

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: 2015-8-30

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Associated Change request number : 2015-064

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : olu

(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:

Kuvale

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

Olukuvale

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

Mucubal

- d) Reason for preferred name:

The prefix Olu- designates language names in the Bantu languages of this area. For the sake of consistency with the names of other related languages that already have an identifier in ISO 639-3, the prefix should be dropped (as in Otjiherero = Herero [her] and Olunyaneka = Nyaneka [nyk]).

The autonym without the prefix is preferred over the common Portuguese-influenced form - Mucubal-, which developed when colonists heard the singular form of the ethnic name - Omukuvale- (for a single Kuvale person) and reinterpreted the singular o-mu- prefix as a fixed part of the root name for the language and ethnic group.

- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):

Ovakuvale; ~70,000 population.

- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: olu

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
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <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:
Angola
- 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 Kuvale inhabit a large area stretching along the Atlantic Ocean coast of Angola, from Ndombe Grande in Benguela Province to Tombua in Namibe Province. The eastern border does not extend further than the border of Namibe and Huila Provinces. GPS coordinates: Longitude 12.5 E, Latitude 15 S.
- 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:
Bantu Zone R (Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, R)
- 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:
Closest to Herero [her], but with some similarity to Nyaneka [nyk].

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
It had a media presence in the past, with radio programs being broadcast in the language, though this has been discontinued. No publications are available. Some Bible stories have been recorded in the Kuvale language.

- 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?:
Kuvale's influence in this area is recognized by the Namibe provincial government, though it has no official status and is neither used as a language of instruction nor taught as a subject.

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The Ovakuvala have a very strong ethnolinguistic identity. Of all the ethnic groups in this area of Angola, they are probably the least connected to the national culture because of their nomadic lifestyle and history of resistance against Portuguese colonial influence. Language vitality is high, and Kuvale speakers have a positive attitude toward their language, which is used by speakers of all ages across all domains of daily life in the rural areas. The Ovakuvala may need to switch to Portuguese or communicate through an interpreter in an urban setting.

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):
See references on the Change Request Form.

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
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>