ISO 639 Change Request

Request ID 2023-001

Objective Merge [nte] Nathembo into [eko] Koti as dialect

Affected code elements The proposed change would affect the following code elements:
  • [eko] Koti — Expand by merging dialects
  • [nte] Nathembo — Deprecate as a dialect
    Merge into Koti [eko]

Affected code sets 639-3 only

World region Africa, Southern

Language family Niger-Congo

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Retire/Merge [nte] Nathembo into [eko] Koti as Dialect

Submitter:
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Rationale:
With a cognate percentage of 92%, Enatthembo should be treated as a dialect of Koti [eko]. The Enatthembo survey report (Lyndon & Lyndon 2007) assesses whether a language development project is needed among the Anatthembo people. The Anatthembo live primarily in only three villages on the northern coastal area of Mozambique. Based on the work of other researchers, interviews with speakers of the language, and wordlists, it was concluded that no separate literature development is needed. A wordlist is included. Enatthembo shows great similarity to the Ekoti language.

The Lyndons compared a list of 114 basic vocabulary items and found Ekoti and Enatthembo and calculated that 92% were cognate. They also played recorded texts of each variety to speakers of the other and found that they had no difficulty in understanding each other.

Citations: