

# 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: 2012-1-16

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Associated Change request number : 2011-161

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : hws

(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:  
Western Sichuan Hmong

b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:  
Hmong

c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:  
Chuan Miao, Sichuan Miao, River Miao, Flowery Hmong, Hua Miao

d) Reason for preferred name:  
The name "Western Sichuan Hmong" uses the autonym "Hmong" but distinguishes the language group from other Hmong languages which are probably not mutually intelligible. The names "Flowery Hmong" and "Hua Miao" refer to any of multiple related but not identical varieties across Guizhou, Yunnan and Sichuan and are not sufficiently specific to use as a name for this group. "Chuan Miao" is sometimes used loosely to refer to all speakers of Hmong living in Sichuan but is often used more narrowly to refer only to Hmong groups in the portion of Sichuan that borders on Yunnan and Guizhou and who most likely speak Dananshan Hmong. "River Miao" is a translation of "Chuan Miao," and likewise refers ambiguously to 1) all speakers of Hmongic languages in Sichuan, or to 2) Dananshan Hmong speakers living in Sichuan. "Sichuan Miao" could be presumed to include all speakers of Hmongic languages living in Sichuan, including speakers of [mmr] Western Xiangxi Miao who live in eastern Sichuan close to Chongqing and Hunan, and speakers of Dananshan Hmong living in Sichuan close to Guizhou.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:  
Hmong; population 147,526 according to 2000 national census (this province population figure, however, would include Dananshan Hmong, Western Xiangxi Miao and Western Sichuan Hmong together in the total; no statistics are available to distinguish among the language groups when stating total Miao ethnicity population in the province)

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: mch

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifier 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
- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Living language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Recently extinct language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Historical language   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ancient language  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Artificially constructed language                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | 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:  
southern and western 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:  
Southern Hmong

No SIL field research on Sichuan Hmong has been done, but from inspection of the map and from reports by Western Yunnan Hmong, I infer that the Hmong of western Sichuan speak a variety that is most closely related to Western Yunnan Hmong (Dianxi Miao), which we include in turn as part of "Southern Hmong." April-July 2010 SIL sociolinguistic survey of Western Yunnan Hmong in Anning, Dali and Baoshan (report forthcoming) found

that the Hmong speakers in those areas performed extremely well on Hmong Shib RTT stories, indicating high inherent intelligibility with Southern 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.?:

none

- 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?:

no

- 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. However the language is used orally by all generations and the situation is sustainable.

Ethnolinguistic identity: the Hmong of western Sichuan identify themselves as part of the "Miao" nationality of China (otherwise there would be no Miao population figures for the counties of western and southern Sichuan)

## 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:

No first-hand knowledge; no field research or survey of western Sichuan Hmong has been done

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

\*Reports during (April-July 2010) survey of Western Yunnan Hmong in Anning, Dali and Baoshan who stated that their forebears migrated more than four generations ago from "lower Sichuan," and that the Hmong language spoken there is similar to their own.

\*Report in 2005 by a resident of Muli in Sichuan stating that there are Miao villages around the Muli area

\*Report in January 2012 by a linguistic researcher stating that she has met, spoken with and photographed Miao people living in the Muli area of Sichuan

\*Report in 2011 by linguistic researchers of the Yi language stating that they have seen Miao people from villages in the Xichang area of Sichuan

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

### **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](mailto: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>