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More evidence of heterogeneity in the class of (comparative and superlative) numeral modifiers

Abstract:

Theories of superlative (at least n, at most n) and comparative (less than n, more than n) numeral modifiers have identified a number of differences between them but none predicts that they should behave differently under negation. My study shows that superlatives are judged significantly worse under negation. At the same time, they are judged to be on a par with comparatives in other DE environments such as the restriction of *if* or *every*. The study also reveals an interesting effect of boundary.