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: 2013-8-13

Name of Primary Requester: Professor Michael Christie

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Professor Marie Carla D. Adone, Director of Australian Studies, University of Cologne, Germany
Dr Brian Devlin, Associate Professor, Bilingual Education & Applied Linguistics, Charles Darwin University
Dr Melanie Wilkinson, Language Resource Officer (East Arnhem), Indigenous Languages and Cultures Team, Department of Education and Children Services, NT Government.

Associated Change request number : 2013-032 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ynm (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:
      Yolngu

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Yolŋu, Yolŋu matha

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Yolngu matha, Yolŋu, Yuulngu

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      This is the name recognised and used by both Yolngu people and linguists or others working in this area

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Around 7000 people

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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
☐ Macrolanguage

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Australia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   North-east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory

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:
   Australian, Pama-Nyungan

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:
   Includes language families Dhangu, Dhay'yi, Dhuwal, Dhuwala, Djinang, Djinba, Yakuy, Nhangu - see attached typology. Individual languages to be included in this macrolanguage: Gälpu [glp], Golumala [glm], Wangurri [wgr], Rirratjingu [rrj], Ngaymil [nql], Warramiri [wmr], Dayi [dax], Djambarrpuyngu [djr], Dja'pu [djp], Daatiwuy [dtw], Marrangu, Liyagalawumirr [lym], Liyagawumirr [lgw], Gumatj [gmn], Gupapuynugu [guf], Djinang [dji], Wurlaki, Djinba [djb], Djinba [djb], Yakuy, Ritarungo [rit], Nhangu, Yan-Nhangu [jay] - see attached typology.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:

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?
Yolngu languages have been taught in schools throughout NE Arnhem Land since the mid 1970s

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
While speaking mutually intelligible languages, Yolngu people identify strongly with this name and use the languages in both formal and informal contexts.
**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:  
The requesters have worked among Yolngu people for many years

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:  
Many linguists and anthropologists have extensive experience working among Yolngu people and this appellation is well documented.

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):  
Yolngu-Matha Dictionary by R. David Zorc, Batchelor College 1986  
Bibliography: Literature in Yolngu languages / prepared by Michael Christie. Darwin: Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Northern Territory University, 1997.  

**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:**

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)
APPENDIX: CLASSIFICATION OF YOLNGU LANGUAGE FAMILIES

Based on list approved by the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2011

82 Yolngu Matha
  821 Dhangu
      8211 Galpu
      8212 Golumala
      8213 Wangurri
      8219 Dhangu, nec
  822 Dhay'yi
      8221 Dhalwangu
      8222 Djarrwark
      8229 Dhay'yi, nec
  823 Dhuwal
      8231 Djambarrpuyngu
      8232 Djapu
      8233 Daatiwuy
      8234 Marrangu
      8235 Liyagalawumirr
      8236 Liyagawumirr
      8239 Dhuwal, nec
  824 Dhuwala
      8242 Gumatj
      8243 Gupapuyngu
      8244 Guyamirrili
      8246 Manggalili
      8247 Wubulkarra
      8249 Dhuwala, nec
  825 Djinang
      8251 Wurlaki
      8259 Djinang, nec
  826 Djinba
      8261 Ganalbingu
      8262 Djinba
      8263 Manyjalpingu
      8269 Djinba, nec
  827 Yakuy
      8271 Ritharrngu
      8272 Wagilak
      8279 Yakuy, nec
  828 Nhangu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8281</td>
<td>Nhangu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8282</td>
<td>Yan-Nhangu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8289</td>
<td>Nhangu, nec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>829</td>
<td>Other Yolngu Matha</td>
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<td>8291</td>
<td>Dhuwaya</td>
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<td>8292</td>
<td>Djangu</td>
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<td>Madarrpa</td>
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<td>Warramiri</td>
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<td>8295</td>
<td>Rirratjingu</td>
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<tr>
<td>8299</td>
<td>Other Yolngu Matha, nec</td>
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