

'Hypothesis [as a form of reasoning]' (pub. 03.02.13-17:33). 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-theory-probable-inference-0>.

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**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.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1883). A Theory of Probable Inference. In C. S. Peirce (Ed.), *Studies in Logic by Members of the Johns Hopkins University* (pp. 126-181). Boston, MA: Little, Brown, and Company.

**References:** CP 2.706-707

**Date of** 1883

**Quote:**

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