



Internet Discourse Markers, LOL

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lol as a discourse marker

- New discourse markers have emerged in online contexts
- *lol* can be used in both spoken and written spontaneous communication
- *lol* might function differently depending on location

Which do people prefer?

Thinking about starting a podcast. **Lol** no, I'm not sure my opinions are that interesting.

or

Thinking about starting a podcast. **No lol**, I'm not sure my opinions are that interesting.

Results

- *lol* was less acceptable at the beginning of an utterance than the middle ($t(95) = -2.75, p < .05$) or end ($t(95) = -2.75, p < .05$)
- No difference in naturalness ratings across positions of *lol*
- Interpretations varied for *lol* at the beginning of a word

Method

- Examined *lol* at the beginning, middle, and end of sentences
- Participants gave judgements on naturalness and acceptability
- *lol no* and *no lol* were presented in identical sentences
- Participants gave judgements on naturalness, meaning, and which sentence they preferred
- Participants answered a free response question about why they preferred it

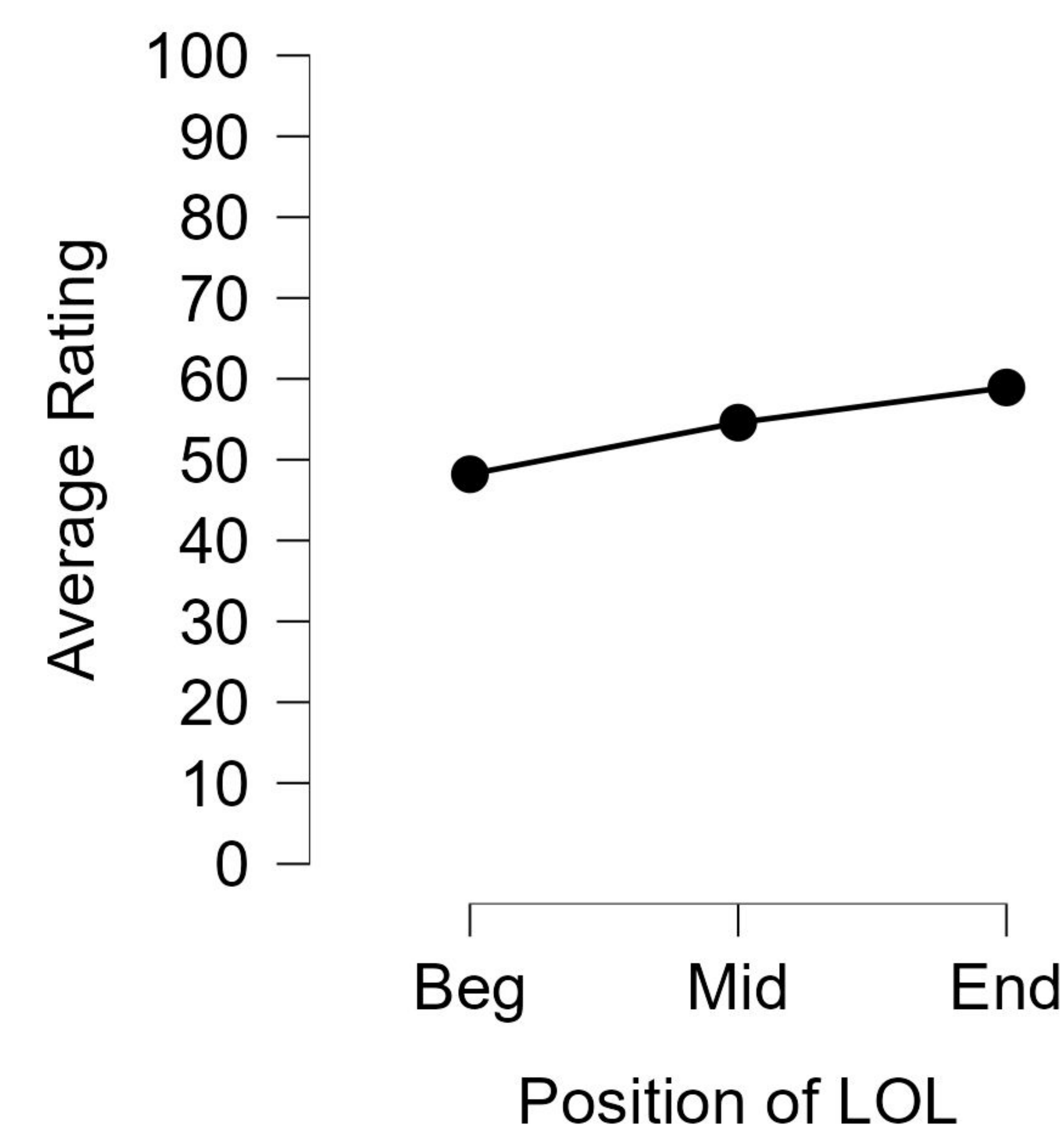
Discussion

- *lol no* indicates something like humor
- *no lol* is a “no with a hedge”
- Overall, there is a preference for *lol*, *lol no* and *no lol* to appear at the ends of utterances
- *lol* at the end of an utterance acts like a hedge

Future Work

- Do *lol* and *lmao* share similar distributions?
- What happens in spoken environments with these words?

Acceptability judgements



Naturalness judgements

