
**Term:** Hypothesis [as a form of reasoning]

**Quote:**

Corresponding to induction, we have the following mode of inference: 

Hypothesis.

M has, for example, the numerous marks P', P", P"", etc.,
S has the proportion r of the marks P', P", P"", etc.;
Hence, probably and approximately, S has an r-likeness to M.

Thus, we know, that the ancient Mound-builders of North America present, in all those respects in which we have been able to make the comparison, a limited degree of resemblance with the Pueblo Indians. The inference is, then, that in all respects there is about the same degree of resemblance between these races.

If I am permitted the extended sense which I have given to the word “induction,” this argument is simply an induction respecting qualities instead of respecting things.

I call this induction of characters hypothetic inference, or, briefly, hypothesis.


**References:** CP 2.706-707

**Date of Quote:** 1883

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-theory-probable-inference-0