(54) **IMAGE DECODING METHOD**

(57) An image decoding method according to the present invention comprises: generating a prediction block by reconstructing the intra prediction mode and to recreate a prediction block of the current block, or a sub-block of the current block; reverse scanning for transforming residual signals into a two-dimensional quantization block; reverse quantizing the quantization block using a quantization parameter; and reverse transforming the reverse quantization block. The quantization parameter predictor, used to reconstruct the quantization parameter, is generated by using the quantization parameters of the blocks left and above the current block. Therefore, the image quality is improved by adaptively controlling the quantization parameters on the basis of the encoding size, and the efficiency of image compression is improved by efficient encoding and decoding of the quantization parameters which reduce the number of bits necessary for transmitting quantization parameters.

FIG. 2