ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: (completed by Registration authority)

Date: Sep 03, 2013

Primary Person submitting request: Kirk Miller

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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):
 _____

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.   [x]   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. [ ] 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: yuu
Associated reference name: Yugh

3. Retire a language code element from use

(a)   Reason for change:
    [ ]   There is no evidence that the language exists.
    [x]   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: yug

(c)   Rationale for change:

[yuu] Yugh (Yug) and [yug] Yug (Sym-Ket) are the same language.

I suggest retiring code [yuu] because [yug] is easier to remember, but if [yuu] is older it might be better to retain it instead. The fact that *Ethnologue* has an entry for [yuu] but not for [yug] might be reason to retain [yuu], though perhaps they could move their article to [yug].

> 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.

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.

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

Yeniseian is a small family, with most known languages extinct for several centuries. All sources I've seen agree on which languages there are. No-one contrasts Yugh – Yug – Sym Ket – Southern Ket. Take Edward J Vajda (2002) "The Ket and Other Yeniseian Peoples":

> The **Ket** are the sole survivors of an ancient group believed to have originally lived throughout central southern Siberia. … Their extinct relatives included the **Kotts**, **Assans**, **Arins**, **Baikots**, and **Pumpokols**, all of whom lived further upriver (that is, further to the south) than the modern Ket before being assimilated to the Russians or their Native Siberian neighbors during the 17-19th centuries. … Only the most northerly group has retained their language and ethnic identity into the 20th century. Formerly called **Ostyak**, or **Yenisei-Ostyak** (from a Turkic word meaning "stranger"), the group is now known as the **Ket**, from the tribe's word for "person." At one time the northern group of Ket were also known by their tribal name **Imbak**, while one of the southern groups was known as **Yugh** (pronounced "yook"; often written "Yug"). During the 1960's it was discovered that the Yugh were a separate ethnos with their own distinct, though related language. The Yughs, along with their language, dissappeared as a distinct ethnic entity by the late 1980's, leaving the Imbaks as the sole remaining Yeniseian people.

There's no room for a second language called "Yug" here.

Vajda 2003 "Tone and Phoneme in Ket" says,

> Werner discovered … pitch contours in the Sym dialect of Ket, which is now known as Yugh and generally considered a separate language. [fn] Yugh was known as the Sym dialect of Ket before Werner's research showed that it differed significantly enough from the three Imbat Ket dialects to be considered a separate language. In recent publications, *Sym Ket* is usually referred to as Yugh (sometimes spelled 'Yug'), the ethnonym used by the Sym Kets themselves before they disappeared as a separate ethnos in the late 1980's.

That is, Sym Ket = Yugh = Yug. He later mentions four extinct Yeniseic languages, Kott, Assan, Arin, and Pumpokol, of which Kott was the last, being recorded in the 1840s. There is no third language in the 20th century.

Anderson's entry for "Ket" in the *Concise Encyclopedia of Languages of the World* has the same languages, and makes it clear that Sym-Ket = Yugh is the sole Yeniseian language besides Ket proper to have made it into the 20th century. Moseley in the *Encyclopedia of the World's Endangered Languages*

covers Yug = Southern Ket = Sym Ket. Sources for both "Yugh" and "Sym-Ket" mention it being spoken in the same villages, such as Vorogovo. For instance, Moseley gives Vorogovo as a village where Sym-Ket is spoken, and Ethnologue gives it as the village where Yugh [yuu] is spoken (1 speaker self-reported in the 2010 census). Vajda notes that Vorogovo is the last village where Yugh/Yug/Sym-Ket was spoken before going extinct in the 1980s.

Thus the literature does not justify separate ISO codes. A distinction is made in the composite tree for Yenisei Ostyak at Linguist List, but this would appear to be confusion over a spelling variant, and no more significant than other such errors. The contrast is not made in trees attributable to a single source: Dryer 2005 has only Ket, Yugh, and Kott, the three most recent languages, while Ethnologue has only Ket and Yugh/Yug.