

HYPOTHESIZE

The following is an example in the study of English language. The student has achieved “extended ideas” by making hypotheses.

Hypothesize	Propose an idea which can be used as a starting point for further study
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The Question

Conduct a study of one linguistic feature (lexical, syntactic, discourse). Write a report on the study.



What students commonly do

- Being unable to make a hypothesis for a study, they conduct studies similar to previous ones.



An example of good work

This student formulates a hypothesis which is based on the findings of some related studies.

“‘You know’ has been regarded as a linguistic hedging device and as women’s language (Lakoff, 1975) [...] It is believed by a number of researchers (Lakoff, 1975; Freed 1996) that women use ‘you know’ more often than men [...]

Lakoff and Freed only reported the use of ‘you know’ in the speech of American women and men. They point out ‘you know’ occurs predominantly in informal conversation. Since both the American and British have many similarities in their culture and language [...] I hypothesize that in informal conversation, both the British women and men use ‘you know’ as a linguistic hedging device and the British women use ‘you know’ more often than men.”

Referring to findings of previous studies

Making connection between previous studies & new area of study

Proposing an idea that can be used as a starting point for further study based on the findings of previous studies