

# 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: 2015-7-22

Name of Primary Requester: Cathy Bow

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Dr Rob Amery, Head of Linguistics, University of Adelaide rob.amery at adelaide.edu.au

Professor Michael Christie, Professor of Education, Charles Darwin University <michael.christie at cdu.edu.au>

Dr Brian Devlin, Associate Professor, Bilingual Education & Applied Linguistics, Charles Darwin University <brian.devlin at cdu.edu.au>

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Dr Melanie Wilkinson, Language Resource Officer (East Arnhem), Indigenous Languages and Cultures Team, Department of Education and Children Services , NT Government <melanie.wilkinson at nt.gov.au>

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Associated Change request number : 2015-053

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : dwy

(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:  
Dhuwaya
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Dhuwaya
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Baby Gumatj
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
Local people and linguists use this name, it is used in the school program
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
approximately 500 as first language, up to 1000 as additional language

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: dwy

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifier 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
- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Living language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Recently extinct language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Historical language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ancient language  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Artificially constructed language                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Macrolanguage   |

(Select one. See explanations of these types at <http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/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:  
Yirrkala and surrounding outstations, North-east Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.  
(-12.25505, 136.891248)

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, Yolngu

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:  
Gumatj

#### 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

A large number of readers and teaching materials available, including: Boḍuk ga Weṭi' (Marika R et al, Yirrkala CEC Literature Production Centre); Gurrutjurtjur' (Marika, Yirrkala CEC Literacy Resource Development Unit); Gorrk Djälthina Miyalkku (Wunuṃmurra D, Yirrkala Literature Production Centre); Dändiwu Gurrutu'mi wayaya (Yirrkala Literature Production Centre); Djeṭ (Wunuṃmurra D, Yirrkala CEC Literacy Resource Development Unit); Warumuk, Warumuk Retja (NT Government, Yirrkala Literature Production Centre); Dhanṃ dhäwu' ga mali ṇanapilinguṇ Dhälinybuṇjuwuṇ; Lurrkun' Dhum'thun; Gurrutuwayu Dhäwu; and many others available through <http://laal.cdu.edu.au/> (currently not searchable as Dhuwaya on this site as the language doesn't have an ISO code!)

- 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?:

Dhuwaya is used as the language of instruction up to grade 4 in the bilingual program at Yirrkala School (Amery 1993:61). "The program was started in 1974 in Gumatj. It was later changed to Dhuwaya because Dhuwaya was the language that most of the children in Yirrkala were speaking" (Yirrkala School Literature Production Centre and Yolngu Action Group, 2012). The Australian Bureau of Statistics recognises it as a language on the Census forms <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2901.0Chapter6102011>, and the an Australian Government statutory authority AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) recognise it at <http://austlang.aiatsis.gov.au/main.php?code=N116>

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

Amery (1985) outlined the use of Dhuwaya as a 'communilect' used in and around Yirrkala with no clan affiliations but emerging as a result of language contact within the thirteen main clans of the area. Amery (1993:45-6) refers to it as "a clear example of a koine. It is a variety of Yolṃu Matha (henceforth YM) which is spoken by the younger generation of Yirrkala ... Dhuwaya is a variety of YM that has resulted from language contact between different dialects of YM. Although perhaps not all of these dialects are intrinsically mutually intelligible, they all belong to a single linguistic system. The use of Dhuwaya is restricted to Yirrkala and its homelands. It has evolved as the Yirrkala communilect or common language spoken by all of the younger generation irrespective of clan membership." He goes on to describe four main ways in which Dhuwaya morphology differs from other YM languages: (i) regularization of paradigms through analogical change; (ii) loss of grammatical category; (iii) lenition of laterals /l/>/y/; (iv) final-syllable deletion involving principally liquid syllables (1993:47). Unlike some other 'new' languages in Indigenous Australia, Dhuwaya does not incorporate vocabulary or structures from either English or Kriol (though there are loanwords, as in most Yolngu languages).

## 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:  
Dr Rob Amery worked on this language and has written extensively on the topic. He states categorically that "Dhuwaya is certainly different enough from all other Yolngu languages to be considered a distinct language... (It) is its own entity, quite distinct from other Yolngu languages" (personal communication, 27/07/2015). Other supporters of this request have worked on Yolngu languages for many years and have identified the need for this language to have its own code
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:  
Colleagues and teachers who work with the school program confirm that the language is still in use.
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):  
Amery, Robert M. (1985) A new diglossia: Contemporary speech varieties at Yirrkala in North East Arnhem Land. Masters thesis, Australian National University.
- d) Amery, Rob (1993) An Australian koine: Dhuwaya, a variety of Yolngu Matha spoken at Yirrkala in North East Arnhemland. International Journal of the Sociology of Language. Volume 99, Issue 1, Pages 45–64
- e) Yirrkala School Literature Production Centre and Yolngu Action Group (2012). House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Inquiry into language learning in indigenous communities Submission.  
<https://senate.aph.gov.au/submissions/comitees/viewdocument.aspx?id=755fea88-011f-42cb-b7b7-cfac0c45d22d>
- f) <http://multitree.org/codes/duj-dhw>

### 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  
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp>  
Email: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto: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:**

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>