

# **Critical Studies: Computational Thinking and Critical Practice**

## **MSC Creative Computing**

**YAN MEIYUE 21006588**

**12th Oct 2021**

**Week2**

### **Reading**

There is no doubt that 'A Cyborg Manifesto' is an obscure but self-improvement book.

I carried a strong peculiar feeling after reading three chapters of 'A Cyborg Manifesto'. I realized that the way we think about the world is somehow becoming more and more impoverished with the development of technology. Reading is ubiquitous in our daily lives, nowadays even the advertisement board illustrates with metaphor. In some circumstances, aside from the unalloyed pleasure in the field of literature, the efficiency of reading is the fundamental pursuit. One of the reasons why the interpretation of 'A Cyborg Manifesto' is become complicated is that the article cites loads of metaphors to explain ideologies. Subsequently, how to review the central idea of the abstract metaphor is become a hard target.

First and foremost, I tried to dig deep into the unfamiliar proper noun. For instance, Cyborgs, Chimera, Chicana woman, Oral symbiotic utopia, Cosmos, Monism.....The more background researches I into, the better understanding of the topic I gained.

In the process of reading, when I encountered the core concepts that could not be truly understood, I popped questions to myself. In 'A Cyborg Manifesto', here are some of the questions that I bring out: Who counts as "we"? What kind of identity can be used to lay the foundation for such a powerful political myth called "we"? What can stimulate active participation in this collective? What kind of politics will be partial, contradictory, and open to the construction of individual and collective self, and still be reliable, effective, and ironic Socialist Feminism?

From my point of view, the ultimate goal of reading is not to understand 100% of all the contents written by the author but to understand the general meaning, find the logical clues between the words, and extract the values of the text.

## Writing

Writing has become very interested in this dynamic relationship between words and thoughts. To be honest, in my perspective, writing is not a simple reflex, but an immensely complex, elastic system that responds both to the logic that writers have expressed and the cultures that writers live in.

As we all know, Cyborg Manifesto was written in 1991, without any doubt, the particular historical background of writing often creates great pieces of works, because the special period of writing background can not be copied.

Therefore, it is very important to combine the present situation while writing. Living in contemporary society currently means we standing on the shoulder of giants to predict the future. In that case, studying the current society, considering the future reality is an indispensable part of writing.

Apart from this, it is beneficial to jot personal unique insights down, creative the comprehended personal perspective, start with writing down the keywords. In addition, focusing on the audience of the readers is key to writing. Narration is indeed the building block of writing, storying telling is not only about the narrator, the listeners always play indispensable roles. Supportive opinions or the collection of information against the point of view will also help intention. Be open to contradictory statements, just like what Donna Haraway did.