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1 **[Title]**

2 Network hyperexcitability in a patient with partial reading epilepsy: Converging
3 evidence from magnetoencephalography, diffusion tractography, and functional
4 magnetic resonance imaging

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1 **Highlights**

2

3 ▶ By means of multimodal investigations, we delineated the spatial-temporal
4 characteristics of reading-induced epileptic spikes in a patient with partial
5 reading epilepsy.

6 ▶ Katakana reading induced epileptic activation of the left posterior basal
7 temporal area.

8 ▶ Given hyperexcitability in the whole left fronto-temporal network normally
9 recruited for reading, prolonged reading may result in epileptiform discharges
10 and clinical seizures.

11

12

13

14 **Keywords**

15

16 Reading Epilepsy

17 Katakana

18 Magnetoencephalography

19 Diffusion tractography

20 Functional magnetic resonance imaging

21 Japanese

22

1 **Abstract**

2

3 **OBJECTIVE:**

4 The pathophysiological mechanisms of partial reading epilepsy are still unclear.

5 We delineated the spatial-temporal characteristics of reading-induced epileptic
6 spikes and hemodynamic activation in a patient with partial reading epilepsy.

7 **METHODS:**

8 MEG was recorded during silent letter-by-letter reading, and the source of
9 reading-induced spikes was estimated using equivalent current dipole (ECD)
10 analysis. Diffusion tractography was employed to determine if the white matter
11 pathway connected spike initiation and termination sites. FMRI was employed to
12 determine the spatial pattern of hemodynamic activation elicited by reading.

13 **RESULTS:**

14 In 91 spike events, ECDs were clustered in the left posterior basal temporal area
15 (pBTA) during Katakana reading. In 8 of these 91 events, when the patient
16 continued to read > 30 min, another ECD cluster appeared in the left ventral
17 precentral gyrus/frontal operculum with a time-difference of ~24 ms. Probabilistic
18 diffusion tractography revealed that the long segment of the arcuate fasciculus
19 connected these two regions. FMRI conjunction analysis indicated that both
20 Katakana and Kanji reading activated the left pBTA, but Katakana activated the
21 left lateral frontal areas more extensively than Kanji.

22 **CONCLUSIONS:**

23 Prolonged reading of Katakana induced hyper-activation of the cortical network
24 involved in normal language function, concurrently serving as the seizure onset
25 and symptomatogenic zones.

1 **SIGNIFICANCE:**

2 Reflex epilepsy is believed to result from intrinsic hyper-excitability in the cortical
3 regions recruited during behavioral states that trigger seizures. Our case shows
4 that reading epilepsy can arise from a hyperexcitable network of cortical regions.
5 Physiological activation of this network can have cumulative effects, resulting in
6 greater reciprocal network propagation and electroclinical seizures. These
7 effects, in turn, may give insights into the brain networks recruited by reading.

1. Introduction

Reading epilepsy (RE) is a type of reflex epilepsy triggered by reading and usually does not involve spontaneous seizures. RE is the only reflex epilepsy classified as an idiopathic localization-related epilepsy syndrome (Commission on Classification and Terminology of the International League Against Epilepsy, 1989), but the heterogeneity of previously published observations makes this classification debatable. The current proposed diagnostic scheme defines it as a reflex epilepsy syndrome without specifying a generalized or focal subtype (Engel, International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE), 2001).

Based on previous reports of patients with seizures provoked by reading, 2 types of RE were identified (Koutroumanidis et al., 1998): myoclonic RE and partial RE. The former is characterized by myoclonic jerks of jaw without alexia at seizure onset and bilateral spikes on electroencephalography (EEG). The latter is rare and characterized by ictal alexia associated with a left posterior temporal ictal discharge.

The mechanism proposed to explain triggering of myoclonic RE in reading is the existence of the interaction between a hyperexcitable cortical focus and a cortico-reticular loop (Radhakrishnan et al., 1995). Functional imaging studies have also revealed the hyperexcitability within cortical and subcortical structures (e.g., bilateral globus pallidus, left striatum, and thalamus) (Archer et al., 2003; Salek-Haddadi et al., 2009; Vaudano et al., 2012). Conversely, the mechanism of partial RE in reading is thought to be local cortical hyperexcitability over the left posterior temporal area. This rare symptom has

1 been described previously in a few patients with RE, but the mechanism remains
2 elusive (Wolf, 1994; Radhakrishnan et al., 1995; Koutroumanidis et al., 1998;
3 Maillard et al., 2010).

4 The Japanese writing system has 2 distinct orthographies, Kanji
5 (morphograms) and Kana (syllabograms). Kanji characters are visual figures
6 strongly associated with semantics; thus, their pronunciations depend on the
7 context in which they appear. Kana is composed of phonological entities that are
8 somewhat comparable with the alphabets in European languages. Kana
9 orthography employs 2 visually distinct syllabaries called Hiragana and
10 Katakana; the former is usually used in combination with a Kanji and the latter is
11 used to write loanwords from European languages. Hiragana and Katakana
12 share the same lexical representations and syllabary despite different shapes.

13 Here we described a patient with partial RE provoked by reading Katakana
14 characters, but not by Kanji or Hiragana characters. A combination of different
15 noninvasive brain studies were used in the present study:
16 magnetoencephalography (MEG), which detects the dynamic propagation of
17 epileptic spikes, diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) fiber tractography, which is a
18 direct method for depicting the structural connectivity of brain network, and
19 functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which helps visualize the spatial
20 patterns of neural activity (within cortical and subcortical areas) involved in
21 reading.

22 The main purpose of this report was, in this rare case, to delineate
23 mechanisms of seizure precipitation and propagation from the viewpoints of
24 system network hyperexcitability. We also investigated the relationship between

1 source localization of epileptic spikes and normal functions of the reading
2 process.

3 4 **2. Materials and methods**

5 6 **2.1. Case presentation**

7 A 28-year-old right-handed male had a history of infrequent generalized
8 tonic-clonic seizures (GTCS) in the last 13 years. The first GTCS occurred at the
9 age of 15 years when the patient was at rest. Since then, 7 seizures were
10 provoked by Katakana reading. The patient described himself as follows. While
11 reading Japanese sentences comprising Katakana letters, such as while looking
12 for a particular movie title or music for several minutes in the movie rental shop,
13 he became unable to read smoothly or understand the meaning of words of
14 Katakana. When he made efforts to finish reading, his cheeks became stiff and
15 seizures occurred with loss of consciousness.

16 The brain MRI scan was normal. Prolonged video-EEG monitoring
17 showed the normal posterior dominant rhythm of 10–11 Hz and no epileptic
18 spikes at rest or while asleep. Spikes appeared in the left parieto-temporal area
19 (maximum at P3 \cong T5, C3, frequency of \sim 1/20-30 s) 5 min after the patient
20 continuously read Katakana strings letter-by-letter, and not Kanji and Hiragana
21 strings. After 27 min of Katakana reading, he felt the aura and stopped reading.
22 During the aura, ictal EEG showed more frequent spikes (5/10 s) in the same
23 spatial distribution. The spikes disappeared shortly after the reading was
24 stopped. No motor manifestations or other behavioral changes were associated
25 with spikes on video-EEG. On the other hand, paragraph reading (containing

1 Kanji, Katakana, and Hiragana) did not provoke any spikes. Finding of specific
2 Hangul words from random-aligned Hangul letters did not elicit any spikes either,
3 where the patient had no experience of Hangul scripts reading. Hangul is
4 comparable with the alphabets in European languages.

6 **2.2. MEG, EEG, and MRI acquisition**

7 MEG examination was performed for the spike foci. Informed consent was
8 obtained from him. MEG was recorded with a 306-channel whole-head MEG
9 system (Neuromag, Helsinki, Finland) in a magnetically shielded chamber. EEG
10 was simultaneously obtained using 21 scalp electrodes according to the
11 International 10–20 system. The sampling rate was 1500 Hz. MEG and EEG
12 data were digitally filtered at a bandpass width of 0.1–400 Hz. MRI scans were
13 performed after MEG acquisition. Diffusion-weighted images (DWI), fMRI, and a
14 T1-weighted anatomical image were acquired on a 3-Tesla Trio scanner
15 (Siemens, Erlangen, Germany). The parameters of DWI, fMRI, a T1-weighted
16 image, and the dual-gradient field map have been reported previously (Oguri et
17 al., 2013).

19 **2.3. Reading tasks during MEG recording**

20 During MEG recording, the patient performed a set of tasks: the patient sat in a
21 chair placed approximately 100 inches from a computer screen. The tasks were
22 designed to simulate the situation where he had provoked seizures during
23 reading many Katakana titles/names on the CD or DVD covers in the rental shop.
24 The screen showed strings of 600–800 letters of Katakana. These were

1 essentially randomized strings without any association, and among them,
2 several meaningful words (e.g., foreign singer's names) were intermixed on a
3 page screen (Fig. 1). The words employed as test materials were highly
4 common in daily life. We instructed the patient to read every letter from left to
5 right in each line covertly. The patient read lines from the top to the bottom of a
6 page. The patient was asked to identify real words among the strings and speak
7 loudly to the examiner once he read over the strings of letters on the screen. It
8 made the patient carefully read each Katakana letter on the screen. As controls,
9 the same tasks were performed with Kanji or Hiragana. As another control, the
10 task of finding specific strings among random-aligned marks was performed. 1
11 session consisted of 1 page of a screen with Hiragana, Kanji, or marks. Only the
12 Katakana task was repeated for 10 pages of screen in a session. Each session
13 was repeated twice. The patient performed each task randomly in the following
14 order: (1) Hiragana, (2) Kanji, (3) Katakana, (4) break, (5) mark, (6) Kanji, (7)
15 mark, (8) Katakana, and (9) Hiragana.

16

17 **2.4. Generator sources of MEG spikes**

18 MEG spikes provoked by the aforementioned Katakana reading and control
19 tasks were visually inspected. Equivalent current dipoles (ECDs) were
20 calculated for spikes using a single sphere model. We followed the analysis
21 procedure described previously (Enatsu et al., 2008). In order to better delineate
22 the anatomical localization of ECDs, ECDs identified on the T1 volume
23 acquisition (3T, MPRAGE) were non-linearly co-registered to the Montreal
24 Neurological Institute (MNI) standard space (ICBM-152) using FNIRT of the FSL

1 version 4.1.2 software (www.fmrib.ox.ac.uk/fsl/fnirt/). This method has been
2 reported elsewhere for standardization of electrode locations (Matsumoto et al.,
3 2012).

4 5 **2.5. Diffusion tractography**

6 For tractography, we employed DWI data to trace the patient's white matter
7 pathway between the 2 regions shown by clustered ECDs in the MEG study.
8 Probabilistic diffusion tractography was performed on the basis of the 2 regions
9 of interest (ROIs)-based approach. The details of this method have been
10 reported previously (Oguri et al., 2013). For the seed and target points, each
11 ROI was drawn as a sphere located in averaged coordinates of clustered ECDs,
12 as in a previous study (Kamada et al., 2007). In order to exclude the error course,
13 such as the tracts into the contralateral hemisphere or the cortico-spinal tract,
14 exclusion ROIs were obtained at the cerebrospinal fluid and midline. One ROI
15 was set as a seed image and the other was waypoint and termination mask. This
16 procedure was conducted in both directions between the 2 ROIs. The results for
17 each track were combined and thresholded at 10% of the maximum connectivity
18 value. Next, the tract was binarized and smoothed with a 1-mm full-width half
19 maximum Gaussian kernel for 3D display in the patient's MPRAGE.

20 21 **2.6. FMRI**

22 Three types of visual stimuli such as (i) Katakana (4 characters), (ii) Kanji (2
23 characters), and (iii) the control script (Tibetan, 2 characters totally different from
24 Kana or Kanji) were displayed. To equate the retinal image size of the stimuli

1 among every script form, we placed an asterisk (*) at the beginning and the end
2 of each Kanji word and Tibetan scripts. Katakana and Kanji words were matched
3 for sound and meaning. Familiarity values of all employed words were high,
4 being above 5.00 according to the 7-point rating scale in Japanese (Amano and
5 Kondo, 1999). After the removal of any possible characters resembling the
6 Katakana and Kanji characters used in the present study, Tibetan script was
7 used as the control script. Since the patient had not learnt Tibetan, the letter
8 strings of this language were completely unfamiliar and provided no linguistic
9 information (i.e., word sound and word meaning).

10 The block design was done with alternating 24-s task blocks and 3-s rest
11 blocks. In each task block, a small fixation cross mark appeared at the center of
12 the visual display, and 16 words were presented at a rate of 1/1.5 s, with 300
13 msec of display duration followed by 1200-msec blank period. Sixteen
14 consecutive words in 1 task block belonged to the same category of each script.
15 Each script condition was executed in the order of Katakana, Kanji, and the
16 control script. During the rest blocks, only the fixation cross appeared on the
17 screen. This procedure was repeated 4 times with a rest intersession of about 1-
18 2 min. The patient was instructed to fix his gaze at the center of the screen in
19 each trial. In the Katakana and Kanji blocks, he covertly repeated each word in
20 his mind, and pressed the button using his right index finger when the shown
21 words were judged as food names. In the Tibetan block, he pressed the button
22 when the same 2 letters appeared serially. Within each block of 16 words, there
23 were 3 to 5 occasions on which the patient had to respond.

1 Before fMRI recording, he had a test run outside the scanner to ensure
2 that task words were familiar to him and that no EEG spikes were induced by the
3 task. To prevent word-specific practice effects, the task words in the test run
4 were entirely different from those used in the real fMRI recording. Hangul scripts
5 were used as the control in the test run.

6 Statistical analyses of his performance in terms of the accuracy and
7 reaction time across each script condition were performed with SPSS (version
8 15.0j, SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA). The regional blood oxygen level
9 dependent (BOLD) effect images were co-registered into his MPRAGE. All
10 imaging procedures and statistical analyses were completed using the FSL and
11 SPM version 8 software (Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology, London,
12 UK). We conducted subtraction analysis between Katakana and control, and
13 between Kanji and control. Conjunction analysis was performed by combining
14 the 2 subtraction data. The subtraction between Katakana and Kanji was aimed
15 to identify the activated regions associated with the Katakana or Kanji effect. The
16 subsets of voxels exceeding a threshold of $P < 0.001$ ($Z > 3.11$) without
17 correction for multiple comparison were considered to be significant.

18

19 **3. Results**

20 ***3.1. Spikes triggered by Katakana reading***

21 The covert letter-by-letter reading of Katakana evoked many MEG spikes that
22 fulfilled the ECD criteria (103 times /3890 s) (the number of spikes/task duration
23 in total of 2 sessions), whereas that of Hiragana and Kanji and the task of finding
24 specific strings among the random-aligned marks provoked fewer ones

1 (Hiragana: 3 times /641 s, Kanji: 5 times /585 s, finding specific strings: 1 time
2 /358 s). In Katakana reading, 91 ECDs out of 103 spike-complex were calculated
3 as a single ECD and clustered in the posterior part of the left basal temporal
4 area (pBTA). The averaged MNI coordinate of 91 ECDs was located at (x, y, z =
5 -44, -46, -26). More spikes were provoked in the second session (73) than in
6 the first session (18).

7 In 8 out of 91 ECDs, an additional ECD was estimated in the left ventral
8 PrCG/frontal operculum with a little time difference to the one at the left pBTA.
9 All 8 pairs of ECDs were detected during the second Katakana reading session
10 when the patient performed Katakana reading for a total of more than 36 min.
11 ECD at the left ventral PrCG/frontal operculum preceded the one at the left
12 pBTA by 24 ± 7 (mean \pm standard deviation) msec (Fig. 2).

13

14 **3.2. Spike propagation tract**

15 The above results suggested the existence of underlying anatomical white
16 matter pathway between the 2 foci. The left ventral PrCG/frontal operculum and
17 pBTA were traced by probabilistic tractography. The tract ran through the long
18 segment of the arcuate fasciculus (Fig. 3) (Catani et al., 2012; Martino et al.,
19 2013).

20

21 **3.3. Brain network for Katakana reading**

22 Under the scanner, the performances of the accuracy for each script conditions
23 were 90, 90, and 92% for the Katakana, Kanji, and control conditions,
24 respectively. There was no significant statistical difference among them

1 [One-way ANOVA, $F(2, 47.12) = 0.06$, $P = 0.94$]. Similarly, the mean reaction
2 times did not significantly differ among the conditions of Katakana ($0.80 \text{ s} \pm 0.14$;
3 mean \pm standard deviation), Kanji ($0.82 \text{ s} \pm 0.10$), and control ($0.81 \text{ s} \pm 0.11$)
4 [One-way Anova, $F(2, 0.21) = 0.06$, $P = 0.94$] in the practice run.

5 Figure 4A illustrates the representative BOLD signal changes in the left ventral
6 PrCG/frontal operculum (Fig. 4A: Right) and left pBTA (Fig. 4A: Left),

7 respectively. In contrast to control scripts, the Katakana and Kanji words that
8 were meaningful for the patient significantly activated the left pBTA (peak Z

9 values: Katakana = 5.50, Kanji = 7.32) and ventral PrCG/frontal operculum

10 (Katakana = 8.26, Kanji = 5.04) (figure not shown). More importantly,

11 conjunction analysis of Katakana and Kanji words revealed significant activation

12 in the left pBTA (peak Z value = 5.47: Fig. 4A: Left) at around the spike focus

13 induced by Katakana reading. When activation during Katakana and Kanji word

14 reading was compared by subtraction, the left lateral ventral frontal area

15 including the spike focus showed greater activation for Katakana than Kanji (the

16 “Katakana effect”, peak Z value = 7.62: Fig. 4A: Right), but this effect was not

17 present in pBTA. On the other hand, no increased activation for Kanji over

18 Katakana was observed in both the regions (“Kanji effect”).

19 20 **4. Discussion**

21
22 The patient was diagnosed as partial RE because of 1) alexia and stiffness in his

23 cheeks and 2) regional EEG and MEG spikes seen both interictally and during

24 the aura. Absence of the oral myoclonus and generalized or bilateral spikes

25 supports the diagnosis of partial RE. Although ictal EEG patterns were not

1 recorded except for that of aura, clustered ECDs likely indicate that the seizure
2 onset zone or the primary epileptic focus was located in the left posterior basal
3 temporal area. Based on his clinical findings, the symptomatogenic zone is
4 presumed to include both the left ventral frontal area and left posterior basal
5 temporal area.

6 The aim of this study was to investigate the mechanism of partial RE.
7 Previously, the hyperexcitable zone has been thought to be restricted to the left
8 hemispheric cortical region related to the posterior language area in patients
9 with partial RE. However, this study clearly showed the scientific evidence of
10 network hyperexcitability between the 2 distinct cortices and that linked
11 substructures within the left hemisphere contribute toward the development of
12 epileptic syndromes in a partial RE.

13 It is currently recognized that the orthographic information is processed
14 in the left pBTA (Brodmann area 37) (Sakurai et al., 2008). In our study, the
15 averaged coordinates of spike ECDs clustered in the left pBTA were situated
16 close to the regions required for the overt Kanji word reading (Sakurai et al.,
17 2000), covert pseudo word reading (Cappa et al., 1998), and the visual word
18 form area (VWFA) (Jobard et al., 2003) (Fig. 4B). Conjunction analysis showed
19 that the reading of Katakana and Kanji words activated the left pBTA overlapping
20 or adjacent to the location of these ECDs (Fig. 4A: Left). These results suggest
21 that the primary epileptogenic area played an important role in word recognition
22 through morphological processing in our patient.

23 MEG study showed that the patient had an additional epileptogenicity in
24 the left ventral PrCG/frontal operculum. This area was overlapping or adjacent to

1 the activated regions of the Katakana effects in fMRI study (Fig. 4A: Right).
2 Recent functional imaging and lesion studies revealed that left lateral frontal
3 areas, namely, the ventral PrCG and frontal operculum, are involved in
4 articulation processing (Baldo et al., 2011; Price et al., 2003). In addition, the
5 syllabic character of Kana processing is more strongly involved in phonological
6 conversion and articulation as compared with Kanji processing (Thuy et al.,
7 2004). These findings suggested that the significant Katakana effect observed in
8 our patient is predominantly associated with increased demands of phonological
9 conversion and articulation processing during Katakana reading.

10 Our findings suggested that as proposed in myoclonic RE by previous
11 studies (Ferlazzo et al., 2005), the cerebral networks subserving epileptic activity
12 in partial RE comprise areas of the brain involved in normal articulation and
13 morphological recognition processing.

14 It was the second session of Katakana letter-by-letter reading (reading
15 more than 30 min) that provoked considerably more spikes in the left pBTA.
16 Moreover, only the second session generated epileptic spikes in the left
17 ventralPrCG/frontal operculum. Although there were only 8 pairs of ECDs
18 localized in the left ventral PrCG/frontal operculum and left pBTA, this interesting
19 observation led us to hypothesize the following mechanism for generation of the
20 clinical epileptic seizure:

21 1) There is considerable evidence for normal activation in the cortical areas of
22 left pBTA and ventral PrCG/frontal operculum during reading (Taylor et al.,
23 2013). Katakana reading network was very close to or overlapping with seizure
24 onset and symptomatogenic zone.

1 2) Prolonged Katakana reading provoked epileptic activation in the left pBTA,
2 the presumed primary focus. Given hyperexcitability in the reading network led to
3 the spike propagation to the left ventral PrCG/frontal operculum via the long
4 segment of the arcuate fasciculi.

5 3) Reciprocal neuronal excitation or overload of a critical mass of neurons within
6 the left fronto-temporal reading network might have further enhanced normal
7 physiological activation, then epileptic activity and finally provoked seizures.

8 Depending on the level of the network hyperexcitability, the cumulative
9 effect of more factors may be needed for generation of the paroxysmal response,
10 namely, 1) comprehensive complexity inherent in orthography and 2) letter
11 familiarity. First, the difficulties in reading Katakana can be explained by the
12 feature model of cognitive psychology: strokes can be considered as features
13 that distinguish 1 letter from another. The letter comprising more strokes has
14 more distinctive features. The mean number of strokes in Katakana is less than
15 that in Hiragana and Tibetan, and is almost one-quarter of that in Kanji.
16 Moreover, Katakana has the most angular orthography, whereas Hiragana has
17 the most cursive orthography, and Katakana is prescribed by the position and
18 direction of a stroke (as in \sphericalangle (n) and \sphericalangle (so)). Hence, the Katakana, which
19 comprises fewer distinctive features, needs more effort to be read than both
20 Kanji and Hiragana. This assumption is in agreement with the finding that only
21 Katakana reading with higher degree of cognitive difficulty produced epileptic
22 spikes in the left pBTA during prolonged reading. Second, of the 3 types of
23 written Japanese characters, Katakana letters are less familiar than Kanji and
24 Hiragana, because they are mainly used for words that have been imported from

1 foreign languages.

2 Our MEG study showed that Katakana reading provoked considerably
3 more spikes in the second session than in the first one, and all 8 pairs of ECDs
4 localized in the left ventral PrCG/frontal operculum and left pBTA were recorded
5 in the second session. These findings suggest that prolonged effort to sustained
6 concentration caused an accumulation effect, which accelerated the excitability
7 in the above spike foci and arcuate fasciculus. This idea supports the hypothesis
8 that, under intrinsic predisposition of network hyper-excitability, the reciprocal
9 neural excitation between the two spike foci contributed to clinical seizures in
10 partial RE.

11 Spikes in the left ventral PrCG/frontal operculum preceded those in the
12 left pBTA by approximately 24 msec, a reasonable time difference for neural
13 transmission through the arcuate fasciculus according to the study of
14 cortico-cortical evoked potentials (Matsumoto et al., 2004). It is not exactly
15 known why spikes in the ventral PrCG/frontal operculum occurred first. It may be
16 something intrinsic to this patient's frontal-temporal network connectivity, i.e. the
17 higher likelihood of reciprocal neural excitation, that predisposed the patient to
18 transformation of normal physiological activation into epileptic one. Reciprocal
19 neural excitation or, if present, feed-forward and backward loops within this
20 network might account for generation of the preceding spikes in the ventral
21 frontal area.

22

23 **5. Conclusions**

24

1 Our results indicate that 1) selective subsystems including articulation and
2 morphological processing served as the seizure onset and symptomatogenic
3 zones and 2) network hyperexcitability within the left hemisphere contributed to
4 the development of clinical seizures in a patient with partial RE. In conclusion,
5 this multimodal case study implicated that, under certain predisposition of
6 network hyper-excitability, prolonged reading could enhance physiological
7 network activity and then epileptic activity, and finally epileptic seizures
8 occurred.

9

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2

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7

8 **Conflict of interest**

9

10 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

11

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9
10

1 **Figure legends**

2 **Fig. 1**

3 An example of the screen with randomized strings of Katakana letters. The
4 patient was instructed to read every letter covertly and identify meaningful words
5 among the strings. “ビートルズ” is a Katakana word of the famous singer group
6 “Beatles”.

7

8 **Fig. 2**

9 (A) MEG spikes and their gradiometer contour maps. Two enlarged MEG spikes
10 with a time difference of 23 msec are clearly identifiable. Each gradiometer
11 contour map indicates 1 dipole in the left hemisphere.

12 (B) Two different ECD foci were estimated from a spike-complex: one in the left
13 ventral PrCG/frontal operculum (upper) and the other in the left inferior temporal
14 area (lower) (shown on T1-weighted sagittal MRI slices). ECD in the left ventral
15 PrCG/frontal operculum preceded that in the left pBTA by 23 msec.

16

17 **Fig. 3**

18 (A) T1-weighted sagittal slices showing clusters of ECDs located in the left
19 ventral PrCG/frontal operculum (upper) and left pBTA (lower).

20 (B) Three-dimensional reconstructions of functional information including the 2
21 ROIs (blue) and the result of probabilistic tractography (red).

22 The white matter fiber tract that links the 2 ROIs via a dorsal projection arching
23 around the Sylvian fissure is thought to be the long segment of the arcuate
24 fasciculus.

1

2 **Fig. 4**

3 (A) The mean location of paired spike ECDs (red circles) and brain regions
4 associated with conjunction analysis of Katakana and Kanji > control (blue
5 areas: left column) and Katakana > Kanji (yellow areas: right column) are shown.

6 Left column: Overlap of the two loci suggests that left pBTA plays an important
7 role in word recognition through morphological recognition processing.

8 Right column: The significant activation observed in left ventral PrCG/frontal
9 operculum may be predominantly associated with increased attention due to the
10 demands of phonological conversion and articulation processing.

11 (B) MNI coordinates in the present and previous studies.

12 The mean coordinates of spike ECDs detected in left pBTA in this study (red
13 circle) were situated close to the regions required for pseudoword encoding
14 (blue circle: Cappa et al., 1998), reading Kanji words aloud (yellow circle:
15 Sakurai et al., 2000), and visual word form area (VWFA) (green circle: Jobard et
16 al., 2003), but not for the covert reading of Kana words (white circle: Sakurai et
17 al., 2001).

18 *Cappa et al., 1998

19 **Sakurai et al., 2000

20 ***Jobard et al., 2003

21 ****Sakurai et al., 2001

Figure 1

whole page



zoom

ケコツシサンボラハビキナオボコニツチバゼノジイレテメ
ベブフラワーケダペベルラリヤヌムアフデウネトノヒザヌ
フムルエクセバキネイメヤヅムキチニゾピルガキホラナケ
レセムケネムメトマブツメダビートルズモリヤペリユキズ
チケヌノチキユワアヲザツギタルナイモナレグゾザトヒイ
アネウヨエニリニレーピトクヨツミズエセノヤホリスンバ
"ビートルズ" is written in Japanese-Katakana for "Beatles"

Figure 2

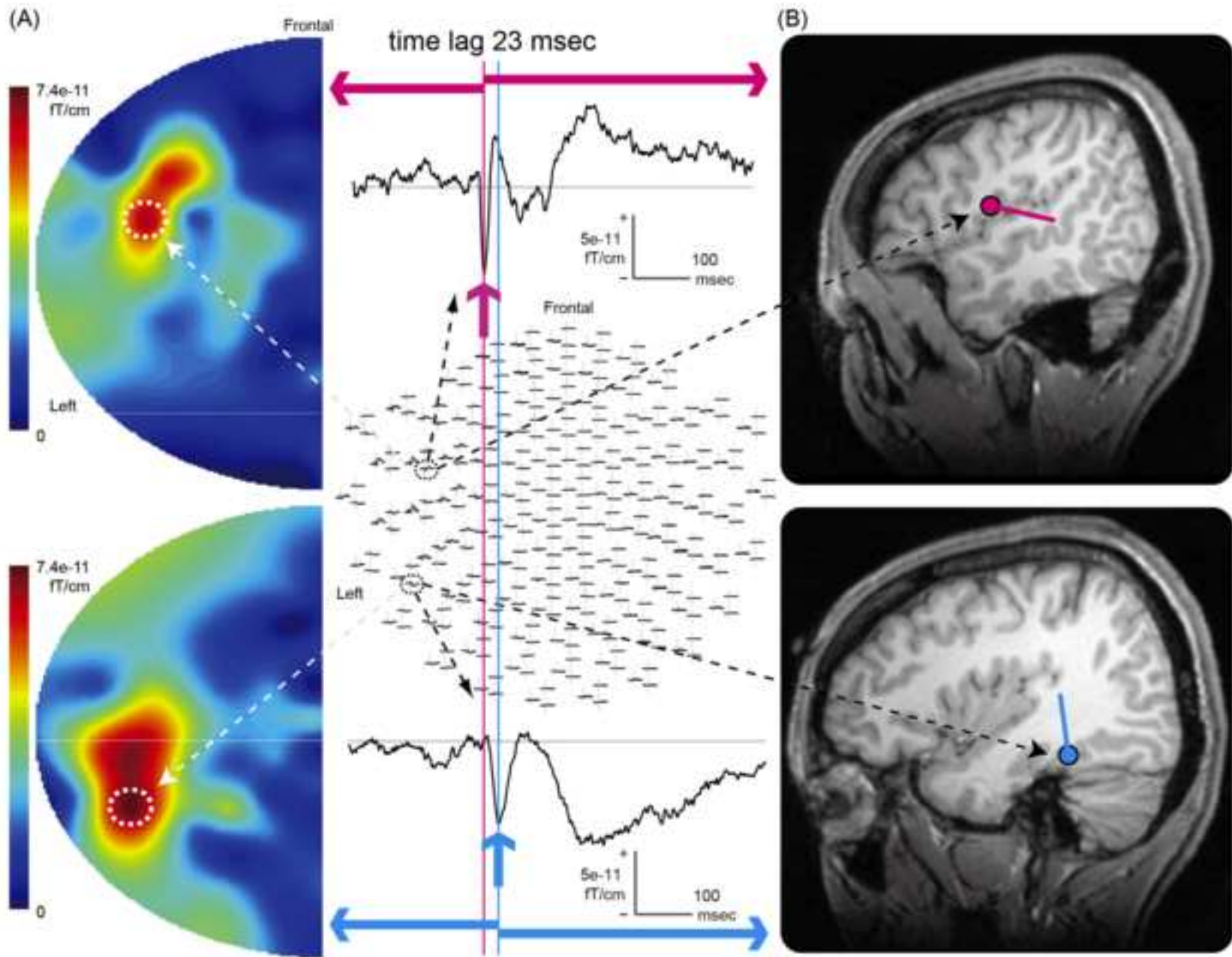
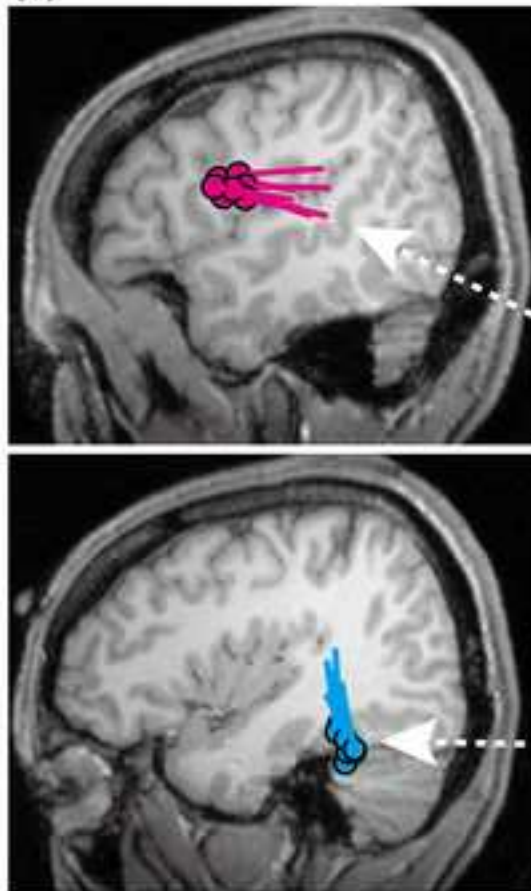
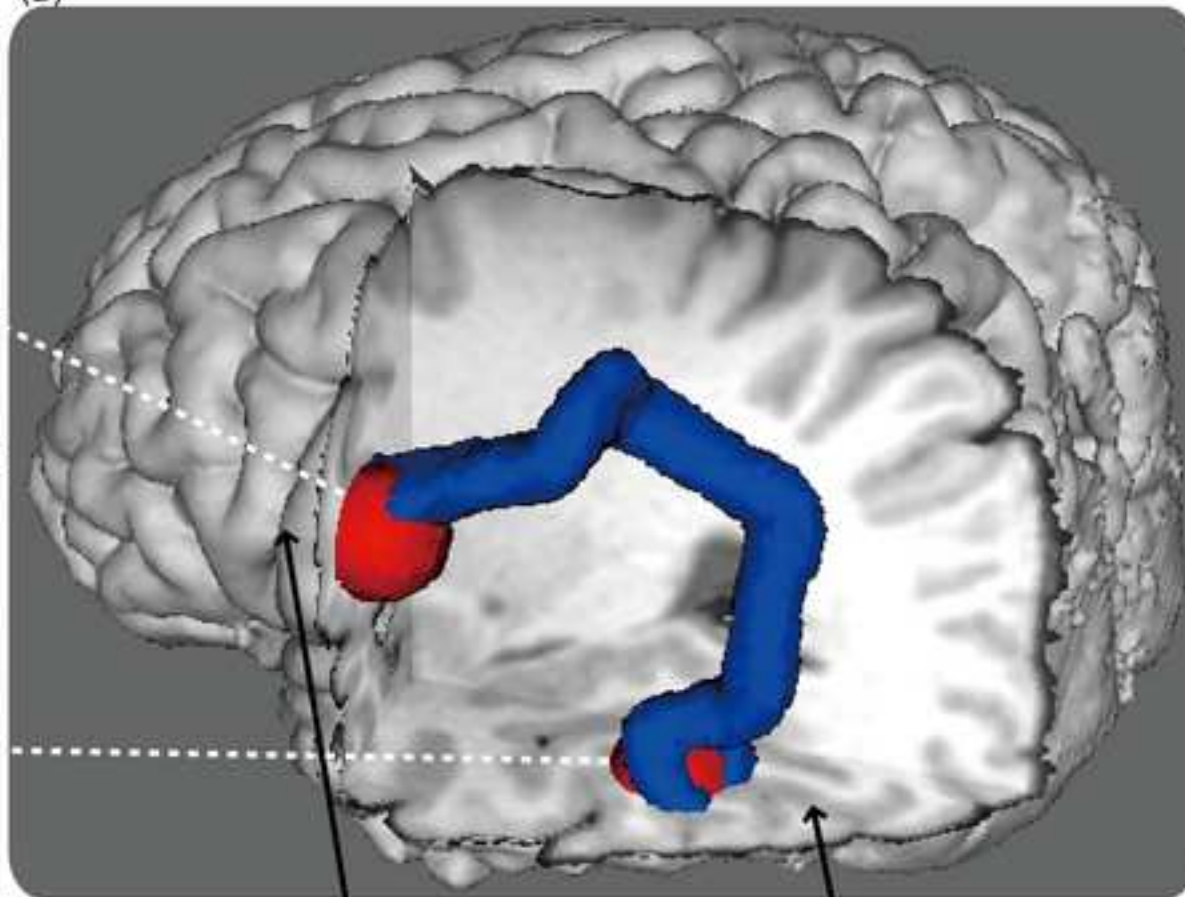


Figure 3

(A)



(B)



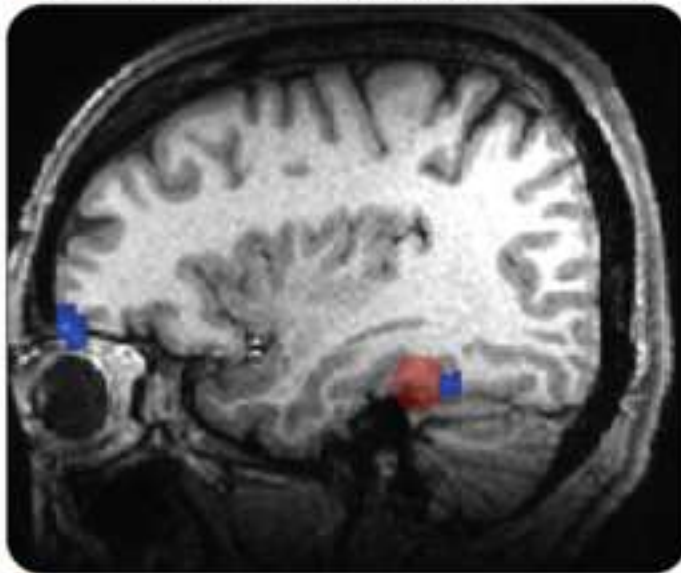
Precentral sulcus

Occipitotemporal sulcus

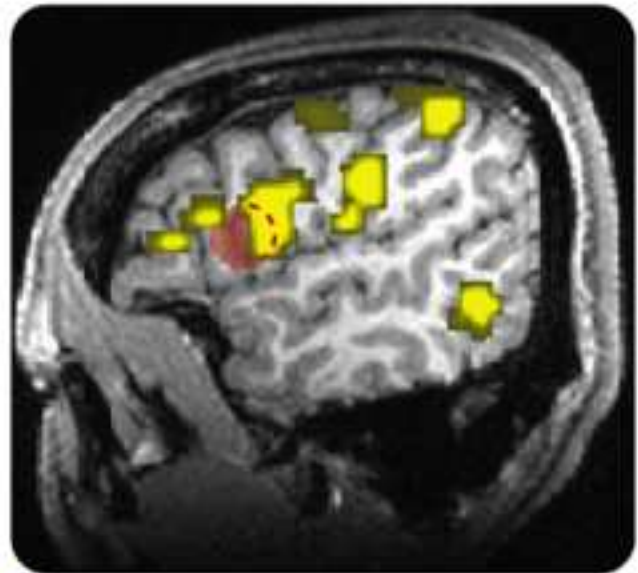
Figure 4

(A)

● ROI (mean location of paired ECDs)

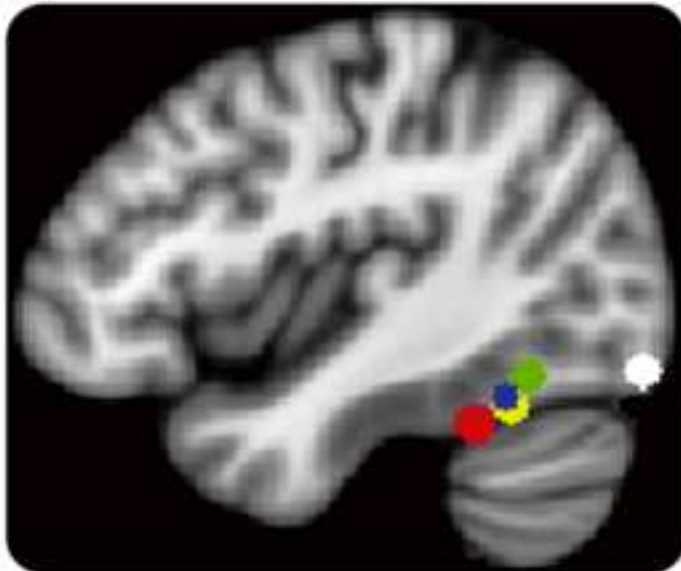


■ katakana and kanji > control



■ katakana > kanji

(B)



MNI

● katakana pseudoword (this study)

● pseudoword – fixation*

● kanji word reading aloud – fixation**

● visual word form area***

○ kana word covert reading – fixation****