

HYPOTHESIS:

According to Kerlinger, 'A hypothesis is a conjectural statement of the relationship between two or more variables'

Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1976) defines a hypothesis as: a proposition, condition, or principle which is assumed, perhaps without belief, to draw out its logical consequences and by this method to test its accord with facts which are known or may be determined.

It is the presumptive statement of a proposition which the investigator seeks to prove. It is a condensed generalization. This generalization requires a knowledge of principles of things or essential characteristics which pertain to entire class of phenomena.

A hypothesis is written in such a way that it can be proven or disproven by valid and reliable data –

it is to obtain these data that we perform our study. From the above definitions it is apparent that a hypothesis has certain characteristics:

1. It is a tentative proposition.
2. Its validity is unknown.
3. In most cases, it specifies a relationship between two or more variables.