**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 Quote:** 1883

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