

Aug 29¹¹ 2015
Daily Telegraph

Paralysis victims could speak with device that turns breath to words

By Sarah Knapton
SCIENCE EDITOR

VICTIMS of paralysis could regain the power of speech with a device which transforms breath into words.

Experts are developing speech analysis software which can be programmed to interpret a person's pattern of breathing, and then turn it into words via a voice synthesiser.

The device, which consists of a breathing mask connected to a computer, gives new hope to those suffering from severe speech loss, according to its developers at Loughborough University.

Current technology for people suffering paralysis which effects speech relies on the user being able to blink or sniff.

Dr David Kerr, senior lecturer at the university's School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, said the new device could lead to earlier diagnosis of so-called "locked-in syndrome".