
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Translation Research in the Arabic Language: A Bibliometric Study

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ABSTRACT

Over the past two decades, Translation Studies has experienced exponential growth in published articles, with bibliometric analysis increasingly used to explore research trends. This study employs corpus-based bibliometric method to analyse translation research output in the Arabic language from 2000 to 2020. A total of 1043 articles published in the Arabic language were obtained and classified using research area classification proposed by Williams and Chesterman (2014). The results indicate a substantial focus on Genre Translation as the primary interest within the Arab world, while the Translation Process and Interpreting Studies have received less attention. Keyword analysis further highlights Quran Translation as the most prevalent topic among these publications; however, it remains largely isolated from English-language research, which rarely cites Arabic studies. Moreover, the study examines the geographical distribution of the research, highlighting significant disparities in output across the Arab world, which can be attributed to publishing practices that favour English over Arabic. This pattern suggests a disconnect that might impede the global discourse in Translation Studies, particularly concerning the integration of insights across linguistic divides. The study provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of Arabic Translation Studies and stresses the need for further comprehensive explorations into underrepresented areas within Arabic translation research.

KEYWORDS

Bibliometric study, translation research, Arabic language, Quran translation

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1. Introduction

Translation Studies has been developing rapidly over the past two decades. With its interdisciplinary orientation, it has borrowed methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks from other disciplines, such as Linguistics, Anthropology, Sociology, and Cultural Studies, to name just a few (Baker & Saldanha, 2019). Scholars in Translation Studies have explored a wide variety of topics, including translation theories, translation problems and strategies, translator education, the impact of globalization and technology on translation, ideology in translation, and many more. More recently, new research areas have emerged, such as video game localization (O'Hagan, 2007), community interpreting (Taibi, 2014), and non-professional translations (Orrego-Carmona, 2014). Research in Translation Studies has provided insights that have shaped our understanding of the translation process, contributed to the development of machine translation, and offered many pedagogical approaches to teaching translation. This interdisciplinary infusion has not only expanded the scope of translation research but also enriched its depth, fostering a deeper understanding of translation as a complex sociocultural phenomenon. Over the past two decades, more than 40,000 scientific publications have been published in Translation Studies, with more than 3000 new publications issued each year (Rovira-Esteva et al., 2015).

In estimating the development of Translation Studies, Tymoczko (2005) points out, "translation research will move away from linguistic approaches as narrowly conceived and even from the circumscribed cultural studies approaches currently in use" (p. 1094). This foresight by Tymoczko emphasizes the inevitable evolution of Translation Studies towards embracing a more diverse array of theoretical and methodological perspectives. As the field expands, so does its potential to intersect with various disciplines, suggesting that future bibliometric analyses will likely reveal a field that is increasingly interconnected and multidimensional. The shift away from purely linguistic or cultural studies models to more integrative approaches reflects the dynamic and adaptive nature of the field as it responds to the complexities of translation. This evolution necessitates the use of comprehensive methodologies to recognize the breadth and depth of research being conducted in the field, highlighting the importance of bibliometric studies in mapping these emerging trends and areas of focus. The sheer number of publications and the breadth of topics in translation research have compelled researchers to conduct bibliometric studies to map the field. According to L. van Doorslaer and Y. Gambier, "bibliometrics is seen as the study of the production, dissemination, and use of scientific publications and communications, based mainly on textual parameters" (2015, p. 306).

Furthermore, translation is a complex phenomenon that involves many translational behaviors. Understanding the evolution and prevailing trends is crucial for scholars, educators, and practitioners alike. Gambier and Van Doorslaer (2016a) assert that bibliometric studies are helpful in "mapping the trends, networks and flows of the field, and in providing both diachronic and synchronic pictures of the state of the art." (p.5). The emphasis on the ability of bibliometric analyses to provide comprehensive insights—both through time and across the current state of the art—is fundamental as this methodological approach enables a macroscopic view of the field. Such a perspective is indispensable for identifying emerging trends and guiding future research towards areas of untapped potential. However, despite this expansive growth, certain areas within Translation Studies research, particularly those coming from the Arabic language, remain underexplored in bibliometric analyses. This gap highlights a significant oversight, as translation research conducted in Arabic embodies unique perspectives that could contribute to the global discourse of the field. Hence, this paper aims to contribute to the body of literature by mapping the research articles published in the Arabic language over the past twenty years and reporting on the findings. The choice of this timeframe is deliberate, encompassing a period of rapid changes within the field, driven by globalization and technological advances.

This paper is organized into four main sections. The first section gives an overview of bibliometric methods within Translation Studies, identifying where previous research has left gaps that our study aims to fill. This part sets the groundwork by explaining how bibliometric analysis can shed light on trends and patterns in the field. The second section details the methodology used in the data collection and analysis process. It describes the selection criteria for the studies, the database searched, and the specific steps taken to analyze the collected data. In the third section, we present our findings from analyzing the data. This includes identifying the most common themes, the distribution of research across different countries, and any changes in focus over the study period. This section aims to provide concrete insights into the status quo of Arabic translation research. The final section discusses what these findings mean and suggests directions for future research. It reflects on the implications of the study's results for the field of Translation Studies and outlines areas where further investigation could be beneficial.

2. Literature Review

A considerable amount of literature has grown up utilizing bibliometric methods in Translation Studies. One of the earliest studies utilizing bibliometric methods in the field was conducted by Šajkevič (1992) on translated books published between 1955-1983, using the UNESCO database Index Translationum. This work represents a foundational effort to quantify and understand the landscape of translated books, offering insights into the publishing trends, the prevalence of translations in certain languages, and the flow of cultural and literary exchange through translation during those years. This pioneering study laid the groundwork for subsequent bibliometric research by demonstrating the value of such methods in revealing patterns and trends in translation activities. Gile (2005) conducted an analysis of citation patterns within 47 articles focused on the training of translators and interpreters, revealing a predominant reliance on English language literature in the field of translator and interpreter training.

Additionally, bibliometric analyses may vary in scope, ranging from focused examinations of particular journals—for instance, Toury's (2009) detailed study of the publications within the *Target* journal—to broader efforts aimed at charting the evolution of the entire field, such as Wang (2013) comprehensive mapping of Interpreting Studies' development in China. Moreover, a series of bibliometric studies have provided valuable insights into the field. Dong and Chen (2015)'s investigated the publication trends and co-citation mapping and analyze the evolution of translation studies from 2000 to 2015, highlighting key literature, publication sources, and research areas. Their study revealed three primary research domains— theoretical translation studies, translation and interpreting training, and descriptive translation studies. The series of studies was further enriched. In 2015, a special issue of *Perspective* journal was dedicated to bibliographic and bibliometric studies. A collection of articles touched on variety of topics, from the evolution of research on non-professional interpreting (Martínez-Gómez, 2015); to methodological issues in bibliometric

studies (Gile, 2015; Rovira-Esteva et al., 2015; Zanettin et al., 2015); the merging area of Discourse Analysis in Translation Studies (Zhang et al., 2015); the use of English language as a Lingua Franca of publications within Translation Studies (Agost, 2015).

Moreover, Varmazyari (2016) study offers a focused examination of citation patterns within the *Iranian Journal of Translation Studies*. Varmazyari analysed articles published in this journal over a decade and identified *Meta*, *Target*, and *Across Languages and Cultures* as the journals most frequently cited. The findings of the study indicate a correlation between the accessibility of a journal and its popularity or citability among scholars, providing insightful perspectives on how accessibility influences scholarly dialogue and citation practices within the field of Translation Studies.

Furthermore, Zhou and Sun (2017) discuss the use of quantitative research methods in translation history. The authors argue that translation history can benefit from blending qualitative and quantitative approaches, and historical research can be systematically studied by retrieving bibliographic data from databases.

Following the series of bibliometric analyses that have mapped the evolution of translation studies, Huang and Xin (2020) contributed to this growing body of research by focusing on translation criticism. Their study, which utilized the BITRA database, revealed a consistent growth in translation criticism research from the 1940s through to the 2010s. The research output, mostly found in journal articles and book chapters, indicates an increasing interest among young scholars in the past two decades. The authors note that popular research themes have emerged within translation criticism, including quality assessment models, text-based linguistic analysis, and explorations of poetry and novels, with a gradual shift towards examining extra-linguistic factors.

In regard to bibliometric studies in the Arab World, Stitou (2019) seminal work contributes significantly to our understanding of Arabic research in Translation Studies. Stitou conducted a comprehensive bibliometric analysis spanning from 1960 to 2014, aiming to outline the scholarly output within the Arab World. His study primarily focuses on quantifying the volume of publications and their thematic distribution. Stitou's findings reveal that, among other findings, Arabic serves as the predominant language (66%) in Translation Studies publications within the Arab World, highlighting a strong preference for scholarly discourse in Arabic. Additionally, his analysis identifies articles as the primary publication format, constituting the majority (57%) of research output. Stitou's work provides valuable insights into the quantitative aspects of Arabic research in Translation Studies, laying a foundation for further exploration in the field. Building upon Stitou's foundational research, our study aims to provide a more focused analysis of research articles within Arabic Translation Studies.

Similarly, Alshehri (2020) carried out a comprehensive study to give a historical overview of the translated books from and into Arabic in Saudi Arabia over a period of 85 years. This study was one of the few attempts to document the modern translation movement in Saudi Arabia. In his study, the author traced back the translation activities from 1932 to 2016 and made all the translated books from and into Arabic available in an online database for easy access to researchers and translation scholars.

Additionally, over a period of 30 years, Alangari (2023) examined the research activities on Translation and Interpreting Studies in Saudi Arabia by analyzing the productivity of published journal articles between 1990 and 2019, prior to the establishment of the Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission in February 2020. In her study, Alangari divided the above-mentioned period into 3 phases; the first phase (1990-1999) started with the establishment of the first academic translation center in Saudi Arabia by King Saud university. The second phase (2000-2009) witnessed an advance in academia by launching many translation programs in most universities throughout the country. Finally, the third phase (2010-2019) witnessed significant developments in the translation industry. The author concluded that there had been a significant increase in published articles on Translation and Interpreting research in the third decade (2010-2019). The results from the Alangari study also indicate that there has been an expansion of the thematic patterns of research with a dominance of "translation pedagogy", "literary translation" and "Quranic translation" across the three phases.

However, to date, no bibliometric studies have been conducted to investigate the development of translation research published mainly in the Arabic language as the above-mentioned study of Stitou lumps various publication types together, including books, conferences, articles, and book chapters, which makes it difficult to map research themes accurately. Alshehri looked at the translated books, and Alangari studied the published articles in English, while briefly covering those published in Arabic. Alangari also focused her study on published articles in Saudi Arabia, at the time when the current study will take published articles in the Arabic language in general. Our research seeks to address this limitation by focusing specifically on research articles. Through this focused analysis, we aim to provide a clearer delineation of research themes and trends within the field, thereby advancing our understanding of Arabic translation studies.

Van Doorslaer and Gambier (2015) note that "the development and expansion of the discipline (various 'turns', topics, geographical distribution differences, Euro- and other-centrism, etc.) could be taken into account when carrying out more refined analyses of chronological development and change" (p.317). The current study aims to contribute to the growing literature by bringing the Arabic translation research into the fold to give a holistic view of the state of translation research by bringing in contributions from

the periphery as it is not represented in the previous studies. As Cronin (1998) rightly explains, "the notion of a minority language is not a static but a dynamic concept" (p.151). The Arabic language is one of the United Nation's official languages with around 422 million speakers, spreading over 22 countries. However, Cronin asserts that "minorities are always relational, one is a minority in relation to someone or something else. All languages, therefore, are potentially minority languages and in the case of the Internet, most languages have been *minoritized*" (Cronin 1998, p.151, emphasis in the original). It could also be argued that research in Translation Studies has, to some extent, minoritized other languages by focusing mainly on publications in the English language. In her analysis of the BITRA database, which is the most commonly used in bibliometric studies, Agost (2015) confirms that English is the language most widely used to disseminate research within the field of Translation Studies.

3. Methodology

The study aims to analyze Translation Studies research published in the Arabic language between 2000 and 2020. Therefore, the study adopted a bibliometric analysis approach to systematically review and analyze performance to quantify the total publications (TP) (Donthu et al., 2021) and perform a keyword analysis. Within the framework of this aim, the following research questions were formed:

RQ 1: What country produces the most Translation Studies research in the Arabic language?

RQ 2: What are the most dominant areas of translation research published in the Arabic language?

In addressing these questions, the following section elaborates on the selection criteria for the research data, the analytical frameworks employed, and the data collection and analysis. This includes a description of the databases searched and the criteria for inclusion and exclusion of published works.

3.1 The selection criteria

The study started by identifying Arabic Translation Studies journals provided by Dar AlMandumah, which included a total of 26 journals at the time of data collection (November 2023). This source served as the primary basis for our research of relevant literature, guided by a defined set of inclusion criteria to ensure the relevance and scope of the data collected for analysis. The data have been retrieved based on the following criteria:

- 1) The temporal scope was limited to articles published between January 2000 and December 2020. This 20-year period was chosen to capture the evolution of the field over two decades.
- 2) peer-reviewed articles published in indexed journals,
- 3) articles written in the Arabic language.

Articles were further filtered based on their subject matter relevance to Translation Studies. This was determined through a preliminary review of titles, abstracts, and keywords, where available.

By adopting these criteria, the research ensures the construction of an accurate dataset, which is fundamental for conducting an in-depth analysis reflective of the research questions.

3.2 Data collection procedures

The data were collected via the bibliometric method to identify the publishing trends and patterns. Since the most widely used database in Translation Studies is not representative of the Arab world (Agost 2015), the data used in this present research has been extracted from Dar AlMandumah for the following reason: it is the most comprehensive Arabic database with bibliographic data in Arts and Humanities (Ibrahim, 2022). However, the database has issues regarding the management of the journals. For example, some articles do not contain identification with special codes (DOI), and some journals' issues are missing in the database. Moreover, there is inconsistency in journal publishing requirements; for example, many journal articles do not have keywords and abstracts. Others were initially a print version and were archived later as scanned pdf. However, the database was accessed to locate translation research articles using the journal titles. After surveying various journals, a total of 1043 articles published between the years 2000-2020 were collected. The distribution of the publications can be seen in Table 1

				Issues	Articles
-MUTARGIM	Algeria	University of Oran	2001-2020	41	36
ranslation	Algeria	Badji Mokhtar University	2014-2020	8	52
nslation and iguages	Algeria	University of Oran 2 Mohamed Ben Ahmed	2015-2016	2	3
Hikma guistics and ary Studies	Algeria	El Hikma center	2016-2018	2	8
rnal of Human ences	Algeria	Mentouri University of Constantine	2016-2020	5	13
jallat al-alsun lil- ama	Egypt	Ain Shams University	2001-202	54	10
iguages and nslation Journal	Egypt	Al-Azhar University	2000-2015	8	31
guistics and nslation Studies rnal	Iraq	Bayt Al-Hikma Scientific Institution	2010-2014	3	9
ji Translators ociation Journal	Iraq	Iraqi Translators Association	2020	1	5
rnal of Al-Quds manities and ial Studies	Jordan	Al-Quds Open University	2011-2015	3	4
qa Journal for earch and udies in manities	Jordan	Zarqa Journal for Research and Studies in Humanities	2018	1	1
: Arab Journal for Humanities	Kuwait	Kuwait University	2000-2020	2	4
ibization	Lebanon	Arab League Educational	2000-2020	58	12
irabiyya wal- amah	Lebanon	Arab Organization for Translation	2009-2020	30	17
rnal of Education	Libya	Misurata University	2015	1	1
ayinah	Libya	University of Tripoli	2015	1	1
juman	Morocco	Abdelmalek Essaâdi University's Presidency	2000-2019	48	10
hath	Morocco	Institute for Studies and Research on Arabization	2017	1	7
: Moroccan rnal for nslation Studies	Morocco	Studies and Research Center of Humanities and Social	2013-206	5	25
anat	Morocco	MADA institute	2009-2014	2	2
jallat 'Alâmât	Morocco	Said BiniKrad	2003-2020	5	17
s and Humanities rnal	Morocco	Chouaib Doukkali University	2017	1	1
U Journal	Saudi Arabia	King Abdulaziz University	2020	1	1
iguage and nslation	Saudi Arabia	King Saud University	2001-2014	5	20
nascus manities	Syria	The University of Damascus	2004-2018	6	9
ibic Journal of ture	Tunis	ALECSO	2001-2017	3	10

Table 1: The distribution of the collected articles

For the keyword extraction, Sketch Engine, a paid service for humanities and social sciences research, was used to analyze the word frequency. Article titles were subjected to manual word analysis by the researcher, using the classification of research areas (Williams & Chesterman, 2014).

Finally, the data were analyzed and presented through Excel statistics (frequency and percentage). This method facilitated a clear presentation of the results, allowing for straightforward interpretation and visualization of the trends and patterns within the data set.

4. Results and Discussion

As seen from Table 1, most of the translation research articles were published in journals issued by universities (n=15), followed by other institutions (n=8). Journals were also issued from official organizations and associations (n=4). Figure 1 shows the journals' titles and the number of articles published in each journal.

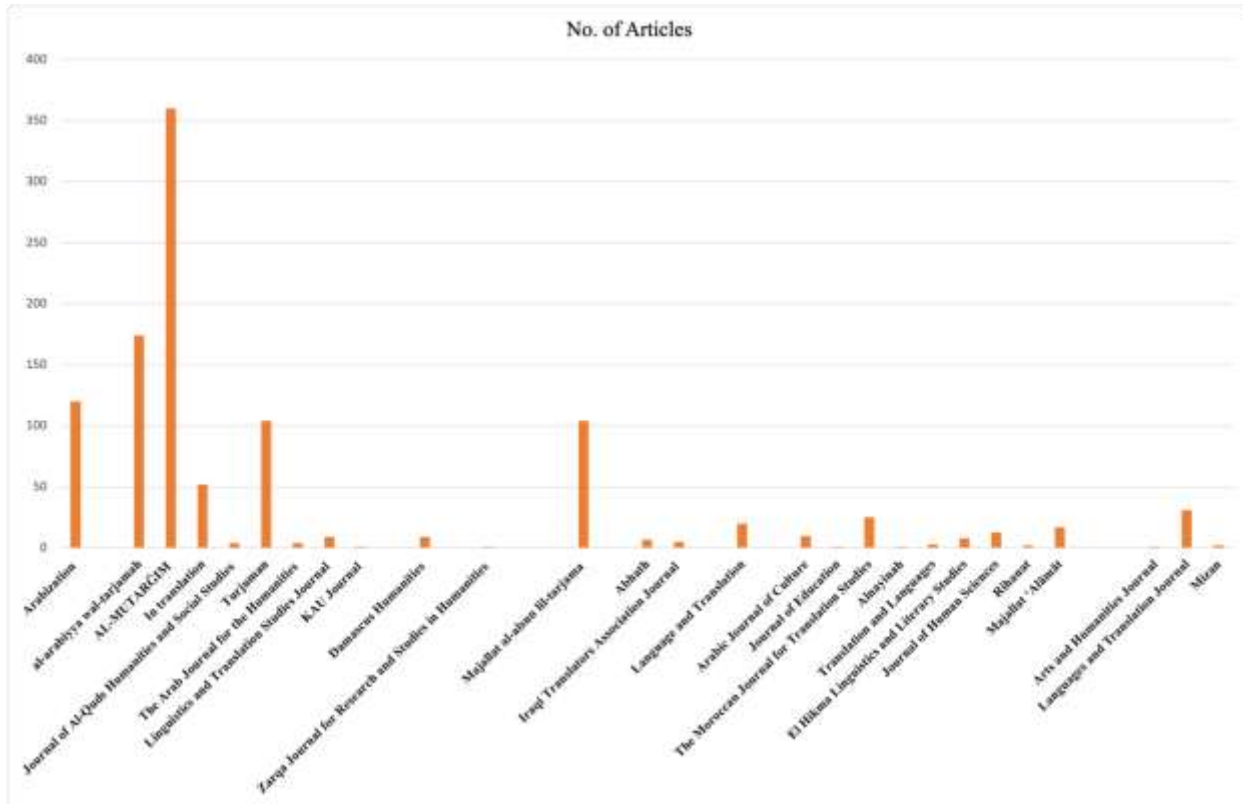


Figure 1: The distribution of articles according to the journal published

Figure 1 indicated that the *AL-Mutargim* journal, published in Algeria, has the most published articles (n=360), followed by *al-arabiyya wal-tarjamah*, published in Lebanon (n=174). As reflected in Table 1, the findings indicate that the University of Oran, Algeria, made the most contributions to the development of Arabic research in Translation Studies, showing the highest frequency. In addition, the authors from this university contributed the most articles. This was closely followed by the Arab Organization of Translation, Lebanon. Figure 2 shows the contributing countries.

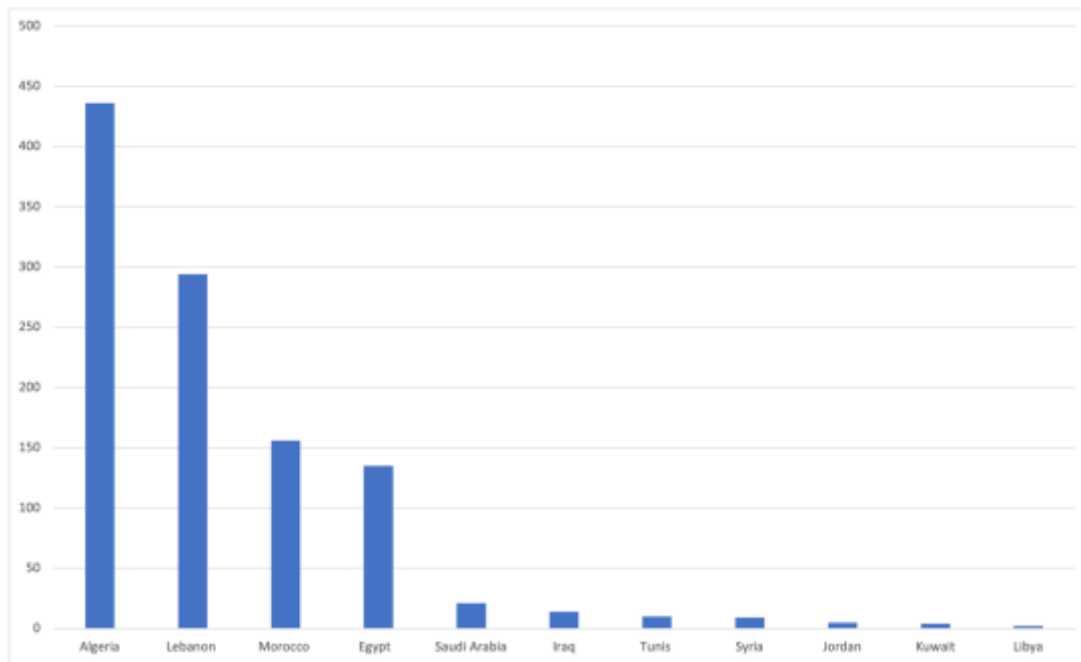


Figure 2: The contributing countries

After the collection, the analysis of 1043 articles over the twenty years leads us to discern the following findings. The first set of analyses examined the number of publications over twenty years. Figure 3 shows the number of published articles per year from 2000 to 2020.

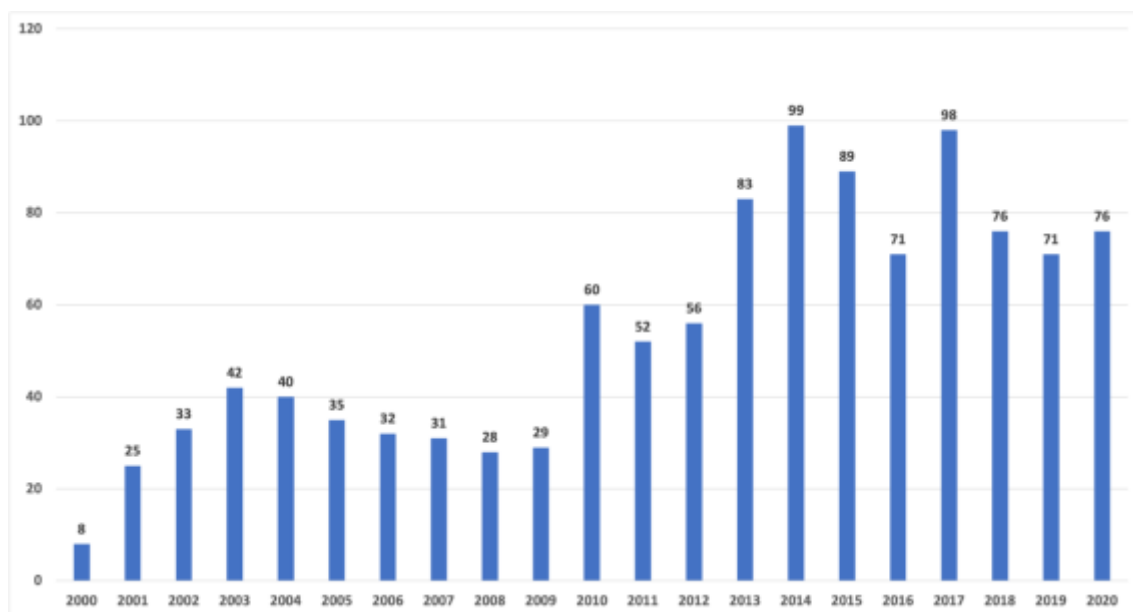


Figure 3: The distribution of studies according to publishing years

As seen in Figure 3, the distribution of studies according to publishing years is divided into two phases. The years with the highest number of articles are 2014 ($n=99$), 2017 ($n=98$) and 2015 ($n=89$) and the years with the least number of articles are 2000 ($n=8$), 2008 ($n=28$) and 2009 ($n=29$). While the productivity might be promising at first, it is safe to say that the numbers are artificially inflated due to online indexing. Zanettin et al. (2015) note that the increase in publication numbers does not always reflect productivity as data entry could impact the numbers. Our analysis showed that not all journals are properly indexed. Few universities and institutions have published both print and electronic versions. Most of the journals in this study tend to have an electronic archive of a selected number of years.

The second research question in our study aimed to investigate the most dominant areas of translation research published in the Arabic language and the most frequent topics researched. Figure 4 presents the areas of research based on (Williams & Chesterman, 2014) research area classification.

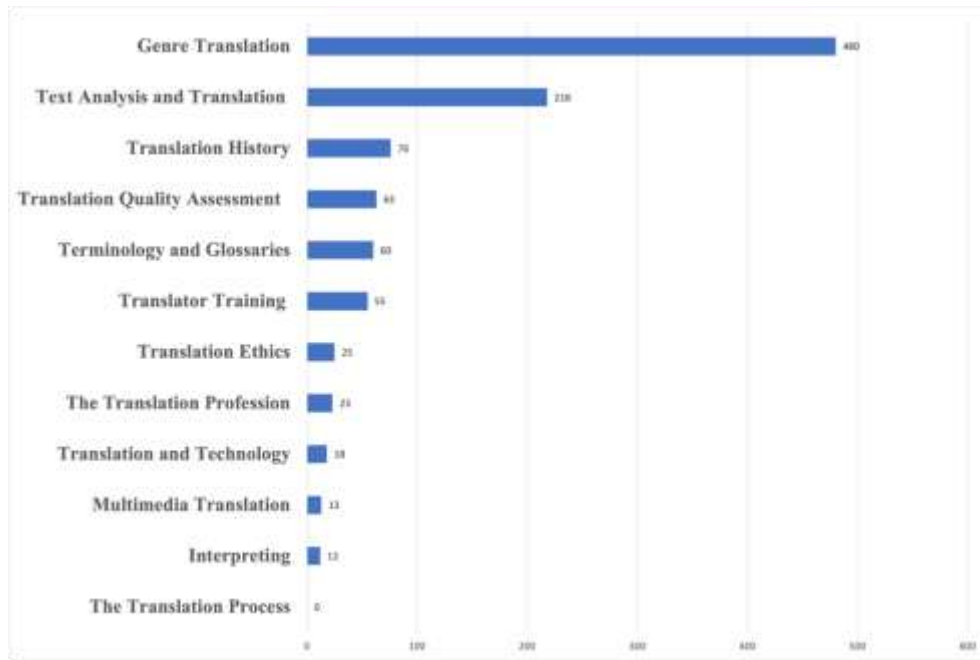


Figure 4: The distribution of articles according to the research area classifications

As shown in Figure 4, Genre Translation is the most dominant research area (n=480) in Arabic, followed by text analysis (n=218). Genre translation includes both literary genres such as drama and poetry and other types of other texts such as religious texts and children's literature. The area of interpreting has the lowest number of publications (n=12), with about 1% of the articles. Both interpreting and translation process could be described as an under-researched areas in the Arabic language.

As for the second part of the question, the most frequent topic researched, our analysis revealed that Qur'an translation is the dominant topic. Figure 5 shows a list of the keyword frequency from articles' titles.

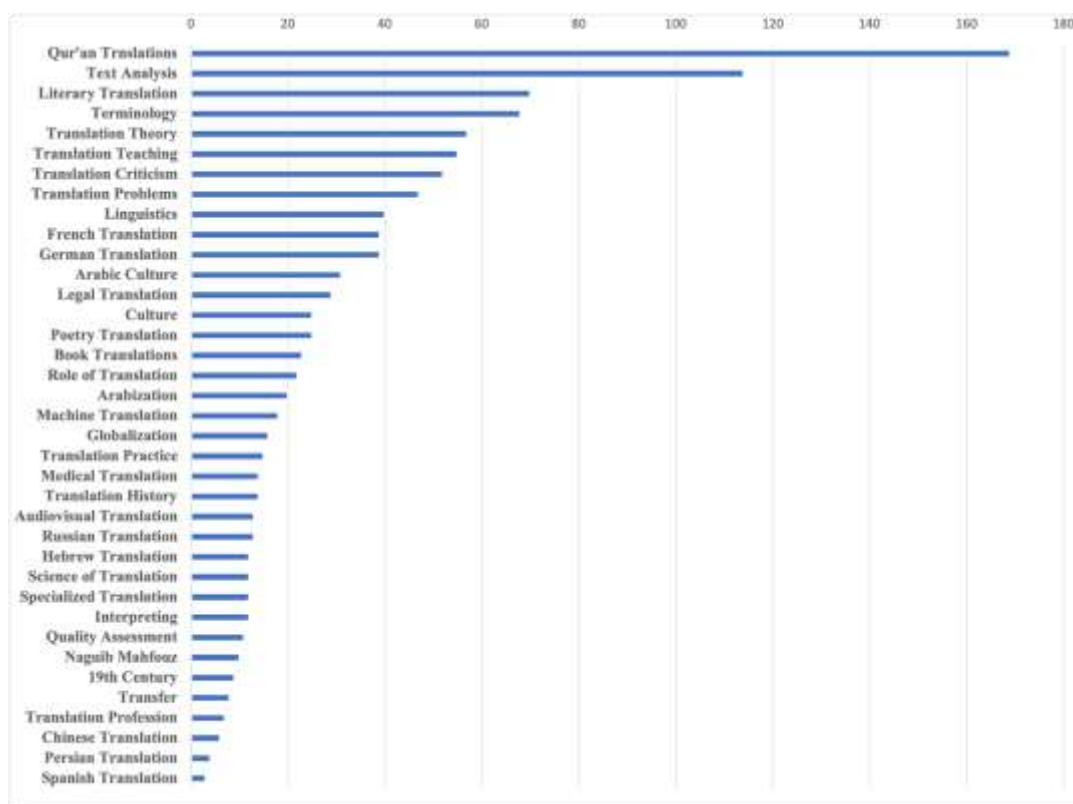


Figure 5: Keywords extracted from articles' titles

The above keywords have stimulated the general concern of the majority of researchers engaged in translation research in the Arabic language. The keywords analysis shows that Quran translation ($n=169$) has become one of the most researched topics in the Arabic translation research, and perhaps the most growing; it has remained dominant throughout the twenty-year period, accounting for more than one-third of the articles.

The articles in the dataset focused mostly on topics centered around evaluating translation quality, translation problems, and translation criticism. It was also found that articles published from the Western part of the Arab world (Algeria and Morocco) were research conducted on Francophone literature. On the other hand, the few articles from the Eastern part (Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia) were research conducted on Anglophone literature. While Egypt is in the middle, publishing articles of research conducted on both Francophone and Anglophone literature. In addition, the productivity of research conducted could be attributed to the creation of translator and interpreter training centers. José Lambert (2013) asserts that "the institutionalization of translation/interpretation ... is much younger than the activity itself" (p.7). Almost 76% of the journals analyzed were published by translation departments. This fact is evident in Algeria, where the number of translation training centers is higher than in any other country in the Arab world.

In order to appreciate the efforts of Arab translation researchers, we must situate them in the context of research output in the Arab world in general. Ahmad et al. (2021) conducted a comprehensive study examining the research performance in the Arab World between 1980-2020. Although the data in their study is based on research conducted in the English language only, the results of their study reveal a significant growth of scientific research output over the period of the study. Among the 22 Arab countries, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are the top research-producing countries in the region. However, since Arabic is the official language in 22 countries in the Arab world, it does not necessarily mean more research output would be in this language. In Algeria, for example, Arabic and Tamazight are the official languages, but 33% of the population read and write in French, which is widely spoken in the country (Beck et al., 2018, p. 143). On the other hand, Arabic is the only language spoken in Saudi Arabia, but the country has a low number in Arabic research output. This situation led to an imbalance between the state language and the research output, which often does not work to the detriment of the latter. This could be partly due to the pressure from universities on faculty staff to have publications listed in High Impact Journals, which only accept research conducted in English.

Moreover, the number of publications from Ahmad et al.'s study in Arts and Humanities, the umbrella of Translation Studies, could also shed some light on translation research productivity. According to Ahmad et al., the Arts and Humanities is the least researched

area in the Arab World, with only 7316 publications over a period of 40 years. Meanwhile, our analysis results reveal a total of 1043 articles published in Arabic over 20 years. In the analysis of publication outputs over the assessed periods within the field of Humanities, English publications totaled 7316, averaging 182.9 annually over 40 years. In contrast, focusing specifically on Translation Studies, Arabic publications were observed over a shorter span of 20 years, with a total of 1043 articles, averaging 52.15 annually. This comparison reveals that Arabic publications on Translation Studies constitute approximately 28.51% of the general Humanities publications on an annual basis. Therefore, the low number of publications in some countries e.g., Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and the absence of other countries e.g., Qatar and UAE could be attributed to the fact that English is the preferred language for disseminating research.

As for the keyword analysis, it was found that researchers touch upon a wide range of topics, reflecting the diversity of research. However, the Qur'anic translation has been the most researched topic. Since Qur'anic translation is considered a top priority for researchers in the Arab world, English is not considered a suitable option for a topic that is regarded as local. A similar observation was found in Agost (2015), as specific topics – more closely linked to the cultures and languages of certain geographical areas – are less likely to use English. According to Mehawesh (2014), "the translation of the Quran is one of the most important markers to the history of Arabic translation" (p.686). Qur'an translation has been widely discussed in both Arabic and English languages. Basalamah and Sadek (2019) offer a detailed outline of the history of Qur'an translation and major debates surrounding the issue. According to Basalamah and Sadek, the translations of the Qur'an by non-Muslims were for "polemical reasons" (p.11). On the other hand, Muslim scholars felt the need to "defend the Qur'an against the translations of the missionaries" by offering different translations that are "reliable" (p.13). The debate around the translation of the Qur'an is positioned between two extremes. On the one hand, there is a resistance stemming from religious conservatism, prohibiting the translation of the Qur'an and arguing that its language is one of the most miraculous aspects. This argument reconfirms the impossibility of translating it, which is also reflected in many research articles. On the other hand, the Qur'an translation has been used as a tool of ideological war and fueled a debate about its sacredness. Therefore, scholars advocate for the translation to counter the hostile translations and make Islam accessible to non-Arabic speakers. What is noticeable in Basalamah and Sadek's chapter is the absence of any reference to research written on the topic in Arabic, even though it is the most researched topic in the Arab World based on the data provided in our study. Hence, it can be argued that ignoring the Arabic literature could front Eurocentric views on the debate of the translation of Qur'an since all the cited works are published in Western Journals that exclude in the process authorial voices emanating from the Arab world.

5. Conclusion

This research is intended to analyze translation research studies conducted in the Arabic language and published between the years 2000 and 2020. In order to reach this aim, 1043 articles were collected. Among many factors that impact the quality of translation research is "the fact that many TS scholars are newcomers to research and/or have not been trained formally in research methods research topics which call for different research methods, and the absence of a strong empirical research tradition in the field" (Gile & Hansen, 2010, p. 255). The absence of interpreting and translation process research and the recurring themes of research topics like texts analysis and literary translation can be partly traced to Translation Studies' uneasy institutional placing. While it is important to justify the existence and growth of the discipline to deans and officials when negotiating research grants and resources, Translation Studies constantly struggles within universities everywhere to claim independent administrative status. Translation departments often compete with Literary Studies or Linguistics departments to maintain a distinct identity. It is high time to sustain a unit that provides a disciplinary home for scholars trained in Translation. Broadly speaking, the Arabic research output is still lagging in terms of research areas and topics. Furthermore, universities in Saudi Arabia and other countries that require faculty members to publish in High Impact Factor journals should recognize the unique aspects of Translation Studies research and support scholarly contributions written in Arabic, such as the topic of Quran translation. In addition, scholars from the Arab world who publish in English should bridge the gap by referencing studies conducted in Arabic, thereby giving research conducted in Arabic more visibility and integrating regional insights into the global academic community.

While our study was not solely focused on quantitative analysis, as our aim was to investigate the most researched topics within Arabic translation studies, we primarily applied keyword analysis to achieve this goal. However, it is important to acknowledge that our approach, while insightful, may have limitations in capturing the depth of research topics explored in the articles. As discussed above, one of the challenges we encountered was the inclusion of scanned articles, which may limit the accessibility and comprehensiveness of the data.

Future research could build upon our findings by further exploring the methodological and theoretical underpinnings of the collected articles. This could provide valuable insights into the theoretical frameworks guiding research and the methodological approaches employed by Arab scholars within Translation Studies. Additionally, there is a compelling need for comparative studies between translation research conducted in English and Arabic. Such studies would reveal similarities and differences across the field and contribute to a deeper understanding of cross-cultural influences. Furthermore, future research should include detailed

analyses of theoretical frameworks, research methodologies, approaches, and even the types of texts examined. This comprehensive approach will provide a clearer understanding of the discipline's landscape and contribute to the advancement of Translation Studies. Another promising research direction involves comparing the topics addressed by Arab scholars in publications in both English and Arabic to discern which themes are considered local and which are viewed as global. Such investigations will enhance our understanding of how different audiences and languages influence the perceived relevance and scope of academic research themes, ultimately enriching the scholarly discourse in Translation Studies.

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