



# LOL as a discourse marker

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## Background

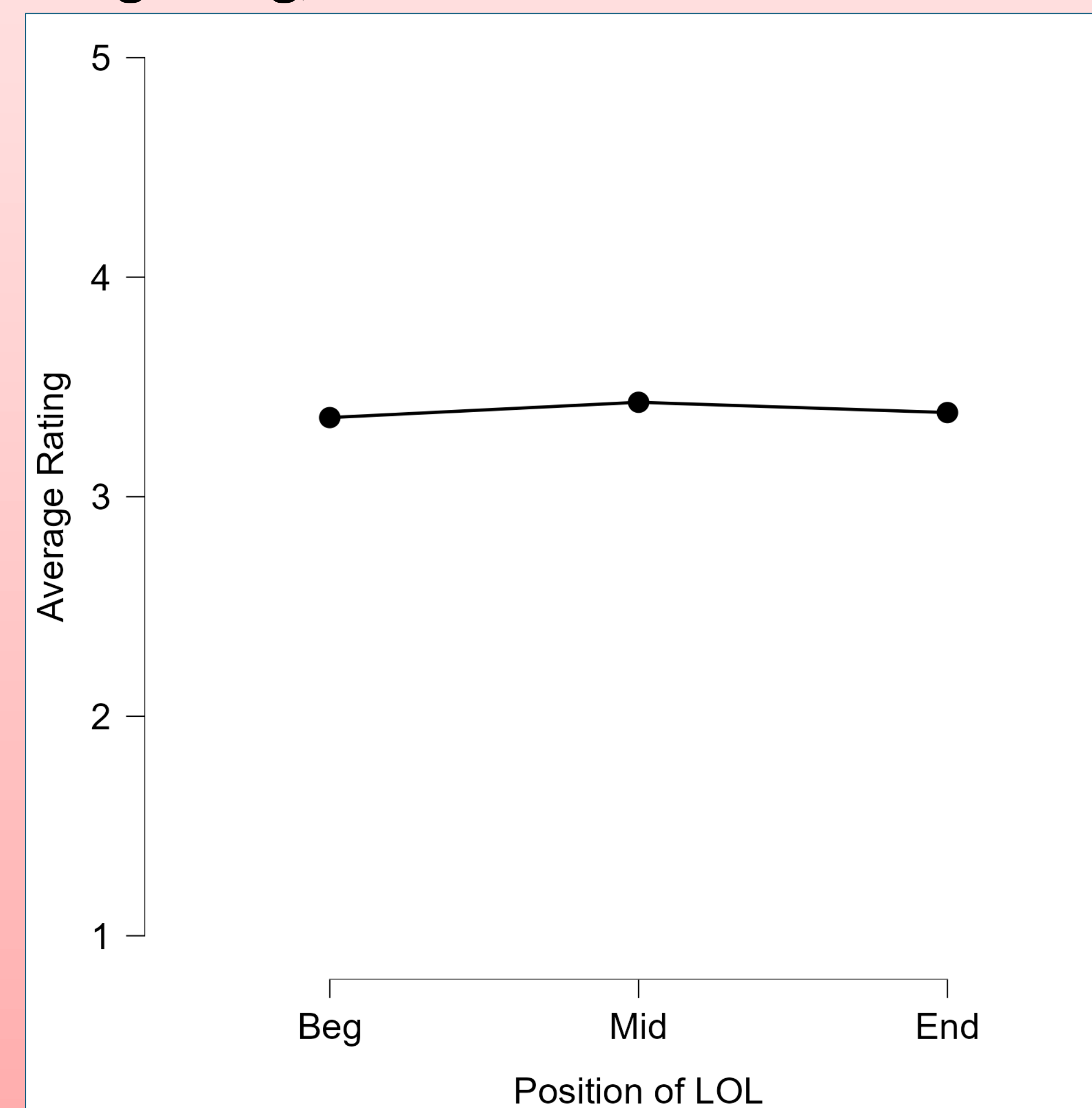
- Discourse markers help people navigate in-person and online conversations
- Little is known about emerging discourse markers, such as *LOL* (Garley, 2008; Savolainen, 2017; Schneebeli, 2019; Schneebeli, 2020).
- How does LOL interpretation vary across position?

## Method

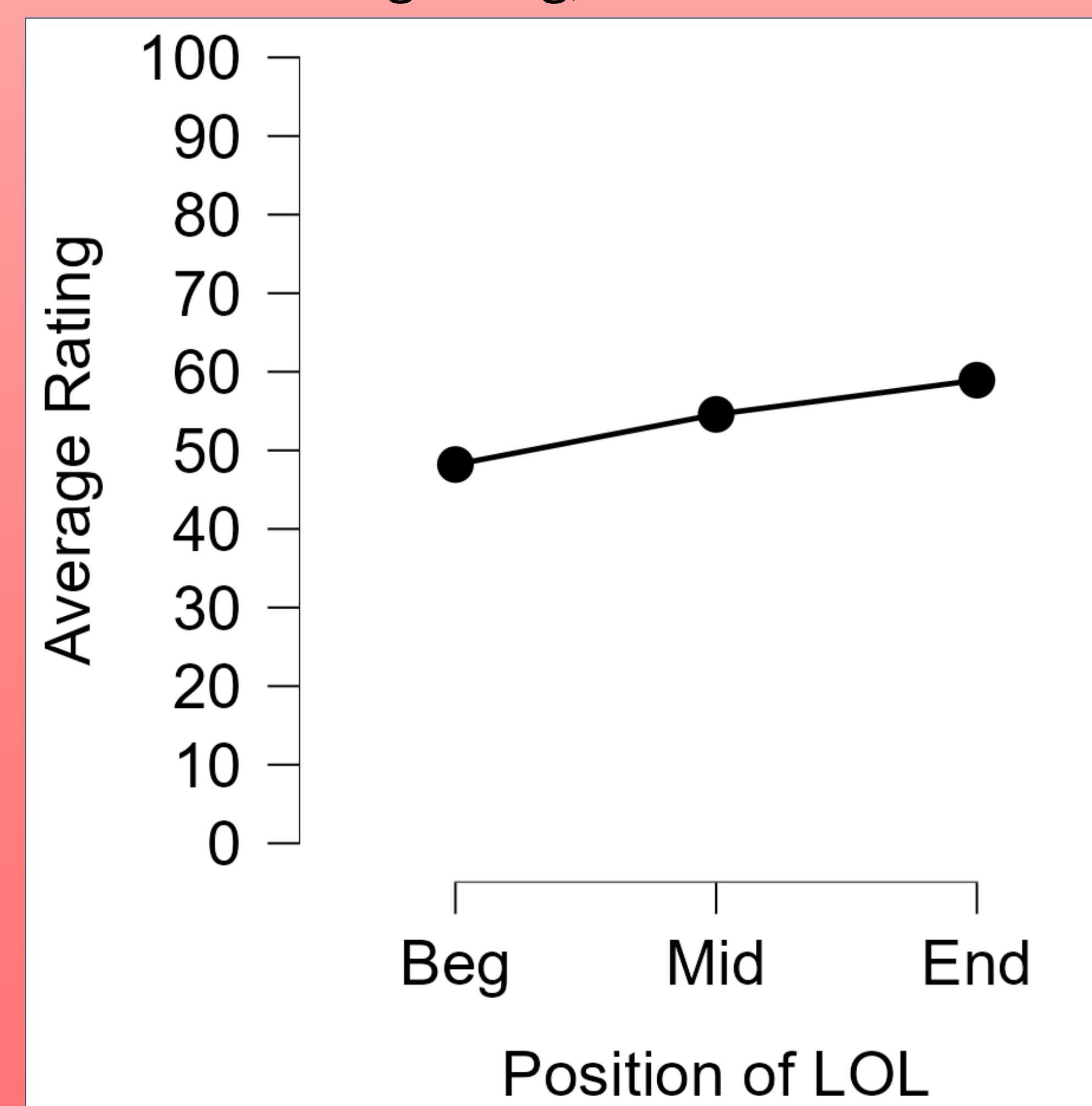
- 96 Participants
- Measured the naturalistic rating of the position of *LOL* (beginning, middle, end) **and** how likely they would be to use the sentence.
- Examined “LOL no” versus “no LOL” in three different carrier sentences

## LOL

How natural does “lol” sound at the beginning, middle or end of the sentence?



This is a sentence where I would use “lol” at the beginning, middle or end.



## *LOL no or no LOL?*

- Participant free response indicated that *LOL no* is closer in interpretation to a laugh
- *No lol* is a no with a hedge
- Results did not vary for position for middle / end appearance
- People had varying interpretations for appearing at the beginning of an utterance

## Discussion

- No difference in naturalness ratings for position
- Significant difference between acceptability for LOL at the beginning compared to the end

Please contact Dr. Nguyen with questions:

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