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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   SIL Nigeria: 19 Yakubu Gowan Way, Jos Nigeria

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Associated Change request number : 2022-028 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : lkp (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: Lekpeti

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

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

   d) Reason for preferred name: Ekpeti is a town name; the people reported that the name they prefer for their language is Lekpety, while their people are called Akpeti.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use): Akpeti (people name); 3,000 speakers of Lekpeti

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lkp:

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

   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](http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp))

For individual languages, also complete:

- Countries where used:
  - Nigeria

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

Ekpeti town in the Inyima Ward, Yakurr Local Government Area (LGA), Cross River State, Nigeria.

Latitude 5.938391  Longitude 8.191027

- 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:

Lekpeti (previously unidentified as a language) most likely fits the same classification as Legbo [agb], Lenyima [ldg], and Leyigha [ayi]. According to the Ethnologue (Eberhard et al.), the classification is as follows:

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Cross River, Delta Cross, Upper Cross, Central, East-West, Mbembe-Legbo, Legbo

The linguistic relationship of the languages mentioned above, as well as an overview of the phonetic inventories, is described in:

*Decker, Ken, Aregbesola, A, and Arakanmi, T.* A Sociolinguistic Profile of Legboic Languages of Cross River State, Nigeria. (available upon request).
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:
   Lenyima [ldg]

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   Our Akpeti interviewees reported that while there is no standardized orthography, people do their best to write in Lekpeti.

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?:
   Lekpeti is not formally recognized by the government. However, a teacher reported that Lekpeti is used alongside English in the classroom and on the playground.

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

Those we interviewed in the town of Ekpeti state that their people group name is Akpeti, and their language is Lekpeti. The Akpeti people hold their own cultural festivals. They use their language in most domains, including the home and other informal domains. Language use is strong—estimated to be EGIDS 6a.
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:
   Sociolinguistic survey conducted in September 2021

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: