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: 2016-5-17

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
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Associated Change request number : 2016-021 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ncq (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:
      Northern Katang
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The current iso code of [kgd] conflates three language varieties, which we call Northern Katang, Southern Katang and Katang Ta’oiq, the last of which is properly viewed as a dialect of Upper Ta’oih [tth]. In this document, we propose that [kgd] be modified to reflect Northern Katang language only. Evidence supporting these assertions is presented in the accompanying document requesting a new iso code for Southern Katang under "Sources of Information".
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Approximately 65,000
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

   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

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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:
   Laos

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Geographical - located north of Southern Katang and separated from them by the mountain chain that runs along the border between Salavan and Savannakhet provinces, Laos

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:
   Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Eastern Mon-Khmer, Katuic, West Katuic, Brou-So

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:
   Southern Katang

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

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?:
   The Katang language is officially recognized by the Lao government but it is not used in formal education or taught in schools.
c) Comment on factors of ethnonymic identity and informal domains of use:
   Used in the home and at the village level
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:
Ryan Gehrmann has worked with Northern and Southern Katang speakers at the same time in his research and has had the opportunity to observe their interaction. They were unable to communicate with each other using their native tongues and quickly switched to the national language to make themselves understood. There are significant lexical and phonological differences between the two varieties.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
Ryan Gehrmann has interviewed a reliable, educated speaker of Ta’oïq, an Upper Ta’oïh [tth] variety, from Champasak province. This man was able to confirm that Ta’oïq speakers in Ta’oi district, Salavan province often call their language Katang or Katang Ta’oïq. He knew this because he had previously traveled in that area himself. The Katang Ta’oïq language was, completely intelligible to him and he reported that he felt very strongly that he and they were speaking the same language despite the different names.

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
References:


k) SEAlang Mon-Khmer Languages Project. http://sealang.net/monkhmer/database/ (4 May, 2016)


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: