English Translation

"A potato after a tent," "grapes after a cave." The supercomputer read each word aloud one after another. What the computer was doing is "mind-reading": reading what the man was thinking about, based on the blood flow.

"All were correct, 10 out of 10," said Dr. Marcel Just, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University. According to Dr. Just, when we see or think about a word (or words), the brain regions which relate to the meaning of the words get activated. For example, if we see a phrase, "a red apple," the brain regions for "red" and "eating" will get activated. If we think about a "pencil," the brain regions for motor related areas, particularly for hands, will get activated.

Yet, complex feelings (such as "jealousy") or long sentences are difficult to "mind-read." However, "the activated brain areas for the particular words will be approximately the same among people who are the same language and culture," said Dr. Just. This means, in the future, it will be possible to understand what the person is thinking about based on brain activity, if data for each word were collected from a large number of people.

With the advancement of technology and research, we are starting to understand the relationships between mind and brain. "What is he thinking about?" "Why did she do that?" "Which one does she like?"

In the near future, it is very possible that your own mind will be accessed without your knowledge, if such data of your brain activities were ill-treated. The time of using brain waves only for medical purpose is past. Now we are using them for games such as manipulating a ball.