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: 08-18-2022

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Associated Change request number : 2022-022 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : szu (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:
   Bauchi, Asamburu

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Bauchi

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

d) Reason for preferred name:
   Asamburu is the name of one Bauchi variety (currently considered a dialect). Since speakers of all Bauchi varieties identify as Bauchi, we would like to keep Bauchi as the headname, and to list it as “Bauchi, Asamburu” and to assign it a separate ISO code.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):

   The population is very difficult to estimate because of civil unrest in the area. Many people have had to evacuate the area; our survey team was not able to visit the Bauchi language area. However, based on calculations from satellite images, the estimated range for people in the Asamburu communities is 2,500 to 3,500. Because of increasing influence of the Hausa language, Bauchi, Asamburu vitality is estimated to be EGIDS level 6b. Since it is losing speakers, we are unable to estimate how many of the total population are still using the language. For a more detailed explanation, please see:

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available:

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/iso639-3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Nigeria

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

   Our interviewees reported that Asamburu is spoken in seven villages: Sabon Gida, Gunogu, Inanawa Malaki, Inanawa Gabina, Maida, Ananogwa, and Inanawa Kili. These are located in Niger State, Nigeria.

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:
   Niger-Congo, Benue-Congo, Western Kainji, Shiroro

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:
4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   none

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

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

The language listed as Bauchi [bsf] in the Ethnologue is said to have six dialects: Guda, Wayam, Supana, Rubu, Bandeke, Asamburu. While speakers of all the dialects identify themselves and their language as Bauchi, the intelligibility between the varieties is low. According to our lexicostatistical analysis, the Asamburu variety is below the 70% similarity threshold with all other varieties, meaning it is very unlikely that intelligibility is enough for them to share literature or language development work. For this reason we support the splitting of the Bauchi into five varieties, each with its own ISO code, so that language development efforts would be more successful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wayam</th>
<th>H=20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63–77%</td>
<td>Guda</td>
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<tr>
<td>n=166</td>
<td>n=159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29–50%</td>
<td>25–56%</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>n=165</td>
<td>n=147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

