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: 2016-6-29

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

Associated Change request number : 2017-006 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : cem (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:
      Central Mfumte

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Ndē’wūlû’

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Dialects - Lus, Inkiri

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Inclusiveness. The other village (Inkiri) that has a similar dialect will be more open to using the reference dialect if the language name does not mention the village where the reference dialect is spoken. The name ‘Ndē’wūlû’ is a compound word meaning ‘language of Lus’.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      6,500

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: CEM

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

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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:
   Cameroon and Nigeria

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Village of Lus, Nwa Subdivision, Donga-Mantung Division, North West Region of Cameroon and in the village of Inkiri, Taraba State, Nigeria. The reference dialect for the Central Mfumte language is the language spoken in the village of Lus. The language is spoken in two villages: Lus and Inkiri.
   GPS Coordinates:
   Lus - 6 degrees 39.310' N, 10 degrees 58.548' E
   Inkiri - 6 degrees 42.185' N, 10 degrees 57.527' E

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:
   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:

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      primer, alphabet chart, posters, stories, health booklets, and community development booklets. There are no newspapers, radio or television broadcasts.

   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?:

Mfumte is recognized by all levels of government. The language proposed here is one of two languages that was traditionally called Mfumte. In other words, there are two distinct languages described by the term Mfumte. It is presently used only in informal settings such as adult literacy classes. Currently, it is not being used in any levels of formal education as a language of instruction. It is currently not being taught in schools.

c) Comment on factors of ethnonomographic identity and informal domains of use:
The people of Lus and Inkiri, although located in different countries, are homogenous in their language and culture. The language is spoken by all age groups and is used in all social domains except school.
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 lived in Lus with my family on and off for the last 10 years. During that time I have learned the language spoken in Lus and have had frequent opportunities to talk with people from Inkiri using the mother tongue spoken in Lus. This language community is distinct from the one to the west and south. I wrote a RA and RTT survey for the Mfumte language communities.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
The Director of Language Services for CABTAL (Cameroon Association for Bible translation and Literacy) is in support of the change recommended in this document.

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

Grant, Caroline A., Margaret A. Griffin, Joseph Mbongue, and Lawrence M. Seguin. 1994. A Rapid Appraisal survey of Dzodinka (ALCAM 904) and Mfumte (ALCAM 905), Donga Mantung division, Northwest Province. Yaoundé, Cameroon: Summer Institute of Linguistics.

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: