

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: 2007-9-15

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

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Associated Change request number : 2007-092

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : bzi

(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:
Bisu
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Mbisu
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Mbisu, Misu, Mibisu, Mbi, Laopin, Lawa, Lua, Hpyen, Hpin. Bisu in Menghai County are called 'Laopin' or 'Pin' by Chinese locals.
- d) Reason for preferred name:
Most common transcription of autonym
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Bisu: 240 in China, 1,000 in Thailand
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: bsu

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:
China, Thailand

- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Southwestern Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Menghai County: in Menghai County, Mengzhe District, Laopinzhai Village Also spoken in Thailand and Myanmar.

- 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

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

- a) This language is: Signed Spoken Attested only in writings

- b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Burmic, Ngwi (Loloish), Southern

- 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:
Laomian

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Thai-based orthography used in Thailand.

- 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?:

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

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:
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
Dr. David Bradley
- c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
BRADLEY, DAVID. 2002. The subgrouping of Tibeto-Burman. Medieval Tibeto-Burman languages. PIATS 2000: Tibetan Studies: Proceedings of the Ninth Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies, ed. by Christopher Beckwith and Henk Blezer, 73-112. Leiden: Brill.
- _____. 2007. East and South East Asia. Atlas of the World's Languages, 2nd edition., ed. by R. E. Asher and Christopher Moseley. London: Routledge.
- LI YONGSUI. 1991. Mibisuyu Chutan [An initial investigation of the Mbisu language]. Minzu Yuwen, 1991.2.
- XU SHIXUAN. 2001. The Bisu language. Cecilia Brassett, trans. Munich: Lincom Europa.
- _____. 2005. Survey of the current situation of Laomian and Laopin in China. International Journal of the Sociology of Language, 173:99-115.

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
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>