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: 2017-4-19

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Associated Change request number : 2017-025 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : scm (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:
Sichuanese

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
四川话

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Sichuanese Mandarin, Sichuanese Chinese, Szechwanese Mandarin

d) Reason for preferred name:
Matches current spellings and concepts

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Han Chinese/120 Million. Also spoken as a second language by many Tibetan, Yi and Qiang ethnic minorities.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: sch

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

[X] 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%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   China

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

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:
   Chinese - Mandarin - Southwestern - Sichuanese

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:
   Southwestern Mandarin

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

TV shows include a dubbed version of Tom & Jerry (125 episodes), and the following: "傻儿师长", "傻儿司令", "幸福耙耳朵", "山城棒棒军", "下课了，要雄起", "王保长歪传", "三喜临门", "假打外传", "凌汤圆", "唐肥肠", "老坎客栈", "柯德平", "戳锅漏", "挨个地方要得不", "生活麻辣烫", "奇人安世敏", "疙瘩奇事", "表妹进城", "爬坡上坎", "街坊邻居", etc.

Movies include: 《抓壮丁》, 《无蝉的夏天》, 《我是张飞我怕谁》, 《香巴拉信使》, 《十三棵泡桐》, 《爸爸的晚餐》, 《忘了去懂你》, 《火锅英雄》, 《红颜》, 《夏至》, 《二十四城记》, 《让子弹飞》, 《杀生》, 《疯狂的石头》, 《巴尔扎克与小裁缝》, 《武侠》, etc.

Newspapers used to (until threatened with fines for not using "Mandarin") include: Chengdu Daily (成都日报), Chengdu Evening News (成都晚报) and many other local papers.

Books include: Che Fu's (车辐) novel "Old Chengdu" (锦城旧事) and books 《锦水悠悠》, 《川菜杂谈》, Zhou Zongfu (周宗富) 3-part novel: 《两代沧桑》, Ba Jin's (巴金) complete works 26 volumes, Li Jieren's (李劼人) complete works 17 volumes, Liu Sanxing's (刘三省)
《跻春台》"Jichuntai" and many others by authors like 沙汀, 克非, 艾芜, etc. There are too many to name here - especially with a growing number of online novel writers.

There are also recordings (written and audial) of many plays and story tellers.

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?

Sichuanese education only exists in a very un-official capacity of CSL (Chinese as a Second Language) teachers having classes in some universities where only foreigners can attend.

Sichuanese used to be used in public schools until roughly the 2000’s when the government started cracking down on everything non-Mandarin. It is still used in many private schools and vocational schools to teach other subjects.

The government finds itself in a bit of a pickle, they need to promote the official language of the nation so that everyone can communicate better but they fear losing their culture. This year they have begun a project called: The 2017 Sichuan Language Resource Preservation Project (2017 年四川语言资源保护工程). This is fascinating for a couple reasons: firstly, the government is calling Sichuanese "the Sichuanese language" (四川语言) which is a big change from the past where it was known as 四川方言 (the Sichuanese topolect) or 四川话 (the Sichuanese dialect). Secondly, the government is putting big resources into conservation of Sichuanese, as opposed to the past where the only thing they cared about was disuading usage of anything non-Mandarin.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Sichuanese is the official language of Sichuan's market places, home life and communities but there is a certain stigma associated with it. There is specific type of inferiority complex connected with speaking a language like Sichuanese, that it is somehow "backward", "rustic" and "uncouth" in the face of outsiders. Amongst one another, though, they feel that their language is extremly laid back, down-to-earth, congenial, lively and humorous.
**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):

   See Change Request Form

**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:**


LinguistList. Constructed Languages.  [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)