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: 2016-1-28

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2016-023 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : lsk (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:
   Town Nyanja

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

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

d) Reason for preferred name:
   Town Nyanja is the most widely used name locally (see Change Request Form for examples of specific cases where it has been used), and it is characteristically an urban variety. Although primarily associated with Lusaka the language is also heard in other towns such as Livingstone. For the code, however, I suggest lsk (the standard local abbreviation of Lusaka) because obvious alternatives such as nyt are taken and because the lsk code is already informally used in digital material by iSchool Zambia.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Residents of Lusaka, Zambia, and neighbouring Zambian towns, population 1.7 million of whom the majority know the language as an L2 and a significant number of children use it as an L1. Exact speaker populations undocumented.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lsk

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

(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:
   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:
   Lingua franca in the city of Lusaka and other towns in Zambia where neither standard Nyanja nor Bemba is the mother tongue (in standard Nyanja or Bemba speaking towns, these languages serve as lingua francas instead), described by some as an incipient national language in Zambia

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:
   as for standard Nyanja

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:
   standard Nyanja

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Town Nyanja is widely used in popular culture (songs etc), and on social media. It is seldom explicitly distinguished from standard Nyanja in these contexts but users are conscious of the difference. iSchool Zambia, which produces tablets pre-loaded with
learning materials for schools, has produced interactive learning materials covering Grades 1-3 of the Zambian primary school curriculum in Town Nyanja, separately from standard Nyanja. Various NGOs translating awareness materials have produced specific Town Nyanja versions. Large parts of the forthcoming documentary film The Colours of the Alphabet (2016), which explores language barriers in a rural classroom a short distance from Lusaka, are in Town Nyanja (though it is not explicitly identified as such) with English subtitles.

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?:
Government officially recognises only standard Nyanja. Schools in Lusaka province teach 'vernacular' literacy classes in standard Nyanja but informally use Town Nyanja as a medium of instruction.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Town Nyanja serves a lingua franca among all tribal groups (Nyanja, Bemba, Lozi, Tonga, etc) in southern Zambia in a variety of informal domains. (In the north of Zambia, Bemba is the main lingua franca, while in formal domains it is English, Zambia's national language.)
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:
   I have worked in literacy development in Zambia since 2011 and supervised a team of translators at iSchool Zambia producing materials in Zambian languages. I know the language personally, and co-authored a learner's guide to it. (Gray, Lubasi & Bwalya 2013. Town Nyanja: a learner's guide to Zambia's emerging national language. Published by Lulu.com.)

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: