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: 2021-8-31

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Associated Change request number : 2021-045 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : hnm (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:
        Hái-nâm

    b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
        Hái-nâm (Hái-nâm-oe)

    c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
        Hainanese, Hainamese, Hailamese; 海南話, 瓊語; 海南话, 琼语

    d) Reason for preferred name:
        The language is called “Hái-nâm-” in Hainanese. “Hainanese” (via Mandarin) is the common form of the name in English, vs. “Hainamese” or “Hailamese” (via Hainanese). For additional information, please refer to the paper accompanying this submission (Appendix A-2).

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):
Hainanese speakers are estimated at around 6.68 million, including 6.06 million in China. For additional information on this and all following items, please refer to the paper accompanying this submission (§2.2).

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: hnm

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:
   Mainly China, with smaller diaspora communities in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

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: on Hainan island.

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:
Luichew.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
There was a romanized missionary script used in the 19th century that seems to have fallen out of use at some point in the 20th century. There is news on TV on Hainan, and on the radio in Singapore (FM 95.8) and Malaysia. There is local entertainment on Hainan. Namewee, an internationally known, native Hainanese-speaking singer from Muar, Malaysia, has recorded in Hainanese.

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?:
It is not official anywhere, but was probably used as a de facto language of instruction on Hainan until the 2000s.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Politically subordinate to Mandarin in China. Mandarin has replaced Hainanese as the lingua franca of Hainan. Shift to Mandarin has begun, especially in the capital, where individuals under 15 generally have not learned Hainanese. Please refer to the paper accompanying this submission (§2.2).

* 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:
