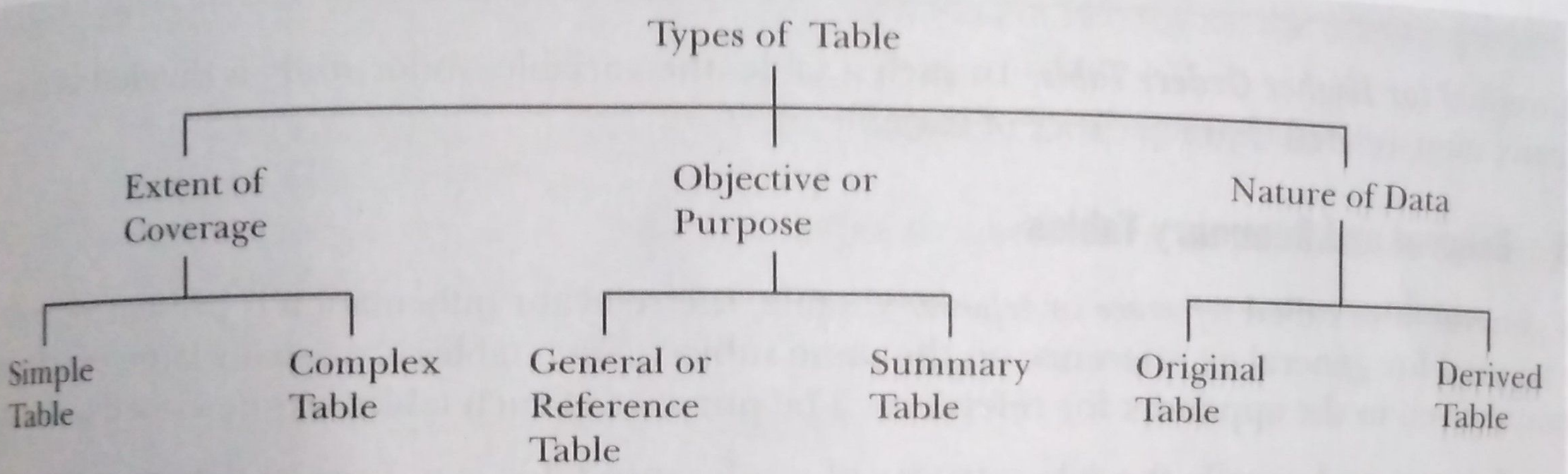
- A good statistical table is not a mere careless grouping of columns and rows of figures, it is a triumph of ingenuity and technique, a master-piece of economy of space combined with a maximum of clearly presented information. To prepare a first class table, one must have a clear idea of the facts to be presented, the contrasts to be stressed, the points upon which emphasis is to be placed and lastly a familiarity with the technique of preparation. —Harry Jerome
- In collection and tabulation, commonsense is the chief requisite and experience, the chief teacher. —A. L. Bowley

2.4.4 Types of Tables

The classification of tables depends on (i) objectives and scope of investigation, (ii) nature of data–primary or secondary, and (iii) extent of data coverage, and so on. The different types of tables used in statistical analysis are as follows:



In a *simple table* (also known as one-way table), data contains only one characteristic of the variable as shown in Table 2.24.

Table 2.24 Candidates Interviewed for Employment

Candidate's Profile	*Number of Candidates*
Experienced	50
Inexperienced	70
Total	120

In *complex table* (also known as a manifold table), data contain two or more characteristics of the variable. Such a table may be two-way or three-way table according to two or three characteristics of the variable presented simultaneously.

(a) ***Two-way Table:*** In such a table, the variable under study is further sub-divided into two groups according to two of its inter-related characteristics. For example, if the total number of candidates given in Table 2.24 is further divided according to their sex, the table would become a two-way table because it would reveal information about two characteristics namely, male and female. The new shape of the table is shown in Table 2.25.

Table 2.25 Candidates Interviewed for Employment

Candidates Profile	*Number of Candidates*		*Total*
	Males	*Females*	
Experienced	35	15	50
Inexperienced	10	60	70
Total	45	75	120