Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2019-067

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: January 23, 2020
Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2019-067: to create the code element [tws] for Ashanti Twi.

The request to create the code element [tws] for Ashanti Twi is rejected. The Registrar notes that the consensus of the linguistics community is that Akan [aka] is a language of which Fante [fat] and Twi [twi] are the major dialects. All three of these codes are defined in Part 2 of the standard which is maintained by the Library of Congress. Akan [aka] is designated as a macrolanguage to reflect the fact that Fante [fat] and Twi [twi] fall completely within its scope of denotation. There is no precedent for nesting macrolanguages nor for issuing codes to dialects of dialects, so we are not able to implement a split of Twi [twi].

The Registrar also notes that both variants of Twi have already been issued variant subtags by the IANA Language Subtag Registry. It is therefore recommended that the applicant use the BCP 47 language identifier tw-ashanti for Ashanti Twi.