## 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!

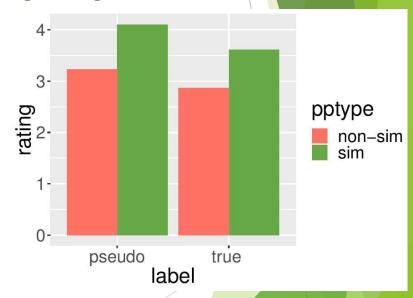
## **Experiment**

- ▶ **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)