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:

AssociatedChange request number: 2019-063 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: wco (completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completedform 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:
   Oujiang Chinese, alt. Wenzhou Chinese (Wenzhounese)

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

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   Mandarin: 瓯江話 Ōujianghua or 瓯語 Ōuyǔ, a.k.a. 東甌 Dōng'ōu, is the language as a whole. 溫州話 Wēnzhōuhuà is the prestige dialect of the city of Wenzhou, but is commonly used for the language as a whole.

d) Reason for preferred name:
   The primary name should be the unambiguous one, with loose use of the name of the prestige dialect for the language as an alt.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
   Han Chinese, approx. 5 million

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ouj

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
   [ ]
   [x] 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:
   China, Zhejiang 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:
   Wenzhou city and surrounding areas, plus 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
   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:
      Perhaps other ‘Wu’ varieties, but that classification is based on the shared retention of the
      slack-voice (‘muddy’) obstruents of Middle Chinese. It also has elements in common with
      Min.

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 Wenzhounese (温州话).
   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?:
   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
      I’ve seen claims that Wenzhounese was used as a radio code-language during WWII, as it
      was unintelligible to the Japanese despite their familiarity with Shanghainese (Taihu Wuu),
      but haven’t tracked down any print sources.
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)*

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: HYPERLINK "mailto:iso639-3@sil.org" 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: