DOI: https://doi.org/10.46991/TSTP/2025.5.2.005

MAPPING THE DYNAMICS OF TRANSLATION STUDIES (2015–2025): A SYSTEMATIC BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS

ABBAS BRASHI
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2224-0526
UMM AL-QURA UNIVERSITY

Abstract: This study conducts a comprehensive bibliometric analysis to map the key research trends in translation studies from 2015 to 2025. The dataset comprised journal publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. The analysis identified 2021 as the most prolific year. Citation patterns revealed that earlier publications, particularly between 2015 and 2016, had the highest average citation rates, with a gradual decline observed in subsequent years. A sustained scholarly interest in traditional translation models was observed. Emerging areas, such as language processing, cognitive linguistics, artificial intelligence integration, governance, corpus linguistics, healthcare translation, and community interpreting, have gained prominence. Collaborative metrics showed contributions from 7,197 authors across 2,528 documents, indicating a moderate level of scholarly collaboration. The University of London was the most productive institution. The United States ranked first in publication output, followed by the United Kingdom and China. The results provide a systematic overview of the impact and advancements in translation studies, highlighting global patterns and identifying directions for future research.

Keywords: bibliometric analysis; translation research trends; translation studies, citation patterns; translation interdisciplinary research

1. Introduction

Translation studies (TS) have evolved into a broad and interdisciplinary field, incorporating insights from linguistics, psychology, cultural studies, and other disciplines to enhance the understanding of both the practice and theory of translation (Laviosa & González-Davies 2019; Olohan 2021). Nzimande (2023) notes that the numerous paradigmatic transitions TS has undergone can be attributed to the influence of multiple disciplines over the years, which range from literary studies to postcolonial studies and cultural studies. Moving from the verbatim approach (1950s) and

asbrashi@uqu.edu.sa

Received: 19.11.2025
Revised: 08.12.2025
Accepted: 09.12.2025

equivalence approach (1960s) to the functional and poly-system theoretical orientations (1970s). TS has also been influenced by the model of descriptive translation studies and cultural studies (1980s), reflecting attention to gender and post-colonial dimensions of translation. A more recent shift has been marked by the integration of corpus-based translation (1990s).

The evolution of TS has attracted scholarly interest. Holmes (2000) made a pivotal contribution to the field and laid the groundwork for its academic development by delineating two primary branches: descriptive TS and theoretical TS. In his paper titled *The Name and Nature of Translation Studies* (originally presented at the Third International Congress of Applied Linguistics in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1972), Holmes presented a map of the TS field, which has been acknowledged as the establishing principle of the field. Sun (2014) notes that broadly speaking, the framework offered by Holmes divides TS into research about translation (pure translation studies) and applied translation. While pure translation studies focus on general principles of translation and translated texts, the cognitive process of translation and the role of translation within society, applied translation studies focus on the training of translators, tools for translation, evaluations of translation, and translational policies.

Moreover, Holmes (2000) identified potential avenues for further inquiry within each subfield. He strongly advocated for interdisciplinary integration to advance translation theory by drawing on related disciplines, including linguistics (with textual, contrastive, sociolinguistic, and psycholinguistic approaches), discourse studies, computational translation, literary studies, sociology, cultural studies, and psychology.

Holmes' analytical framework has since been expanded through research that explores the cognitive processes involved in translation and bridges the domains of neurology and cognitive science. These developments have further validated and enriched the theoretical foundations of TS (Muñoz Martín 2021). In addition, the rise of digital humanities and artificial intelligence has revolutionized TS research by enabling large-scale textual analyses and data-driven inquiries. Furthermore, interest in applying TS frameworks to pressing global challenges, such as migration, climate change, and health communication systems, is growing (Tymoczko 2005). Textbooks provide insightful overviews of translation, but with limited coverage. For instance, Hatim (2014) critically examined theories and models of translation using applied linguistics and explored the effects of language theories, such as pragmatics, register analysis, genre theory, and text linguistics, on translation practices.

With TS transitioning from a linguistic to an interdisciplinary and praxis-centered focus, translator training as well as translational models have become integral to the field. As such, translator training and education respond to and influence the latest trends in the field of TS, given that it serves to prepare translators to meet the complex requirements of international communication. This evolution is further supported by the development of translation models that help learners analyze, understand, and evaluate the processes and outcomes of translation. These models function as conceptual frameworks that guide researchers in structuring their studies, explaining how translation operates, why certain strategies are employed, and how meaning is negotiated across languages and cultures (Halverson 2010).

Chesterman (2007) proposed a widely recognized classification of translation models, offering a clear and practical framework for categorizing theoretical approaches. His taxonomy included four types of models: comparative, process-oriented, causal, and network. Each model offers a distinct analytical perspective, ranging from contrasting source and target texts to exploring the cognitive processes of translators and examining the sociocultural factors that shape translation practices.

Ongoing discussions have questioned whether multidisciplinary research engagement reflects theoretical dispersion or advances TS as a distinct field (Snell-Hornby 2006). Pym (2006) observed that TS tends to thrive more in smaller cultures than in large monolingual contexts, such as the US, where TS faces challenges in gaining recognition. The normal science framework proposed by Kuhn (1962) suggests that such examinations may reveal emergent paradigms that signal disciplinary maturity. The number of Web of Science (WoS)-indexed journals for TS has witnessed modest growth in recent times, at an estimated 8%, indicating novel prospects for rigorous bibliometric analysis. Many researchers have studied underexplored topics in TS and challenges in the field (Liang & Xu 2016), trends and patterns in machine translation (Mohsen, et al, 2023), trends in TS and evolving intellectual structures (Pan & Wu 2023), audio-visual elements in TS (Wang & Daghigh 2024), multimodal translation in TS (Guo 2025; Wang et al. 2025), legal translation (Mondragón et al. 2024), business translation (Hernández & Díez 2025) and Chinese translator styles (He & Xiong 2025). However, despite growing interest in multidisciplinary research, the bibliometric analysis of influential trends in translation studies remains unexplored. Thus, the present study sought to address a notable gap in the field of TS by collectively investigating dimensions that have been relatively underexplored. These include metrics of annual scientific production (e.g., citations, number of contributing authors), indicators of collaboration and productivity, and trending topics and evolving patterns in the field.

Therefore, this study conducted a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of journal articles in TS published between 2015 and 2025. This study examined trends, recurring topics, patterns in citations and publications, prominent countries, relevant authors, affiliations, and developing interests in TS. This study aimed to identify the trajectories and implications of TS, highlight global trends, and identify directions for further research. This study posed the following research questions:

(1) What are the key metrics of annual scientific production, citations, and contributing authors in TS research?

(2) Which indicators of collaboration and production are reflected in TS research?

(3) What are the trending topics and evolving patterns in TS research?

2. Literature Review

Bibliometric analysis integrated with TS offers researchers evolving methods to visualize disciplinary growth by identifying key authors, seminal sources, and theoretical developments (Afzaal et al. 2024). Comparative bibliometric methods can

assess academic efficiency and trace growing shifts in institutional, regional, and collaborative research trends (Aria & Cuccurullo 2017; van Eck & Waltman 2010).

TS is shaped by a plurality of theoretical models constructed to examine various dimensions of translation, such as social, cognitive, and cultural transfer. (Laviosa & González-Davies 2019). The classification of translation models established by Chesterman (2007) remains influential in four major categories: comparative, process-based, causal, and network-oriented. These translation models present distinct frameworks for examining translation phenomena, including text-based equivalents, translators' cognitive processes, contextual factors, and translator-operated network systems.

Many scholars have employed bibliometric analyses in the field of TS to explore evolving trends and new directions. Liang and Xu (2016) examined the trends and research focus in TS from 2009 to 2013 in eight journals in the Social Sciences Citations Index (SSCI), Web of Science Core Collection, using a bibliometric approach to highlight the challenges and unexplored topics within the field. Huang and Liu (2019) employed bibliometric analysis to examine international TS from 2014 to 2018 and highlighted the implications. Mohsen et al. (2023) explored trending issues, hotspots, and co-citations in the machine translation field. Assimilating neural networks with artificial intelligence (AI) and human post-editing is key to improving translation quality. Alangari (2024) examined the evolution of translation and interpreting research in Saudi Arabia over the past three decades (1990–2019) using bibliometric analysis. The findings revealed a notable increase in article publication over the recent decade (2010–2019), with pedagogy-related research being prominent throughout the study period.

Pan and Wu (2024) mapped intellectual structures and evolving trends in TS using keyword and co-citation analyses. Li and Liang (2024) examined book reviews published in translation journals from 2010 to 2021 and identified a slight decline in publications. Qobti and Almohaimeed (2024) conducted a bibliometric analysis of Arabic translation research from 2000 to 2020, arguing that translation and interpretation were less dominant than genre translation. Wang and Daghigh (2024) explored audio-visual TS from 2002 to 2022 and highlighted the exponential progress in this field. Mondragón et al. (2024) investigated the scientific production of legal TS using a bibliometric approach. Guo (2025) and Wang et al. (2025) explored the knowledge domains of multimodal translation from 1990 to 2023 using a bibliometric approach, revealing a rapid increase in this subfield from 2012 to 2023.

Greńczuk et al. (2025) employed a bibliometric analysis to investigate the use of AI tools in translation. Tao and Eng (2024) conducted a bibliometric analysis of translation assessments from 2000 to 2022, identifying major themes, evolutions, and hotspots that could help enhance translation quality and competence. Hernández and Díez (2025) conducted a bibliometric analysis of studies on metaphors in business translation in Spain. He and Xiong (2025) employed a bibliometric analysis of research on Chinese translator styles from 1980 to 2022. Qassem and Althebi (2025) examined the increase in research and collaboration in the field of translation and interpretation in Saudi Arabia. Al-Amri (2025) argued that despite the rapid growth in translation research, areas such as audiovisual translation, video game translation, and tourism

remained unexplored. Alshehri et al. (2025) conducted a bibliometric analysis of translated literary works (1979–2012) in Arab countries using a translational index database. As an indicator of the breadth of bibliometric analyses, other sub areas also include cognitive translation, translation universals (Afzaal et al. 2025) domestication and foreignization in TS, and bibliometric analysis of speech acts journals (Afzaal et al. 2024; An, 2024) and literary works (Chen & Chen 2025; Wang et al. 2019; Wu & Xi 2024; Yang, 2025; Zhu & Guo 2024).

3. Materials and Methods

Bibliometric analysis is an essential tool for navigating the trends in the domain of research (Hassan & Duarte, 2024). Bibliometric analysis is a widely adopted and rapidly growing research methodology in TS, specifically for identifying key trends. It leverages quantitative approaches, specifically statistical techniques and correlation networks, to examine bibliographic and content-related data associated with scientific publications in a particular field (Chen & Wu 2017; Syahid & Qodir 2021). This study employed Bibliometrix (version 4.0.0), which was engineered within the R programming ecosystem to ensure seamless integration with datasets sourced from various accredited databases. Additionally, this study utilized Biblioshiny (version 4.0), a graphical user interface enhancement of Bibliometrix, to facilitate the visualization process. This tool enables the generation of visual analytics and facilitates inquiries into core knowledge structures in bibliometric examinations. Subsequently, bibliometric mapping and statistical analyses were conducted and results were obtained using Biblioshiny. Furthermore, this study employed VOSviewer, an open-source toolkit used for constructing complex bibliometric maps, to enhance visualization. Finally, CiteSpace (version 6.1 R6), a robust tool for bibliometric analysis, was used to assist the advanced metric-based examination and identification of trends. This study employed a three-year slicing strategy and used the Pathfinder pruning algorithm, with other software parameters sustained at their default settings.

WoS is an extensive database with over 15,000 journal indices. This study searched approximately 50 million articles to extract publications on TS. Only articles in the SSCI were selected. The core category was defined as translation studies. The following keywords were used: translation in education, literary translation, machine translation, TS, translation practice, translation pedagogy, language translation, and others. The period was set from 2015 to 2025. A total of 2,528 documents were extracted from 1,460 sources. This study focused on articles and review articles, whereas additional documents comprised proceedings papers, editorials, early access papers, editorials, book reviews, corrections, letters, music performance reviews, and meeting abstracts. Thus, this dataset involves all the TS sources indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. The analysis diagram is presented in Figure 1.

Data were initially systematically collected. To ensure relevance, specific issues in TS journals were selected to extract publications that directly addressed detailed inquiries into translation models. Following the data extraction process, the studies were meticulously categorized. The framework proposed by Chesterman (2007) served

as the basis for this classification process, as this study fits within the proposed typology of translation models. Several studies could not be easily assigned to any of these categories, highlighting the dynamic and ambiguous nature of modern translational research.

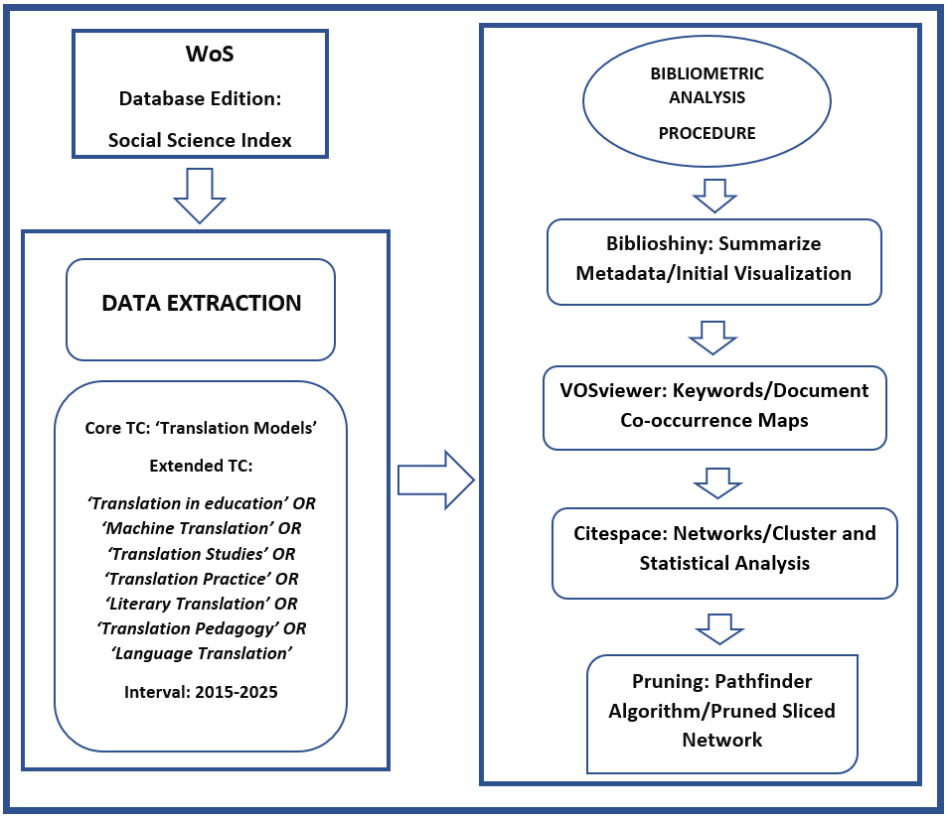

Figure 1. Bibliometric Analysis of Translation Models

4. Results and Discussion

The search retrieved 2,528 articles and eight core journals. These articles contained 45,820 references and numerous distinct keywords with a primary emphasis on translation studies. Table 1 shows the average number of citations per article (mean TIMES CITED per article), article counts (N), yearly citation counts (mean TC per year), and total number of citable years (citable years).

Table 1. Annual Citations

Year	Mean TC per Article	N	Mean TC per Year	Citable Years
2015	23.99	200	2.18	11
2016	24.31	193	2.43	10
2017	20.15	231	2.24	9
2018	18.78	217	2.35	8
2019	15.6	241	2.23	7
2020	16.32	289	2.72	6
2021	10.67	310	2.13	5
2022	6.52	257	1.63	4
2023	3.54	253	1.18	3
2024	1.3	256	0.65	2
2025	0.2	81	0.2	1

Earlier publications received higher average citation counts than more recent ones, reflecting the cumulative nature of citations over time. Papers published in 2015 and 2016 had similar citation means, despite a one-year time difference in accumulating citations.

From 2017 onward, a gradual decline in the mean number of citations per article was observed. A notable decline in citation averages began in 2021. Articles published in 2023, 2024, and 2025 received fewer citations due to their recent publication and limited accessibility to readers. Articles published in 2025 had a mean of .2 citations.

These findings align with those of previous bibliometric research, which suggests that older publications receive more citations because they have been around longer (Hicks 1987). Research interest in translation models remained consistent throughout the decade, as indicated by the steady flow of published academic articles, with an increase in publication frequencies in 2020 and 2021. Similarly, Tahamtan et al. (2016) and Wang (2013) found that older publications had higher citation counts due to increased academic exposure. Future citation updates are essential, as the period from 2023 to 2025 marks a significant phase in the citation life cycle of articles. Research on translation models reflects the technological progress and interdisciplinary scientific growth that occurred during the study period.

Figure 2 illustrates the annual citation count. The results revealed stability between 2015 and 2020, with a strong citation impact of more than two citations per year. Citations peaked at 202, with an average of 2.72 citations per year. This indicated a heightened interest in TS during this period. However, a downward trend was observed in 2020. From 2021, the number of yearly citations gradually declined, falling below two in 2022, before experiencing a rapid downward trend the following year. The average number of annual citations decreased to 0.65 in 2024 and dropped again to 0.2 in 2025.

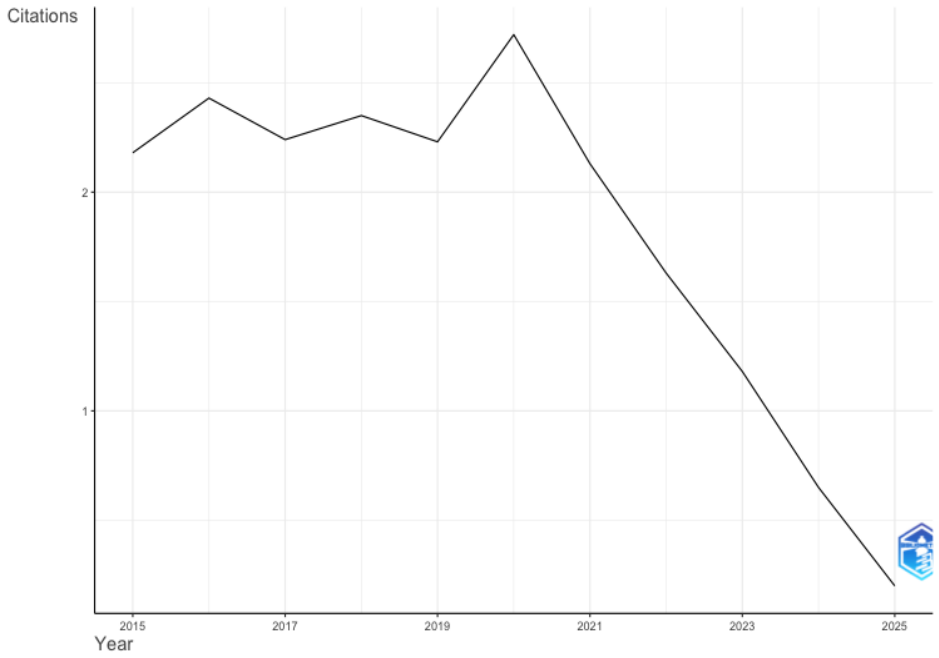

Figure 2. Average Citations per Year

Several factors may account for this decline. Articles published between 2023 and 2025 received fewer scholarly interactions for citation and indexing purposes than older articles. Studies on bibliometrics indicate that this citation window pattern is a typical occurrence (Wang 2013; Larivière et al. 2008), suggesting the prevalence of such citation behavior across various disciplines.

In addition, interest in traditional translation model research may have shifted to emerging disciplines, such as localization studies, multilingual communication, and AI-driven translation tools. The data collection occurred early in 2025; therefore, the citation numbers for 2024 and 2025 should be considered preliminary. Further research is needed to develop an accurate depiction of citation trends and assess whether TS research will regain influence in the expanding academic sphere.

Table 2 outlines the annual scientific publications. The number of scholarly articles on TS research increased steadily from 2015 to 2021, before experiencing a decline in the following three years. The sharp drop in 2025 could be attributed to indexing limitations, as many of these studies were recently published.

Table 2. Annual Scientific Production

Year	Articles
2015	200
2016	193
2017	231
2018	217
2019	241
2020	289
2021	310
2022	257
2023	253
2024	256
2025	81

The interest in TS grew steadily from 2015 to 2021 in Scopus and Web of Science indexed journals, driven by the emerging influences of cognitive, sociological, and technological approaches in the field. Since 2020, academics have advanced their interest in interdisciplinary research by integrating translation theory with digital humanities, AI, corpus linguistics, and localization studies (Halverson 2010). The surge in publications between 2020 and 2021 has been partly attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has facilitated digital scholarship and remote collaboration modes that support translation technology and AI-assisted translation research (Zawacki-Richter et al. 2019). A slight decline in research activity began in 2021, reflecting a shift toward a growing interest in the contemporary fields of multimodal translation, inclusive communication, and the ethics of machine translation. The overall number of journal publications has also been affected by this emerging competition, the diversity in research topics, and changes in the open-access publication approach (Jiménez-Crespo 2020).

Furthermore, the significant drop in the number of articles published in 2025 (up to May) should be interpreted cautiously, given the data lag effect often reported in bibliometric studies, which can restrict the early indexing and visibility of recent publications (Wang 2013). New data points over time are crucial for determining whether the decline is temporary or indicative of the longer term. Interdisciplinary research in TS continues to expand (Rana et al. 2025; Rong et al. 2025). According to Wang et al. (2025), the rapid increase in TS research began after 2018, driven by technological improvements in digital translation software and the growing need for multilingual communication.

The annual scientific output provided information on research activities. The research output showed stable performance from 2015 to 2017, with no more than 200 articles per year (Figure 3). The number of publications indicated substantial growth starting in 2018, reaching a peak of 310 articles in 2021. The field of translational research is currently experiencing rapid expansion due to growing interest in interdisciplinary approaches that utilize cognitive, sociological, and technological

methods. Rapid growth is associated with expanding the coverage of TS into new fields, including post-editing, audiovisual translation (Wang & Daghigh 2024), and an AI-based translation system (Shormani & Al-Sohbani 2025).

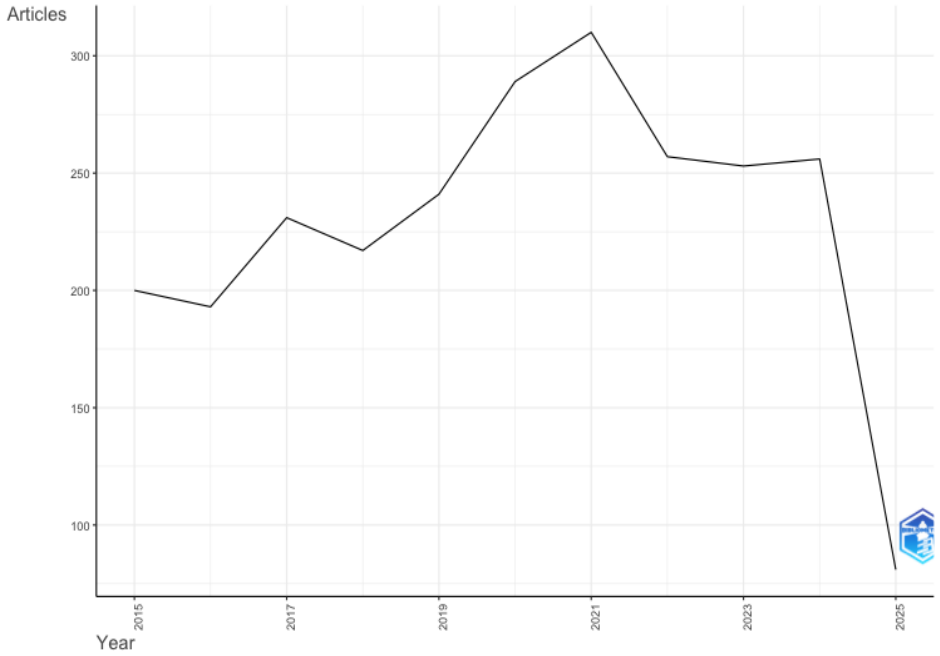

Figure 3. Annual Scientific Production

A continuous decline was observed after the publication peak was reached in 2021. Academic output reached a plateau from 2022 to 2024, as researchers produced approximately 250–257 articles annually. The continuous decline resulted in 81 articles in 2025 due to incomplete indexing and shorter time available for citations. The research field has expanded to include areas of inquiry, such as traditional topics like the translation process and the required skills for interpreters, as well as cultural, technological, and multimodal perspectives. Research on literary translations in English, French, Chinese, and Spanish has maintained momentum, demonstrating the extensive use of corpus-based translation technique applications and case-study methods. Translation pedagogy and educational programs for interpreters and translators advanced rapidly, demonstrating the academic field's interest in both theoretical research and practical applications.

Table 3 presents the basic bibliometric indicators. The results indicated a balanced distribution of older and newer publications, along with an average scholarly impact. The reference database represented an extensive network of texts for the analysis. The document's contents revealed a wide range of topics. Numerous authors have contributed to this field; however, the majority of papers were written by a single author, indicating that independent research remains vital despite the rising trend in

collaboration. Global scholarly collaboration through international co-authorships was also observed. Most of the documents were articles, followed by review articles and other document types, such as early access articles, proceedings papers, editorials, and book reviews. Furthermore, the documents included two retracted publications, two corrections, one letter, nine meeting abstracts, and one music performance review.

Table 3. Data Summary

Main Information	
Timespan	2015:2025
Sources (journals, books, etc.)	1,460
Documents	2,528
Annual growth rate %	-8.64
Document average age	5.05
Average citations per document	13.02
References	129,662
Document Contents	
Keywords plus (ID)	5,041
Author's keywords (DE)	9,056
Authors	
Authors	7,917
Authors of single-authored documents	773
Authors Collaboration	
Single-authored docs	789
Co-authors per document	3.38
International co-authorships %	24.6
Document Types	
Article	2,528
Article: book chapter	2
Article: early access	65
Article: proceedings paper	25
Article: retracted publication	2
Book review	14
Correction	2
Editorial material	38

Letter	1
Meeting abstract	9
Music performance review	1
Review	138
Review: book chapter	1
Review: early access	3

The results revealed diverse and international characteristics through balanced, independent, and collaborative research. TS research shows potential for growth due to its low negative growth rate, significant citation frequency, and diverse keyword patterns, reflecting an interdisciplinary field at a mature stage of development. According to Aria and Cuccurullo (2017), bibliometric diversity and co-authorship metrics often indicate intellectual maturity in a research field. Zupic and Čater (2014) highlighted that keyword diversity and collaboration frequency are markers of a field's transition from emergence to consolidation. Research indicates that expanding global collaboration in TS yields high levels of international co-authorship and extensive use of author keywords (Wang et al. 2025).

Figure 4 shows the ten author entries that represent the most significant contributors to TS research from 2015 to 2025. These authors consistently engaged in research, denoting their sustained involvement and varying levels of impact within the scholarly field. The first three authors (Ai, Shen, and Wang) exhibited clear dominance in the field, as their works consistently received attention from TS and potentially across multiple academic spheres. The output performances of these authors demonstrate the contemporary academic direction in TS due to their ability to shape research models and theoretical progress.

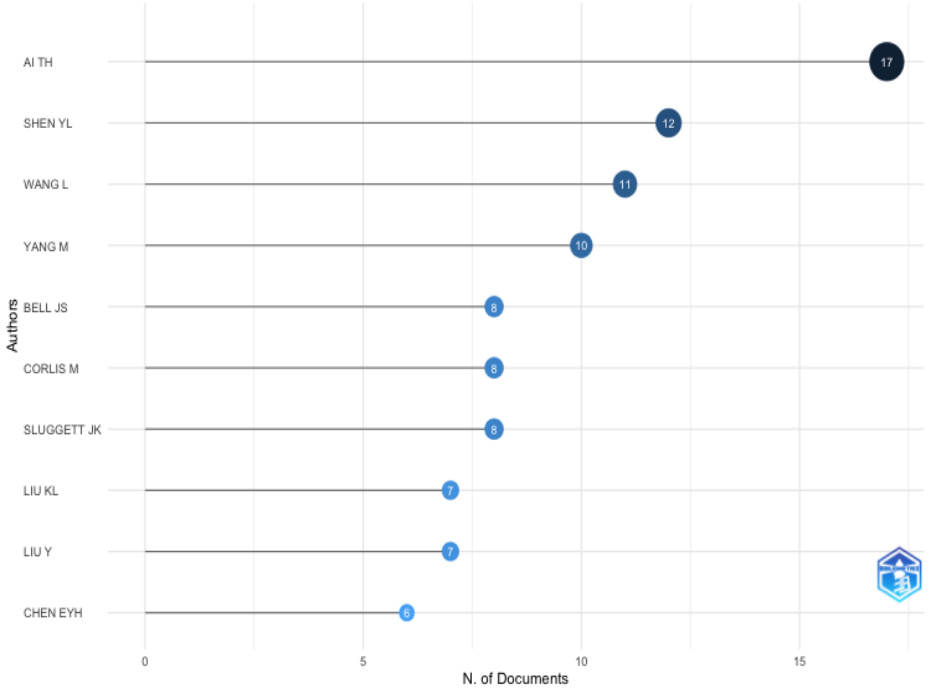

Figure 4. Most Relevant Authors

Moreover, Ai, Shen, and Wang produced 17 research publications that exceeded those of other authors in this period. The large number of publications by Ai demonstrated a broad interest in research topics addressing foundational issues within the study of translation methodology. Shen ranked as the second most productive researcher, with 12 articles published, followed by Wang, who published 11 articles in the same period. The research conducted by Shen and Wang received sufficient recognition and relevant confirmation to produce the results indicated by these numbers. According to Muñoz Martín (2021), influential authors of TS tend to connect their work to both empirical cognitive science research and process-based methods. A combination of theoretical frameworks and data-based strategies defines the leadership approach of cutting-edge researchers (Saldanha & O'Brien 2014).

Yang's research contribution was prominent, with ten published articles, falling behind the three leading authors. Bell contributed scholarly articles illustrating continuous research involvement at a lower rate than other authors. Liu and Chen each published seven articles. Liu's articles indicated a focus on emerging research topics in TS. The research field influence of authors was positively correlated with their number of published works, as indicated by the data on Ai, Shen, and Wang. Through their high visibility, researchers combined classic translation examinations with computational approaches and various fields of study, such as cultural adaptation methods and multilingual communication platforms. In future research, an investigation into the detailed contents and research methods implemented by the

leading authors would demonstrate the development of TS since 2015 as a disciplinary field and academic domain.

Figure 5 displays the ten affiliations identified as the most significant participants in TS research from 2015 to 2025. Research on TS originated mainly within the institutions noted in the affiliation section due to their advanced positions in field development. The University of London produced 89 articles, placing it in the dominant position among the institutions. The strategic position of TS programs in various colleges in the University of London demonstrated that it was a central facility for translation research development. The University of California and *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* produced 55 and 54 articles, respectively, indicating that TS research received significant attention in higher education institutions in the United States and France. Monash University produced 44 articles on translation and multilingual studies, whereas Harvard University published 42 articles. The second major cluster in TS research consisted of Wuhan University (36 articles), KU Leuven (34 articles), University of Oxford (34 articles), University System of Ohio (34 articles), and University College London (33 articles), demonstrating the worldwide impact of TS research.

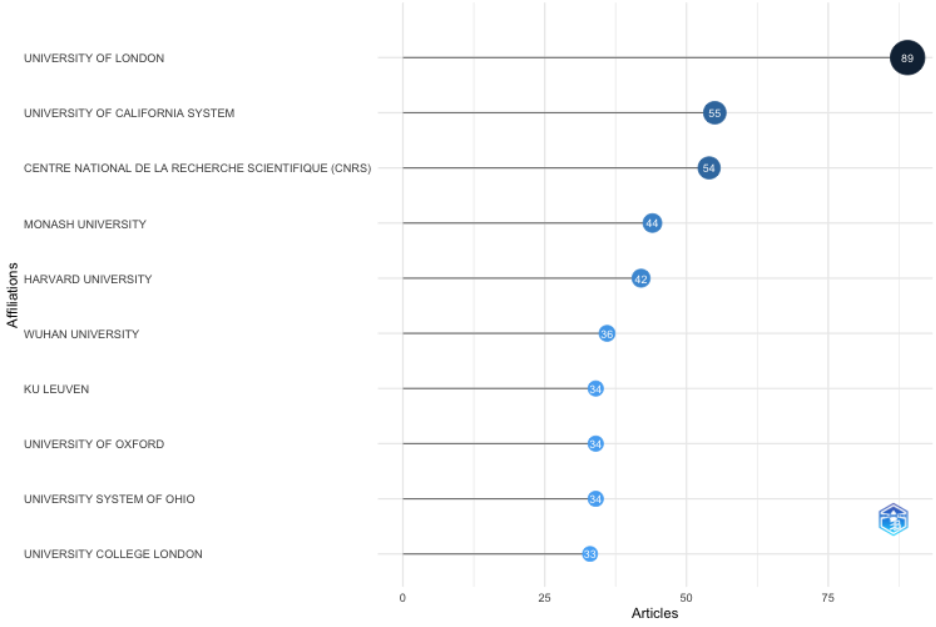

Figure 5. Most Relevant Affiliations

The varying numbers of publications produced by these universities revealed that translation research was widespread among global academic leaders, although few universities dominated the field. The amount of research published by universities indicates their academic influence. Thus, the University of London and the University of California played significant roles in developing and spreading translation models. Institutional production, coupled with international activities, defines TS leadership development. The University of London operates as an institutional hub because it

functions as the main center for translation theory development and worldwide academic cooperation. Institutions contribute to TS and are dependent sources of output. The results of this study align with previous research findings, which are based on the outcomes of multilingual training programs that tend to produce the highest TS output (Wang et al. 2025).

Figure 6 presents a five-year time series of article outputs within the field of TS from 2015 to 2025 in Australia, China, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Scholarly output exhibited continuous growth in all countries studied. The production of TS articles in the United States increased significantly over the examined period, rising from fewer than 150 articles in 2015 to approximately 1,000 articles by 2025.

Despite research demonstrating that China had transformed into a prominent contributor to TS output (Dong & Chen 2015a), the United States continued to influence the theoretical and institutional framework of TS research between 2015 and 2025. This is reflective of Pym's (2006) analysis, which sheds light on how historically dominant institutions — particularly within Anglophone contexts — have played a strong role in molding TS networks and research agendas by means of their academic prestige, capacity for funding, and control over key publication forums.

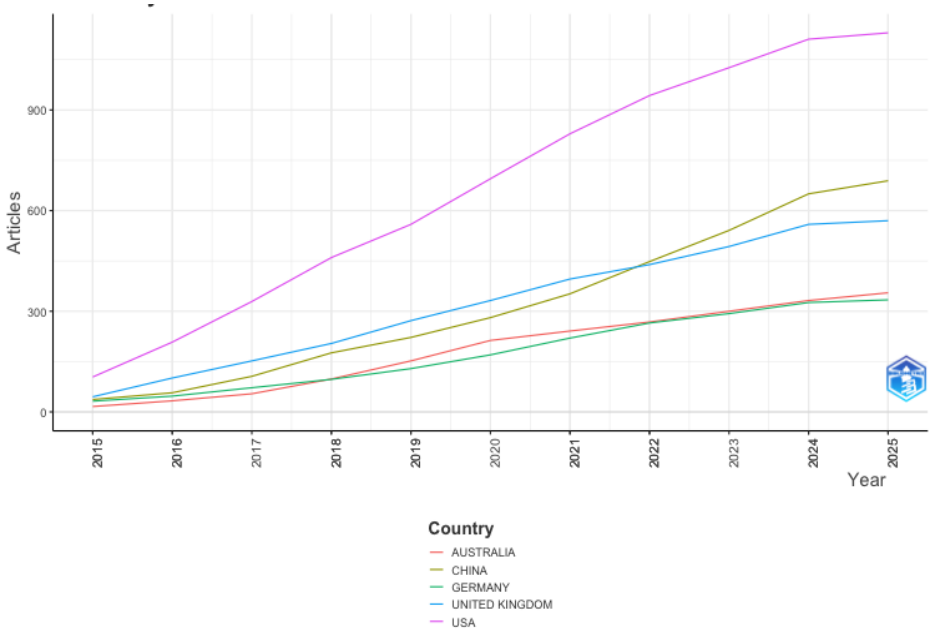

Figure 6. Country Production over Time

China is the third most productive country after the United Kingdom and holds the second position in global scholarly output. China has demonstrated rapid growth from 2021, surpassing Britain in terms of research output in 2023. The growing number of

articles authored by Chinese scholars indicates a trend toward increased dominance in this field, likely due to global changes in translational technology funding, accompanied by the growing popularity of multilingual studies.

The production outputs of Germany and Australia exhibited continuous growth; however, their numbers remained lower than those of other countries. The article outputs of these countries showed no major divergence, as their numbers were the same in 2025, with Germany having a slight lead. These results supported the findings of previous studies, which showed that European countries remained significant contributors to translation scholarship (Alyami & Qassem 2024), while facing expanding competition from East Asian non-European zones (Dong & Chen 2015b). Zawacki-Richter et al. (2019) found that the United States maintained the leading role in integrating educational technology and translation systems.

Figure 7 illustrates the evolution of research areas in TS over the past decade. From 2015 to 2017, researchers primarily studied traditional and cognitive elements, comprising "lexical access," "competition," and "disability." The initial TS investigation focused on language use and mental processes, as these were the central areas of interest at the time. A clear shift was observed in 2018, with researchers examining the concepts of "algorithm," "uncertainty," and "governance" by analyzing technological advancements, institutional structures, and machine learning. This field underwent a significant transformation, and researchers began combining various disciplines to investigate the relationship between translation and computational techniques.

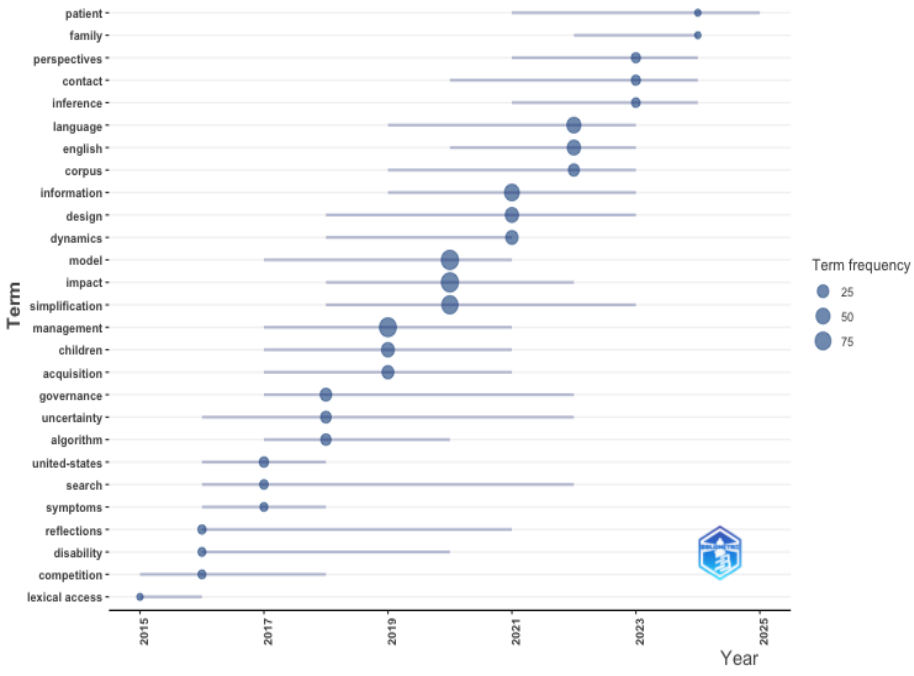

Figure 7. Trend Topics

From 2019 to 2021, the use of "model," "impact," "dynamics," and "simplification," exhibited substantial growth. These terms were widely used in research studies. The research field has progressed from the exploration of translation theory to the creation and testing of models, along with critical investigations into the effects of translation on communication across multiple sectors. The research direction shifted significantly after 2021. Terms such as "patient," "family," and "perspectives" appeared in the literature, as healthcare professionals and community researchers showed increased interest in translation practices.

Furthermore, functional interactions between patients and their families have elevated translation services to the forefront as a crucial practice for real-life communication, transcending purely academic or technical settings (Kwan et al. 2023).

The growth of translation services in healthcare and digital ethics parallels the academic growth of TS, including research on social service translation (Halverson 2010). Social science orientation in translation research adopts a humanistic and community-centric approach, aligning with the findings of Inghilleri (2005). The core subjects of "design," "language," and "corpus" indicated stability across the study period, as fundamental concepts related to researching text and designing translation systems demonstrated their essential value. The growth of TS responded to international challenges by creating effective approaches to human-centered communication.

Figure 8 illustrates the global collaborative networks of TS research from 2015 to 2025. Extensive research collaborations were observed among North America, Europe, and various Asian regions, particularly between the United States, the United Kingdom, and Asia. The United States functioned as the key hub of scholarly partnerships that connected with international regions across the globe. Major European nations, including France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, maintained strong cross-border academic ties, as evident in their high interconnection ratings. China demonstrated its prominence by constructing active connections with both Western and Eastern countries. TS research exhibited significant global expansion due to the extensive network resulting from researchers pursuing common agendas and technological innovations, as well as the demand for multilingual communication arising from global connectivity.

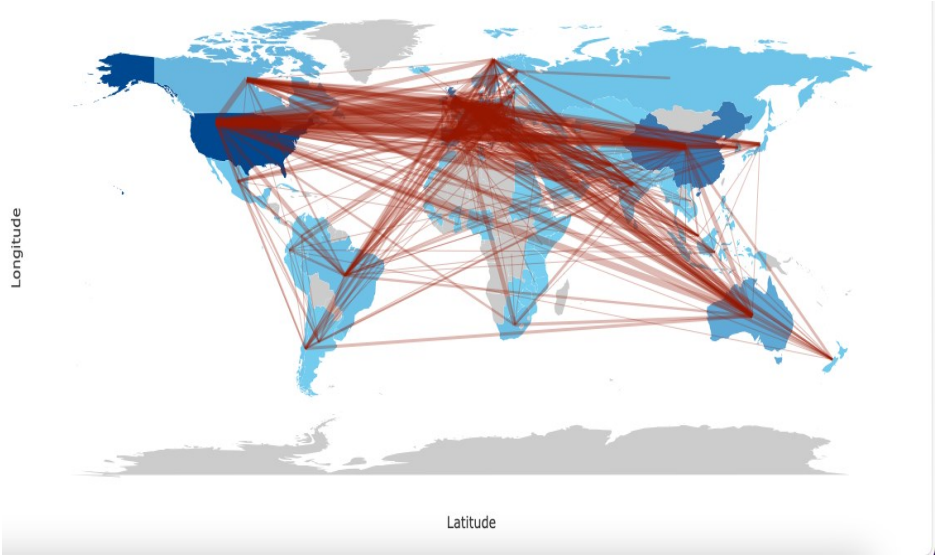

Figure 8. Country Cooperation World Map

Figure 9 demonstrates the word cloud for frequent terms and themes in TS. The visual illustration displays the most frequently occurring terms and thematic focuses, providing insights into the dominant research areas, conceptual trends, and emerging keywords in the field of TS. The use of a word cloud enables a quick and intuitive overview of the lexical prominence and conceptual density present in current scholarly discourse.

Figure 9. Frequent Terms and Themes in Translation Studies

5. Conclusion

The present study conducted a systematic bibliometric analysis of TS publications from 2015 to 2025, furnishing novel insights into how the TS landscape is being reshaped. A key finding reveals the growing diversification of themes within the research articles examined, indicating a transition from conventional cognitive linguistics to contemporary topics such as AI, medical translation, and digital humanities.

Based on the analysis, the study also found that while research output within TS scholarship peaked in 2021, a decline in such studies followed, indicating either that the field had become saturated or that research interests had begun to transition towards alternative areas of inquiry. Existing theoretical frameworks, particularly those based on socio-cognitive and process-based models, have remained prominent, suggesting that TS scholarship has sustained engagement with cognitive approaches, in addition to interdisciplinary ones.

Significantly, the study revealed extended international collaboration, particularly by authors Ai, Shen, and Wang, who have emerged as influential contributors to the field. While the University of London and University of California led the way in TS research, among contributing countries, the United States, the United Kingdom, and China produced prolific research in the field. These insights highlight the globalized nature of TS scholarship, which at the same time is characterized by asymmetries in research productivity and influence.

From a theoretical perspective, the study's findings underscore the need to integrate TS with parallel disciplines, such as AI and corpus linguistics, highlighting the need to expand the epistemic boundaries of the field. Practically, the growing interest in healthcare translation is an indicator of the need to consider translation as a tool for real-world functional communication, particularly in medical contexts characterized by diverse linguistic landscapes in countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia.

Despite its insightful findings, the current study possesses some inherent limitations. Notably, bibliometric data, which was the mainstay of the present research, is less likely to shed light on the qualitative impact of research articles, especially recent scholarships, which have had limited time to attract citations. Moreover, because the study depended on indexed databases, this may have led to the exclusion of important significant contributions from less prominent or non-English sources.

For future studies, researchers could expand this analysis in several ways. A comparative examination of translation trends among various regions and databases would be significant. They could integrate qualitative content analyses of key studies, investigate the role of non-Western epistemologies, and scrutinize the socio-political forces shaping patterns of research in TS.

References

Afzaal, Muhammad, Huang, Baorong, and El-Dakhs, Dina Abdel Salam. 2025. "Decoding the Digital: A Corpus-Based Study of Simplifications and Other

Translation Universals in Translated Texts." *Frontiers in Psychology* 16: 1517107. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2025.1517107

Afzaal, Muhammad, Shanshan, Xiao, and El-Dakhs, Dina Abdel Salam. 2024. "A Comprehensive Bibliometric Analysis of Speech Acts in International Journals (2013–2023)." *Cogent Arts & Humanities* 11(1): 2380556. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2024.2380556

Al-Amri, Waleed Bleyhesh. 2025. "Translation Research as Reflection on Translation Practice and Product: The Case of Saudi Arabia." *Journal of Arabic Sciences and Humanities* 18(3): 285–300.

Alangari, Eithar. 2024. "Translation and Interpreting Research in Saudi Arabia: A Bibliometric Analysis (1990–2019)." *The Translator* 30(2): 210–226. https://doi.org/10.1080/13556509.2023.2200054

Alshehri, Fawziah Ali, Alshehri, Fadiah Abdullah, Qassem, Mutahar, Bedjaoui, Wafa, and Alfaisal, Asma Ahmed. 2025. "The Dynamics of Translation from and into Arabic in the Arab World: Bibliometric Analysis of the Index Translationum UNESCO Database (1979–2012)." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 12(1): 1–9. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-025-04886-w

Alyami, Naji, and Qassem, Mutahar. 2024. "Examining Translation and Interpretation Studies in GCC States: Data from Web of Science (1991–2023)." *Cogent Arts & Humanities* 11(1). https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2024.2421083

An, Gang. 2024. "Domestication and Foreignisation in Translation Studies: A Bibliometric Analysis of WoS Core Journal Articles." *Journal of Intercultural Communication* 24(4): 13–22. https://doi.org/10.36923/jicc.v24i4.933

Aria, Massimo, and Cuccurullo, Corrado. 2017. "Bibliometrix: An R-Tool for Comprehensive Science Mapping Analysis." *Journal of Informetrics* 11(4): 959–975. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2017.08.007

Chen, Se-Yi., and Wu, June-Tai. 2017. "Global Productivity of Dermatological Research: A Bibliometric Analysis from 1985 to 2014." *British Journal of Dermatology* 176(1): 234–236. https://doi.org/10.1111/bjd.14802

Chen, Xin-Xin, and Chen, Wen-Hao. 2025. "Core Themes and Emerging Trends in International Children's Literature Research: A Bibliometric Analysis." *Children's Literature in Education*: 1–19. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10583-025-09613-2

Chesterman, Andrew. 2007. "Bridge Concepts in Translation Sociology." In *Constructing a Sociology of Translation*, edited by Michaela Wolf and Alexandra Fukari, 171–183. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. https://doi.org/10.1075/btl.74.12che

Dong, Dahui, and Chen, Meng-Lin. 2015a. "A Bibliometric Analysis of Translation Studies between 1999 and 2014." *Compilation and Translation Review* 8(1): 41–82.

Dong, Dahui, and Chen, Meng-Lin. 2015b. "Publication Trends and Co-Citation Mapping of Translation Studies between 2000 and 2015." *Scientometrics* 105(1): 1111–1128. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-015-1769-1

Greńczuk, Andrzej, Tryczyńska, Katarzyna, Sahinguvy, William, Nkunzimana, Hilaire, Ogonowski, Piotr, and Chomiak-Orsa, Iwona. 2025. "Artificial Intelligence as a Tool to Support the Translator's Work: Bibliometric Analysis." In *Emerging Challenges in Intelligent Management Information Systems. ECAI 2024. Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems*, Vol. 1217, edited by Marcin Hernes, Jaroslaw

Wątróbski, and Artur Rot, 77–89. Cham: Springer Nature. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-78465-1_7

Guo, Gaopan. 2025. "Mapping the Knowledge Domain of Multimodal Translation: A Bibliometric Analysis." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 12: 159, 1–10. https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-025-04510-x

Halverson, Sandra Louise. 2010. "Cognitive Translation Studies: Developments in Theory and Method." In *Translation and Cognition*, edited by Gregory Shreve and Erik Angelone, 349–369. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. https://doi.org/10.1075/ata.xv.18hal

Hassan, Waseem, and Duarte, Antonia Eliene. 2024. "Bibliometric Analysis: A Few Suggestions." *Current Problems in Cardiology* 49(8): 102640. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpcardiol.2024.102640

Hatim, Basil. 2014. *Teaching and Researching Translation*. London: Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315832906

He, He, and Xiong, Bing. 2025. "A Bibliometric Analysis of Translator's Style in Translation Studies: A Chinese Perspective (1980–2022)." *SAGE Open* 15(1): 1–26. https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440251322591

Hernández, Daniel Gallego, and Díez, Alba López. 2025. "Mapping Business Translation Studies on Metaphor: A Bibliometric Analysis." *Hermēneus. Revista de Traducción e Interpretación* 26(1): 161–195. https://doi.org/10.24197/her.26.2024.161-195

Hicks, Diana. 1987. "Limitations of Co-Citation Analysis as a Tool for Science Policy." *Social Studies of Science* 17(2): 295–316. https://doi.org/10.1177/030631287017002004

Holmes, James Stratton. 2000. "The Name and Nature of Translation Studies." In *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, 172–185. London & New York: Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429280641

Huang, Qin, and Liu, Furong. 2019. "International Translation Studies from 2014 to 2018: A Bibliometric Analysis and Its Implications." *Translation Review* 105(1): 34–57. https://doi.org/10.1080/07374836.2019.1664959

Inghilleri, Moira. 2005. "The Sociology of Bourdieu and the Construction of the 'Object' in Translation and Interpreting Studies." *The Translator* 11(2): 125–145. https://doi.org/10.1080/13556509.2005.10799195

Jiménez-Crespo, Miguel A. 2020. "The 'Technological Turn' in Translation Studies. Are We There Yet? A Transversal Cross-Disciplinary Approach." *Translation Spaces* 9(2): 314–341. https://doi.org/10.1075/ts.19012.jim

Kwan, Michelle, Jeemi, Zakia, Norman, Richard, and Dantas, Jaya A. R. 2023. "Professional Interpreter Services and the Impact on Hospital Care Outcomes: An Integrative Review of Literature." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 20(6): 5165. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20065165

Larivière, Vincent, Archambault, Éric, and Gingras, Yves. 2008. "Long-Term Variations in the Aging of Scientific Literature: From Exponential Growth to Steady-State Science (1900–2004)." *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 59(2): 288–296. https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.20744

Laviosa, Sara, and González-Davies, María. 2019. "Introduction: A Transdisciplinary Perspective on Translation and Education." In *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Education*, edited by S. Laviosa and M. González-Davies, 1–8. London: Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367854850

Li, Lei, and Liang, Linxin. 2024. "A Bibliometric Analysis of Book Reviews Published in Translation Journals between 2010 and 2021." *Journal of Scholarly Publishing* 55(1): 139–163. https://doi.org/10.3138/jsp-2023-0028

Liang, Linxin, and Xu, Mingwu. 2016. "A Bibliometric Analysis of International Translation Studies: Based on Relevant Data (2009–2013)." *Translation Review* 94(1): 52–64. https://doi.org/10.1080/07374836.2016.1143427

Mohsen, Mohammed Ali, Althebi, Sultan, and Albahooth, Mohammed. 2023. "A Scientometric Study of Three Decades of Machine Translation Research: Trending Issues, Hotspot Research, and Co-Citation Analysis." *Cogent Arts & Humanities* 10(1): 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2023.2242620

Mondragón, Eliana Maritza Barturen, Castro, María del Pilar Quezada, Arellano, María del Pilar Castro, and Castro, Guillermo Alexander Quezada. 2024. "Scientific Production on Legal Translation (1988–2023): A Bibliometric Analysis." *Journal of Educational and Social Research* 14(1): 64–76. https://doi.org/10.36941/jesr-2024-0006

Muñoz Martín, Ricardo. 2021. "Situated Cognition." In *Handbook of Translation Studies: Volume 5*, edited by Yves Gambier and Luc van Doorslaer, 207–212. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. https://doi.org/10.1075/hts.5.sit1

Nzimande, Erick Nkululeko. 2023. "The Evolution of Translation Theory: From Prescriptive to Descriptive Approaches." In *Translatology, Translation and Interpretation: Toward a New Scientific Endeavor*, edited by Noury Bakrim, 3–22. London: IntechOpen Ltd. https://doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.1002611

Olohan, Maeve. 2021. "Post-Editing: A Genealogical Perspective on Translation Practice." In *Empirical Studies in Translation and Discourse*, edited by Mario Bisiada, 1–25. Berlin: Language Science Press. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4450077

Pan, Feng, and Wu, Xue. 2023. "Mapping Intellectual Structures and Research Trends of Translation Studies: A Bibliometric Analysis from 2007 to 2021." *Perspectives: Studies in Translation Theory and Practice* 32(4): 736–757. https://doi.org/10.1080/0907676X.2023.2275750

Pym, Anthony. 2006. "Globalization and the Politics of Translation Studies." *Meta: Translators' Journal* 51(4): 744–757. https://doi.org/10.7202/014339ar

Qassem, Mutahar, and AlThebi, Sultan. 2025. "Mapping Saudi Institutions' Translation and Interpreting Research in the Web of Science and Scopus: A Bibliometrics Approach." *New Voices in Translation Studies* 30(1): 128–161. https://doi.org/10.14456/nvts.2025.5

Qobti, Amer, and Almohaimeed, Sultan. 2024. "Translation Research in the Arabic Language: A Bibliometric Study." *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature & Translation* 7(5): 77–88. https://doi.org/10.32996/ijllt.2024.7.5.10

Rana, Kritika, Aitken, Sarah J., and Chimoriya, Ritesh. 2025. "Interdisciplinary Approaches in Doctoral and Higher Research Education: An Integrative Scoping Review." *Education Sciences* 15(1): 72. https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci15010072

Rong, Guoyang, Chen, Ying, Ma, Feicheng, and Koch, Thorsten. 2025. "40 Years of Interdisciplinary Research: Phases, Origins, and Key Turning Points (1981–2020)." *arXiv* (preprint). https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2501.05001

Saldanha, Gabriela, and O'Brien, Sharon. 2014. *Research Methodologies in Translation Studies*. London & New York: Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315760100

Shormani, Mohammed Q., and Al-Sohbani, Yehia A. 2025. "Artificial Intelligence Contribution to Translation Industry: Looking Back and Forward (1980–2024)." *arXiv*. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.19855

Snell-Hornby, Mary. 2006. *The Turns of Translation Studies: New Paradigms or Shifting Viewpoints?* Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company. https://doi.org/10.1075/btl.66

Sun, Sanjun. 2014. "Rethinking Translation Studies." *Translation Spaces* 3(1): 167–191. https://doi.org/10.1075/ts.3.08sun

Syahid, Abdul, and Qodir, Abdul. 2021. "Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies: A Fifteen-Year Bibliometric Quest for a Bigger Impact." *Journal of Language and Linguistic Studies* 17(1): 290–314

Tahamtan, Iman, Safipour Afshar, Askar, and Ahamdzadeh, Khadijeh. 2016. "Factors Affecting Number of Citations: A Comprehensive Review of the Literature." *Scientometrics* 107(3): 1195–1225. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-016-1889-2

Tao, Dai, and Eng, Lin Siew. 2024. "Bibliometric Analysis and Visualization of Translation Assessment: Research Theme, Evolution and Hotspots." *Forum for Linguistic Studies* 6(2): 2135. https://doi.org/10.59400/FLS.v6i2.2135

Tymoczko, Maria. 2005. "Trajectories of Research in Translation Studies." *Meta: Translators' Journal* 50(4): 1082–1097. https://doi.org/10.7202/012062ar

van Eck, Nees Jan, and Waltman, Ludo. 2010. "Software Survey: VOSviewer, a Computer Program for Bibliometric Mapping." *Scientometrics* 84(2): 523–538. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-009-0146-3

Wang, Feng (Robin), Humblé, Philippe, and Chen, Wen. 2019. "A Bibliometric Analysis of Translation Studies: A Case Study on Chinese Canon *The Journey to the West*." *SAGE Open* 9(4): 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244019894268

Wang, Jian. 2013. "Citation Time Window Choice for Research Impact Evaluation." *Scientometrics* 94(3): 851–872. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-012-0775-9

Wang, Xi, Bo, Zhixia, and Li, Jiashuai. 2025. "A Bibliometric Analysis of Studies on Multimodal Translation: Retrospect and Prospect." *Semiotica* 2025(264): 131–155. https://doi.org/10.1515/sem-2023-0073

Wang, Yu, and Daghigh, Ali Jalalian. 2024. "Two Decades of Audiovisual Translation Studies: A Bibliometric Literature Review." *SAGE Open* 14(3): 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440241274575

Wu, Qian, and Xi, Yue. 2024. "A Visualized Bibliometric Analysis of Translation Studies of Mo Yan's Works Using VOSviewer from 2000 to 2024." *Journal of*

Linguistics and Communication Studies 3(4): 90–98. https://doi.org/10.56397/JLCS.2024.12.12

Yang, Jing. 2025. "Advancing the Field: A VOSviewer-Based Analysis of Research Trends in the English Translation of *Sandalwood Death*." *Cogent Arts & Humanities* 12(1): 2447636. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2024.2447636

Zawacki-Richter, Olaf, Marín, Victoria I., Bond, Melissa, and Gouverneur, Franziska. 2019. "Systematic Review of Research on Artificial Intelligence Applications in Higher Education." *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education* 16(39): 1–27. https://doi.org/10.1186/s41239-019-0171-0

Zhu, Kun, and Guo, Guoliang. 2024. "A Bibliometric Analysis of Translation Studies of Children's Literature and Its Implications." *Journal of Scientometric Research* 13(1): 260–271. https://doi.org/10.5530/jscires.13.1.22

Zupic, Ivan, and Čater, Tomaž. 2014. "Bibliometric Methods in Management and Organization." *Organizational Research Methods* 18(3): 429–472. https://doi.org/10.1177/1094428114562629

Conflict of Interest

The author declares no ethical issues or conflicts of interest in this research.

Ethical Standards

The author affirms this research did not involve human subjects.