

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: 2011-10-24

Name of Primary Requester: Anthony Aristar, head of the MultiTree Project

E-mail address: multitree at linguistlist dot org

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

Claire Bowern (claire.bowern at yale dot edu)

Associated Change request number : 2012-010

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : weg

(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:
Wergaia
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Werkaya, Wergaya, Worgaia, Wimmera (geographical)
- d) Reason for preferred name:
Following Hercus, Clark, and AUSTLANG, we are using Wergaia as the primary language name.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
Hercus explains that "the speakers of Wergaia and several smaller associated groups formed the Wudjupalug group of tribes" (1969: 111). The National Indigenous Languages Survey Report estimated 5 speakers in 2005 (AUSTLANG).
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: weg

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 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:

Australia

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:

Hercus describes the location of Wergaia in the following way:

"The Wergaia language was originally spoken over a wide area in the north-west of Victoria from Dimboola to Lake Hindmarsh and Lake Albacutya along the Wimmera River, and from Yanac to Warracknabeal" (1969: 111).

Dr. Claire Bovern places this language in the Australian state of Victoria at the following coordinates:

Latitude: -36.1864545417268

Longitude: 141.788943257358

(2010)

To view on a map where this is located, please visit Dr. Bovern's website:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=http://pantheon.yale.edu/~clb3/PamaNyungan/CCAL1.2.kmz>

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:

Pama-Nyungan family, Kulin subgroup

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:

AUSTRALANG, following Clark (2005), identifies Wudjbalug [AIATSIS code S88*], Djadjala [S22], Buibadjali [S70], and Bewadjali [S85*] as dialects of Wergaia.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

Luise Hercus's 1960s field work included extensive documentation of Wergaia, primarily language elicitation of the Djadjala dialect. Luise Hercus's "Language elicitation and songs from various parts of Australia" (1967-1968). In 2008, Julie Reid published the "Wergaia Community Grammar" and "Wergaia Community Dictionary."

- 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:

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:

- 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
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>