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How Flexible is the Boundary between Human and Machine? Digital Convergence and Re-definition of Human Being

The digital convergence (DC) gives us an opportunity for reconsidering the definitions of and the relation between human and machine. Received views on this new technological convergence are mainly either technology-centered or economy-centered, and are too restricted to reveal the genuine principle of this cultural (and simultaneously technological) phenomena. Actor Network Theory (Callon/Latour), emphasizing the symmetrical consideration of the natural/technological and the social/cultural aspects, shifts the viewpoint from “tools” to “machines” for the DC. Emphasizing the three-layered structure, viz. the physical, the code/logical, and the content layer (Lessig) or the hardware, the software, and the meaningware (Liestøl), I analyzed everyday usage, especially in Korea, of such devices as smartphones or new laptop. My approach sheds light on Uexküll’s *Umwelt* and biosemiotics and the anti-Cartesian non-representational viewpoint of cognition that emphasizes dynamical-, embodied-, extended-, distributed-, and situated-theories of cognition (DEEDS) related to the “natural-born cyborg” thesis (Clark).