Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2021-039

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: January 20, 2022
Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2021-039: to create the code element \[ \text{dej} \] for Delvari.

The current request to create the code element \[ \text{dej} \] for Delvari is rejected. The RA notes that Delvari is one of a cluster of closely-related language varieties. Delvar is located in Tangestan County within the Bushehr Province of Iran. Glottolog uses the name Tangestani for the variety in question (https://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tang1382), and classifies it as a dialect within a Bushehri cluster of dialects which is within the Southern Persian dialect of the Western Farsi \[ \text{pes} \] language—which is given the reference name Iranian Persian in the ISO 639-3 standard. One problem with the request is that it limits the extent of the proposed new language to just the varieties spoken in Tangestan. While the Delvari/Tangestani dialect might be distinct enough not to be part of the Iranian Persian language, the varieties in Tangestan are not likely to encompass the entirety of the newly identified language. Is it the whole Bushehri cluster that comprises the distinct language? Is it the whole Southern Persian dialect as identified by Glottolog? Or just parts of it? A successful request to create a new language code element would need to describe the extent of the language (beyond just Tangestan) and propose a suitable name for the whole.

A second issue with the request is that the standard already recognizes a nearby language as being distinct from Iranian Persian—namely, Southwestern Fars \[ \text{fay} \]—and this language appears to be located between Tangestan and the Iranian Persian heartland. One could therefore hypothesize that the varieties in question might be dialects of \[ \text{fay} \], but the Change Request makes no mention of that language. A successful request to create a new language code element would need to demonstrate the proposed language to be sufficiently distinct not just from Iranian Persian \[ \text{pes} \], but also from Southwestern Fars \[ \text{fay} \]. The main criterion named in the standard for identifying two varieties as belonging to distinct languages is the absence of intelligibility between them.