**Snowflake schema**

A refinement of star schema where some dimensional hierarchy is normalized into a set of smaller dimension tables, forming a shape similar to snowflake.

There are differences between a snowflake scheme and a start schema. A star schema is good for a data mart where as a snowflake schema is good for a data warehouse. A star schema only consist out of single dimension tables whereas snowflake schema would consist of more dimensions as shown below. A Top down approach is taken with start schema where as a bottom up is taken with snowflake schema.

