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: 2013-9-18

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Associated Change request number : 2014-005 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : rts (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:
      Yurats

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Yurak, Jurackij (Russian); the appellation Yurak has historically also been used for Nenets, with which Yurats in the technical sense is not to be confused (Janhunen, 1993).

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      "Yurak (Russian юракский) is an older name for Nenets, which itself is today classified as a group of two languages: Tundra Nenets and Forest Nenets (or Neshang). These two languages are mutually unintelligible, though closely related. The time depth between them must be several hundred years.
      Yurats (older Russian юрацкий) is the technical term for the extinct idiom that was once spoken on the eastern periphery of the Tundra Nenets territory, adjacent to Enets. Enets itself is also a group of two languages: Tundra Enets and Forest Enets, which are mutually unintelligible, though closely related. The time depth between them must be similar to that between the two varieties of Nenets" (Juha Janhunnen, personal communication, 2013).

      "…Helimski was not happy with the name *Yurats* for the language under discussion, but since there is none other, we must be content with it. The term *Yurak* is thus an obsolete synonym of *Nenets* (a group of two languages as described above), while *Yurats* refers to a related but a completely different, long since extinct language" (Tapani Salminen, personal communication, 2013).
e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: rts

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:
   Russian Federation

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Siberia: the tundra zone to the west of the lower Yenisei basin.

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
   Extinct since the early 19th century.

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: ☐ Signed ☒ Spoken ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   /Samoyed/Uralic (Finno-Ugrian)

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:
   "It seems that Yurats was absorbed by Tundra Nenets, which had a period of eastward expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries; the eastern groups of the modern Tundra Nenets speakers may therefore be considered to have been formed upon a Yurats substrate…"
[possibly] an archaic member of the Enets group; areally, Yurats occupies a position transitional between Enets and Nenets; although it has also been classified as an aberrant dialect of Nenets, its primary diagnostic features are common with Enets" (Janhunen, 1993).

"It is possible that the speakers of Yurats could communicate with both Tundra Nenets and Enets speakers, but this cannot be verified in the absence of living speakers" (Juha Janhunnen, personal communication, 2013).

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?:
No.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
"The idiom, as recorded in the historical sources, had already undergone strong areal influence of Tundra Nenets" (Janhunen, 1993).
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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

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:

