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 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:
      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/siteken/ 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):

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
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:

