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: 2016-3-4

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Associated Change request number : 2016-018 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : lth (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:
      Thur
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Leb-Thur
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Labwor, Acholi-Labwor
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      This is what they call their language in English. 'Labwor' is the xenonym given to them.
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Ethur 80,000 (2010)
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lth

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

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(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:
   Uganda

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Labwor County, Abim District

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:
   Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Luo, Southern, Luo-Acholi, Alur-Acholi, Thur

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:
   Acholi

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.:?
   radio broadcasts, school materials are being developed, trial orthography, Gospel of Luke and Jesus Film

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?:
   In 1995 the Thur were formally recognised and their people group name (Ethur) placed in the national constitution. In 2007 the Ugandan government started "Thematic Curriculum" primary schools which promote the use of local languages in lower primary school classes (P1 to P3). This has been implemented also in Abim district, the area of the Thur language.
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The Ethur are surrounded by dominant ethnic groups (Acholi to the west, Lango to the south and Karamojong in the north and east) who up until recently have often been hostile towards them. Due to historical oppression and suppression by the dominant surrounding groups, the Ethur were shy to identify themselves with their ethnicity. This has changed however and now they are very proud of their language and culture. They have their own language committee (founded 2003). Leb-Thur is used at home, in the village, market, and anywhere where there are only Ethur. In many churches in Abim district the scriptures are translated into Leb-Thur (from Acholi) so that people understand.
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):

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: