

# 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: 2021-12-7

Name of Primary Requester: Rev. Justine Tersoo Gaku

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

HRH Eze Ishmael Okechukwu Mweke - Paramount ruler of the Etche, Chairman of Echie Language Study Group – ionweke at gmail at com,

Professor Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele - Former Vice-Chancellor at Igantius Ajuru University of Education, Rivers State -

Rt. Revd. Okechukwu Precious Mwala J.P. - Diocesan Bishop of Etche Diocese, Anglican Communion - preciousmodel71 at yahoo at com -

Chief Livinus Njoku - Clan chief, Co-ordinator Echie Language Group - livinusnjoku63 at gmail dot com

Associated Change request number : 2022-033 (completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : ech (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:

Echie

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

Echie

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

d. Reason for preferred name:

Autonym

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

Etche people - population estimates range from 250,000 to 3 million. Applying a conservative growth factor of 2% to the census figures from 2006 for the two LGAs where only the Etche live gives a figure of approx 500,000.

f. Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ech

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:  
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:  
Rivers State, Etche and Omumma LGAs
- 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  
n/a

## 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, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Igboid, Igbo

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:  
Igbo

## 4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a. What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:  
Radio Programmes on Raypower 106.5 FM

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?:  
The Echie Orthography was published by the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) which constitutes an official recognition.

c. Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:  
Echie language parables, idioms and culture are peculiar to the people of Etche. No other ethnic language group is similar to Echie.  
Echie is spoken at home, school, market, church, association meetings, cultural activities.

## 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:  
I observed people speaking their own language all the time among themselves. They did not engage in codeswitching to English or Pidgin.

b. Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:  
See Request for Change form.

Also:

Echie language is spoken by two local government areas, namely Etche and Omuma LGAs in Rivers State.

c. Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):  
See Request for Change Form.

### **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  
ISO 639-3/RA web site: <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp>  
Email: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto: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:**

Gordon, Raymond G., Jr. (ed.), 2005. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth edition. Dallas, Tex.: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> .

LinguistList. Ancient and Extinct Languages.

<http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

LinguistList. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>