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Language variant subtags for North Frisian dialects
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Abstract

This memo describes language variant subtags for dialects of the North Frisian language including the relevant registration forms for registration in the Language Subtag Registry and rationale for the choice of identifiers.

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1. Introduction

North Frisian is a language spoken primarily by the North Frisians, an autochthonic minority in the north-west of Germany in the district of Nordfriesland, with approximately 10,000 speakers. The language is typically divided into two groups of dialects, the mainland dialects, also spoken on some of the Halligen, and the insular dialects, spoken on some of the islands in the northern part of the German Bight. The two groups are further divided in ten main dialects.

This document proposes twelve language variant subtags to identify them for use with the ISO 639-2 three-letter code "frr" that identifies them all as a group, as per [\[BCP0047\]](#). Twelve instead of ten because one of the main dialects, Fering-Oeoemrang, consists of two closely related dialects, Fering and Oeoemrang, and having to identify Oeoemrang with "fering", which would be the obvious choice for the combined dialect due to length and character restrictions for subtags, would be unintuitive.

Further, the Mooring dialect is considered part of the Boekingharder dialect which is one of the ten main dialects; Mooring however is one of the dominant dialects and sometimes proposed as the standard variant of the language, identifying it with the truncated and transliterated subtag "boeking" would be similarly unintuitive.

Note: Throughout this document, latin characters with a diaeresis have been transliterated by the typical german convention to replace them by the latin character followed by the letter "e", so o-umlaut becomes "oe".

2. Dialects and variant subtags

2.1. Soel'ring

Soel'ring is the dialect associated with the island Sylt on the german north sea coast. Syltring is an alternative name for the dialect that is becoming obsolete. It has been chosen as subtag as the proper name contains characters that are not allowed in subtags and "syltring" is more commonly used than the transliteration "soelring".

Type: variant

Prefix: frr
Subtag: syltring
Description: The Soel'ring dialect of North Frisian

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[2.2.](#) Fering

Fering is the dialect associated with the island Foehr on the german north sea coast. It belongs to the group of insular dialects and together with Oeoemrang (the dialect of the neighbouring island Amrum) it is considered one of the ten main dialects. The subtag "fering" has been chosen as it is identical to the proper name of the dialect.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: fering
Description: The Fering dialect of North Frisian

[2.3.](#) Oeoemrang

Oeoemrang is the dialect associated with the island Amrum on the german north sea coast. Together with Fering it is considered one of the ten main dialects and belongs to the insular group of dialects. "Amring" is an alternate name for the dialect that is becoming obsolete; it has been chosen as subtag as the proper name contains characters not permitted in subtags, the transliteration is too long, and "Amrumer" would make the naming inconsistent with the closely related Fering dialect.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: amring
Description: The Oeoemrang dialect of North Frisian

[2.4.](#) Halunder

Halunder is the insular dialect of the North Frisian language associated with the island Heligoland in the German Bight. The subtag "halunder" has been chosen to identify it as it matches the proper name.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: halunder
Description: The Halunder dialect of North Frisian

[2.5.](#) Hallig Frisian

Hallig Frisian is the dialect associated with the Halligen, a number of islands in the Wadden Sea on the German North Sea coast. Even though the Halligen are islands, it is considered a mainland dialect. The subtag "hallig" has been chosen as Frisian "Halifreesk" and

standard German "Halligfriesisch" are too long and plain "freesk" is ambiguous.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: hallig
Description: The Hallig Frisian dialect of North Frisian

[2.6.](#) Wiedingharder

Wiedingharder is the mainland dialect associated with the former administrative division Wiedingharde in the north of Nordfriesland. All subtags for dialects typically identified by their associated Harde are formed by taking the standard German name, possibly truncated to meet length restrictions, and omitting the "harder". The names rendered in the dialect cannot be used as they are either ambiguous or contain characters not allowed in subtags.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: wieding
Description: The Wiedingharder dialect of North Frisian

[2.7.](#) Boekingharder

Boekingharder is the mainland dialect associated with the former administrative division Boekingharde south of the Wiedingharde.

Type: variant

Prefix: frr
Subtag: boeking
Description: The Boekingharder dialect of North Frisian

[2.8.](#) Mooring

Mooring is the mainland dialect associated with the Risummoor, a mire in the east of the Boekingharde. It is usually considered part of the Boekingharder dialect and further divided into the Westermooring and the Ostermooring. Alongside Fering, "Frasch" (Mooring) is considered one of the most important dialects, and it is common to refer to the Boekingarder dialect as Mooring. The subtag name is the proper name of the dialect.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: mooring
Description: The Mooring dialect of North Frisian

[2.9.](#) Karrharder

Karrharder is the mainland dialect associated with the former administrative division Karrharde neighbouring the Nordergoesharde and the Boekingharde.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: karr
Description: The Karrharder dialect of North Frisian

[2.10.](#) Nordergoesharder

Nordergoesharder is the mainland dialect associated with the former administrative division Nordergoesharde south of the Boekingharde.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: nordgoes
Description: The Nordergoesharder dialect of North Frisian

[2.11.](#) Mittelgoesharder

Mittelgoesharder is the mainland dialect associated with the region between Nordergoesharde and Suedgoesharde.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: mittgoes
Description: The Mittelgoesharder dialect of North Frisian

[2.12.](#) Suedergoesharder

Suedgoesharder is the mainland dialect associated with the former administrative division Suedergoesharde south of the Boekingharde.

Type: variant
Prefix: frr
Subtag: suedgoes
Description: The Suedergoesharder dialect of North Frisian

[3.](#) Security Considerations

None beyond those discussed in [[BCP0047](#)].

[4.](#) IANA Considerations

This document defines language variant subtags as per [[BCP0047](#)].

[5.](#) References

[[BCP0047](#)] Phillips, A. and M. Davis, "Tags for Identifying Languages", [BCP 47](#), [RFC 5646](#), September 2009.

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