Looks like you can crown your teddy with a rose garland, but can you paddle this boat with a spoon?

The true behaviour of pseudo denominals and the pseudo behaviour of true denominals

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Kiparsky (1997)

There is a structural distinction between:

(i) true denominals (noun-derived)
(ii) pseudo denominals (root-derived)

(1) a. ♯Lola taped the poster to the wall with pushpins.
   b. He hammered the desk with his shoe.

Does the distinction between true and pseudo denominal verbs hold?

Harley & Haugen (2007): No, you can tape with band-aids!
**Experiment**

- **Participants:** 100 English native speakers
- **Method:** acceptability task using a Likert scale from 1 to 5
- **Materials:** 56 sentences (28 test sentences: Kiparsky’s sentences and modified versions where the PP was made more or less similar to the root)

(2) a. He crowned her ♯ with a hat. / with a rose garland (true)

b. Tom paddled the canoe with a board / ♯ with a spoon. (pseudo)

- **Results:**

  Acceptability depends mainly on similarity of the PP object to the incorporated root!

- **Theoretical account:**

  The distinction between true and pseudo denominals is pragmatic, not structural!

  All denominals are derived from (n-like) nominal roots! (=> similarity drives acceptability)