

Melissa Hobson
PSY441: Psychology of Personality: OA
Prof: Stephen Maret
02/07/23

Chapter 1

1. What is a scientific theory? Describe the differences between deductive and inductive theories. Give some examples. Discuss the relationship between propositions and hypotheses.
- A scientific theory is defined as being an explanation of an aspect of the natural world and universe that has been repeatedly tested and corroborated in accordance with the scientific method, using accepted protocols of observation, measurement and evaluation of results. In the text it is defined as a conceptual system constructed by investigators to help make sense out of existing information and to aid in the prediction of as yet unobserved relationships between events. Deductive theories are theories that most personality theorists preferred to create and test. This theory is believed to be precisely stated and tested. Theorists believe that with these theories are not only derived from facts but are invented to account for them. Some examples of deductive theory would be that golden retrievers are dogs therefore they have ears, or all racing cars must go over 80MPH. Inductive theories are created from a solid database of empirical observations. They consist essentially of theoretical summary statements of observed relationships among events and contain a minimum of deductive logic. Inductive theories have limitations although they have merit. Theorists believe that inductive theories are too restrictive and conservative. An example of inductive theories would be ducks have always come to our pond in the past therefore the ducks will come to the pond this

summer. The relation between propositions and hypothesis is that deductive theories consist of postulates and a set of interrelated and internally consistent propositions, from which specific hypotheses are derived logically and then tested.