

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: 2016-7-25

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Associated Change request number : 2016-020

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : twz

(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:
Twa
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Chitwa
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Chitwa
- d) Reason for preferred name:
This is the most commonly way the language is referred to.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
4220 speakers (2010 census)
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: n/a

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
 - ☒ 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:

Zambia

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

Zambia's Southern Province, Itezhi-Tezhi and Monze Districts, Nyambo and Kabulongwe wards as well as Muchabi ward of the Mumbwa District. Towns of the western section include Banakacele, Chiku, Kabulongwe, and Shinshinde. Towns of the northern section includes Banananza, Bapamba, Chaalito, Chinsuma, Makunku, Matuzy and Shamukwebo. Towns in the southern section include Loongo and Muunga. Towns in the central section includes Banakacele and Nyambo. Towns in the eastern section include Chipenda, Chibulu, Chuubi, Hatembo, Mampanda, Namandwa and many others. No contact between the the Twa of the Kafue Flats and to other "Twa" populations in Zambia, that of Lake Bangweulu in Luapula Province and Northern Province or the "Twa" of the Lukanga Swamps in Zambia's Central Province.

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

n/a

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: ☐ Signed ☒ Spoken ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central.

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 lexical comparisons indicate that Twa of the Kafue Flats is more closely related to Ila [ilb] (75%) than to Tonga [toi] (67%) although the Batwa people consider their language to be more closely related to Tonga and Twa has been listed as a dialect in the Ethnologue of Tonga.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

Gospel of Luke remains in a rough draft due to a lack of program support among the Batwa people.

- 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:
Twa is used in all domains of daily life but is losing ground to neighboring languages such as Tonga and Ila as well as Chewa [nya] and Bemba [bem] as outsiders enter the traditional Batwa areas to exploit the natural fisheries of the Kafue Flats. Only 38% of the children use Chitwa alone when playing with other children. Children respond in Chitwa only according to 50% of those interviewed and children respond in both Chitwa and Ila or Chitwa and Tonga according to 76% of those interviewed. This is very significant. It likely relates to the level of intermarriage with other language groups such as Ila and other language pressures. A shift to Ila and Tonga is progressing slowly. The government of Zambia instituted Tonga as a medium of instruction in and several generations of Batwa people have had Tonga taught in their primary school education.

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:
Have been working with the Batwa since December 2012
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
same as above
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
Sawka, Kenneth S., Richard Mukang'ombe. Daka Josephat. 2013. Twa of Zambia's Kafue Flats. Linguistic Survey Report. August 2013.

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>