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: August 3, 2018

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- PETER MUNGUTI, National Director of BTL - peter_munguti at btlkenya dot org
- CYRUS MURAGE, Language Programmes Manager BTL cyrus_murage at btlkenya dot org
- Church Leaders in the Sengwer language area, from the following churches:
  - African Inland Church, Kamoi;
  - Seventh Day Adventist Church, Chesubet;
  - Glory Church, Kamoi;
  - Kenya Assemblies of God Church, Kapterit;
  - Anglican Church of Kenya, Kamoi

Associated Change request number: 2018-083 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier: sgv (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:
      SENGWER

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      CHERANGANY or SENGWER

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

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      They believe that their neighbors, the Marakwet, invaded their area. They want to be distinct and therefore the name Sengwer. The two names are used interchangeably.

      The term Sengwer mainly denotes the people and language; while the name Cherangany denotes the place where they live. Over time the name of the place has been associated with the people and therefore the two names are used.
c) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):

Their population is estimated at 70,000 according to the survey done in 2017. The 2009 government census gave their population at 49,000.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:
None so far

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

      (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:
          KENYA

      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 Sengwer are located in the Rift Valley of Kenya. Elgeyo Marakwet County and their main Center is called Kamoi, Kapcherop. The GPS coordinates are: 1.108317, 35.235190 although these are not the exact coordinates because the Kamoi centre has not been mapped out.

      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 ☐X Spoken ☐Attested only in writings
b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Part of Kalenjin macro-language [kln]

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:

   The Sengwer language has traditionally been associated with the Marakwet language ISO 639-3 [enb].

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 was a sub-station of a radio station called Sayare in Kitale that used to air a radio programme targeting the Sengwer but it stopped. Currently there is no print or electronic media that targets the Sengwer language.

   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?:

      This language is recognized by the government but under the macro-language Kalenjin. It is also closely associated with the Marakwet language. It is not taught in schools but this is mainly because of the lack of materials. At the same time, due to the association with Marakwet, it is assumed that they will use the Marakwet materials when developed.

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

      The Sengwer people have a very close sense of ethnolinguistic identity. This was mainly catalyzed after their neighbours (Marakwet and Keiyo) started settling in Cherangany and they felt like they were under threat. They use their language in all social domains such as when conducting cultural ceremonies like circumcision, at home and even in church.

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):

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: