



Hypothesis

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Introduction

- Hypothesis is a proposition, or set of propositions, set forth as an explanation for the occurrence of some specified group of phenomena, either asserted merely as a provisional conjecture to guide investigation (**working hypothesis**) or accepted as highly probable in the light of established facts.
- Hypothesis is a proposition assumed as a premise in an argument.
- Hypothesis is the antecedent of a conditional proposition.
- Hypothesis a mere assumption or guess.



Hypothesis

- Goode and Hatt have defined Hypothesis as “a proposition which can be put to test to determine its validity”.
- According to Eric Rogers “Hypothesis are single tentative guesses, good hunches – assumed for use in devising theory or planning experiments intended to be given a direct experimental test when possible”.
- According to Lundberg, “A hypothesis is a tentative generalization, the validity of which remains to be tested. In its most elementary stage, the hypothesis may be any hunch, guess, imaginative idea, which becomes the basis for action or investigation”.



Types of Hypothesis

1. Hypotheses stating existing empirical uniformities
2. Hypotheses concerned with complex ideal-types
3. Hypotheses related with analytical variables



Characteristics of Hypothesis

1. Conceptual clarity
2. Specificity and precision
3. Empirical referents
4. Simplicity
5. Related to available techniques
6. Related to theory



Sources of Hypothesis

1. General culture
2. Scientific theory
3. Analogies
4. Personal experience



Importance of Hypothesis in Research

1. Delimiting the scope of study
2. Providing suitable direction to the study
3. Bringing definiteness in the study
4. Stating the purpose of study
5. Helpful in collection of relevant data
6. Helpful in drawing conclusions
7. Helpful in searching the truth



Limitations of Hypothesis

1. Perfect confidence in hypothesis
2. Limited nature of data collection
3. Bias