

'Retroduction' (pub. 12.03.13-19:10). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letter-j-h-kehler-4>.

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**Term:** Retroduction

**Quote:** Skipping a great deal, I now take up the third great class of Reasonings, which I call Retroductions. [—] By the third class of reasonings one only infers that a certain state of things *may be* true and that the indications of its being so are sufficient to warrant further examination. [—] The reason for accepting the Retroductive conclusion, is that man must trust to his power of getting at the truth simply because it is all he has to guide him; and moreover when we look at the instincts of various animals, we are struck with wonder at how they lead those creatures toward rational behaviour. [—]

I do not, at present, feel quite convinced that any logical form can be assigned that will cover all "Retroductions". For what I mean by a Retroduction is simply a *conjecture* which arises in the mind.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1911). *Letter to J. H. Kehler*. L [R] 231.

**References:** NEM 3:203-204

**Date of** 1911

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letter-j-h-kehler-4>