ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2014-003 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: Oct 03, 2013

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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

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: ymt
Associated reference name: Mator-Taygi-Karagas

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: [ mtm] Mator

(c) Rationale for change: [mtm] Mator and [ ymt] Mator-Taygi-Karagas are the same language, and according to the descriptions at Ethnologue and MultiTree, have the same scope.
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):

Samoyedic is a small family, and sources list only one variety called Mator / Motor. The descriptions of [mtm] and [ynt] at Ethnologue and MultiTree clearly refer to the same language. Ethnologue 15, and now MultiTree, describe [mtm] Mator, alternatively Sayan-Samoyed dialects, as from the Sayan Mountains (of southern Siberia), extinct at the beginning of the 19th century, and with dialects Mator, Taigi, and Karagas. MultiTree describes [ynt] Mator-Taygi-Karagas, alternatively Sayan-Samoyed dialects, as an extinct language of southern Siberia, 18th–19th century. More specialized sources support this identity.

Collinder (1957) has a Sayan Samoyed node, which consists of Motor, Koibal, Karagas, Taigi, and Kamassian. There is no other Mator/Motor: He states that Northern Samoyed consists of Yurak, Taygi, and Yenisei Samoyed, none of which includes a dialect called Mator, while Southern Samoyed consists of Selkup and Sayan Samoyed, the latter consisting of Kamassian and extinct Koibal, Motor/Mator, Karagas, and Taigi.

([zkb] Koibal and [xas] Kamas (dialects Kamassian & Koibal) are another pair of duplicate ISO codes.)

Janhunen 1998 likewise has only one Mator. He lists all Samoyedic languages, including alternative names, and then says, “Both Kamas and Mator are historically known by a variety of alternative names, including Taigi and Karagas for Mator, and Koibal for Kamas. These names are mainly of geographical and chronological interest; linguistically Kamas and Mator are two well-delimited entities with a minimum of internal dialectical differentiation.” Anderson 2004 (The Languages of Central Siberia) also notes that Mator, Taigi, and Karagas/Soyot are dialects of a single language with minor differences, so there would seem to be no reason to resolve the ISO issue by changing the scope of the two codes to cover different varieties.

Salminen 2009 lists only two extinct Samoyedic languages, Kamas (x1989) and Mator (x1800s).

Helimski 2013 has Sayan-Samoyed dialects of Mator, Karagas, & Taygi, but no second Mator. Vajda 2007 (Yeniseic substrates and typological accommodation in central Siberia) reports that “Southern Samoyedic peoples included the Selkup (Ostyak-Samoyed), as well as the now vanished Mator, Karagas, and Koibal north of the Altai-Sayan Mountains,” with no other Mator.

None of these sources feels the need to disambiguate which Mator is meant. A contrast is made in the composite tree for Samoyedic at Linguist List, but not in individual sources. There would thus seem to be no justification for separate ISO codes.