

# ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

## Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2019-061 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2019 Aug 31

Primary Person submitting request: Kirk Miller

E-mail address: kirkmillerat gmail dot com

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

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: czh

Associated reference name: Huizhou Chinese

### 5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

(a) List the languages into which this code element should be split:

Jishe Hui Chinese  
Xiuyi Hui Chinese  
Qide Hui Chinese (Qiwu Hui Chinese)  
Jingzhan Hui Chinese  
Yanzhou Hui Chinese ☐☐☐☐

(b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages:

Despite their relatively small geographic area, there is a very low degree of intelligibility among the Huizhou lects. The *Language Atlas of China* (1987, 2012), based on the work of

Zhengzhang Shangfang, lists the five lects in 5(a) as the primary branches of Hui (= Huizhou). Chappell & Lan (2016) state,

“Hui comprises six [*sic*] main dialect subgroups and these are in the main mutually unintelligible, a consequence of the historically isolated nature of Hui communities”, citing Hirata Shoji 平田昌司 (1998) *Huizhou Fangyan Yanjiu* 徽州方言研究 (Research on the Huizhou dialects), Haowen Publishers, Tokyo.

- (c) Does the language code element to be split represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? If so, please comment.

Given that Hui(zhou) doesn't occupy a large space in the literature or in people's conceptions of Chinese, I'm not sure that the code [czh] would be worth saving as a macrolanguage. Some sources classify the Huizhou lects as Wu (Kurpaska 2010, p. 56). As Chappell & Lan (2016) summarize it,

*Although the Hui dialects were moulded by important migrations from Northern China, some scholars have classified them as Wu, due to a identifiable basis of Old Wu features. As a result, their classification as an independent group remains somewhat controversial.*

However, because Huizhou was originally split off from within the Lower Yangtze Mandarin of earlier classifications, and some classify it instead with [gan] Gan, I don't know if [czh] or any languages split off from it should be included in a [wu] Wu macrolanguage, if that is set up.

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequestForm.doc” or “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar.

## 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):

Hilary Chappell & Li Lan (2016), "Mandarin and other Sinitic Languages". In Chan Sin-Wai, *The Routledge Encyclopedia of the Chinese Language*

Kurpaska, Maria (2010), *Chinese Language(s)*. Walter de Gruyter.

Stephen Wurm, Rong Li, Theo Baumann, & Mei W. Lee (1987, 2012), *The Language Atlas of China* (中国语言地图集 *Zhōngguó Yǔyán Dìtú Jī*), volume I. 1987 edition by the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 2012 edition by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the City University of Hong Kong.

Cao Zhiyun (2008), *The Linguistic Atlas of Chinese Dialects* (汉语方言地图集 *Hànyǔ Fāngyán Dìtú Jī*). The Commercial Press, Beijing.

**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  
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>  
E-mail: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto:iso639-3@sil.org)

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

**Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:**

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/>.

Linguist List. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>  
HYPERLINK

"<http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>"[http://linguistlist.o](http://linguistlist.org/)