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: 2012-1-14

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Associated Change request number : 2011-161   (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : dns   (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:
   Dananshan Hmong

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
   Hmong, Hmong Drout Raol, Hmong Hout Lab

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   Dananshan Miao, Hmong Dou, Downhill Hmong, Hong Xian Miao, Red Thread Miao, Red Top Miao, Yaque Miao, Liuzhai Miao, Luzhai Miao, Six Villages Miao, Hmong Leng, Hmong Si, Bai Miao, Flowery Hmong, Hua Miao, Northern Hua Miao

d) Reason for preferred name:
   Need to distinguish this language variety from other similar but not mutually intelligible varieties. The name Flowery Hmong or Hua Miao refers to multiple related but not mutually intelligible varieties.   This group recognizes the village of Dananshan as the official standard for the language.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
   Hmong; population unknown; estimated population for Dananshan Hmong & Northern Hmong combined is 500,000 according to Michael Johnson. 1998. "Farwestern Hmongic." Unpublished manuscript.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: dns

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/iso639-3/types.asp)

b) Countries where used:
P. R. China

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
western Guizhou Province, northeast Yunnan Province, southeast Sichuan Province

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:
Hmong-Mien, Hmongic, Chuanqiandian

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
1. Black Hmong
2. Northern Hmong

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
small amount of published literature - primers, collections of folktales, bilingual textbooks, community development materials, etc.

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?:
Yes. This is the "standard" form of Miao recognized by the Chinese government. The official Chuanqiandian Miao orthography is based on this variety and is taught in a few schools.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Estimate of ethnolinguistic vitality: 6a "Vigorous" for Hmong within China where very few speakers are using the written form of the language despite short-term literacy classes and language-and-culture electives offered by the language commission or schools. However the language is used orally by all generations and the situation is sustainable.

Ethnolinguistic identity: Hmong of Dananshan identify themselves as part of the "Miao" nationality of China and part of the worldwide "Hmong" language group. However, they do acknowledge variety among the kinds of Miao/Hmong spoken languages, recognizing that there are some Hmong groups whom they understand well and others whom they cannot understand at all.

5. 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:
SIL researchers have conducted field language research (survey work) including intelligibility testing among this and related language varieties.

Speakers' Self-Evaluation
Regarding Dananshan Hmong speakers' own recognition of their varying comprehension levels of other Hmong/Miao languages, see Robert McLaughlin, 29 October 2008 Dananshan and Thailand Hmong Nzhuab RTT Data and Test Scores, "Sociolinguistic Questionnaire Raw Scores." For example, Dananshan respondents described the Hmong language spoken by the Thailand Hmong Nzhuab as "very different," "somewhat different" and "not the same" as the Hmong they themselves speak, and respondent #5 added, "Differences are too numerous. Nouns are basically the same, but I can't understand the rest."

Inherent Intelligibility
Regarding inherent intelligibility between Dananshan Hmong and other types of Hmong:
*Thailand Hmong Nzhuab "Childhood Story" raw scores as tested on Dananshan Hmong respondents: 25%, 38%, 48%, 27%, 48%, 35% and "Hunting a Bear Story" raw scores: 21%, 35%, 18%, 0%, 24%, 14% (Robert McLaughlin, 29 October 2008 Dananshan and Thailand Hmong Nzhuab RTT Data and Test Scores, "Thailand RTT Raw Data.")

Wenshan and Honghe RTT stories have not yet been tested on Dananshan respondents. See Andy Castro, 4 September 2009, Wenshan Recorded Text Test Results, "Absolute Scores" for the following data showing intelligibility on the part of Wenshan and Honghe Hmong respondents of Dananshan RTT stories (comprehension in the reverse direction can be predicted to be comparable):
*Dananshan text average scores as tested on Southern Hmong respondents in 3 locations: Hmong Shib 81%, 61%, Hmong Nzhuab 71%
*Dananshan text average RTT scores as tested on Black Hmong respondents in 3 locations: Hmong Buak 81%, 78%, 77%
*Dananshan text average RTT scores as tested on Northern Hmong respondents in 3 locations: Hmong Soud 91%, 85%, 72%
*Dananshan text average RTT scores as tested on White Hmong respondents in 3 locations: Hmong Dleub 80%, 66%, 33%

Lexical Similarity
Lexical similarity between Dananshan Hmong and other Hmong varieties has not been calculated. Compare wordlists in "2008-2009 Yunnan and Guizhou Hmong Survey Wordlist Samples" abridged from 20 January 2010 Andy Castro and Royce Flaming, Wordlists with GT analysis, "Master list."

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
Johnson, Michael. 1998. "Farwestern Hmongic." Unpublished manuscript

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