

ISO 639-3 Registration Authority

Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code

Change Request Number: 2007-179 (completed by Registration authority)

Date: 2007-8-16

Primary Person submitting request: Karl Anderbeck

Affiliation: SIL Indonesia Branch

E-mail address: karl_anderbeck@sil.org

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

Postal address for primary contact person for this request (in general, email correspondence will be used):

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.

Types of change requests

This form is to be used in requesting changes (whether creation, modification, or deletion) to elements of the *ISO 639 Codes for the representation of names of languages — Part 3: Alpha-3 code for comprehensive coverage of languages*. The types of changes that are possible are to 1) modify the reference information for an existing code element, 2) propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group; 3) retire a code element from use, including merging its scope of denotation into that of another code element, 4) split an existing code element into two or more new language code elements, or 5) create a new code element for a previously unidentified language variety. Fill out section 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 below as appropriate, and the final section documenting the sources of your information. The process by which a change is received, reviewed and adopted is summarized on the final page of this form.

Type of change proposed (check one):

1. Modify reference information for an existing language code element
2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group
3. Retire a language code element from use (duplicate or non-existent)
4. Expand the denotation of a code element through the merging one or more language code elements into it (retiring the latter group of code elements)
5. Split a language code element into two or more new code elements
6. Create a code element for a previously unidentified language

For proposing a change to an existing code element, please identify:

Affected ISO 639-3 identifier: pse

Associated reference name: Pasemah

1. Modify an existing language code element

(a) What are you proposing to change:

- Language reference name

- Language additional names
- Language type (living, extinct, historical, etc.)
- Language scope (individual language or macrolanguage)

(b) What new value(s) do you propose: **Central Malay**

(c) Rationale for change:

Central Malay is the proposed name for the language embracing the related Malay dialects of Pasemah, Lintang, Semendo, Ogan, Enim, Bengkulu, and Serawai Malay. Central Malay is the historic name for the languages found in the highlands of the Bukit Barisan mountains between South Sumatra, Lampung, and Bengkulu provinces. According to Adelaar quoting Voorheev, the term Middle Malay is a poor translation of the Dutch name for these languages, Midden Maleisch, and properly translated should be Central Malay. (Adelaar 1992:4) Use of the name Central Malay will reflect these group of dialects long standing position of being related and sharing a common culture.

2. Propose a new macrolanguage or modify a macrolanguage group

(a) For an existing Macrolanguage, what change to its individual language membership do you propose:

(b) Rationale for change:

For a new Macrolanguage proposal, please also complete the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCode RequestForm.rtf”), which must also be submitted to fully document the intended meaning for the new macrolanguage.

3. Retire a language code element from use

(a) Reason for change:

- There is no evidence that the language exists.
- This is equivalent to another ISO 639-3 language.

(b) If equivalent with another code element, with which ISO 639-3 code element (identifier and name) is it equivalent:

(c) Rationale for change:

4. Expand the denotation of a code element through merging of one or more code elements

(a) List the languages (identifier and name) to be merged into this code element and retired from use:

[bke] Bengkulu
 [eni] Enim
 [Int] Lintang
 [ogn] Ogan

[sdd] Semendo
[srj] Serawai

(b) Rationale for change

Language surveys completed in 2006-2007 visited 30 research sites along the Ogan and Enim rivers, the highlands in Lampung, South Sumatra, and Bengkulu provinces, and the coast of Bengkulu. The surveys showed high reported comprehension between these Malayic varieties and a shared ethnic identity. These should be listed as dialects of Central Malay. Kaur and Pekal were also visited and investigated but, with lower reported comprehension and their own innovations, it is not possible at this point to place them in the Central Malay group. It is hoped future survey can clarify if they should be merged as well into this language.

CENTRAL MALAY

Highland Malay group (subdialects)
(subdialects)

Ogan group

Besemah, Lintang, Semenda, Bengkulu, Serawai, Kisam, Kikim

Ogan, Rambang, Enim

5. Split a language code element into two or more code elements

(a) List the languages into which this code element should be split:

By the language identification criteria set forth in ISO 639-3, the simple fact of distinct identities is not enough to assign separate identifiers. The criteria are defined in the standard as follows:

For this part of ISO 639, judgments regarding when two varieties are considered to be the same or different languages are based on a number of factors, including linguistic similarity, intelligibility, a common literature (traditional or written), a common writing system, the views of users concerning the relationship between language and identity, and other factors. The following basic criteria are followed:

- Two related varieties are normally considered varieties of the same language if users of each variety have inherent understanding of the other variety (that is, can understand based on knowledge of their own variety without needing to learn the other variety) at a functional level.
- Where intelligibility between varieties is marginal, the existence of a common literature or of a common ethnolinguistic identity with a central variety that both understand can be strong indicators that they should nevertheless be considered varieties of the same language.
- Where there is enough intelligibility between varieties to enable communication, the existence of well-established distinct ethnolinguistic identities can be a strong indicator that they should nevertheless be considered to be different languages

(b) Referring to the criteria given above, give the rationale for splitting the existing code element into two or more languages:

(c) Does the language code element to be split represent a major language in which there already exists a significant body of literature and research? Are there contexts in which all the proposed separate languages may still be considered the same language—as in having a common linguistic identity, a

shared (or undistinguished) body of literature, a written form in common, etc.? If so, please comment.

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted for each new identifier that is to be created. That step can be deferred until this form has been processed by the ISO 639-3 registrar.

6. Create a new language code element

- (a) Name of missing language:
- (b) State the case that this language is not the same as or has not been included within any language that already has an identifier in ISO 639-3:

In order to complete the change request, the form “Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3” (file name “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequest.doc” or “ISO639-3_NewCodeRequestForm.rtf”) must also be submitted to more fully document the new language.

Sources of information

Please use whichever of the points below are relevant in order to document the sources on which you have based the above proposal.

- (a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
A series of surveys of the Ogan River Basin, the highlands of Bengkulu, Lampung, and South Sumatra, and the Bengkulu coastline from 2004 through 2007 provided the information needed to delineate language boundaries and reported comprehension between language varieties. The Ogan, Rambang, and Enim languages are highly similar and form the Ogan group of the Central Malay language. The Besemah, Semende, Lintang, Kisam, Serawai, and Bengkulu form the Highland Malay group of the Central Malay language. There is a good comprehension reported between the language of the Ogan group with those of the Highland Malay group. Both have a conservative phonology, but the Ogan group has the phonological innovation of devoicing the velar and uvular fricative that is a reflex of *R. Bengkulu has some of the Minangkabau innovations, but survey interviews indicated that people reported better comprehension of Besemah and Serawai and also felt that they identified more with these Highland Malay groups.
- (b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
- (c) Knowledge from published sources (please give complete bibliographical references):
Anderbeck, Karl R. 2007a. Shake, rattle, and roll...Paper presented at the 11th International Symposium of Malay/Indonesian Linguistics (ISMIL)

Anderbeck, Karl R. forthcoming. Thoughts on South Sumatran Malay...

Adelaar, K. Alexander. 1992. Proto-Malayic: the reconstruction of its phonology and parts of its lexicon and morphology. Pacific Linguistics, series C-119. Canberra: The Australian National University

Andaya, Barbara Watson. 1993. To live as brothers Southeast Sumatra in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press

Collins, William A. 1979. Besemah concepts: a study of the culture of a people of South Sumatra. Doctoral dissertation. Berkeley: University of California, Berkeley

Kasim, Yuslina, Marjusman Maksan, Syamsir Arifin, Zailoet, and Muhamed Yamin. 1987. Pemetaan bahasa daerah di Sumatra Barat dan Bengkulu. Jakarta: Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa

McDowell, Jonathan E. 2007. Unity in diversity: dialects of southern Sumatra...Paper presented at the 11th International Symposium of Malay/Indonesian Linguistics (ISMIL)

McDowell, Jonathan E. forthcoming. South Sumatran Survey Report.

Stokhof, W.A.L. (ed.) and Alma E. Almanar. 1986: Holle Lists: Vocabularies in languages of Indonesia. Pacific Linguistics Series D-17 (74-76). Canberra: The Australian National University

Wurm, Stephen A. and Shiro Hattori, eds. 1981. Language atlas of the Pacific area. Canberra: The Australian Academy of the Humanities in collaboration with the Japan Academy.

The change proposal process

A request to change the code set goes through a six-step process:

1. A user of ISO 639-3 proposes a change and submits it to the ISO 639-3 Registration Authority (ISO 639-3/RA) using this form.
2. The ISO 639-3 registrar processes the change request to verify that the request is compatible with the criteria set forth in the standard and to ensure that the submitter has supplied all necessary information. This may involve rounds of interaction with the submitter.
3. When the change request proposal is complete in its documentation (including all associated New Code Requests), the change request is promoted to “Proposed Change” status and the ISO 639-3 registrar posts the request on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA. Also at this time, an announcement is sent to anyone requesting notification of new proposals matching their specified criteria (region and/or language family of interest). Periodically, a message may be sent to the general LINGUIST discussion list on Linguist List (<http://linguistlist.org/issues/index.html>), and other appropriate discussion lists, inviting individuals to review and comment on pending proposals. Anyone may request from the ISO 639-3 registrar to receive notification regarding proposals involving languages in a specific region of the world or specific language family.
4. Individuals may send comments to the ISO 639-3 registrar for compilation. The consensus of early reviews may result in promotion to “Candidate Status” (with or without amendment), or withdrawal

of the change request, if the conclusion is that the request is not in keeping with the stated criteria of the ISO 639-3 standard.

5. Three months prior to the end of the annual cycle of review and update, a new notice is posted on the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA, and an announcement listing the Candidate Status Change Requests is posted to the LINGUIST discussion list and other discussion lists, as requested by their owners. All change requests are then open to further review and comment by any interested party for a period of three months. A Change Request received after the start of Candidacy phase must wait until the next annual cycle for consideration. The purpose of this phase is to ensure that a minimum of three months is allotted for the review of every proposal.
6. At the end of the formal review period, a given Change Request may be: 1) adopted as a whole; 2) adopted in part (specific changes implicit in the whole Change Request may be adopted separately); 3) rejected as a whole; or 4) amended and resubmitted for the next review cycle. All change requests remain permanently archived at the official web site of the ISO 639-3/RA.

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/>
E-mail: iso639-3@sil.org

An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

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/> .

Linguist List. Ancient and Extinct Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfAncientLgs.html>

Linguist List. Constructed Languages. <http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html>