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: 2020-8-25

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Khongso Chin Literature and culture organization

Associated Change request number : 2020-037  (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : hko  (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:
      Khongso Chin
   
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Khongso Chin, Khongmi
   
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Khongso is a SVO Tibeto-Burman Language
   
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Myanmar is an extremely ethnically diverse nation with (135) distinct ethnic groups officially recognized by Myanmar Government. According to the Myanmar government, the Chin are comprises (53) different ethnic groups. Khongso Chin is one of the (53) different ethnic groups of Chin as grouped into eight major national ethnic races in Myanmar.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Khongso (Chin) is a Tibeto-Burman language in Southern Chin State, Myanmar, and is spoken northeast of Paletwa Township along the Paletchaung and Michaung rivers. The Khongso population is under 10,000. Khongso has five contrastive tones, no inflectional morphology, and very little derivational morphology.

   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/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Myanmar

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Paletwa Township, Chin State of Myanmar

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
   Burma Socialist Party (1968) says that the Khongso Chin and Anu Chin live together in the Paletwa area.

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: □ Signed    × Spoken    □ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Khongso is a Sino–Tibetan language spoken between Kaladan, Paletchaung and Michaung rivers in Paletwa Township, Chin state, Myanmar (Burma).

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:
   Anu Chin, Khongso Chin, Kasang and Mru. Of these, Anu and Khongso are mutually intelligible and Kasang is not linguistically related to Anu or Khongso. The Mru language of Bangladesh and the Khongso of Myanmar appear to be similar in many ways.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

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?:
   Yes, Khongso Kindergarten, Khongso Textbook Grade 1-3
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Khongso Chin is a Sino–Tibetan language spoken between Kaladan, Paletchaung and Michaung rivers in Paletwa Township. Chin state, Myanmar (Burma). Paletwa Township is a township of Matupi District in the Chin State of Myanmar. It consists of Paletwa and Sami towns and Paletwa is the administrative center for the township. Chin state is a state in western Myanmar. The Chin are made up of many different ethnic groups and Chin reside in north and northwest in Myanmar.
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:
Aspects of Khongso Chin by U Thing Yar & U Ther Lun

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
Khongso Chin literature and Culture Organization Yangon, Myanmar

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
https://www.facebook.com/khngtv/videos/319348472585155/

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: