Comments received for ISO 639-3 Change Request 2017-025

Outcome: Rejected

Effective date: January 23, 2018



SIL International ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

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Registration Authority decision on Change Request no. 2017-025: to create the code element [scm] for Sichuanese.

The request to create the code [scm] for Sichuanese is rejected. The RA notes that the request ignores one key basis for decisions: that languages which use the same written language may be considered a single language. Although the evidence shows divergence in the spoken variety of Sichuanese or Sichuan Mandarin that might be sufficient to call it a separate language, it is still a part of the Mandarin dialects and using standard written Chinese. In addition, the Registrar received several private comments, both from the academic and from the Chinese government communities opposing this request. Therefore the current request for a code [scm] for Sichuanese has been rejected.