

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: 2007-8-27

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

Associated Change request number : 2007-188

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : cqđ

(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:
Chuanqiandian Cluster Miao
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
none for the cluster as a whole; speakers of most lects within the cluster refer to themselves as "Hmong" or "Mong" followed by a modifier specifying their sub-group
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Different names are in use to indicate this broad category of lects: Chuanqiandian Miao, Chuanchientien Miao, Sichuan-Guizhou-Yunnan Miao, Western Miao, Core Farwestern Hmongic, Hua Miao.
Many different names are also used to refer to particular subgroups within this cluster:
Hmong Dou, Downhill Hmong, Hongxian Miao, Red Thread Miao, Dananshan Miao (this is considered to be the standard variety);
Hua Miao, Hwa Miao, Mong Hoa, Flowery Meo, Variegated Mong;
Mong Leng, Mong Lenh, Hmong Len, Mong Shi, Mong Si, Hmong Shi, Light Hmong, Bai Miao, Qing Miao;
Hmong Njua, Mong Ntsua, Hmong Nzhua, Blue Hmong, Blue Meo, Tak Miao, Green Hmong, Green Meo, Qing Miao, Ching Miao, Lu Miao;
Meo Dam, Black Meo, Meo Lai, Striped Hmong;
Hmong Dle Ncha, Qingshui Miao, Clear Water Hmong;
Hmong La, Red Mong, Mong La Hou, Red-headed Hmong;
Hmong La, Paddyfield Miao;
Hmong Shua Bua, Sa Pa Hmong, Meo Den, Hmong Den;
Hmong Dlo, Hmong Bua, Hmong Sou, Hei Miao, Black Mong, Black Hmong;
Hmong Be, Mountain Hmong;
Chuan Miao, River Miao, Sichuan Miao;
Yaque Miao, Magpie Miao, Hmong Drou Raol, Six Village Miao, Liuzhai Miao, Luzhai Miao;
Dianxi Miao, Western Yunnan Miao, Bai Miao, White Miao

d) Reason for preferred name:

“Chuanqiandian Cluster Miao” is a modified translation to English of the phrase used by Chinese linguists to refer officially to the category containing these many varieties. This cluster of lects is called by Chinese linguists 苗语川黔滇方言川黔滇次方言第一个土语. Translated into English this would be “the first local dialect belonging to the Chuanqiandian sub-dialect of the Chuanqiandian dialect of the Miao language.” Miao is the name used in China to refer to the ethnicity of the speakers of these lects and many other Hmongic languages. Chuanqiandian is a geographical name, referring to Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan provinces where most of the speakers of this broadly-defined dialect and sub-dialect live. The term “cluster” indicates that not one but many lects are included in this category, although it is considered by Chinese linguists to be a single geographically-based “local dialect.”

I do not insist upon this name and hope that linguists around the world may be able to suggest a more concise and suitable name during the Internet posting period.

Why not use the term “Hmong,” since speakers of almost all the lects in this category refer to themselves as “Hmong”? The term “Miao” is not derogatory in China as the terms “Miao” or “Meo” sometimes are in southeast Asia. Furthermore, over-use in English of the term “Hmong” is not appropriate in a Chinese context, as it may be interpreted as failing to contribute to the nation’s efforts to unify the various Miao subgroups and to encourage the various ethnic groups to live in harmony.

e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
1,400,000 in China (Wang Fushi 1995, p. 6). Population total all countries: 1,647,000.

f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: cqd

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:

Mainly in China, but Hmong Njua and Hmong Leng have also migrated to Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, and from there to Australia, Canada, France, French Guiana and the USA.

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

In China: western Guizhou, western Guangxi, southern Sichuan, and many parts of Yunnan, especially southeastern and northeastern Yunnan.

- 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:
Hmong Daw (Johnson 1998 pp. 18-19)

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Folk tale collections and native literature focused on culture preservation are available in standard Chuanqiandian orthography from provincial and local nationalities publishing houses. Extensive literature in the Hmong RPA writing system is available in southeast Asia and western countries.
Wenshan Prefecture Broadcasting Station frequently airs programming in the official standard lect of Chuanqiandian Miao
Many VCD videos are available in both Hmong Daw and Hmong Njua, the content being folk festivals, traditional or contemporary Miao music and dance, folk stories and historical fiction, full-length features with Miao cultural themes, and classic movies dubbed into Miao.
- 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?:
Mentioned and described in Chinese linguistics articles and considered by Chinese linguists to be the first local dialect under the Chuanqiandian sub-dialect of the Chuanqiandian Miao dialect (Wang Fushi 1995, p. 6)
Probably used as a medium of instruction in the initial grades of primary school in Miao villages, as an aid for transition to Mandarin Chinese.
Offered as a major in the minority language and culture department at one tertiary school, Guizhou Nationalities Institute.
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
Speakers consider themselves part of the Miao nationality in China but also take pride in

the unique customs, clothing and hairstyles, and language of their particular sub-groups (Xian Songkui, p. 749). The mother tongue is used in the home, community and market by speakers of all ages when speaking with other Miao, but a local dialect of Chinese or standard Mandarin is used when speaking with non-Miao people. The mother tongue is being passed on to the younger generation. Elderly speakers may be monolingual in Miao, while middle-aged speakers generally are also able to speak at least some of the local Chinese dialect for purposes of buying and selling, and the younger generation and urban residents are bilingual in Miao and Mandarin Chinese.

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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

A colleague has talked with speakers of a number of these closely-related lects in the US, in Thailand and in China, and has had many discussions with Chinese linguists and foreign researchers or community development workers who have had extensive contact with speakers of these lects. As a result of these conversations this colleague believes that many of these lects are likely to have high inherent mutual intelligibility within the cluster. Culturally, while each sub-group prides itself on its own distinctives, they also recognize that other sub-groups within this category are culturally similar to themselves and accept the others as members of the same general ethnic group. However, this category of lects is internally varied and geographically scattered and mixed over a broad land area, and comprehensive intelligibility testing would be required to confirm reports of mutual intelligibility throughout the cluster.

Johnson, Michael. 1998. “Farwestern Hmongic.” unpublished paper, pp. 20-33.

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

Wang Fushi, Mao Zongwu. 1995. 苗瑶语古音构拟 [Miao-Yaoyu Guyin Gouni]. Beijing : Zhongguo Shehui Kexue Chubanshe, pp. 5-6.

Xu Zhisen. 纳雍水城赫章接壤地带苗语初探 [Nayong Shuicheng Hezhang Jierang Didai Miaoyu Chutan]. Guizhou Minzu Diaocha. Guizhou Sheng Minzu Yanjiusuo. pp. 389-399.

Xian Songkui. 织金苗语方言记略 [Zhijin Miaoyu Fangyan Jilue]. Guizhou Minzu Diaocha. Guizhou Sheng Minzu Yanjiusuo. p. 749) .

Xian Songkui. 苗语西部方言次方言及土语的划分 (二) [Miaoyu Xibu Fangyan Cifangyan Ji Tuyu de Huaifen (2)]. Yunnan Minzu Yuwen, 1997:2, pp. 26-31.

Li Yunbing. 2000. 苗语方言划分：遗留问题研究 [Miaoyu Fangyan Huafen: Yiliu Wenti Yanjiu]. Beijing: Zhongyang Minzu Daxue Chubanshe. p.237.

Enwall, Joakim. 1994-1995. A Myth Become Reality: History and Development of the Miao Written Language (Stockholm East Asian Monographs; Series Vol No. 5). Institute of Oriental Languages, Stockholm University.

Hattaway, Paul. 2000. Operation China.

Luo Youliang. 1999. Lol Hmongb Ged Jait 苗语语法：川黔滇方言 [Miaoyu Yufa: Chuanqiandian Fangyan/Miao Grammar: Chuanqiandian Dialect]. Kunming: Yunnan Minzu Chubanshe.

Xian Songkui. 2000. 新苗汉词典：西部方言 [Xin Miao-Han Cidian: Xibu Fangyan/New Miao-Chinese Dictionary: Western Dialect]. Chengdu: Sichuan Minzu Chubanshe.
Xiong Yuyou, Diana Cohen. 2005. Npout Ndeud Xof Geuf Lol Hmongb Lol Shuad Lol Yenb 苗汉英学习使用手册 Student's Practical Miao-Chinese-English Handbook. Kunming: Yunnan Minzu Chubanshe.

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>