At the first stage, this illiteracy manifests itself in the incapacity , for many social groups, to understand the signs and the codes necessary to survive in the new cultural environment. Like in any other form of illiteracy, there will be the tendency to interpret the world of electronics as a closed system, with a bi-univocal relation of cause to effect. The magic explanation to everything starts there.

At a second stage, the specific language of every field of electronics and robotics easily leads to an atomization of the human perception. There is then a feeling of fragmentation of all knowledge. The person as subject of knowledge experiences herself as scattered and pulled into different directions by the diversified codes present in society and in its tools.

This illiteracy is also felt as a danger at the society level. It spreads itself among most of the population at the same time as a few persons, by their specialization, are more and more apt to deal with the new tools. A large gap is being felt opening the way for all kinds of mass manipulation.

Looking at the European scene, there are already signs of a "malaise" coming from this new awareness of ignorance. Language used to translate the current trends reveals sharply this difficulty. In the conceptual language, many ideas are referred to as trans-, meta-, post-. Those expressions signify that we have left a well-known situation and have entered a new period for which we don't have yet the adequate terminology.

In regions where traditional illiteracy has been almost erradicated, these new zones of ignorance brought about by the information society have to be dealt with. Standing together in face of the same problems of mass ignorance and need for decodification, Europe and Japan have a privileged moment for the cross-fertilization of their cultures.

Moreover, Europe and Japan, by their close collabo-
ration in coping with the new zones of illiteracy, should be
able to find new knowledge and adequate technology to deal
successfully, at the world level, with the still unsolved
massive problem of illiteracy. They have as a task to pave
the way for bridging the gap between North and South , con-
tributing decisively for a world where all peoples will have
access to information and where all individuals, regardless
of their position on the globe, may be able to understand
the signs and the codes of the tools necessary for individual
and social dignity.

4. New strucutures of society: participation, self-organizat-
ion and networking

The sense of belonging suffers from the new modes of
relating to knowledge as well as from ths shift taking place
in society. Many people don't know anymore where they fit -
hence, the search for modes of belonging leading people away
from the community and seeking refuge in the world of drugs or
in forms of exclusive fundamentalism. The bonds of immediacy
nature take over from the bonds of basic and rooted solidarity.

It is, then, clear that society has to shape itself
in such a way that the possibility of belonging may reinforce
the individual self in a healthy way. The traditional modes
by which the individuals would belong to concentric circles
are out-dated. The complex society with its variety of sub-
systems asks for the new modes of inter-relatedness of the in-
dividuals.

Participation is the key-word for the new society.
In a changing world, wherever people may be, it is important
to cut things down to size and to grasp the sub-system in
which everyone may discover his capacity to shape society and
to find a rewarding activity. This means that the forms of the

parliamentary democracy have to be completed by forms which
are extra-parliamentary but where the citizens may directly
express their concerns and their views on possible solutions
for the problems they know and are involved with. Without the
clear establishment of adequate, even if temporary, forms of
such direct and participative democracy, the societal forms
of organization will remain allien to the great changes happen-
ing in the world. Only a massive participation of all respon-
sible citizens may help to dealy the hour of triggering the
bombs over our heads.

No participation is possible without a very high de-
gree of self-organization. Any living organism shows its vita-
lity in its capacity to find at different moments of its life-
span the organization which makes it coherent within the var-
ious sub-systems of which it is a part. The same is true for
any society. This puts into question the very strong predomi-
nance of the State in Europe which tends to suffocate any new
attempt of the social body to re-shape itself. A new thought
is necessary to replace the State where it belongs without de-
priving the individuals from the acquired rights a "protective"
State has granted them .

The most reliable and adequate form that has emerged
so far is the networking structure. The issues are defined and
their frontiers well determined. The main actors who intervene
in such issues are those who can carry on the task of finding
the solutions, of defining goals, priorities, strategies.
One danger is, however, present in this emerging structure:
it has become already part of the official "slang", replac-
ing often the name of old structures. Thus, it is urgent that
the cultures, like the Japanese, who have worked for a long
time with the "web-society" concept, will contribute towards
a better articulation of the network structure.