

# ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

## Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 30 August 2021

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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 and will be posted on the ISO 639-3 website.

### Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the *ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. ☒ Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. ☐ Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. ☐ Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. ☐ Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. ☐ Split a language code element into two or more new code elements (include here a request for a new code element for a divergent dialect of a major language)
6. ☐ Create a code element for a previously unidentified language.

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: psc

Associated reference name: Persian Sign Language

## 1. Modify an existing language code element

- (a) What are you proposing to change:
- ☐ Language reference name; generally this is changed only if it is erroneous; if usage is shifting to a new preferred form, the new form may be added (next box)
  - ☐ Language additional names
  - ☐ Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
  - ☐ Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)
- (b) What new value(s) do you propose: **Iranian Sign Language**
- (c) Rationale for change (what evidence do you have that the earlier name was erroneous or offensive, or that the new name should also be included): **On the SIL web site, the name of this language is "Persian Sign Language", While the Iranian Sign Language has nothing to do with spoken Persian and is completely independent of it. Sign language names are almost categorized based on where they are used. Therefore, the sign language used in Iran should be named "Iranian Sign Language", just as sign language used in Afghanistan is called Afghan Sign Language and sign language used in America is called American Sign Language.**

## 2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group

- (a) For an existing Macrolanguage, what change to its individual language membership do you propose:

(b) Rationale for change:

For a new Macrolanguage proposal, please also complete the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”), which must also be submitted to fully document the intended meaning for the new macrolanguage.

## 3. Retire a language code element from use

- (a) Reason for change:
- ☐ There is no evidence that the language exists.
  - ☐ This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.
- (b) If equivalent with another code element, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) is it equivalent: \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) Rationale for change:

#### **4. Expand the denotation of a code element through merging of one or more code elements**

- (a) List the languages (identifier and name) to be merged into this code element and retired from use:
- (b) Rationale for change

#### **5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements**

- (a) List the languages into which this code element should be split, or the major language and the divergent variety (or varieties) for which a new code element is being requested:

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are followed:

- Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional level.
  - Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.
  - Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages
- (b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages, or for requesting a separate identifier for the divergent variety:
  - (c) Does the existing language code element represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? Please comment.

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequestForm.doc” or “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar, provided that sufficient information on the rationale is given in (b) above.

In the case of a minority language that has been considered in some contexts to be a dialect of a major language, yet is divergent enough to be unintelligible to speakers of the standard variety of the major language, it may be more beneficial for the users of the ISO 639-3 and 639-2 code sets to create a new code element for the divergent language variety without splitting the existing code element of the major language. The ISO 639-3 Registration Authority may make this determination when considering a request involving a major language and a highly distinct “dialect.” If such a course is followed, the rationale for the decision will be published in a comment by the Registration Authority on approval of the requested addition for the divergent variety.

## 6. Create a new language code element

- (a) Name of missing language: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3\_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

## Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

- (a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
  
  
  
  
  
- (b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
  
  
  
  
  
- (c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):

Siyavoshi, Sara. 2019. The expression of modality in Iranian Sign Language (ZEI). (Doctoral dissertation, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico; x+123pp.); Siyavoshi, Sara. 2019. Hands and faces: The expression of modality in ZEI, Iranian Sign Language. *Cognitive Linguistics* 30. 655-687; Tabiei, M. 2014. Tense and Aspect in Iranian Sign Language. (MA thesis, Mashad University); Kabiri, K. 2013. Tense in Iranian Sign Language. (MA thesis, Shiraz University);

Wilkinson, Erin Laine. 2009. Typology of signed languages: Differentiation through kinship terminology. (Doctoral dissertation, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico; 509pp.)