ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code
Change Request Number: 2020-001 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2019-9-2
Primary Person submitting request: Kirk Miller
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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. [x] 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:
Associated reference name:

6. Create a new language code element
   (a) Name of missing language: Girirra

State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:
Girirra has sometimes been listed as a dialect of [som] Somali (e.g. in Banti), though without any linguistic justification, and it is not mentioned in Ethnologue. Blench (2006) leaves it unclassified within Lowland East Cusitic (p. 4). Details are summarized in Mekonnen (2015), who notes that speakers report that Girirra, Somali and Oromo are all mutually unintelligible (p. 7).

Mekonnen does however say that Girirra is a separate language. On page 7 para 2 he says, native speakers of Girirra claim that the three languages (Girirra, Somali, and Oromo) are not mutually intelligible. The inverse is also true i.e. monolingual Somali or Oromo cannot understand Girirra. In other words, monolingual Girirra, Somali, and Oromo cannot understand each other. ... Although further investigation is required, the claim of the Girirra speakers, the observation of the researcher during the data collection, and the absence of the Girirra in the previous studies of Somali dialects, may lead us to conclude that Girirra is a language rather than a dialect of Somali.

(b)
In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

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):


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
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:


Linguist List. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)