ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Date: 2019-2-23
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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

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. 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:
Associated reference name:

6. Create a new language code element

(a) Name of missing language: Balaibalân

(b) State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:
Balaibalân (also Bala-i-Balan, Balaybalân, etc., Turkish Bâleybelen) is perhaps the earliest attested constructed language, dating from ca. the 15th-century Ottoman Empire. It is clearly not one of the conlangs that have ISO codes. The Glottolog code is bala1318.

Unlike many conlangs, Balaibalân does not seem to have been the work of a single individual, but to have been used and elaborated over generations by a community of users. It therefore warrants an ISO code as a functioning language. It may have functioned as a Sufi religious language. A dictionary survives in several manuscript forms, one of which was republished as Koç (2005).
Grammatically, Balaibalan appears to have been based on Turkish, Persian and Arabic, the principal literary languages of the Ottoman Empire, but the vocabulary is mostly invented or based on philosophical principles. It was written in the Ottoman alphabet (Arabic script), which accounts for much of the orthographic variation of the name when rendered in Latin script.

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

**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:
Charles Häberl has examined the ms dictionary preserved in the Princeton University library.

(b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

(c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):

Balaibalan Language entry at *Encyclopedia Iranica*,
http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/balaybalan-language


**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