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: 2019-03-19

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

Associated Change request number: 2019-036 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: dmf (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:
      Medefaidrin
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Medefidrin, Òbèrì Èkainè (the name of the church)
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      matches Unicode block, pronunciation more obvious than in <Medefidrin>
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Per the 2016 Unicode proposal, 5 fluent speakers who are literate in the script, 20 adult speakers altogether, out of a religious community of 4,000. Ethnicly Ibibio.
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:
b) Countries where used:
   Nigeria

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Itu LGA, Akwa Ibom state (formerly Calabar Province), 5°10’ N, 7°59’ E.

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:
      Lexicon largely a priori (glossolalia), grammar based on English

   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:

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
      radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      A script was invented to record the language. There’s a project to preserve Medefaidrin
      manuscripts

   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 official recognition, though no longer suppressed. According to the Unicode proposal, it
      is used to teach Sunday School lessons.

   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
      Used as a spiritual language of the Obiri Okaim church, for prayers and meditation.

   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:


"http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html"http://linguistlist.o