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CMU Uses Technology To Break Language Barrier

Oct 27, 2005 9:00 pm US/Eastern

Pittsburgh (KDKA) Some Carnegie Mellon students are using their technological skills to breakdown the language barrier.

At a test today, 75 people listened to Dr. Alex Waibel talk about "Interact" -- a new technology that translates for you.

Twenty-five of those people were in Germany and they were able to understand Waibel without even knowing English.

"Interact" uses tiny modules that detect the acoustics and translates them into text or words.

It involves a headset and a microphone and uses technology to translate from English to German and Spanish.

As Waibel moves his mouth, 11 electrodes connected to his face detect movements and the words he's mouthing appear in text on the screen or are translated out loud.

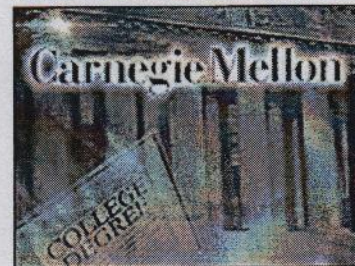
Already, soldiers in Iraq are using similar devices to translate.

Waibel tells KDKA's Sonni Abata, "I think much of the problems in this world are caused by misunderstandings and breaching the language barrier will allow us to create more open debate."

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CMU

KDKA Video Coverage:

[CMU Students Use Technology to Bridge Language Barriers \(10/27\)](#)

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