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: 2015-8-5

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

Associated Change request number : 2015-054  (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : dtn  (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:
   Daats’íin

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Sa-Daats’íin

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:

d) Reason for preferred name:
   "Sa" means 'mouth' and merely distinguishes the people from the language; I don't believe this is a necessary morpheme to include in the language name.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   I estimate that native speakers number between 300 and 1000

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: dat

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/iso639-2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Ethiopia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
The Daats’iin live in small villages in Mahadid K’ebele (12°17’56”N, 35°45’48”E), southeast
of Gelegu (formerly “Tewodros Ketema”), the capital of Qwara wereda, Amhara Region.
The Daats’iin also live in villages of Inashemsh K’ebele near Omidla in Guba wereda,
Benishangul-Gumuz Region (approx. 70 km SW of Mahadid). In Sudan, the Daats’iin live
in the villages of Ba’asinda and Gotihayaf, but my consultants say the ones in Sudan no
longer speak the language.

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:
   unknown

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:
   the Gumuz languages (guk)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
   radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   nothing

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 Daats’iin, although culturally and linguistically similar to the Gumuz, claim no
historical ties with the Gumuz. The Daats’iin are nearly all Muslim and consider themselves
to be of the same stock as Berta, “Funj”, and “Nuba” peoples. One practice that is common
among the Gumuz but is forbidden among the Daats’iin is sister exchange (cf. James 2002) which appears to be the main reason that the two groups do not intermarry; the Gumuz of the area practice their traditional religion. The language is used in the home and daily life within the Daats’iin area.
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:
   Dr. González-Ruibal initially gave me the estimate of 300-500 speakers. My Daats’iin language consultant estimates 1000 speakers.

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: