

Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2014-064

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: January 12, 2014



SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

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Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2014-064: to create the code element [zbg] for Terengganu Malay.

The request to create the code [zbg] for Terengganu Malay is rejected. The basis of this rejection is that Terengganu Malay does not have its own literature but falls under the umbrella of Standard Malay [zlm] in terms of literature. The criteria of the standard take the use of common literature as a strong indicator they should be considered varieties of the same language. The literature on Terengganu almost always refers to it as a dialect, rather than a language. However, an examination of some of the sources does raise questions about whether it should be considered a separate language based on intelligibility issues.

Any new request for Terengganu Malay should be part of a comprehensive evaluation of the dialects of all of Malaysia, and should take into account all the data available. The RA would welcome such a review by linguists from the Malay Peninsula.