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: 2015-9-9

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Associated Change request number : 2016-001 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : gie (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:
   Guébie

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

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

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      ‘Guébie’ is the way the language is referred to in the literature, and it is the name that speakers call their language when talking to any non-Guébie speakers. It is the same name as the ethnic group.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Guébie; population 7,000.

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: gie

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
   - [x] 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:
   Côte d’Ivoire

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Subprefecture of Gnagbodougnoa, villages of Gnagbodougnoa, Gnamagnoa, Dodougnoa, Graqballie, 5.964761, -5.841819

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:
   Kru

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:
   Dida-Lakota

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   None; the language is not written

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 ethnonlinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   With every generation of speakers, French is used more often and Guébie is becoming a language of secondary use. Parents realize that in order for their children to leave the village and have real opportunities to get a job and make money, they will need to speak French; thus, many parents now only speak French to their children. French is also the
language used in schools. I hypothesize that in two generations, this language will have deteriorated to almost non-use among younger generations. However, for the time being, Guébie is still used in everyday communication within Guébie speaking villages. Outside of the villages, in nearby cities, French is the language of communication.
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:
I have spent two summers (2014 and 2015) carrying out linguistic fieldwork in Gnagbodougnoa and Gnamagnoa, Côte d'Ivoire with Guébie speaking communities. It has become evident that despite the current Ethnologue classifications of Guébie, the language is not mutually intelligible with either Dida-Lakota or Bete-Gagnoa. Some speakers of Guébie also speak Dida-Lakota due to exogamy practices, but the two are phonologically and syntactically very different. I don't know any Guébie speakers that can understand Bete-Gagnoa; in fact, they are part of two totally distinct language clusters.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
Sande, Hannah. 2015. An interface model of phonologically determined agreement. WCCFL 33 proceedings.
There are few extant linguistic resources on Guébie. Working form word lists in Kaye et al (1982), Marchese 1979, and a dictionary of Bete-Daloa (Zogbo 2005) to elicit the same words in Guébie during my own fieldwork, it became evident that Guébie lexical items show significant differences from other geographically nearby languages; not only differences that have arisen through sound change, but many lexical items from published word lists of nearby languages do not have cognates in Guébie. An initial description in Gnahore's MA thesis (2006) also shows significant differences between Guébie and neighboring Kru languages.


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:**
LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)