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: June 23, 2020

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
N/A

Associated Change request number : 2020-023 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ehs (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:
      Miyakubo Sign Language
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Ehime-Oshima Sign Language
      Miyakubo Shuwa
      Ehime Oshima Shuwa
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      'Miyakubo' is the name of the town where the community using this language is centered.
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      This language is used by both Deaf and hearing members of the community originating from around the port area of Miyakubo. There are 20 Deaf signers from the area, while the number of hearing signers is estimated to be around 50.
   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

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

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Japan

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Ehime-Oshima Island, located in the western part of Japan
   34°09'53.5"N 133°04'06.9"E (34.164848, 133.068589)

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
   N/A

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

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

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

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:
   Japanese Sign Language is influencing Miyakubo Sign Language

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Saving a Local Sign Language. (2019). Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oXuWdHLz6Q

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?:
   N/A
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

Miyakubo Sign Language is used by both Deaf and hearing individuals, anywhere Deaf people gather in the community. This includes but is not limited to use within the household, at schools and playgrounds where Deaf children from Miyakubo are present, on fishing boats and seafood processing facilities where Deaf individuals work, at the main market and harbour areas of Miyakubo as well as social gatherings in the area. In times before mobile phones were widely available, hearing people also commonly signed to each other between boats when it was too far to communicate by speech.

Because the Deaf community using this language is centred around three dominantly Deaf families who lived in the town for at least the past 3 generations, most users of the language have a strong sense of identity that is bound to being from Miyakubo. Even the younger signers who have moved away and are bilingual users of Miyakubo Sign Language and Japanese Sign Language avoid mixing the languages and are careful about influences from JSL because older signers in Miyakubo don’t understand it. In this way, many retain their roots to the town and the local signing community.
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:
   - see Request for Change form

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
   - see Request for Change form

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: