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: 2021-8-26

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

Associated Change request number : 2021-029 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : ajs (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:
      Algerian Jewish Sign Language
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      AJSL, Ghardaia Sign Language
   d) Reason for preferred name:
      This is the name that is mostly used in publications about the language.
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Jewish immigrants from Algeria to Israel and France. Unknown population (Lanesman & Meir 2012:363) but likely very small.
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ajs

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
      x 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:
Israel, probably also in France (although little is known about it there). No longer used in Algeria; the last Jews left Algeria in 1962.

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

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 ☐ Spoken ☐ Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Isolate. Sign language > shared sign language.

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:
No language is known to be linguistically close, as it arose in an isolated community. AJSL signers in Israel are mostly bilingual in Israeli Sign Language (Lanesman & Meir 2012:363).

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

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?:
No official recognition or use in schools.

c) Comment on factors of ethno-linguistic identity and informal domains of use:
In Israel, now mostly used only among nuclear families that have deaf members. Deaf people whose families immigrated from Algeria generally have switched to using Israeli Sign Language among themselves and with other Deaf people in Israel. (Lanesman & Meir 2012:363). In 2012, most users were 50 years or older, so would now be 60 years or older.
SOURCE 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:

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…"

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: