



PRESENTER

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## General Research Question

Could the **aesthetic appeal of linguistic features** influence their **learnability**, and in turn their **long-term stability during language change**?

## Baseline hypothesis

Different prosodic patterns differ in their aesthetic appeal.

## Methods

180 participants rated trisyllabic pseudo-words with different prosodic patterns (**lengthening or shortening of initial, medial or final syllables**) on their aesthetic appeal (liking, beauty and naturalness).

Cumulative Link Mixed Model: rating ~ type of appeal + duration \* position

## Results



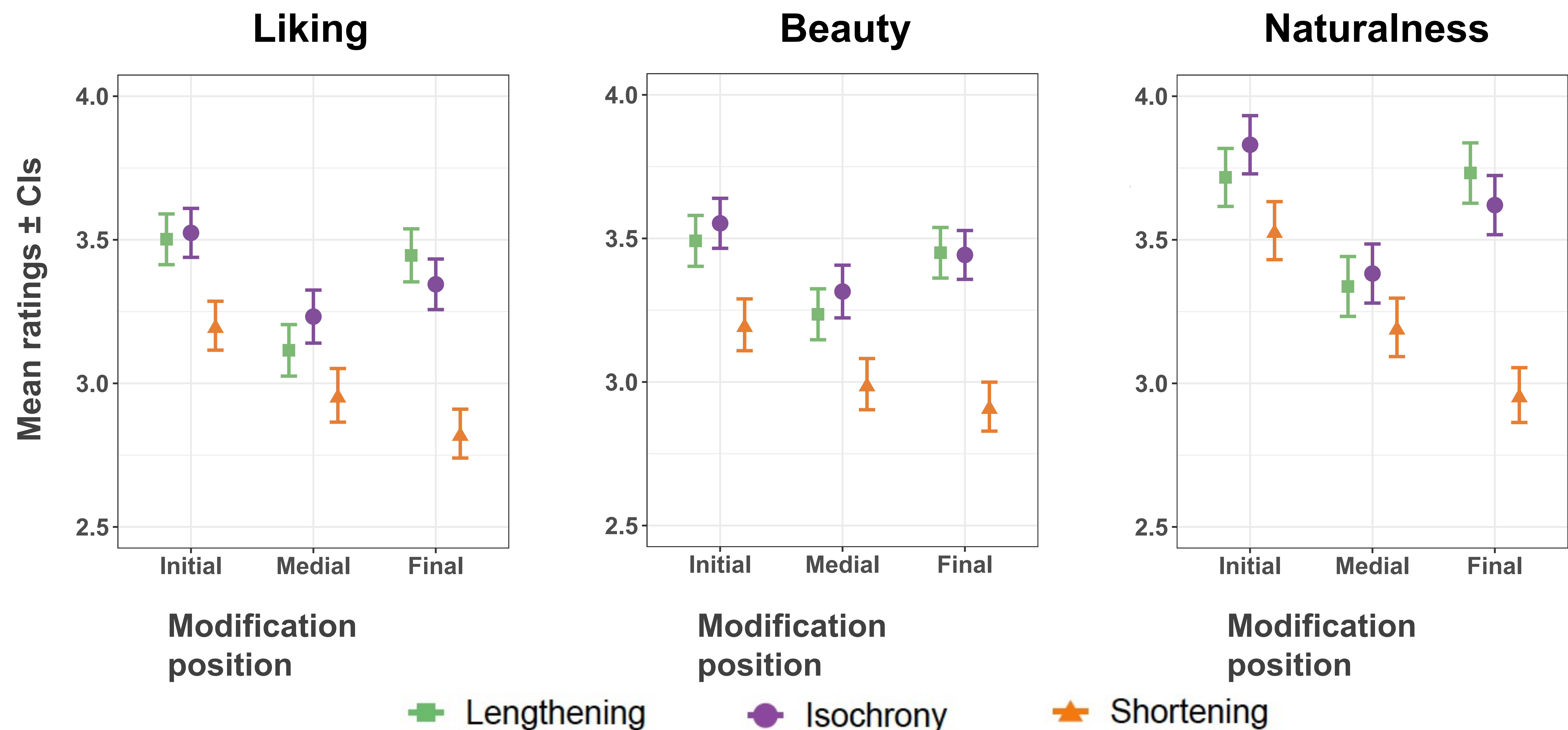
## Implications

[Matzinger et al. 2021](#): In a continuous speech stream, **listeners easily identify individual words when their final syllables are lengthened, but not when shortened.**

→ **Link between aesthetic appeal, speech segmentation and language learning.**



# The **aesthetic appeal** of prosodic patterns may influence how good listeners can **segment words from continuous speech.**



Words with one syllable **shortened had a lower aesthetic appeal** than isochronous words. This **low aesthetic appeal** was particularly prominent for **word-final shortening**. **Word-finally lengthened** words were slightly **more appealing** than isochronous words.

For more details and references, see: Matzinger T, Specker E, Ritt N & Fitch WT. 2021. Aesthetic perception of prosodic patterns as a factor in speech segmentation. *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4tm94762>

