What is claimed is

1. A locking device for attaching an outer panel to a base receptacle, wherein the outer panel comprises a surface and a circumferential side wall extending substantially perpendicular to the surface, comprising:

a locking male portion provided on the circumferential side wall of the outer panel and extending inwardly therefrom; and

a locking female portion provided in the base receptacle and configured to mate with the locking male portion,

wherein the locking male portion cooperates with the locking female portion so as to lock the outer panel to the base receptacle; and

wherein a corresponding portion of the circumferential side wall of the outer panel provided with the locking male portion can be deformed inwardly and outwardly such that:

when the corresponding portion of the circumferential side wall is deformed inwardly, the locking male portion can disengage from the locking female portion to release the locking between the outer panel and the base receptacle; and

when the corresponding portion of the circumferential side wall is deformed outwardly, the locking male portion can disengage from the locking female portion to release the locking between the outer panel and the base receptacle.

2. The locking device according to claim 1, wherein the locking male portion and the locking female portion lock the outer panel to the base receptacle by abutting against each other, and the locking male portion releases the locking between the outer panel and the base receptacle by being deformed to separate the locking male portion from the locking female portion.

3. The locking device according to claim 2, wherein the locking male portion comprises a upwardly-inclined hook-shaped extension extending inwardly from the circumferential side wall.

4. The locking device according to claim 3, wherein the locking male portion along with the circumferential side wall assumes a substantial “レ” shape when viewed from a section of a assembly of the outer panel and the base receptacle.

5. The locking device according to claim 3, wherein the hook-shaped extension is provided with a first abutting portion which protrudes from a side of the hook-shaped extension.

6. The locking device according to claim 5, wherein the locking female portion is an open slot, and a second abutting portion which abuts against the first abutting portion is projectedly provided at a cutout side of a side wall of the open slot.

7. The locking device according to claim 6, wherein respective sides of the hook-shaped extension are provided with the first abutting portion and the second abutting portion which abuts against the first abutting portion is provided at respective cutout sides of the side wall of the open slot.

8. The locking device according to claim 7, wherein the locking device is configured in such a way that

when the corresponding portion of the circumferential side wall provided with the locking male portion is deformed towards an inner side of the open slot, the first abutting portion moves towards the inner side of the open slot so as to be separated from the second abutting portion; and

when the corresponding portion of the circumferential side wall provided with the locking male portion is deformed towards an outer side of the open slot, the first abutting portion retreats outwardly from the open slot so as to be separated from the second abutting portion.

9. The locking device according to claim 1, wherein the outer panel is a panel of a switch or a socket, and the base receptacle is a base receptacle of a switch or a socket.

10. A socket, comprising a locking device according to any of claims 1-8, wherein the outer panel is a panel of the socket, and the base receptacle is a base receptacle of the socket.

11. A switch, comprising a locking device according to any of claims 1-8, wherein the outer panel is a panel of the switch, and the base receptacle is a base receptacle of the switch.