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(54) **Automatic vehicle door locking/unlocking apparatus**

(57) An apparatus automatically locks the doors of a vehicle based on mutual communications between a portable unit (18) and a vehicle-side control unit (80). After the doors are closed and locked after all the passengers get off the vehicle, the user of a portable unit (18) unlocks the doors in order to allow a person without the portable unit (18) to fetch something left in the vehicle. After the person opens a door, takes whatever he or she needs, and closes the door, the doors are automatically locked. When a door sensor (20) is operated to unlock the doors, and one of the doors is opened, a memory means (Fu) stores information indicating that the portable unit (18) is present in a predetermined range outside of the vehicle. If the memory means (Fu) stores information that the doors are unlocked (Fu = 1), then the doors are automatically locked.

