AIM
- to test, on the basis of two acceptability judgment tasks answered by 100 native speakers of English, whether the distinction between true and pseudo denominals holds.
- to argue denominal verbs are all derived from nominal roots expressing zelike concepts rather than that only some denominals are root-derived (Kiparsky, 1997), since the results reveal significant effects of the semantic similarity of the PPs to the denominal verb's incorporated nominal.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND
- According to Kiparsky (1982, 1997), followed by Arad (2003, 2005), there are two types of denominal verbs, which can be distinguished depending on whether they can take a PP denoting a different ‘object’ from the one incorporated in the verb:
  i) true denominal verbs (imply the specific use of the incorporated instrument e.g. tape — see (1a))
  ii) pseudo-denominal verbs (generic, do not require any particular instrument e.g. hammer — see (1b))

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

- According to Harley & Haugen (2007), there is no such distinction, and verbs of the tape type do not necessarily entail use of the conflated root (one can tape with hand-aid or mailing labels; tapping with pushpins is bad because the characteristic manner of use of pushpins is quite distinct from that of tape)

EXPERIMENT
Hypothesis
- There is no distinction between true and pseudo-denominals.
- The illusion of a distinction is given by the degree of similarity between the root and the PP object.

Participants
- 100 native speakers of English

Methodology
- acceptability task: Likert scale from 1 to 5

Materials
- 56 sentences (28 test sentences and 28 fillers)
- 28 verbs consisted of 12 instrumentals, 8 location and 8 locatum verbs
- There were four types of test sentences based on those of Kiparsky (1997):
  i) sentences with true denominals considered unacceptable by Kiparsky
  ii) sentences with pseudo-nominals considered acceptable by Kiparsky
  iii) modified sentences with true denominals
  iv) modified sentences with pseudo-denominals

- For the denominals considered true by Kiparsky (1997), the PPs were made more semantically similar to the incorporated object (2a), while, for those considered pseudo-denominals, the PPs were made less similar (not an object type n) (2b):

(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)

- The test sentences vary in two ways:
  i) they can have PPs that are similar or non-similar to the incorporated object of denominal verb
  ii) they can have pseudo or true denominal verbs (following Kiparsky’s classification).

- There were two versions of the test, in which each denominal verb was presented only once, preventing the participants from seeing the same verb in both a similar and non-similar condition. Each version was presented to 50 participants.