Hypothesis

By

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Meaning and Definition

- Hypothesis is the pre -thought or primary idea on which any reassert work is based or to be conducted.

- In general, hypo means below or sub, and thesis is research work. This word is derived from Latin term *hupothesis* which gives the meaning of 'to put under' or 'to suppose'.

- As per **Merriam Webster Dictionary** a hypothesis is-

- - an assumption or concession made for the sake of argument,

- -an interpretation of a practical situation or condition taken as the ground for action,

- -a tentative assumption made in order to draw out and test its logical or empirical consequences,

- - the antecedent clause of a conditional statement .

   Actually every hypothesis is a suggestive   answer to the problem identified(topic of research).

Types

The six most common forms of hypotheses are-

- ▶ Simple Hypothesis
- ▶ Complex Hypothesis
- ▶ Empirical Hypothesis
- ▶ Null Hypothesis (Denoted by Ho)
- ▶ Alternative Hypothesis (Denoted by H1)
- ▶ Logical Hypothesis
- ▶ Statistical Hypothesis.
- ▶ --and many other types as per need and nature of field of study e.g.-impure and original, working(narrative), substantive, universal, existential, alternative hypothesis etc.

Sources

Following are the main sources of hypothesis-

- ▶ Personal Experience
- ▶ Imagination & Thinking
- ▶ Observation
- ▶ Scientific Theory
- ▶ Previous Study
- ▶ Culture, folk wisdom, current beliefs and practices
- ▶ Analogy
- ▶ Surveys, policies, decisions, public opinions, previous researches etc.

Dimensions and Features

Johan Galtung has identified following dimensions(to be kept in mind) of a hypothesis-

1.Generality

2.Complexity

3.Specificity

4.Determenancy

5.Falsifiability

6.Testability

7.Predictability

8.Communicability

9.Reproductibility

10.Reliability.

Precautions

Goode and Hatt have identified the following characteristics of a Hypothesis

A. Clarity

B. Empiricism

C. Specificity

D. Related to available techniques

E. Related to theories.

Every hypothesis must concern with three elements i.e.- unit of research, variables and values.

Thank You