ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2019-015 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2019-2-16

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

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 and will be posted on the ISO 639-3 website.

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. [ ] Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. [ ] Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. [x] Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. [ ] Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. [ ] Split a language code element into two or more new code elements
6. [ ] Create a code element for a previously unidentified language

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: ekc

Associated reference name: Eastern Karnic

3. Retire a language code element from use

(a) Reason for change:

[ ] There is no evidence that the language exists.

[ ] This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.
(b) If equivalent with another code element, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) is it equivalent: Some varieties included under this code are tentatively identified with [xwk] Wangkumara, which itself needs to be split and merged.

(c) Rationale for change:
Spurious as a language. Inadequate evidence to establish any of the purported dialects, some of which may be varieties of other ISO languages, as a distinct language. Some of the purported dialects do not appear to even be ethnic or language names.

In addition, the ISO reference name, “Eastern Karnic”, is used by Bowern 2001 with a different definition as the eastern branch of the Karnic language family, constituting [xwk] Wangkumara, [gll] Garlali and [xpt] Punthamara. Bowern was cited as the expert to establish [ekc] as a new ISO code.

The ISO language [nbx] Ngura was split per change request 2012-077, establishing [ekc] Eastern Karnic among other new ISO codes. Ngura, Karendala (Garandala), Dhiraila were listed as alternative names. Bidjara, Mambangura, Mingbari, Ngurawarla, Yarumarra were listed as dialects. None of these names or constituents appear to be sufficient to establish a separate ISO code [ekc]. Some may be tentatively identified with other ISO codes descending from old [nbx] Ngura, though those codes themselves need to be split and merged, per separate change requests.

As for the alternative names, I don’t know the origin of the name Ngura, unless it is short for Ngurawarla (below), which is not an ethnic or language name. AIATSIS does not use the name “Ngura” to identify any language variety.

The name Karendala (Garandala) has been retired at AIATSIS. It was once used for code (L29). Under the comments there, they say, “the only linguistic information seems to be a few words in Howitt for ‘Kurnandaburi’. Tindale (1974) says ‘the Kurnandaburi of Howitt probably is this tribe, but may be the Kungadutji L16’” (that is, ISO [gdt] Kungardutyi, one of the ISO codes that should be merged with [xwk] (separate change request)).

Dhiraila is assigned AIATSIS / AUSTLANG code (L19). Under the comments for that entry, they say, “Based on the information available, Dhiraila is unlikely to be a language name.”

As for the purported dialects, Bidjara is assigned AIATSIS code (L43). (This Bidjara is different from the ISO language with the same name, [bym] Bidyara.) Bowern 2001 did not address it due to lack of data. Under the comments at code (L57) Minkabari, AIATSIS says, “Breen groups Minkabari with Galali D71, (Curr’s) Wangkumara L25 and Pitjara L43 as the Bullo River Language (1971:27). On the other hand, Tindale lists Minkabari as the name of the language spoken by the Bitjara L43 people”. That is, both Bidjara and Minkabari are associated with the “old” varieties of ISO [gll] Galali and [xwk] Wangkumara. AIATSIS goes on to note that “Oates (1975) says that the only information available for Minkabari] is Wurm’s assigning it as a dialect of Maljangaba L8,” which Bowern 2001 classifies as one of the Yarli laguages.
Yarumarra is assigned AIATSIS code (L56) Yarrumada. They say, “Tindale treats this as the language spoken by the Ngandangara L30 group, while according to Breen (2007 p.c.), Ngandangara and Yarrumada are distinct varieties which are in a dialectal relationship with Wangkumara L25” (ISO [xwk]). (L30) Ngandangara is ISO [ntg] Ngantangarra, one of the ISO codes that should be merged with [xwk] (separate change request).

Under the comments for (L24) Ngurawala, “The area from around Coongie to Araburry … was abandoned completely and became known as Ngura-warla ‘empty camp’ following massacres in the late nineteenth century”. Thus it does not appear to be an ethnic or language designation, and AUSTLANG gives it the status “unconfirmed”.

Mambangurra is assigned AIASTIS code (L20). The comments there suggest it may be either an alternative name of Ngurawarla/Yarumarra (discussed above), or belong with those varieties and the ‘new’ varieties of ISO [gll] Galali and [xwk] Wangkumara in the Wilson River language (separate change request).

Thus it would appear that all the names / varieties listed under [ekc] Eastern Karnic may be associated with other ISO codes, are too poorly attested to identify, or are not even language names.

Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

(a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:

(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):
AIATSIS / AUSTLANG online entries for the constituent varieties. The URLs are https://collection.aiatsis.gov.au/austlang/language/Lxx [complete with reference code]

Claire Bowern, 2001, “Karnic languages revisited”. In Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages. Available online at https://www.academia.edu/963291/Karnic_classification_revisited

Both AIATSIS and Bower were used as sources for the establishment of ISO [ekc].

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
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:
"http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html"http://linguistlist.o