

# 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: 2017-8-28

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Associated Change request number : 2017-035

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : tok

(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:  
Toki Pona
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
toki pona
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
- d) Reason for preferred name:  
It is the name of the language
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):  
Constructed language
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: tok

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
- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Living language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Recently extinct language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Historical language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ancient language  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Artificially constructed language                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 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:  
Canada, USA, many countries in Europe (e.g. Germany, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Poland, United Kingdom, Ireland)
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:  
The internet
- 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:  
Language created by Canadian translator and linguist Sonja Lang; published in mid- 2001.
- 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:  
Toki Pona is an oligosynthetic language; its vocabulary comes from English, Tok Pisin, Finnish, Georgian, Dutch, Acadian French, Esperanto, Croatian, Chinese (Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese)

## 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

There is some original and translated poetry and comics in Toki Pona; the Bible and some novels have been partly translated; there is a Wiki-encyclopedia in Toki Pona; 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?:

No

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

It's a conlang; the language is used mainly online. A reasonable proportion of Toki Pona speakers is composed of young Esperanto speakers, so the language is occasionally used at international gatherings of Esperantists.

## 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'm in communication with the creator, Sonja Lang, and with other users.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

A variety of resources are available for Toki Pona. There is a website at <http://tokipona.org/> and a number of groups on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sitelen/> with 3024 members as of today, a monolingual group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1590434267942176/> with 384 members, and a learner's group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/543153192468898/> with 767 members)

A proposal for an ISO 639-3 code (2007-011) by Marcos Cramer was rejected on the grounds that the language was new and that a minimalistic language might simply be a curiosity. Toki Pona is more than just a Gedankenexperiment, however, and

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

Cardenas, Eliazar Parra. 2013. Toki pona en 76 ilustritaj lecionoj. Tr. Marek Blahuš. E@I Press. ISBN 978-80-89366-20-0 (In Esperanto)

Deleanu, Daniel. 2016. A Toki Pona Survey of Being. Logostar Press. ISBN 978-1-32983420-0

Lang, Sonja. 2014. Toki Pona: The Language of Good. Tawhid. ISBN 978-0-9782923-0-0

Lang, Sonja. 2016. Toki Pona: la langue du bien. Tawhid. ISBN 978-0-9782923-5-5

Toki Pona is the 17th most spoken language on the Amikumu language app, and Chuck Smith, the Chief Technical Officer of Amikumu Pty Ltd is also a supporter of this proposal. Amikumu supports all languages with 639-3 codes and the lacking one for Toki Pona has caused difficulties.

### 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](mailto: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>