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 Aug 31
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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2019-062 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : nzh (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:
Hokkien Chinese, alt names Hoklo, Minnan Chinese, Quanzhang Min Chinese
consider also ‘Taiwanese’ as an alt name

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
‘Hokkien’ (福建) is locally Hok-kian, ‘Minnan’ (閩南) is locally Bān-lâm. ‘Hoklo’ (福佬) Hok-ló is common as an ethnic term in Taiwan.

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
This is Minnan (Min Nan) proper. If the ISO name ‘Min Nan’ and code [nan] are reduced in scope to the primary variety, this would be it. Geographically, Minnan is the ‘golden triangle’ of the prefecture-cities Xiamen (Amoy), Quanzhou (Chinchew) and Zhangzhou (Changchew) in southern Fujian province, which along with Longyan in central Fujian are the principle dialects of Hokkien.

Mandarin: 泉漳 Quánzhāng, named for Quanzhou and Zhangzhou prefectures in Fujian. These are the two principal Hokkien dialects on Taiwan as well, and the name is explicit in scope.

‘Taiwanese’ without disambiguation generally refers to Taiwanese Hokkien rather than to Taiwanese Mandarin or Hakka, and so might be considered for an additional alt name.

d) Reason for preferred name:
Although ‘Quanzhang’ is used in the Atlas, ‘Hokkien’ is much more common in English and would be preferable (unless [nan] Min Nan is simply reduced in scope). ‘Hoklo’ is common in Taiwan. ‘Minnan’ should be kept as an alt as it is common in the English lit, though with varying scope. ‘Chinese’ added per other ISO names.
e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Han Chinese

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Taiwan; China, Fujian province

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   The Minnan ‘golden triangle’ of southern coastal Fujian (Zhangzhou, Xiamen and Quanzhou prefecture-cities) and eastern Longyan prefecture; western and coastal Taiwan; communities overseas

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is:
   □ Signed
   ☒ Spoken
   □ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Sino-Tibetan, Sinitic, Min

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:
   Chaoshan Min (Teochew–Swatow)
4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:

China Radio International broadcasts in both Hokkien (閩南语, i.e. 'Minnan') and Chaoshan (潮州话 Teochew). Distinct ISO codes for these languages would therefore be useful.

Cinema, television and literature in Taiwan.

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?:

Taught in schools in Taiwan (with textbooks written in Hokkien rather than in Mandarin) and, since 2010, in Xiamen (Amoy).

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

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):

(see change request)

Branner, David Prager (1999), "The Classification of Longyan", in Simmons (ed.) Issues in Chinese Dialect Description and Classification, e.g. p. 78.