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RESEARCH PAPER

Emerging Trends in Translation Studies: A Bibliometric Study

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ABSTRACT	

Translation is a transdisciplinary activity that extends beyond linguistic and cultural transformations between languages. It is a matter of fact that the activity of translation has witnessed a tremendous focus shift from translatability and equivalence to socio-cultural perspectives. This study investigates the evolving socio-political and socio-economic needs of societies and their connection to translation. This research by conducting a bibliometric analysis of translation trends and analyzing frequently explored research topics, changes over the past five years, highly cited articles, influential authors, contributions from different countries/regions/affiliations, and funding sponsors, this study provides insights into key themes and research areas in translation studies. Data extraction from the Web of Science, along with the use of analytical tools, reveals publication types, distribution patterns, and an increase in recent articles. The findings inform future research directions and contribute to the advancement of the field. Data collection from multiple sources and the application of analytical tools such as VOSviewer, Biblishiny, ScientoPy, and MS Excel facilitate the achievement of study objectives. The analysis of highlighting areas of focus and the range of perspectives within the discipline. The present research contributes to enhance the understanding about the recent trends and developments in the field of Translation Studies.

KEYWORDS

Translation Trends, Landscapes of Translation Studies, Bibliometric Perspective on TS, Translation Today

Introduction

Translation, as a field of knowledge, encompasses more than just linguistic and cultural transformations between languages. It has evolved into a transdisciplinary activity, intersecting with multiple domains of knowledge. The activity of translation was primarily concerned with the translatability of meaning through different strategies in olden times. The concept of equivalence gained prominence in the 1950s, focusing on achieving comparable meaning between languages. However, globalization shattered the limited perception of translation as a mere replacement of code systems, revealing its extensive scope. Throughout history, translation has played a significant role in the development of human intellect, but its impact on inter-human communication in the era of globalization is truly remarkable. The Cultural-Turn approaches in the 1970s marked a paradigm shift from positivism to post-positivism, recognizing culture, ideology, position, and contexts as influential factors in translation. In the 21st century, translation has been explored in diverse dimensions to understand and address the complexities of interhuman communication.

Recognizing the link between translation and the evolving socio-political and socio-economic needs of societies, this study aims to scientifically investigate this relationship. It may be assumed from the various studies on the topic discussed in the literature review part that the filed of translation studies has saw a visible change in its manifestation. To conform this claim, a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the prestigious research journal "Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice," published by Taylor & Francis, is conducted. This analysis aims to explore various translation trends and their association with emerging fields of knowledge in the 21st century. Huang and Liu (2019) have also argued that "Perspectives" holds a position of high prestige and reputation compared to other journals in the field, further justifying its selection for this study.

The main objective of the study is to clarify various important aspects in the field of translation. First, this study identifies the most discussed research topics and trends in this field. Secondly, it seeks to identify substantial changes in research arena the past half decade by comparing them with previous studies. Thirdly, it intends to identify and highlight the most vastly cited articles having highly influential impact on the field of translation studies. Additionally, the study aims to recognize the most productive and influential writers in the field of translation studies. Furthermore, it intends to study contributions made to translation research by different regions, countries, and affiliations by analyzing the success factor associated with these contributions. Lastly, it seeks to analyze the funding sponsor who have made substantial contributions to fecund research in translation field. A robust bibliometric analysis based upon the extensive resources of the Science Citation Index database and Web of Science will be conducted to achieve these objectives. In order to extract relevant data and execute comprehensive analysis the study employs analytical tools like Scientopy, VOSviewer, Biblishiny, and MS Excel (Aslam et al., 2022). By fully examining "Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice" the research will highlight frequently discoursed keywords and topics, which further provides insights into intellectual perspectives and focuses within the translation domain. The findings of the study give significant information about current developments and trends in the field of translation. Along with helping in understanding the interrelation between translation and changing political, social, and economic conditions, they also suggest new instructions for future research perspectives. These findings not only play a vital role in the development of field of translation but also provide direction to policymakers, translators, and language service providers to promote more effective intercultural communiqué in our interconnected world.

Literature Review

Translation is crucial for the exchange of information between languages and cultures. Since translation must strike a balance between the various demands of globalization and the objective of imparting unique cultural characteristics, it has become a growing area of cultural research. Initially, the emphasis was on traditional linguistics; however, over the last two decades, the focus has shifted to culture, and the field is developing as a cross-disciplinary one (Bassnett and Lefevere, 1998). However, significant progress is required before it can be widely recognized as an academic discipline. To accomplish this goal, it is necessary to expand the scope of research and investigate alternative research methods. Now, a review of both established and emerging areas of translation is beneficial for illuminating future research directions.

Throughout the history of translation, a variety of frameworks and models have been proposed to examine specific issues in Translation Studies. Holmes (1988) introduced the first approach to Translation Studies, which categorizes it into two subfields: pure translation studies and applied translation studies. As Holmes' work is deficient in the

applied branch of Translation Studies, Malmkjær (2008) research on translation provides a comprehensive picture of each branch of applied translation studies that (Holmes, 1988). He divides applied translation studies into three fields: translation aids, translator education, and translator criticism. Numerous studies have been conducted to determine the state of the art in the rapidly developing field of Translation Studies. Liao et al. (2007) examines 18 abstracts of translation and interpretation from the Review of Taiwan Interpretive Science Publications (1991–2004) as well as 46 articles from Translation and Translation Studies. He concludes from his examination of these papers that they are more concerned with translation criticism and skills such as literary translation than with translation theories. None of the thesis topics deals with translation theory, and only a few articles do, such as reader-response and functionalist theory. The research establishes an inextricable link between translation studies and the characteristics of translation theory and its acceptance in Taiwan but makes no recommendations for incorporating theories into research topics or methods.

Dong and Chiu (2009) compare local and international publications, including masters and doctoral theses, as well as articles about translation in leading journals, to determine translation research trends and methods. While both domestic and international research employ similar methods, the research concludes that different translation theories are used to investigate translation problems. On the other hand, international research appears to be more circumspect in its critiques of established theories.

Rafiee and Nemati (2014) conduct a study of translation studies research trends in Asian and European journals. The research examines twelve major areas of Translation Studies as identified by Williams and Chesterman (2014) in three Asian and three European journals of Translation Studies. The study demonstrates that Asian journal research prioritizes 'Translator Training', 'Interpreting', and 'The Translation Process', while ignoring 'Multimedia Translation', and 'The Translation Profession'. European journals, on the other hand, frequently publish articles on 'Genre Translation', 'Terminology and Glossaries', and 'Text Analysis and Translation'.

If we look at studies in this vein chronologically, we can see that in (Agost, 2015; Dong and Chen, 2015; Franco Aixelá and Rovira-Esteva, 2015; Gile, 2015; Hadley, 2015; Li, 2018; Aslam et al., 2021; Lindgren, 2015; Martínez-Gómez, 2015; Rovira-Esteva et al., 2019; Van Doorslaer and Gambier, 2015; Wu, 2015; Xu, 2018; Yan et al., 2015; Zanettin et al., 2015; Zhang et al., 2015) examined trends in their data set included a range of translation-related research outputs, including book reviews, bibliographies, articles from a variety of peerreviewed journals, online Translation Studies Bibliography, and theses. These studies span a range of historical epochs. They present updated scenarios in the field of translation studies and make recommendations for future research directions. From the year 2016 to 2021, similar research work in this field is done (Aixelá et al., 2021; Alaboud, 2019; Götz, 2019; Huang and Liu, 2019; Huang and Xin, 2020; Kazuharu, 2017; Naveed et al., 2021b; Naveed et al., 2021a; Liang and Xu, 2016; Liang and Xu, 2020; Liao and Lei, 2017; Rovira-Esteva et al., 2020; Rovira-Esteva et al., 2015; Valdeón and Zhao, 2020; Wang et al., 2019; Yan, 2021; Ali et al., 2021). This study examines the issues of the journal "Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice" for the exploration of the frequently discussed themes.

Material and Methods

To conduct the bibliometric analysis, data was retrieved from the Science Citation Index database and Web of Science. A query using the publication name "Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice" yielded 683 records, which were considered as

the dataset for this study. All issues of the journal published between 1997 and 2022 were included. "Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice" is indexed in reputable agencies such as SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI, CCR-EXPANDED, and IC. The collected data included various document types, such as articles, reviews, and proceedings. Analytical tools, namely VOSviewer, Biblishiny, ScientoPy, and MS Excel, were employed to perform the bibliometric analysis. The data extraction from the Core Collection of Web of Science was conducted on April 28, 2023. As far as contributing partner institutions is concerned, articles were received by the journal from a mammoth total of 393 different organizations and 155 agencies contributed in terms of funding. This reception of articles from 63 countries highlights the international scope of the study. As per data, each document's average publication age was 7.13 years, which comes to an average of 6.63 citations per document. Whereas, the average annual citation was 4.47. The total sum of these citations of all these documents was recorded as 18,386. Additionally, the content of document comprises 1,997 keywords provided by authors (DE) and 352 keywords plus (ID), which highlight the key concepts and topics discussed in translation studies. With the help of this comprehensive. The study intends to analyze bibliometrics data and reveal significant patterns, trends, and new insights in the field of translation studies.

Table 1
Different types of documents published during 1997-2022

Document Types	Numbers of Documents	% of 683
Article	506	74.08
Book review	97	14.20
Article; early access	47	06.88
Editorial material	15	02.20
Review	6	00.88
Article; proceedings paper	4	00.58
Correction	4	00.59
Review; early access	3	00.44
Correction; early access	1	00.15
Total	683	100

Table 1 shows an analysis of the diverse types of documents published between 1997 and 2022. During this period, a total of 683 documents were published, which are presented according to their number and percentage. Research articles are the most publish type of documents, which comes to 74.08% of the total. This showcases those articles hold primary significance in academic research. This is followed by book reviews, which account for 14.20%. These reviews serve as a means of critically examining published books and advancing new debates in the academic world. Other types, such as early access articles, editorials, and general reviews, are relatively rare, with their shares ranging from 6.88% to 0.88%. The remaining types, including proceeding papers, corrections, early access reviews, and early access corrections, each account for less than 1%. This descriptive breakdown offers insights into the distribution and prevalence of document types within the analyzed period, highlighting the prominence of articles and book reviews as the primary formats for published works.

Results and Discussion

The publication distribution of Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice from 1997 to 2022, indicating the number of publications for each year and their respective percentages out of the total of 683 publications. The publication counts vary across the years, with some years having a higher number of publications compared to others. It is found that 105 articles out of 683 were published in 2019 with the highest

frequency 15.373% and 01 is published in 2001 with the lowest frequency 0.146%. The graphic values in figure 1 reflect incremental growth since the launch of the journal 1997 to 2022.

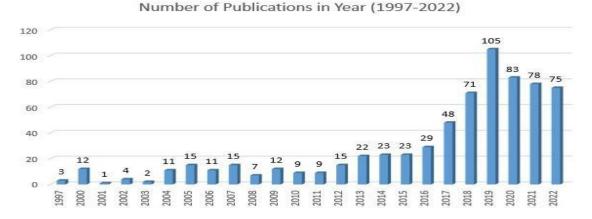


Figure 1. The year-wise numbers of publications (1997-2022)

The results highlight a significant increase in the number of published articles from 2017 to 2020, comprising 60.24% of the total publications. In contrast, the period from 1997 to 2016 accounted for 39.75% of the articles. Figure 1 illustrates the fluctuation in publication numbers, with 1997 and 2001 exhibiting the lowest scores. Notably, there is a consistent pattern of article publication between the years 2000 and 2004, 2005 and 2007, and 2009 and 2012. These findings demonstrate a clear upward trajectory of research activity over the study period.

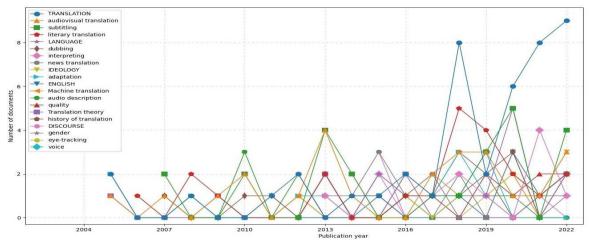


Figure 2. Thematic terms used in published documents

The above graph presents information on thematic terms according to their total occurrences, average growth rate, average number of documents per year, percentage of documents in recent years, and h-index. The term "Translation" appears 44 times, with an average growth rate of 1 and an average of 9 documents per year. It represents 20.5% of the documents in the last years and has an h-index of 8. "Audiovisual Translation" is mentioned 24 times, showing a higher average growth rate of 2. It has an average of 3 documents per year and constitutes 12.5% of the recent documents. It holds an h-index of 10. Similarly, "Subtitling" and "Literary Translation" both have 24 and 22 occurrences, respectively. "Subtitling" has an average growth rate of 4, an average of 4 documents per year, and accounts for 16.7% of recent documents. It has an h-index of 7. On the other hand, "Literary Translation" has an average growth rate of 1, an average of 2 documents per year,

and represents 9.1% of the recent documents. Its h-index is 4. Other thematic terms like "Language," "Dubbing," "Interpreting," "News Translation," and "Ideology" range from 12 to 11 occurrences. They exhibit varying average growth rates, average documents per year, and percentages in recent years, and h-index values. Some terms such as "Adaptation" and "History of Translation" have 0 occurrences in recent years. "Adaptation" shows no growth rate or documents per year and has an h-index of 4. "History of Translation" also lacks growth rate and documents per year, with an h-index of 3. The graphical presentation in fig. 2 provides an overview of the presence and characteristics of various thematic terms, shedding light on their frequency, growth, and representation in recent documents.

Bibliographic Coupling of Author

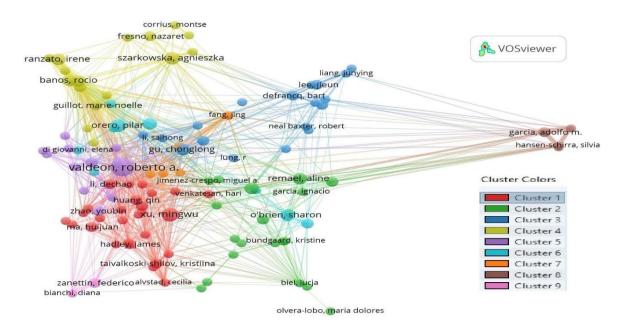


Figure 3. Bibliographic coupling of authors

The graphical data above shows records of 115 authors, 9 clusters, 1683 links and 5,926 total link strength. 115 authors used bibliographic coupling in 683 published documents. The minimum number of occurrences is 3 for 115 authors while 35 meet the threshold. There are a total of 799 authors in the 683 documents. As seen in the bibliometric map above, a total of 115 authors from 683 texts are grouped in night clusters. Each color corresponds to a separate cluster. In fact, the above table and figure are complementary to one another: The picture depicts the size of each cluster as well as their affinity, whilst the table shows a complete list of Bibliographic Coupling of authors, including each author's total publications and total citations. The bibliometric analysis indicates that each node represents a reference of the author. The size of each ball indicates the number of citations of author. For example, Valdeon, Roberto A is the most frequently published author, as indicated from the size of ball in cluster 5 followed by Orero, Pillar in cluster 6 followed by Ranzato, Irene in the cluster 3. The balls with the same color are all part of the same cluster as shown in the diagram. The frequency of productivity of authors is analyzed using VOSViewer in this study.

The cooperation network of the productive countries

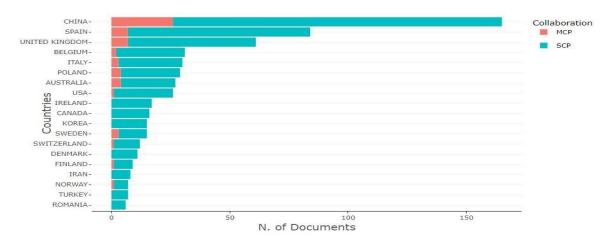


Figure 4. The cooperation network of the top productive countries

The figure above illustrates the affiliation of authors in the 683 published documents across 63 countries. The bar graph visually presents the distribution of published documents among different countries, highlighting the productivity of each country. Additionally, the figure provide an overview of the top author affiliations based on total citations and publication count. The countries are arranged in descending order, with the most productive country at the top and the least productive at the bottom. According to the figure, the most productive countries in terms of publication frequency are China, Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, USA, Australia, Belgium, Poland, Korea, Canada, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Iran, Norway, Turkey, Finland, Romania, and Russia. The graph further indicates that China holds the highest number of publications, followed by Spain, United Kingdom, Italy, and United States of America. In terms of collaboration, China has the highest number of authors with the most significant multicountry collaboration (MCP) count of 21, followed by Spain with 6, and the United Kingdom with 5.

Table 2
The most used keywords in 683 published documents

The mos	The most used keywords in 600 published documents					
Terms	Frequency	Terms	Frequency			
Translation	40	Machine translation	14			
Audiovisual translation	35	Translation theory	14			
Literary translation	33	History of translation	11			
Subtitling	33	Translation studies	11			
Dubbing	22	Gender	10			
Adaptation	19	Ideology	10			
News translation	19	Censorship	9			
Interpreting	16	Eye tracking	9			
Audio description	15	Professional translation	9			
Legal translation	14	Reception	9			

There are 1997 total author keywords used in 683 published documents. The data in the table shows the frequently used 20 keywords comprising 683 published documents during 1997-2022. The commonly used fifty keywords are 'translation', 'subtitling', 'audiovisual translation', 'literary translation', 'adaptation', 'dubbing', 'news translation', 'audio description', 'legal translation', 'interpretation', 'translation studies', 'translation theory', 'history of translation', 'machine translation', 'censorship', 'professional translation', 'retranslation', 'screen translation', 'applied translation', 'ethics', 'eye tracking', 'gender', 'ideology', 'quality', 'rewriting', 'translation technology', 'bibliometrics', 'cognitive load', 'Communication', 'corpus', 'corpus based translation studies', 'equivalence', 'media accessibility', 'reception', 'China', 'cultural', 'cultural

values', 'eye-tracking', 'institutional translation', 'intralingual translation', 'multimodality', 'simultaneous interpreting', 'teaching translation', 'voice', 'voice-over', 'agency', 'consecutive interpreting', 'corpus-based', 'cultural diversity' and 'cultural translation'.

The term "Translation" is the most recurrently used keyword that appears 40 times. "Audiovisual translation" and "Literary translation" are the other most used keywords with frequencies of 35 and 33 respectively. Furthermore, terms like "Dubbing" and "Subtitling" also appear in high frequencies of 22 and 33 respectively, highlighting their significance in the field. Table 1 also underscores keywords that are related to specific domains of translation research, including "Translation theory", "Machine translation", and "History of translation", each being utilized 14 times. These terms indicate varied interests and subfields within the larger discipline of translation studies. Moreover, the use of terms such as "Gender", "Censorship", and "Ideology" demonstrates the substantiality of cultural and social aspects in translation research. These keywords indicate that the investigation of broader issues and themes related to translation practices. Overall, the findings from table 1 provide valuable understanding of dominant research topics and interests within the field of translation. In shaping the research landscape, it underscores the significance of various domains, such as audiovisual translation and literary translation, as well as specialized areas like legal translation and interpreting.

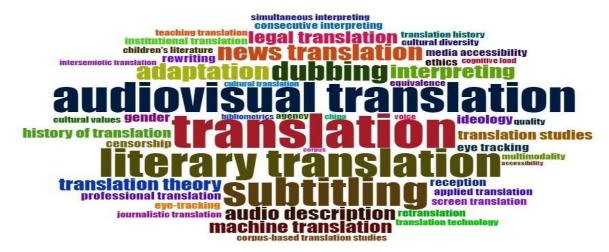


Figure 5. Word cloud of 50 keywords

The Biblioshiny tool is employed to create the word cloud in the figure, which highlights the data of keywords. Whereas, the recurrence of keywords is analyzed utilizing Vosviewer and by frequency counting in order to demonstrate the research areas. The top fifty keywords from 683 published documents are shown in the figure above in a network visualization. The size of the keyword in the figure represents the number of times the keyword appears. The larger the size of keyword, the more frequently the keyword appears in publications. The distance between the two keywords demonstrates the relative strength and similarity between the topics. The prominent keywords, as shown in the figure, are translation, subtitling, audiovisual translation, literary translation, and adaptation, which are apparently found. It is evident in the word cloud that one of the most relevant clusters of sources is related to translation because translation is the most used keyword. There is no doubt that these terms represent a variety of theoretical, analytical, and methodological perspectives that can be directly traced to philosophical, social, and ideological underpinnings, as well as academic studies of translation.

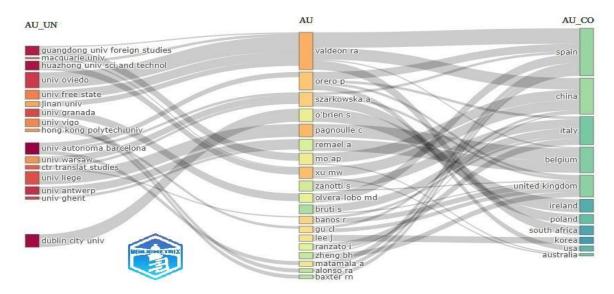


Figure 6. Three field plot of author affiliation with organization and country

The figure above illustrates the top cited author affiliations found in 683 published documents. The three-field graph provides a visual representation of highly cited author affiliations, showcasing the development of research in specific countries and offering insights into the international aspects of author affiliations. The affiliations indicate the developments in the research in specific countries and offer a classification of international aspects of author affiliations. The Biblioshiny tool is used to create a collaborative network of authors, institutions, and countries. Biblioshiny is a shiny app that serves as a web interface for Bibliometrix. In terms of collaboration among scholars from various institutions, China has the highest degree of collaboration and the largest network of authored publications. The information is graphically represented in a diagram, which enables us to visualize the most relevant institutions, countries, and authors. In figure 6, the size of the rectangle indicates that 'Univ Oviedo' is the most prominent organization in terms of collaboration, followed by 'Dublin city univ' and 'Zanottis'. In the graph, the larger the size of the colored rectangle, the higher the frequency of a specific institution, author or country appears within the collaboration network. Furthermore, the thickness of the connection nodes i.e. the lines connecting institutions, countries, and authors vary with the number of correlations.

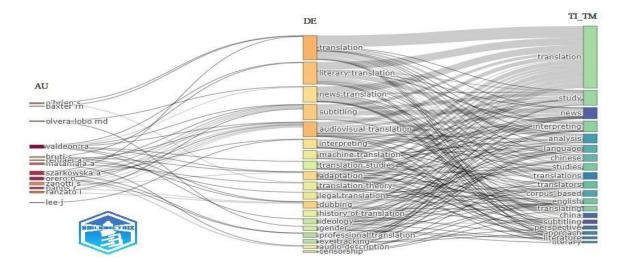


Figure 7. Three field plot of document titles, keywords and author

The presented three-field plot showcases highly cited articles along with prominent keywords and authors in the published documents. It visually represents the collaborative networks among authors and keywords. The data for this plot is obtained using Vosviewer, a software tool utilized for visualizing bibliometric networks and mapping authorship and author keywords across countries. The figure highlights that themes such as 'translation,' 'subtitling,' 'audiovisual translation,' 'literary translation,' and 'adaptation' have garnered significant attention from scholars across various institutions and countries. The word cloud in the graph is generated using the Biblioshiny tool, capturing the relative prominence of keywords. The size and thickness of connecting lines indicate the relationships between keywords, authors, and countries, with keywords sharing the same color rectangle often appearing together. The thickness of these lines reflects the level of collaboration. Thus, this unique bibliometric study statistically presents the data and provides a bibliometric analysis of the journal's publication trends from 1997 to 2022. It offers insights into the research landscape, collaborations, and emerging themes within the field.

Findings

The analysis of document types published between 1997 and 2022 reveals that articles are the predominant document type, accounting for 74.08% of the total, followed by book reviews at 14.20%. Other document types, like editorial material, article with early access, and reviews, contribute smaller percentages. The document types are categorized in such a way that it provides insights into their prevalence within the period being analyzed, which highlights the importance of book reviews and articles as the primary format. Moreover, there seems an upward trajectory of research activity in the analysis of publication trends as a substantial increase is seen in the total sum of published articles between 2017 and 2022. Thematic investigation of keywords demonstrates that there exist diverse interests and subfields within translation studies, which is seen in the frequent use of terms like "Translation", "Audiovisual translation", and "Literary translation". The association network of authors showcases the productivity of different countries and the presence of clusters. Among all these countries China seems to be most productive in terms of publication frequency. The investigation of most cited titles, author keywords, and author affiliations, analyze prominent collaborations and research themes, which highlights the significance of specific keywords and the international aspects of author affiliations in shaping the research landscape. Overall, this bibliometric research is a source of providing deep insights into research interests, publication trends, and collaborative networks in the field of translation studies.

Conclusion

In order to analyze and uncover the various topics and themes within the domain of translation studies from 1997 to 2022, a bibliometric analysis of "Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice" was conducted. This study identifies the areas that received significant attention from authors as well as the ones that have been comparatively neglected. A wide range of scholarly articles was scrutinized in the process and the main finding of the study was that audio video, machine translation and screen translation are the most recent trends being researched upon in the field of translation studies, which implicates that these trends would be followed for future research endeavors in the field of translation. This study serves as a significant resource for researchers. It offers them a roadmap to find promising and pertinent ideas for conducting future researches in the field of translation. Furthermore, it also helps researchers in drafting such hypothesis, which are aligned with their preferred research issues. It is expected that the discussion and exploration of different areas that have been previously

adopted in research will effectually consider the increase in diversity of research ideas that the translation professional come across. As per anticipation, the discussion and exploration of different areas previously adopted in research will effectually keep under consideration the expanding dimensions of research ideas that translation professionals come across. This study further contributes to the development and enrichment of the discipline of translation studies by providing valuable guidance and finding the research gaps that are required to be filled in future. Translation professionals can stay up-to-date in their field by engaging in robust discussion and exploration of these key areas and by continually adapting to the modern and multifaceted demands of intercultural communication. Along with illuminating the diverse topics and themes in translation studies, this study also paves the path for future innovations and advancements by offering researchers a comprehensive understanding of the modern research landscape and providing them the tools to outline the trajectory of the dynamic domain of translation studies.

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