Japanese artificial intelligence gains speed

According to the *Japan Times* of Tokyo, a group of artificial intelligence researchers has developed a Japanese to English translation system which is 300 to 500 times faster than conventional AI computers. The latter translate by bringing together English words in accordance with memorised grammatical rules, thus causing problems in the translation of colloquial Japanese into English.

The new system, on the contrary, builds on concept groups resulting from the analysis and categorisation of 100.000 word combinations frequently used in Japanese conversation. Using indexing, the system will look for an expression most similar to the one to be translated by using each indexed word in the sentence as a clue.

The system — developed by *Hitoshi Iida* and fellow researchers of the ATR Interpreting Telecommunications Research Laboratories — is apparently able to translate a Japanese sentence of 10 to 15 words into English in one-tenth of a second, applying parallel processing methods.