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: 23 April 2020

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Associated Change request number: 2020-004 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier: suo (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:
      Bouni
   
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Bouni
   
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      In the literature, the language is commonly referred to by the village name, “Sumo”.
   
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      The speakers of the language use “Bouni” for the language.
   
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Figures from 2000 census found by the SIL-PNG Survey Dept.: Ethnic population: 553.
   
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: I could not find any unused identifier that makes sense.

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

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Papua New Guinea

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Sandaun Province. 141.948 -3.07 Decimal Degrees

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language, give the approximate date of the last known user’s death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: [ ] Signed [X] Spoken [ ] Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:

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:
   Uni (Miller 2017:5-8)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

   Bifo Rit na Rait long Tokples Bouni Sumo Student Book. 2011.

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:
People in this region most readily identify themselves by their village, and there is generally one language per village. Subsequently, village names are used as a proxy for language names. Someone from the village of Sumo might say “Sumo understands Ramo,” meaning that people from the village of Sumo understand the people from the village of Ramo. This is similar to saying, “Melbourne understands Detroit.”
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:
   For this section, please see “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code”.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (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
Email: 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:

