

Reading #1

Chapter 1- Summary:

The general idea about this chapter was to characterize different types of cyborgs and the definitions implemented to them since the first idea of it. In the reading, the writer mentions various examples. Some examples that caught my attention were the earpiece(cochlear implants) and the rat implant. Additionally, there was a mention on non operative technology such as cell phones that are considered to be part of this topic.

1. Summarize the distinction(s) from the traditional Klines & Clines definition of the cyborg vs. the one that Clark is proposing as the main thesis of his book?

The definition of a cyborg under Klines & Clines is a system that incorporates a “sci-fi” kinda realism that is connected between human and machine. Better stated - “incorporates exogenous components extending the self-regulating control function of the organism in order to adapt it to new environments”. Clark’s definition of cyborg is that it is not necessarily a machine like being who has intertwined with a human but can be a human that serves as self regulating systems.

2. From The book, "Cyberneticists were especially interested in *self-regulating systems*."

What are 2 or more example of these, make sure to include both biological systems and also non-biological systems.

Examples of self-regulating systems as described in the book are: the toilet system because of its ability to flush and refill mechanism and the human body in which it is a homeostatic engine. Another example, perhaps an aqueduct because it also has a system to refill and dispose. Biological systems are definitely respiration and sweating. Non-Biological are thermostat and light sensors in rooms.

3. What other kind of definitions of a hybrid humans are there that are not based on definitions above but popular in literature, media culture, etc.

When I think of a hybrid human, usually what comes to mind are humans connected to animals and humans connected with robots. I think the term itself can be manifested as simply a combination of something that can be usable within a human. I have heard that the pig's anatomy is closer to a human one than to any other animal species.

Chapter 2 - Summary:

The main topic of this reading circulates around the concept of cybernetic technology again, along with the definitions of what is opaque technology and transparent technology. Additionally, the author explains the importance of the variety of technologies we have with the notion of how we are drifting more towards dependence of technology and the abandonment of non technological things such as pocket watches and dictionaries.

1. Summarize a definition as described in the book of what the significant attributes are for 'opaque' technology vs. 'transparent' technology.

Opaque technology as stated in the book is basically technology that requires skill that doesn't usually come naturally to the person- example PC. Transparent technology is fitted to our lives so well that essentially it becomes important and integrated to our lives. The writer uses the examples of an artist paper and pencil as an example of transparent technology.

2. Give some examples of technology that might be better served if it were more transparent and also give some example of a technology that should be more opaque.

Examples of technology that might be better served if it were more transparent, perhaps should be medicine technology. This way, people can learn about medicine and can help those in need with out much effort. An opaque technology example definitely manual transmission and computers. Driving a manual transmission car took me some time to learn. Whereas automatic was easier to learn. Of course driving itself became an everyday thing to me. Technology more opaque should be credit card access.

3. Does the watch and dictionary example discussed in the book, seem valid to you? Why?

Yes, it does seem valid to me because I agree with the author's point. Watches have become less of an object that is on us all the time rather incorporated into our phones or computers. It is in the sense less opaque and more transparent. The dictionary is the opposite- we don't have it attached to ourselves rather a tool that we use.