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: 2020-10-15

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
SIL Nepal; Survey coordinator: Janel Swenson la-coord_nepal at sil dot org

Associated Change request number : 2021-006 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : phj (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:
      Pahari
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Pihi, Pahara
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Pahri, Pihi bhya
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      Most commonly known by this name both inside and outside the Pahari community
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      3,500 mothertongue Pahari people; ethnic Pahari population is 13,600
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: phi

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:
   Nepal

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Spoken throughout middle hills and central southern region (Terai) of Nepal across the following districts: Lalitpur, Sindhupalchok, Makwanpur, Ramechhap, Rautahat, Sindhuli, Kavre, Kanchanpur, Kathmandu, and Sunsari. About 60 percent of the Pahari-speaking population is found in Lalitpur district. Approximate language center in Lalitpur: 85°19'06.2"E 27°33'57.6"N (Sikharpa village, Godavari NP, Lalitpur district).

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:
      Tibeto-Burman (Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Western Tibeto-Burman, Himalayan, Central Himalayan)

   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:
      Newar

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      None

   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?:
      A development organization ‘Nepal Pahari Bikash Sangh’ (Nepal Pahari Development Association) has been formed, which is registered under the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN). Not used in any schools.

   c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
      In the majority of areas where Pahari was historically spoken, language shift has
advanced to the point where the grandparent generation learned Pahari but can no longer remember it. In villages where Pahari is still spoken, people ages 25 and above speak Pahari as a mother tongue. Some teenagers also speak Pahari as a mother tongue. Children in these villages no longer learn Pahari as a first language and instead use Nepali as their mother tongue. In the villages where Pahari is still spoken, Pahari is the most commonly spoken language with parents and spouses in the home and with friends. If a Pahari speaker meets another Pahari person they do not know, they speak Nepali. In areas where Pahari is no longer spoken, ‘Pahari’ is continued to be used as a surname. In Lalitpur, some Pahari people call themselves ‘Nagarkot’ rather than Pahari; this term is not used in any district outside of Lalitpur.
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:
The information in this form comes as the result of a survey conducted in Pahari between 2018 and 2020. Fieldwork was conducted in three Pahari settlements in Lalitpur district and one site in Rautahat, Makwanpur, Kavre, and Sindhupalchok districts.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
Most of this knowledge comes as a result of fieldwork conducted in Pahari areas during the Pahari survey. Data was collected using a variety of questionnaires conducted with individual Pahari speakers, as well as community discussions. A background interview was also conducted with a linguist in Kathmandu named Dr. Omkareshwor Shrestha, who had completed a grammar in a Pahari variety.

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
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:

