

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: 2008-8-28

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

SIL International

Associated Change request number : 2008-094

(completed by Registration Authority)

Tentative assignment of new identifier : pki

(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:
Kontoi Plang
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Kontoi
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Plang is spelled Blang in China.
- d) Reason for preferred name:
The Plang are using this spelling for their language written in Roman orthography. The Thai orthography uses the equivalent of a voiceless, unaspirated stop for the initial consonant.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
Plang ethnic group. The population of the Kontoi is approximately 8,000.
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: kob

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:

Southwestern China near the Burma border is the homeland. About 1,000 speakers in Thailand as immigrant labor or 'absorbed' into other ethnic community villages being locally identified as Shan, Mountain Shan, Loi, Tai Loi, Lua', or Lawa. Burma, Eastern Shan State where the Kontoi Plang are known as Tai Loi, a miscellaneous designation for Buddhist Mon-Khmer people groups.

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

Bada Sub-District of Menghai County, Sipsonpanna Autonomous Region, Yunnan Province, China. Located on mountain area south of the road before Bada town. Also known as Man Mei. GPS region around 21°45'40.36"N and 100° 0'8.51"E, (GPS from Google Earth.) In Thailand, Ban Huay Nam Khun, a Shan village in Mae Fa Luang district of Chiangrai province along with other Plang speakers from various parts of Burma and China. Also Ban Lua Pattana in Mae Chan district of Chiangrai province. There is also a large community of Plang workers in Bangkok, and in the orchid gardens in that region. There is a solid community of speakers in Kengtung, Eastern Shan State of Burma. The community of approximately 600-1000 speakers is well integrated into the local Tai Khuen establishment. In Kengtung the Kontoi Plang are leaders of the Tai Loi Buddhist Association...

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:

Mon-Khmer, Northern, Palaungic Branch, Eastern Palaungic, Waic, Plang

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:

Kontoi Plang is closest to other Plang languages in Bada District of Menghai County. The closest Plang village to Kontoi physically is Man Pik, but communication with this village is limited to specific domains. Kontoi Plang speakers often understand a wide variety of Plang languages due to much of the village travelling to Burma, Bangkok and other regions. The entrance to the village is marked by the village name in 7 languages.

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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

Linguistic analyses - phonology, dialectology, grammar, discourse. etc. Limited development in Thai script. No known development in the homeland. No newspapers, radio or television broadcasts.

- 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?:
Blang is a recognized ethnicity in China. There has been no development of a written standard or a specific dialect of Plang chosen as the vehicle of formal communication in Blang. Educational instruction is in Chinese in China. Thai in Thailand. Burmese in Burma.
- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
The Kontoi Plang is used in the home, fields, local village council. It is spoken by children and aged adults. Local non-Plang communities recognize them as Plang. It is improbable that anyone outside of their area knows them specifically as the Kontoi Plang, except other Plang villagers from the region. This name is an ethnicity 'kon' being a form for person/child and 'toi' from Tai Lue for 'mountain'. Unlike other dialects this one is not typically named by its principle village, Man Mei. There are perhaps as many as 20 - 25 different Plang languages in the immediate area with low intelligibility between them.

There is strong identity among the Kontoi Plang found outside of their homeland. Even though the Plang have begun migrating to Bangkok Thailand for work, they return to the village at New Year and other ceremonial times. The village is their home and grandparents are expected to raise the grandchildren even if parents are away working for a year or more. Local language is vital. It is being transmitted to children who become fluent speakers. Vitality is questionable among the small communities in Thailand, as children born in Thailand gradually identify strongly with Thai language and cultural identity rather than as Plang.

Multilingualism in the norm. Among the mountain populations, the L2 is often Tai Lue, with Chinese, Tai Yai (the variety of the Eastern Shan areas, or a mountain Shan variety), Burmese, and/or Central Thai as additional languages. Traditional literacy is in written Tai Lue, the language of the Buddhist manuscripts.. Literacy is limited to males. Females are forbidden to learn to read Plang, as literacy was traditionally in the religious domain only. There is a government primary school in Man Mei, so literacy in Chinese is made available to young speakers of Kontoi Plang, both male and female.

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:
Have personally worked on Kongtoi Plang linguistics and language learning between 1986-1988 in Thailand, with some interaction with speakers in 1993-1994, 2005 in China and 2006 in Burma.
- b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

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

See linguistic and cultural references in main form

Native Authored Plang Literature

Reo, Ting* 1992. (Dogs and Pigs) [Kontoi Plang Folktale]

Reo, Ting* 1992a. (Chicken Stars) [Kontoi Plang Folktale]

Literature in Kontoi Plang

Hopple, Paulette and Debbie Paulsen. 1987. Plang –Thai- English Picture Dictionary. (Thai orthography used for Plang in Thailand)

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>