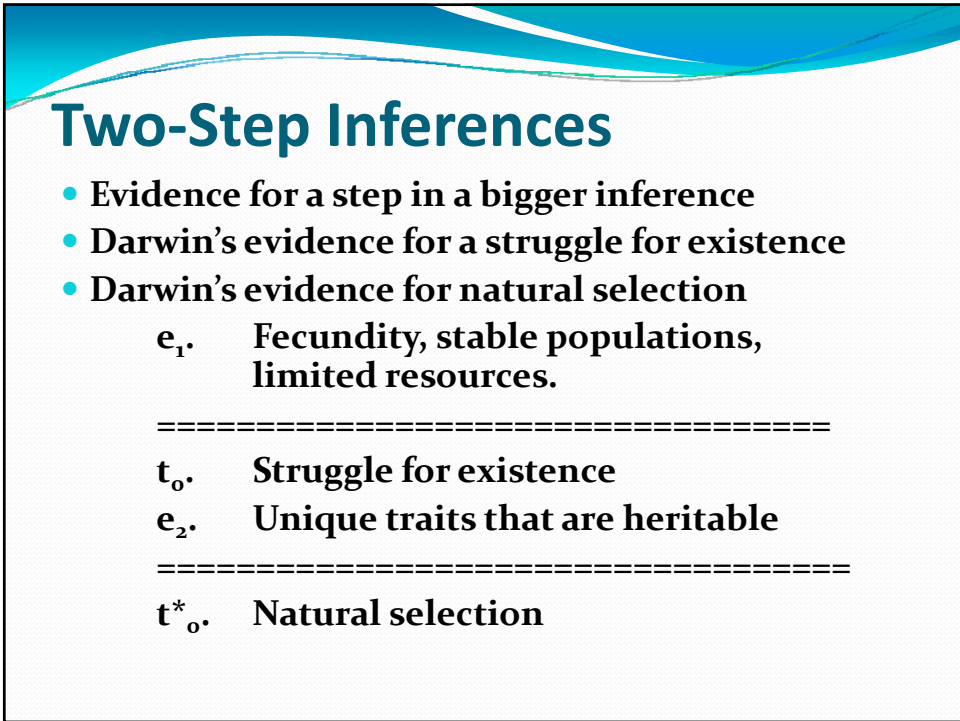




Testimony

PHIL 203
Critical Thinking
Distance Delivery



Two-Step Inferences

- Evidence for a step in a bigger inference
- Darwin's evidence for a struggle for existence
- Darwin's evidence for natural selection

e_1 . Fecundity, stable populations,
limited resources.

=====

t_o . Struggle for existence

e_2 . Unique traits that are heritable

=====

t^*_o . Natural selection

Testimony

- Dictionary – “a declaration or statement (especially one made under oath)”
- Courts
- Religious
- Evidence based on the word of others

The word of others

- Where does most of our knowledge come from?
- The whole purpose of human communication
- • What time is it?
- “It’s a quarter after two”
- The two-step inference

Veracity

- e₁.** Statement – “It’s a quarter after two”
- e₂.** Context – response to a question
- e₃.** Relevant biography – stranger on the street

=====

- t₀.** Said it because he believes it

Evaluating veracity

Rivals:

- t₁.** Said it for some other reason
- t₂.** Said it because it was false

Rank ordering

- t₀.** Said it because he believed it was a quarter after two
- t₁.** Said it for some other reason
- t₂.** Said it because it was false

Competence

- Sincerity is not enough
- Does the he know what he talking about?
- Questions of access to information
- Questions of perceptual bias
- The second inference

Evidence for competence

- e₁. Statement – “It’s ...
 - e₂. Context – response to a question
 - e₃. Relevant biography – stranger on the street
 - e₄. Said it because he believes it
- =====
- t*_o. He believes that it’s a quarter past two because it really is a quarter past two.

Evaluating Competence

Rivals:

- t^*_1 . Believes it because his watch had stopped
- t^*_2 . Believed it because he was late for an appointment and was unconsciously compensating when he read his watch

Rank ordering:

- t^*_0 .
- t^*_1 .
- t^*_2 .

Clinton's Statement

Televised statement

Practice quiz

Use ITTBE to assess this

My guess about your assessment at step 1

Assume sincerity, now