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

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Associated Change request number : 2021-045 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : hbl (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:
   Bân-lâm

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Bân-lâm (Bân-lâm-ōe)

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:

d) Reason for preferred name:
   “Bân-lâm-” is the name currently used in southern Fujian, and corresponds to Mandarin “Mînnân-”, English “Minnan”, and academic “Southern Min”. “Hok-kiàn-” is the name used in most of the diaspora, including in China outside of Fujian. Diaspora Hokkien speakers
may not know the name “Bân-lâm-,” but generally have no objection to it. Southern Fujian
speakers may not know the name “Hok-kian-” and tend to consider it defective if they do.
For additional information, please refer to the paper accompanying this submission
(Appendices A-6, A-7, A-8).

Attachment: https://github.com/KIRINPUTRA/reclassifying-ISO-639-3-nan

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete
individual language currently in use):
Approximately 20 million native speakers, generally considered by themselves and by
others to be Hokkien-speaking Chinese. Hokkien speakers from the Philippines often call
themselves the “Lannang,” a word they also often use to refer to Hokkien. For additional
information on this and all following items, please refer to the paper accompanying this
submission (§2.6, §2.7, §2.8).

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: hbl
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:
China (incl. Hong Kong), Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and in
smaller diaspora communities elsewhere.

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
In China: spoken in the southern, coastal quadrant of the province of Fujian and in
southeastern Zhejiang. In the Republic of China: the island of Quemoy. In the Philippines:
port cities, especially Manila and Cebu. In Indonesia: Medan and Riau. In Malaysia:
Kuching, Muar, Klang, and Penang, from Taiping to the Thai border.

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:
   Ethnologue: Sino-Tibetan

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:
   Haklau and Taiwanese.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Vernacular literature dates back to the 1500s in a Sino-script parallel to the Vietnamese Hán Nôm system. Romanized script evolved in the mid 19th century, which started as a missionary script that spread beyond the Church (e.g. Hokkien [zh-min-nan] Wikipedia). There are multiple translations of the Bible dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Hokkien was one of 55 languages used to record greetings for extraterrestrial intelligence in the 1977 Voyager mission. At present, Hokkien mass media is found in Fujian, and in Malaysia and Singapore.

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?:
   Technically, Quemoy Hokkien is included (implicitly; it is not explicitly named) under the Republic of China Development of National Languages Act (2019). Elementary school pupils on Quemoy may opt for one hour of Hokkien per week as an elective subject. Weekly Hokkien classes are likewise available for elementary school students in Amoy. Hokkien was traditionally used as the de facto language of instruction in Hokkien-speaking communities until the 1980s (in China and Malaysia) or around 2000 (in the Philippines).

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   In China, Singapore, and the Republic of China, Hokkien is politically subordinate to Mandarin. Shift to Mandarin is widespread. Individuals born after 2000 in Amoy are rarely able to speak Hokkien; children do not learn Hokkien in the urban districts of Chiangchew (Zhangzhou) and Chaoan (Quanzhou). In Singapore and southern Malaysia, heritage speakers under 50 have shifted to Mandarin and English. Shift has been limited, and use is vigorous, in northern Malaysia and around Medan (Indonesia). Please refer to the paper accompanying this submission (§2.6).

* Speakers of this language share in the Chinese macro-ethnolinguistic identity.
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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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
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: