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

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1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION

a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
   Bari

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Pele geleŋ

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   Bari for Bari, Nyangwara, Mundari and Pőjulu

d) Reason for preferred name:
   There was no definite reason. Bari is a tribe in South Sudan amongst whom the first Catholic Missionaries established themselves. The purported union of the Mundari, Nyangwara, Pőjulu, Kakwa and Kuku into Bari was exclusively adapted by the Catholic Missionaries who had established themselves amongst the Bari in Juba Region. The missionaries were misled into believing that the other tribes were sub-tribes of Bari and spoke Bari. Bari was adapted in the Rajef Language Conference in 1928 as the language name to be used in their religious speres of influence in the current Central Equatoria State. The missionaries went ahead without due socio-linguistic study of the languages of the so called Bari sub-tribes. They went ahead to produced the Bari Bible and its liturgies for use in the Bari land where the so called Bari sub-tribes were coopted into using Bari Bible and its liturgies. But in essence the so called Bari sub-tribes do not constitute Bari as a language and people.

The Rajef Langauga Conference asumed that Bari was spoken by the Bari, Mundari, Nyangwara, Pőjulu, Liggig, Kakwa and Kuku (Eastern Nilotes) tribes. The Lokoya. Lulu'bo, Lugbara, Kaliko, Avukaya, Mundu and Baka (Sudanic) and Makara (Bantu) tribes, were all considered and assumed to speak Bari. The fifteen tribes were unfortunately convienitly and linguistically lampled together and coerced to speak, write and read Bari until probably 1980s and even today.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   The population is based on Southern Sudan Population Census, 2008. These figures are approximated estimates after combining different ethnicities from different Payams and Counties.

   i) Bari of Juba County: 173,752
   ii) Mundari of Terekeka County: 140,396
   iii) Pőjulu of Lainya County: 102,063
   iv) Kakwa of Yei County: 177,665
   v) Kakwa of Morobo County: 48,209
vi) Kuku of Kajokeji County: 196,387

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: BFA

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/iso639-2D3/types.asp)

      For individual languages, also complete:

   b) Countries where used:
      i) South Sudan: Bari is used by the Bari, Mundari, Nyangwara and Pøjulu. ii) Uganda and South Sudan: Kuku is used by the Kuku. iii) Uganda, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo: Kakwa is used by the Kakwa.

   ii) The request is based on the elaborate explanations contained in ISO639-3 _ChangeRequestForm and ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm-Kuku. Reseach finding is that, Kakwa is no longer part of Bari. Kakwa has developed its orthography, Kakwa Bible, liturgies and hymns have been developed for the three countries. Kakwa literacy and materials have been developed and are in use for teaching pupils at various levels of education system in Uganda. Kuku orthography has been developed and ready for use.

   iii) The developed Kuku orthography and system of writing will be benefit the Kuku of Uganda, the Kuku refugees in Uganda and the Kuku of South Sudan, though developed literacy and teaching materials in schools, with the assistance of the Uganda National Curriculum Development Centre. There is absolutely no differences in language and socio-traditional aspects of the Kuku of Uganda and South Sudan. The only difference is political which is marked by the international boundary. In any case, most of the Kuku in Kajokeji are and have been in refugee in Uganda for most of their lives.

   v) The reference to Bari users is normally Bari-Speakers. But speaking of the six variaties of languages or even if they are called dialects is not similar and is not written and read as the same language. The speaking has no similarities in language speeches either. These are the contradictions Bari has found itself in, hence it has remind untaught because it has no standard grammar. The grammar that was developed in 1908, appeared to have been limited to Bari Bible and its liturgies.
c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:

1) GPS for Bari in Central Equatoria State in South Sudan:

i) In Juba County by the Bari: Longi 4.8594°N; Lati. 31.5713°E

ii) In Terekeka County by the Mundari: Longi. 5.6189°N; Lati. 31.4456°E. Tali: Longi. 5.53°N; Lati. 30.46°E

iii) In Lainya County by the Pōjulu: Longi. 4°2551°N; Lati. 30.46°E

iv) In Rokon by the Nyangwara: Longi. 5.07°N; Lati. 30.55°E

2) GPS for the Kakwa of Yei in South Sudan and Koboko District in Uganda

i) In Yei by the Kakwa: Longi. 4.0953°N; Lati. 30.6775°E

ii) In Koboko District by the Kakwa of Uganda: Longi. 3.4167°N; Lati. 31.800°E

3) GPS for the Kuku of Kajokeji County in South Sudan and of Yumbe, Moyo, Adjumani, Obongi and Kayunga Districts in Uganda

i) In Kakokeji by the Kuku: Longi. 3.9613°N; Lati. 31.5370°E

ii) In Yumbe by the Kuku: Longi. 3.4667°N; Lati. 31.144880°E

iii) In Moyo by the Kuku: Longi. 3.652738°N; Lati. 31.738095°E

iv) In Obongi by the Kuku: Longi. 3.3779°N; Lati. 31.7909°E

v) In Kayunga District in Central Uganda by the Kuku: Longi. 0.986018°N; Lati.32.85357°E

Summary:

1) Bari for the Bari, Nyangwara, Mundari and Pojulu in South Sudan
2) Kakwa for the Kakwa of Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

3) Kuku for the Kuku of Uganda and South Sudan

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:
Bari is Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic and Eastern Nilotic family (Greenbergs Linguistics Report: 1955). It was classified as of Bari family and initially a language assumed to be spoken by fifteen tribes. It was later reduced to be used by the Bari, Mundari, Nyangwara and Pøjulu in South Sudan.

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:
Classified as Bari closely related to Kakwa and Kuku.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
The Prima of Bari alphabets was developed after the 1928 Rajef Language Conference. It combined the Bari, Mundari, Nyangwara, Pøjulu, Kakwa and Kuku tribes. It also included the Sudanic Lokoyo, Lulu'bo, Lugbara, Kaliko, Avukaya, Baka, Mundu and Bantu Makaraka. The Prima and some readers which were produced in the 1930s and 1940s disappeared after Sudan's independence in 1956 and 1958 when there was attempted islamization and arabization of Southern Sudan. There is no Bari Grammar and no developed teaching materials, literacy and literature because Bari is not taught in schools. The available written Bari is the ungrammatical translated Bari Bible, its liturgies and hymns. There are no known inscriptions and recordings in Bari. There are no newspapers or any literacy published in Bari. There are no radio and television broadcasts in Bari. But there used to be three FM Radio Stations in Kajokeji where Kuku was used before the block of the Kuku fled to exile into Uganda from 2016/7 to date. Spirit FM 96.6 (Yupet Uganda) is in Kampala, Uganda which is purely a Kuku Christian broadcast. The reading of the Bari Bible is in Bari. But the entire preaching, programming and announcements are in Kuku.

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?:
In South Sudan, Bari is nominally recognized as a language spoken by groups of tribes in
Central Equatoria State by the Government of South Sudan. But Bari is not taught in Schools, churches and in any level of formal education or used as a language of instructions.

In Uganda, Kuku is recognized as a language of the Kuku by the Government of the Republic of Uganda. The Kuku tribe is Number forty eight (48) in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995. But Kuku is not taught and used as a language of instructions in schools because of its unofficial developed recognized orthography and system of writing by the Uganda National Curriculum Development Centre. The NCDC is the lead agent to guide, oversee and develop Ugandan local languages. Bari cannot be recognized in Uganda because there is no Bari tribe in Uganda. Besides, the Kuku of Uganda speak, write and read Kuku. The Kuku are not Bari and they do not speak Bari. The Government of Uganda cannot allow its citizens to be taught an alien language, when the community has its own orthography and system of writing which can be used by their kins and kith in Kajokeji County in South Sudan.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The ethnolinguistic identity of Bari is assumed to compose six tribes formerly: Bari, is however is to be used by the Bari, Mundari, Nyangwara and Pøjulu. These tribes are culturally different, linguistically and orality diverse and not ethnolinguistically similar. The language speeches of the six tribes are not comparable and are incompatible similar. These differences apply to all but with some degree of individual language accommodation especially the Bari, Mundari, Nyangwra and Pøjulu.

The informal domains of use of these languages are similar as in discussions, arguments, singing, dancing etc but in different language speeches and not in Bari. The only differences is in the linguistical application of the informal domains of use by each language speech, which I have not had the privilege to keenly observe. The example is the level of speech where some of the language speeches are very fast, uncoordinated, competitive, domineering etc as demonstrated in their socio-linguistic communications.
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 Linguist List asking you to provide additional information.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers: