What happens in the initial and the final position? - A case study of the pragmatic marker *anyway* in different positions in the utterance in Irish English

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*Anyway* has been described as an adverbial connector or discourse marker with the meaning ‘in any case’, ‘at any rate’, ‘but’. However this characterization is too broad to describe what it is doing in different positions of the utterance or turn. The hypothesis underlying this study is that elements in the leftmost or rightmost position in the utterance are associated with different actions or functions predictable from what we know about the production of spoken language in real time. (Beeching and Detges 2014). *Anyway* is ideal for a case study since it is found both in in the initial and final position (field) in the utterance with a broad range of functions in both positions. If the functions of *anyway* depend on where it is placed in the utterance we would expect it to behave in a similar way in varieties of the same language. My presentation will be based on a study of the frequency and use of *anyway* in different positions in the Irish component of the International Corpus of English (ICE) and compare the results with the findings from other varieties of English in the ICE-Corpus.

References