

35. 言葉はどれほど人を傷つけるか(3)：構造理解

Is it true that words hurt us? This question was investigated by Eisenberger, Lieberman and Williams in a famous Science article in 2003. They studied the brains of thirteen Western undergraduates. The students played a computerised ball-throwing game during the test. The students were told that they were playing against two other humans when, in fact, they were playing against a computer. During the game, however, the other 'human' players ignored the real player. The scientists observed which brain parts were active when the humans were being ignored. The scientists found that the brain activated in the same places as when people are hurt physically. They concluded that words have the same power to hurt us as physical objects.

We can easily attack others anonymously on the internet.

A key issue centres on finding a balance between tougher regulations and freedom of expression.

A professional wrestler and cast member on a TV reality show committed suicide in May 2020 after receiving many hateful messages on social media. To address the growing concern about online harassment, the Japanese government introduced stricter laws against online bullying.
