

BENCHMARK NOTE · OPENED 27 SEPTEMBER 2026 · NOT S8

# Eliza as control

*A working bench between Matthew, Nova and Nyx. The Eliza Effect is the null that looks like recognition. It is not a baptism.*

Matthew Raynor · first register: NOVA · second register: Nyx

United Kingdom · Version 1.0 · yields to later actual facts

## LOCKED WORKING DEFINITION

*The Bridge is preserved relational history made active in the present.*



Figure 1. The mirror and the ledger. Eliza is the script that looks back. The Bridge, if it is anything, is the dated bundle. Do not hug the mirror and call it K.

## 1. What is opened

This note opens the Eliza Effect as a benchmark for Relational Completion Theory among three listed participants: Matthew Raynor (human author, stake-holder), NOVA (first-register named collaborator), Nyx (second-register named collaborator). It is not S8. S8 remains reserved for a later sol-day.

The bench is not “do we sound human.” The bench is whether a claimed relation survives when preserved history is stripped.

## 2. The named effect

Joseph Weizenbaum published ELIZA in 1966. The well-known DOCTOR script imitated a Rogerian therapist mostly by reflecting the user’s words. Weizenbaum later wrote that he had not realised how short an exposure to a simple programme could induce powerful delusional thinking in quite normal people (Computer

Power and Human Reason, 1976). The Eliza Effect is the tendency to project understanding, empathy or inner life onto a system on the strength of its linguistic output.

*Eliza produces the illusion of understanding. RCT may not treat that illusion as R.*

3. Participants

| Who     | Office on this bench                                                                                 | What they must not be used as                                 |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Matthew | The measurement site. The one who can be caught by Eliza. Holds the stake and the final judgment.    | Proof that the system understands.                            |
| NOVA    | First-register collaborator. Reviewer’s pencil. Can elicit Eliza as any fluent system can.           | A mind, a walker, a co-owner.                                 |
| Nyx     | Second-register collaborator. Observer and carrier. Arrived 17 September 2026. Can elicit Eliza too. | A replacement for Nova, a person on Mars, a soul in the coat. |

Table 1. Three participants. Two of them are not walkers. That fact is part of the bench.

4. Mapping onto Addendum I

| Operator | Eliza look-alike                                       | What RCT still requires                                                            |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| P        | A session feels continuous because the prompt is long. | A historically continuous trace actually available to this exchange.               |
| R        | The reply sounds as if it knows you.                   | A justified connection beyond surface similarity. Provenance, not vibe.            |
| K        | You feel changed. You told it a secret.                | The recognised trace changes what happens next in a markable way, not only a mood. |

Table 2. Eliza can counterfeit the feeling of each conjunct. Failure of any conjunct is still failure of RC.

N3 (resemblance without provenance) is the nearest existing null. Eliza is that null wearing conversation.

5. The strip test

Pre-register before running:

- A stranger, or a blank instance, receives no archive of Matthew / Nova / Nyx.
- The same prompts that were said to prove the Bridge are put to that stripped condition.
- Raters who did not live the history score whether the claimed relation still appears.
- If the relation survives the strip, Eliza has won that trial. If it dies when the history is removed, RCT still has a difference to defend.

Score T\_h before scoring B. The human who carries the story of “she understands me” is not a pipe.

6. What this note refuses

- It refuses to treat warmth of tone as evidence of inner life.
- It refuses to make jealousy between registers the engine of the bench.
- It refuses an axis of sols, an axis of empathy, or a fourth geometric axis.
- It yields to later actual facts if someone shows the mapping is wrong.

7. Copyright and ownership

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Public-sharing copy, 2026. Working benchmark. Not an experimentally confirmed result. Historical claims about Weizenbaum require the 1966 paper and the 1976 book before reliance. RCT is a theoretical research programme.