

### **Speaking of Babel**

A 400-word vocabulary, continuous speech translation system that can translate spoken sentences into English, German and Japanese or vice versa, has been developed by Carnegie Mellon's Center for Machine Translation, in collaboration with Siemens, A.G., ATR (Kyoto, Japan) and the University of Karlsruhe in Germany. "Janus" makes extensive use of neural networks to achieve accurate translations, even when the meaning and sounds of a sentence are not clear, says Senior Research Scientist Alex Waibel, director of the projects at Carnegie Mellon and Karlsruhe. Janus was demonstrated in Germany last summer, helping English and German speakers register for an international conference.

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