

ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2006-106 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2007-3-14

Primary Person submitting request: Andrzej Roczniok

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Gregory Kozubek <gregvelgreegy@yahoo.co.uk>

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Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):

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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.

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the *ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. Retire a language code element from use through a merge
4. Split a language code element into two or more new code elements
5. Create a code element for a previously unidentified language

For changes of type 1, 2 or 3 (proposing a change to an existing code), please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: None

Associated reference name: None

1. Modify an existing language code element

(a) What are you proposing to change:

- Language reference name

- Language additional names
- Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
- Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)

(b) What new value(s) do you propose:

(c) Rationale for change:

2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group

(a) For an existing Macrolanguage, what change to its individual language membership do you propose:

(b) Rationale for change:

For a new Macrolanguage proposal, please also complete the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted to fully document the scope for the new macrolanguage.

3. Retire a language code element from use

(a) Reason for change:

- There is no evidence that the language exists.
- This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.
- This is a variety that is fully intelligible with another ISO 639-3 language and should be merged with it.

(b) If one of the latter two reasons, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) should it be merged :

(c) Rationale for change:

4. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

(a) List the languages into which this code element should be split:

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are followed:

- Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional level.
 - Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.
 - Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages
- (b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages:
- (c) Does the language code element to be split represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? If so, please comment.

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar.

5. Create a new language code element

- (a) Name of missing language: Silesian (the name Upper Silesian is NOT preferred by Silesian-speakers)
- (b) State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:
Silesian language is the spoken one and living language that deserve and is due to possess the own code element.

Silesian is the ethnolect of the Silesians. In the 2002 Polish census 173,200 Silesians declared that they belong to the Silesian nation, and 60,000 of them declared that at home and with family speak in the Silesian language, which is NOT a dialect of Polish. Interestingly, Silesian is also language of everyday communication among the majority of Poland's German minority, which is concentrated in the Region of Opole (Województwo Opolskie). (Due to the policy of Polonization, almost all members of the German minority living in the region born after 1945 never acquired German.) The majority of the Silesians live in the Region of Silesia (Województwo Śląskie), and the homogenous communities of Silesian-speakers are locate in the old quarters of the cities in the Upper Silesian industrial basin (GOP, Górnośląski Okręg Przemysłowy), clustered around Katowice. Such homogenous communities of Silesian-speakers also exist in villages, which extend in the non-industrial area, from the town of Cieszyn to the city of Opole.

First, Lower Silesian (Niederschlesisch) is a Germanic language or a dialect of the German language, also sometimes used for literary pursuits as in the works of G. Hauptman. But this Lower Silesian has nothing in common (linguistically and ethnically speaking) with our Silesian language, which is Slavic. Second, it is faulty to classify the Silesian language as an Upper Silesian dialect of Polish, because from the point of view of areal dialectology, Silesian construed as a dialect is as much a dialect of Polish as of Czech.

Third, we believe that our Silesian language (based on Upper Silesia's Slavic dialect and Slavic-Germanic creole, nowadays, spoken in Poland, the Czech Republic, and among the [Upper] Silesian diaspora in Germany) deserves a separate identifier code, like aforementioned Lower Silesian, because literature has been created in Silesian. Fourth, the speakers of Germanic Lower Silesian identify themselves as Germans, while the speakers of our Silesian language identify themselves as the Silesian nation separate from the Poles, the Czechs, or the Germans.

[RA COMMENT: This should not be treated as a split from Polish, because while there has been confusion regarding the incorrect association of "Upper Silesian" with Polish from the Ethnologue, there does not appear to be an established pattern of use of the code element for Polish as also encompassing Upper Silesian. Requesters for a proper code element for Silesian have been pursuing this since ISO 639-3 was in draft phase.]

In order to complete the change request, the form "Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3" (file name "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc" or "ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf") must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

- (a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
Yes, it is application placed by the association ZLNŚ (Union of the People of the Silesian Nationality), which represents people that use the Silesian language.

- (b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
No.

- (c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):
 - 1) Tomasz Kamusella. 2006. Silesia and Central European Nationalisms: The Emergence of National and Ethnic Groups in Prussian Silesia and Austrian Silesia, 1848-1918. West Lafayette IN: Purdue University Press.

 - 2) Tomasz Kamusella. 2003. The Szlonzoks and Their Language: Between Germany, Poland and Szlonzokian Nationalism. 2003. Florence, European University Institute: Working Papers Series of the Department of History and Civilization (HEC 2003/1). [<http://cadmus.iue.it/dspace/handle/1814/1351>]

The change proposal process

A request to change the code set goes through a five step process:

1. A user of ISO 639-3 proposes a change and submits it to the ISO 639-3 Registration Authority (ISO 639-3/RA) using this form.
2. The ISO 639-3 registrar processes the change request to verify that the request is compatible with the criteria set forth in the standard and to ensure that the submitter has supplied all necessary information. This may involve rounds of interaction with the submitter.
3. When the change request proposal is complete in its documentation (including all associated New Code Requests), the change request is promoted to “Proposed Change” status and the ISO 639-3 registrar posts the request on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA. Also at this time, an announcement is sent to anyone requesting notification of new proposals matching their specified criteria (region and/or language family of interest). Periodically, a message may be sent to the general LINGUIST discussion list on Linguist List (<http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html>), and other appropriate discussion lists, inviting individuals to review and comment on pending proposals. Anyone may request from the ISO 639-3 registrar to receive notification regarding proposals involving languages in a specific region of the world or specific language family.
4. Individuals may send comments to the ISO 639-3 registrar for compilation. The consensus of early reviews may result in promotion to “Candidate Status” (with or without amendment), or withdrawal of the change request, if the conclusion is that the request is not in keeping with the stated criteria of the ISO 639-3 standard.
5. Three months prior to the end of the annual cycle of review and update (ordinarily October 1st), a new notice is posted on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA, and an announcement listing the Candidate Status Change Requests is posted to the LINGUIST discussion list and other discussion lists, as requested by their owners. All change requests are then open to further review and comment by any interested party for a period of three months. A Change Request received after the start of Candidacy phase must wait until the next annual cycle for consideration. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that a minimum of three months is allotted for the review of every proposal.
6. At the end of the formal review period, a given Change Request may be: 1) adopted as a whole, 2) adopted in part (specific changes implicit in the whole Change Request may be adopted separately), 3) amended and resubmitted for the next review cycle, or 4) withdrawn from consideration. All change requests remain permanently archived at the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA.

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/>
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

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/>.

Linguist List. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

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