ISO 639 Change Request

Request ID 2023-006

Objective Create new code [ynb] Yamben

Affected code elements The proposed change would affect the following code elements:
  • [ynb] Yamben — Create new language
    Reference name = Yamben, Scope = Individual, Type = Living

Affected code sets 639-3 only

World region Pacific

Language family Trans-New Guinea

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Other submitters

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Create new code [ynb] Yamben

Submitter:

Ian Tupper, SIL International

Rationale:

Although Yamben possesses many features of phonology, morphology and syntax characteristics of Papuan languages and TNG languages in particular, it is not related to any language more than any other.

Andrew Pick visited Yamben multiple times during his linguistic fieldwork in 2016-2018. Pick (2019) suggests that it was probably overlooked in previous language surveys due to the similarity of its name to that of the Yaben language in the same area. He provides evidence from a comparison of basic vocabulary with Yaben [ybm] and three other nearby languages that fewer than half of the items are cognate with Yamben. Glottolog has already adopted Yamben as a new language based on Pick’s evidence. It is named in Daniels (in press) as being a language of the Madang province.

References:
