

Comments received for
ISO 639-3 Change Request
2022-033

Outcome: Rejected
Effective date: January 20, 2023



SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

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Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2022-033: to create the code element [ech] for Echie.

The request to create a code element with identifier [ech] for Echie is rejected. The current scholarly consensus seems to identify Echie as one of a number of outlying dialects of Igbo, but the Change Request fails to provide adequate evidence for establishing that the linguistic distance and lack of intelligibility between Echie and Igbo are great enough to be considered distinct languages. A successful request would need to provide this kind of evidence. Another issue is that if Echie is indeed different enough to be considered a distinct language, then there may be other varieties that are currently considered outlying dialects of Igbo which are closer to the newly recognized language and should be considered as dialects of it rather than Igbo. A future request should also include comparison with other outlying Igbo varieties to identify others that would be part of the same language.