

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 : ppb

(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:
Pang Pung Plang
- b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
Pang Pung Plang, or just Plang
- c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
Plang is spelled Blang in China.
- d) Reason for preferred name:
The sound of the first consonant is a voiceless unaspirated intial for which the people in Burma usually write a 'p'. The Plang are using this spelling for their language written in Roman letters. Pang Pung Plang is the autonym.
- e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:
Plang ethnic group. The population of the Pang Pung Plang is approximately 4,554.
- f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: ppb

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifiers 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:
Burma as homeland. Some speakers in Thailand as immigrant labor.
- c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
Eastern Shan State of Burma. Mong Yang area, mountains to the northeast of Mong Yang. GPS region around 21°55' 57.33" N and 99° 48' 16.68" E, with numerous mountain villages.
- 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:
Various Plang languages in the Eastern Shan State - most of which haven't been surveyed. Choklok Plang of Bada Sub-District of Menghai County, Jinghong, Sipsongpanna, Yunnan China is the closest lexically (88%) and with the highest scores on an intelligibility test of Pang Pung Plang (75%).

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

- a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
Hymn book. Primer, Readers, Story Books, Gospel of Mark, Jonah. Song Book, Tape recordings of popular songs accompanied by traditional instruments as well as modern guitar, keyboard, etc. 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?:
Plang isn't listed as one of the 135 ethnic minority languages listed by the government of Burma. (see updated list http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_groups_in_Burma)

- c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
 The Pang Pung Plang come from a mountainous area NE of Mong Yang in the Eastern Shan State of Burma. They have been resident in that region for over 200 years, with evidence of long-established Plang Buddhist monestries in the early AD 1600's. The region was only peripherally part of the Shan, Tai Khun acquisition of the region from the Wa principalities and the city of Kengtung as one of the Wa / Palaungic centers from around 1200-1600 AD. Their speech community is derived from a series of villages not too distant from each other, but whose speech has diverged to the point that it is not possible to converse with 100% comprehension of speech varieties as far away as 30 miles.

The Eastern Palaungic community of languages has inhabited this region of approximately 5,000 years. Rich depth of linguistic diversity in a relatively small area reveals something of the extent of natural language change over time.

There are perhaps as many as 20 - 25 different Plang languages in the immediate area. Recorded Text Testing of the Pang Pung Plang variety among speakers of the Daluo area and Bulangshan region resulted in low intelligibility and somewhat lexical similarity.

The Pang Pung Plang has a strong ethnic identity as Plang and identify with the other varieties in the region who are also Plang, but called by the Shan and Tai Lue in the region as Tai Loi, or 'mountain Tai'. This is presumably because they are also Theravada Buddhists in contrast to other Palaungic groups which remain animist.

Pang Pung is used in the domains of the home, village, local village government, village market and social intercourse with various Pang Pung Plang villages. Pang Pung Plang is the medium of a strong 500 member Christian church in one village. It is this segment of the population who has requested assistance in language development.

There is a strong resistance to change in the culture, language and religion; a positive value set on tradition and ancient knowledge. 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 expect grandparents 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.

Multilingualism in the norm. Among the mountain populations, the L2 is often Tai Khuen, Tai Lue or Tai Yai (the variety of the Eastern Shan areas, or a mountain Shan), Burmese, and Central Thai. Some bilingualism with Lahu Na in the church communities. Traditional literacy is with written Tai Khuen, the language of the Buddhist temple. Literacy is highest among males. See following table.

Literacy Rates Among Pang Pung Plang

	Percent of the population	for population	male	female
Plang	0.03	0.018	0.012	
Lahu	0.02	0.021	0.003	
Tai Khun		0.02	0.024	0.000
Burmese		0.02	0.009	0.006
Shan	0.00	0.003	0.000	
Chinese		0.00	0	0

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:

I have worked on various dialects of Plang since 1986 and dialects of Wa since 1980. Pang Pung Plang and their language community are known to me personally via people who have travelled out of that region which is mostly off-limits to foreigners. We have worked on orthography

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

Currently working and communicating with this speech community.

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/ Blang Literature

Caeo, Nyi*, Ai Sae*, & Ai Sae (eds) 1999a. Rit Roe (Plang Culture) ALTP

Plang Literature Committee 1998. (Dogs and Pigs) [Pangpung Plang Folktales]

Plang Literature Committee 1998a. Htawm Plang na rin a pawh [2nd draft][Plang Primer] ALTP [Pangpung Plang] Plang Literature Committee 1998b. (Plang Alphabet Book) [Pangpung Plang]

Plang Literature Committee 1998c. (Plang - Lahu Transition Primer) [primer] [Pangpung Plang]

Plang Literature Committee 1998d. (Plang Picture Dictionary) [dictionary] [Pangpung Plang]

Plang Literature Committee 1998e. (Joseph - Pangpung Plang)

Plang Literature Committee 1998f. Geum htawm Plang pun nang cang lip htawm kue (Literacy Primer in the Plang language) [primer] ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Plang Translator Staff* 2000. Seng htawm Plang [Song book] ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Sae*, Ai (ed)* 1999a. Chat pu ri (Different kinds of sports) ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Sae*, Ai (tr.)* 1999. A pom a ta hkaee na (Farmer and Bird) ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Sae*, Ai (tr.)* 1999b. Htawm ut nyawk ut sam ran (Plang Health Book) [health book] ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Sae*, Ai* and Nyi Caeo* (eds) 1999. Seng htawm Plang (Plang Song Book) [song book] ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Saee, Ai*, Nyi Cao* and Saw lu (eds) 1999. Htawm A Pom Plang (Plang Folktale 1) [folktale] ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Saee, Ai*, Nyi Cao* and Saw lu (eds) 1999a. Htawm A Pom Plang 2 (Plang Folktale 2) [folktale] ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Saee, Ai*, Nyi Cao*, Ai Saee, Saw lu and Ai yi (eds) 1999. Htawm A Pom Plang 1 (Plang Oral Narratives Book 1) ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

Saee, Ai*, Nyi Cao*, Ai Saee, Saw lu and Ai yi (eds) 1999a. Htawm A Pom Plang (Cicada and Little Pig's Adventure) ALTP [Pangpung Plang]

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>