

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)

