>awund</u>	yamaŋ g(ar), yamga	aminika	aica	nom, nduwa	induwen a, yamgari	p. 1
'dog'	<b>upri-ya</b>	<u>pri</u>	<u>upri</u>	murukŋa mba	murəkŋ	<u>u:bri</u>	giya-	egam	uwura	iŋam	p. 21
'liver'	<b>mungar- ya</b>	<u>munguar</u>	<u>ma:buŋg</u> rusu	- mameŋa ba	<u>mamuŋ</u>	umba	niruamu	amrutige	nətəsək ri	ma:bin	p. 16
1sg	<b>yi-yi</b>	?	<u>yi, ya</u>	<u>yi</u>	<u>yi, ya</u>	<u>ya</u>	<u>yi</u>	-	<u>ya</u>	-	86
2sg	<b>na-yi</b>	?	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>	-	<u>na</u>	-	86
3sg	<b>nanga</b>	?	<u>nu</u>	<u>nu-ŋ</u>	<u>nu-</u>	<u>ni-ŋa</u>	<u>nu-</u>	-	<u>nu</u>	-	86
Verb neg.	<b>ma-</b>	<u>m-</u>	<u>ma-</u>	<u>nima-</u>	<u>numba-</u>	<u>ma-</u>	<u>numba-</u>	<u>mV-</u>	-	<u>mɛ(ŋ)-</u>	p. 88
'exist, have'	<b>ɣiyi</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
'no; don't exist, don't have'	<b>mayiyi</b>	manat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\* Unsure as to the accuracy of this one

Short sentences:

*nayi akusaya ɣiyi*

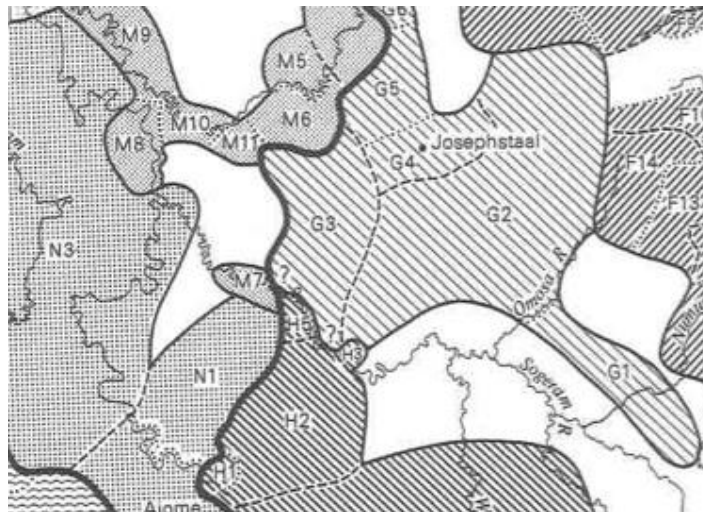
2SG     betelnut have/exist  
'You have betelnut'

*nayī*     *akusaya ma-yīyī*  
2SG     betelnut NEG-have/exist  
'You don't have betelnut.'

*yīyī*     *yīyī*  
1SG     have/exist  
'I do have (betelnut).'

#### Further evidence from Z'graggen (1980)

Note that Magiyi has the most common vocabulary in terms of # of lexical items and similarity in form with Paynamar [pmr] and Katiati [kqa], which respectively belong to the Wanang and Josephstaal subgroups of the larger Southern Adelbert Range grouping. Inasmuch as this short wordlist is representative of the language, the apparent Wanang-Josephstaal mix in Magiyi's lexicon fits exactly with the geographical location of the one Magiyi-speaking village: the speaker indicated that his village is a 3 hours walk east of Akrukay and that it takes another 5 hours to get to Josephstaal. This also fits the exact location marked with a '?' on Z'graggen's map in his (1980) work on the languages of the region as seen in the scanned section below. He states: "There are, however, still two uncertain areas north of H2 Angaua and H5 Paynamar, and another south of H3 Emerum. These two gaps are marked as ? on the language map (Z'graggen 1980:v)." The area where Magiyi is spoken is the with the question mark north of H5 Paynamar and east of M7 Akrukay:



#### **Metadata**

Magiyi wordlist transcribed in July 2012 by Joseph Brooks in Andamang village. Also recorded one short text (untranscribed).

*Speaker:* Bernard Vgaroi

*Language location:* According to the speaker, Magiyi is spoken only in Vguvindi village, located in the bush on a small stream called Añungru. 3 hour walk from Akrukay, 5 hour walk from Josephstaal.

## References

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2013. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Seventeenth edition*. Dallas, Texas: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

Z'graggen, John. 1980. A comparative word list of the Southern Adelbert Range Languages, Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. *Pacific Linguistics* D: No. 33. Australian National University, Canberra.