

Araştırma Makalesi / Research Article

Bibliometric Analysis of *bilig* from 2008 to 2022*

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Abstract

This study aims to analyse the bibliometric characteristics of 686 research articles published between 2008 and 2022 in *bilig*, which was published in 1996 and indexed by the Social Sciences Citation Index since 2008. Within the scope of the study, co-authorship, countries, and authorship trends in the context of institutional network analysis were examined and citation analysis was carried out. The methodology of the study consists of content and citation analysis. VOSviewer, a software tool, was used to create and visualise bibliometric networks. As a result of the analyses, it was seen that most of the studies published in *bilig* were in Turkish, and in terms of the number of authors, single-author articles were found the most. In the evaluation made according to the institutions, it was seen that the most contributions were made by researchers from Hacettepe University, Gazi University and Ankara University. It was determined that the studies in the

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journal were on literature, art, history, international relations and political science, linguistics, culture, sociology, economy, entrepreneurship, education, migration, geography, religion, management, communication, and technology. It was found that the most cited publication was the study on communication published in 2010.

Keywords

bilig, bibliometrics, citation analysis, Turkic world, scientific journal.

bilig'in 2008-2022 Yılları Arasındaki Bibliyometrik Analizi*

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Öz

Bu çalışmada, 2008-2022 yılları arasında *bilig* Türk Dünyası Sosyal Bilimler Dergisinde yayımlanan 686 araştırma makalesinin bibliyometrik analizi yapılmıştır. Analizlerde ortak yazarlık, ülke ve kurumsal ağ analizleri ele alınmış ve atıf analizi gerçekleştirilmiştir. İçerik ve atıf analizleri yöntemi kullanılarak yapılan çalışmada, makalelerin çoğunlukla Türkçe ve tek yazarlı olduğu belirlenmiştir. Dergiye en fazla katkının Türkiye'deki üniversitelerden sağlandığı, özellikle Hacettepe, Gazi ve Ankara Üniversitelerinin öne çıktığı görülmüştür. Makaleler; edebiyat, sanat, tarih, uluslararası ilişkiler, kültür, sosyoloji, ekonomi, eğitim, göç, coğrafya, din, yönetim, iletişim, bilim ve teknoloji gibi konuları kapsamaktadır. En çok atıf alan yayının, 2010'da İngilizce yayımlanan iletişim konulu makale olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler

bilig, bibliyometri, atıf analizi, Türk dünyası, bilimsel dergi.

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Introduction

Today, data obtained from scientific research are shared through written and printed materials and social networks. One of the fastest and most effective ways of sharing scientific results is scientific journals (Arık and Türkmen 1). Journals, which are the most important means of scientific communication, facilitate interaction in the scientific world by sharing the results of research and analysis with the academic environment (Karagöz and Koç Ardıç 420). Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), which is the leading index in maintaining universal scientific quality and quality standards in the field of social sciences, is the index where social sciences and educational sciences journals are mostly scanned. The journals included in the index are the journals that are most followed by the scientific world, have proven their quality, and publish at certain standards. There are 8 journals from Türkiye in the SSCI 2021 journal list. One of them is *bilig*.

bilig is a science-culture journal that started its publication life in 1996 within Ahmet Yesevi University. Since the 75th issue, the editorial board of the journal, which has been edited by Prof. Dr. Fırat Purtaş, consists of academicians from different branches of social sciences who are pioneers in their fields. *bilig*, that is published four issues a year as Winter/January, Spring/April, Summer/July, and Autumn/October, is one of the few journals indexed by SSCI in the field of Social Sciences in Türkiye.

bilig aims to reveal the cultural richness, historical and current realities, and problems of the Turkic world within scientific criteria and to propose solutions to these issues. Started 27 years ago with this aim, *bilig* is a social sciences journal that has gained international status. Since 2008, the journal has been indexed in SSCI in the field of Area Studies, and according to the data obtained from Web of Science, 686 research articles were published between 2008-2022. The aim of this study is to examine the development and evolution of the journal since its entry into Web of Science. The following research question was determined in line with the studies in the literature and the aims of the research:

- *What are the trends in bilig publications according to authorship trends, topics, and citations?*

bilig provides a micro-universe for analysing trends in the literature of the Turkic world. With this in mind, the limitations of the previous study by Al et al. (1), which covers the bibliometric analysis of 100 studies published by *bilig* after its entry into citation indexes, were seen and the framework of the study was extended until 2022. The evaluations in the previous study were made within the scope of the institutions of the authors in *bilig*, the multi-authorship feature of the journal, the most frequently cited source types, the most frequently cited journals, and the aging rate of the literature according to the bibliographies of the publications. In this study, 686 research articles published between 2008 and 2022 were analysed in terms of co-authorship, authors' countries, institutional network analysis, topics, and citations.

In the study, first, the literature and research questions were summarised and information about the research method was given. After the presentation of the findings, in the discussion and conclusion section, a series of findings are interpreted and a framework for future research is drawn.

Literature Review

Bibliometrics is defined as “a quantitative method involving the analysis of books, journals, conference proceedings and other written communication tools using mathematical and statistical techniques” (Evren and Kozak 61). According to Garfield, “it can be used to determine the most effective authors in the relevant literature and to evaluate a single journal” (cited in Yalçın 206). By utilising the bibliometric approach, it is possible to observe the studies published in a branch of science through statistical techniques in terms of data such as citations, author links, keywords, topics discussed and to evaluate their progress (Çavuşgil Köse 101).

One of the most effective ways of producing and disseminating scientific knowledge is scientific journals. In this respect, scientific journals have an indispensable value for the development of science in the world (Arık and Türkmen 1). The characteristics of the studies published in scientific journals are as important as the studies themselves. Because the characteristics of the studies can provide information about the function and functioning of the scientific structures that emerged in that period (Kutluca and Demirkol 109). For this reason, it is important to examine some trends related to journals through bibliometric analyses.

In their study, Al, Soydal and Yalçın (1) determined that most of the studies in *bilig* are in Turkish, according to the evaluation made according to the institutions to which the people who published articles in the journal are affiliated, the highest contribution was made by researchers from Gazi, Hacettepe and Başkent Universities, and 65% of the sources cited in *bilig* are books. CiteSpace software was used to reveal the relationships between the cited authors. Aksoy (145), using the bibliometric mapping method, one of the bibliometric analysis methods, determined that the articles published in the field of business administration in *bilig* journal were mostly two-authored, the majority of the authors were affiliated to Akdeniz University, Ege University and Ahmet Yesevi University respectively, 36.84% of the articles were written in the fields of management and 26.32% in the fields of marketing, the keyword range varied between 3-9, there were 36 sources per article on average, 89.47% of the articles were written in Turkish. Atasoy (1155) examined writing teaching researches with the bibliometric analysis method; in the visual presentation of bibliometric analyses, using VOSviewer software, he found that the journal with the highest number of publications on writing teaching is Reading and Writing, the number of publications has shown a continuous increase from 1990 to 2020, researchers are grouped into five clusters as those who approach writing teaching from linguistic, technology-based, psychological, second language, first literacy perspective, researchers in countries that are close to each other in terms of location cooperate and cite each other. Kayadibi (505), who conducted a bibliometric analysis of academic studies on “listening” in the category of educational research in the WoS database, visualised the social network analysis of the keywords of 7664 academic studies on listening through the VOSviewer (Version 1.6.16) package program, one of the bibliometric analysis tools. As a result of the analyses, it was determined that the most publications on listening in the WoS database were made in 2018. It was determined that mostly English publications were made in the field.

Methodology

The method of the research is content and citation analysis. Content and citation analysis allows an in-depth understanding of the scientific impact and subject trends of *bilig* journal. Between 2008 and 2022, 686 refereed articles published in *bilig* were analysed. The study dates to 2008 when *bilig*

started to be indexed in Web of Science. In addition, VOSviewer software was used for the creation and visualisation of bibliometric networks. The population of the study consists only of research articles in *bilig* journal.

The bibliometric analysis for *bilig* journal consists of three stages. In the first stage, under the title of authorship trends, the number of authors of the articles subject to the research was determined and analysed according to the periods. This analysis investigates the intensity of scientific collaboration, the tendency towards interdisciplinary studies, and the national and international visibility of the journal. In the co-authorship section, the number of authors of the articles subject to the research was determined; the number of articles with one author, two authors, three authors and more than three authors were presented in the table according to the periods. Then, the countries and institutions of the researchers were determined, and the data were tabulated.

In the second stage, keyword analysis was used to define the topics. A dataset of 2888 different keywords were obtained, and these words were categorised according to their content and semantic similarities to form topics. Then, the keywords were ranked in descending order to determine the most frequently used words. Afterwards, the abstract, keywords and findings of 686 articles were analysed one by one and each article was handled under the relevant category. The selection of an appropriate subject category for an academic article can often be subjective and challenging, particularly in the context of interdisciplinary research. Consequently, keywords and findings from interdisciplinary studies were primarily categorized according to the most relevant topics. Figure 1 shows the most frequently used keywords in *bilig* journal.

Findings

The findings of this study are presented in three sections below: Authorship trends, topics, and citations.

Writing Dispositions

In this section, an evaluation is made in terms of the number of authors and the distribution of authors according to their countries and institutions.

Co-authorship and Countries

Table 1 shows 686 articles published in *bilig* between 2008 and 2022 with contributions from 21 countries. The findings reveal that Türkiye directly contributed 605 articles. The second largest contributor is Kazakhstan with 32 research articles and the third country is Kyrgyzstan with 17 research articles. 96.3 per cent of the articles come from Asia, 2.7 per cent from Europe and 1 per cent from North America. The continents where the journal does not attract attention are South America, Africa, and Australia. In addition, 76.8% of the studies sent to *bilig* are in Turkish and 23.2% are in English. The high number of publications from Türkiye and Turkic Republics and accordingly from Asia can be attributed to the fact that the journal predominantly includes studies from the Turkic world. Although English and Russian abstracts are included in the articles, the low number of English publications is an important finding in terms of affecting the international visibility of the journal.

VOSviewer enables to show the co-authorship between countries by creating a network map. The country with the highest relationship strength is Türkiye due to the large number of publications. According to the data obtained from VOSviewer, Kazakhstan has the strongest relationship with Türkiye. There is also a high relationship between Türkiye, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan. However, it is seen that the United States of America, Uzbekistan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, China, Canada, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait, and India do not have many relations with these countries other than Türkiye. The fact that many cultural, historical, and political fields related to the Turkic world are dealt with as research topics in the publications has led to the conclusion that the strength of the relations among the Turkic Republics is high.

73.7% of the studies were single authored, 19.4% were two authored, 4.7% were three authored and 2.2% were more than three authored. In this respect, only 26.3% of the studies have a profile with more than one author. It is noteworthy that while the tendency to publish single-authored publications in the journal is quite strong, the tendency to publish multi-authored publications is low. Considering the importance of collaborative and coordinated work in scientific research, it is thought that the fact that nearly three quarters of the 686 articles within the scope of the research are single-authored is an important finding in terms of showing that most of the authors prefer to work individually.

While the number of publications was 234 in the first period, this number reached 262 in the second period, and 190 research articles were included in the journal in the last period. The highest number of articles was in the period covering the years 2013-2017. The decrease in the number of articles published in the journal in the last period, when the Covid-19 global pandemic was also experienced, is a striking finding and suggests whether the interest in the field tends to decrease. Details are shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Co-authorship and Country-Specific Authorship Trends¹

| | 2008-2012 | | 2013-2017 | | 2018-2022 | | Total | |
|----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-------|------|
| Language | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Turkish | 206 | 88,8 | 190 | 72,5 | 131 | 69 | 527 | 76,8 |
| English | 28 | 12 | 72 | 27,5 | 59 | 31 | 159 | 23,2 |
| Co-authorship | | | | | | | | |
| Single | 191 | 81,7 | 185 | 70,6 | 130 | 68,5 | 506 | 73,7 |
| Two | 33 | 14,1 | 53 | 20,2 | 47 | 24,7 | 133 | 19,4 |
| Three | 9 | 3,8 | 16 | 6,1 | 7 | 3,7 | 32 | 4,7 |
| More than three | 1 | 0,4 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 3,1 | 15 | 2,2 |
| Total | 234 | 100 | 262 | 100 | 190 | 100 | 686 | 100 |
| Country | | | | | | | | |
| Türkiye | 215 | 92 | 227 | 84,4 | 163 | 83,2 | 605 | 86,5 |
| Other | 19 | 8 | 42 | 15,6 | 33 | 16,8 | 94 | 13,5 |

| Continental | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| North America | 3 | 1,3 | 4 | 1,5 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 |
| Europe | 6 | 2,6 | 13 | 4,8 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 2,7 |
| Asia | 225 | 96,1 | 252 | 93,7 | 196 | 100 | 673 | 96,3 |

Enterprise Network Analysis

Table 2 shows the institutions that contribute the most to *bilig*. The results show that 299 (43.6%) of the 686 articles published between 2008-2022 were contributed by the institutions listed in the table. In total, 686 studies are associated with 276 different institutions. The three most contributing institutions are Hacettepe University, Gazi University and Ankara University, respectively. When the institutions that contribute the most to the journal are analysed, it is seen that universities other than Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University are universities operating in Türkiye. Figure 1 also shows the cooperation between the institutions contributing to the journal. Accordingly, the fact that the institutions within the borders of the country contributed the most articles indicates that the journal is a national journal.

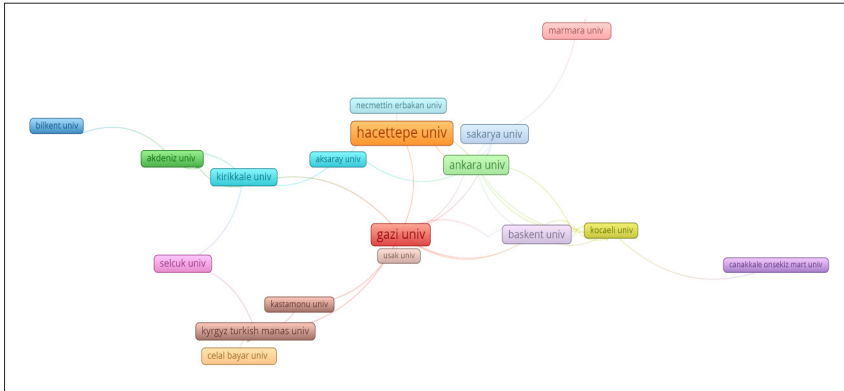


Figure 2. Inter-Institutional Cooperation (Web of Science)

There are also increases and decreases in the number of publications specific to institutions. For example, while there is a periodic increase in the number of publications of Sakarya University, there is a periodic decrease in the number of publications of Gazi and Başkent Universities. There are fluctuations in the number of publications of Hacettepe and Ankara Universities. In 2018,

Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, which was established by separating from Gazi University, has recently published research, while Süleyman Demirel University has no recently published studies.

According to URAP (University Ranking by Academic Performance) data, when the number of publications of universities in Türkiye between 2004-2014 is analysed, it is seen that Istanbul University, Hacettepe University and Ankara University ranked first. According to 2019-2022 data, Hacettepe University ranks first among Turkish universities in terms of the number of publications. It can be thought that universities, which are required to publish more in accordance with the appointment criteria, are ranked high in terms of the number of articles sent to the journal that is the subject of the research for this reason. According to URAP, Hacettepe University, which has been in the top 500 in the world rankings in terms of the number of publications in many years, has contributed the most articles to the journal indexed in SSCI since 2008, which is also in line with this data.

Table 2
Authorship Trends by Institution²

| Institutions | 2008-2012 | 2013-2017 | 2018-2022 | Total | % |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|------|
| Hacettepe University | 18 | 23 | 16 | 57 | 19 |
| Gazi University | 19 | 13 | 9 | 41 | 13,7 |
| Ankara University | 7 | 11 | 5 | 23 | 7,7 |
| Sakarya University | 4 | 6 | 9 | 19 | 6,3 |
| Baskent University | 8 | 7 | 2 | 17 | 5,7 |
| Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University | 1 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 4,7 |
| Selcuk University | 8 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 4,3 |
| Kirikkale University | 6 | 6 | 1 | 13 | 4,3 |
| Erciyes University | 8 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 4 |
| Istanbul University | 2 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 3,3 |
| Akdeniz University | 6 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 3,3 |
| Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 3,3 |
| Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University | 0 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 3,3 |
| Ege University | 5 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 3,3 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|----|-----|
| Süleyman Demirel University | 6 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 3,3 |
| Anadolu University | 3 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 3,3 |
| Ataturk University | 6 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 3,3 |
| Dokuz Eylul University | 1 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 3,3 |

Topics

The 15 most frequently used topics in the journal are given in Table 3. The 12 articles that were not included in these topics were included in the other topics heading. In all three periods, the most frequently analysed subject was literature and art, followed by history. In parallel with the decrease in the total number of articles in the last period, there is also a decrease in the subject areas. Culture and sociology is the only subject whose number has increased in the last period.

Table 3

Topics

| Topics | 2008-2012 | 2013-2017 | 2018-2022 | Total | % Ratio |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Literature and Art | 51 | 55 | 38 | 144 | 21 |
| History | 39 | 32 | 32 | 103 | 15 |
| International Relations and Political Science | 18 | 42 | 30 | 90 | 13,1 |
| Language and Linguistics | 34 | 40 | 15 | 89 | 13 |
| Culture and Sociology | 14 | 13 | 26 | 53 | 7,7 |
| Economics and Entrepreneurship | 16 | 23 | 6 | 45 | 6,5 |
| Education | 12 | 13 | 9 | 34 | 5 |
| Migration | 12 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 3,5 |
| Geography | 11 | 6 | 4 | 21 | 3,1 |
| Religion | 4 | 10 | 6 | 20 | 3 |
| Management/Organisation | 9 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 2,2 |
| Contact | 3 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 2 |
| Science and Technology | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 1,3 |
| Psychology | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| Energy | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 0,9 |
| Other Topics | 3 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 1,7 |
| Total | 234 | 262 | 190 | 686 | 100 |

Literature and Art

In the 144 articles identified within the scope of literature and art, it is seen that concepts such as world, children's, folk and divan literature, music, theatre, poets and writers, novel analyses come to the fore. Literature and art are one of the most preferred subjects in every period. The keywords novel, poetry, children's literature, short story, metaphor, classical Turkish poetry, Dostoevsky, Turkish music, Kutadgu Bilig, Tanzimat, value, Hoca Ahmet Yesevî, Mesnevî, Turkish cinema, Istanbul draw attention. When the most cited articles in this field are analysed; Akar and Özkan (123) evaluated the couplets in Kutadgu Bilig in the context of values education and concluded that the work is an important source in terms of truthfulness and honesty values, and Gökbnar et al. (231) tried to reveal how the emotional burden created by the severe economic depression and the social traces of the Wealth Tax are reflected in Turkish novels. Canbaz Yumuşak (47) also examined utopias and dystopias in Turkish literature periodically and analysed the content of utopian novels shaped according to the changes in social life.

History

In the 103 articles identified within the scope of the subject, especially Ottoman History and Turkic Republics come to the fore. Asian and European countries, democracy, Turkish world, important personalities in history, constitutionalism and reforms are also among the topics examined within the scope of this subject. The most common keywords in the field of history are Kemalism, Atatürk, Türkiye, Cyprus, Central Asia, Ottoman Empire, Russia, Turkish world, revolution, enlightenment, Turkish revolution, national identity, multi-party life, Istanbul. History is the second most analysed subject in *bilig*. When the most cited studies under this heading are examined, İçener's (107) study, which focuses on the epic struggle of the people in the 15 July coup attempt and draws attention to the negative discourses of the foreign press, stands out. Ünlü Bilgiç (123), in his study, focuses on anti-Americanism and argues that this opposition dates to the 1945s. Taş (25) tried to determine the nature and function of the shühûdu'l hâlin in the Ottoman period based on documents.

International Relations and Political Science

Among the 90 articles identified within the scope of international relations and political science, studies on Türkiye's foreign policy, the European Union, modernisation, foreign policy, security, and international relations stand out. Especially in 2016, after the coup attempt in Türkiye, the number of publications on this subject increased and the number of publications under this title reached the highest number in the second period. As keywords, the concepts of European Union, foreign policies, internationalisation, nationalism, Fetö, foreign policy, Cold War Period, defence industry, crisis resolution, soft power, public diplomacy, cyber security, human rights come to the fore. Fidan and Aras' (47) article discussing Russia's efforts to complement its geopolitical relations with geoeconomic relations to develop its economic interests and political influence in the African continent is the most cited article in this field. Balta and Demir (1), in their study, emphasised the role of history education and historical memory in international politics and evaluated the profile drawn by the West for its own interests for the Ottoman Empire and Türkiye in history textbooks in Russia. In their study, Toprak et al. (199) conducted a survey and revealed the general characteristics of the Turkish electorate in terms of political, socio-economic, ethnic, and religious identities.

Language and Linguistics

In 89 articles identified within the scope of the subject; languages and dialects, language policies, Turkish, vocabulary, sociolinguistics, bilingualism, grammar are examined. In addition, it is also seen that language and education issues are handled together in some studies.³ Language, Turkish, syntax, Turkish dialects, sign language, language policy, linguistics, vocabulary, intertextuality are frequently encountered keywords. Altınkamış and Ağırdağ (59), in their study, which received the most citations in the journal, examined the language use preferences of Turks in Belgium in terms of intergenerational differences and determined the language attitudes of bilinguals towards Turkish. Aydın (1) analysed how noun phrases and clauses perform the predicate function in Turkish according to the model developed by Tesnière. Johanson (73) analysed subordinate clauses in syntactic context and emphasised the determinism of semantic value.

Culture and Sociology

In the 53 articles identified within the scope of the subject; the sub-topics of specific traditions of nations, marriage, gender, family relations, national identity, social norms, social transformation, identity construction, folklore are analysed. The most frequently encountered keywords are culture, acculturation, cultural transmission, ethnicity, society, Turkish culture, Asian studies, family, ritual, tradition, assimilation, folklore, mythology, values, marriage, divorce, carnival. The most cited article in the journal is the study of Burcu et al. (63), which reveals the role of traditional practices regarding early marriage based on the narratives of women who have been married under the age of 18 in Türkiye. Tuztaşı and Aşkun (273) tried to explain the meanings attributed to the ideal “Turkish house”. Küçük (185) examined the concept of colour from ethnological, cultural, and sociological perspectives through Turkish mythology, legends and epics.

Economics and Entrepreneurship

The 45 research articles on economics and entrepreneurship cover the sub-topics of economic growth, unemployment, investment, trade, and finance. Power, partnership, business, unemployment, pricing, employment, foreign investment, welfare, economic freedom, globalisation, trade relations, multinational companies are the prominent concepts among the key words. Within the scope of this title, commercial relations between countries, various agreements and cooperation, the problem of unemployment, and views on domestic and foreign investment are analysed. Yavan’s (237) study published in the journal is the most cited economics article. The study analyses the historical development, sectoral structure, and geographical distribution of Turkish firms’ direct investments abroad. Şimşek et al. (1) presented sectoral trade information between Türkiye and Russia and revealed that this bilateral trade has increased without facing internal and external political conflicts. Gedikli et al. (27) analysed the relationship between life expectancy and health expenditures in the Turkish Republics over a 10-year period.

Education

The 34 articles on education include language education, education of foreign students, international students, analysing textbooks and educational

problems. For this reason, the title of education is also related to the subject of language and linguistics, and since several researches are related to language education, they cover both fields. Education, language, foreign student, curriculum, textbook, educational research, primary education, higher education are the most frequently encountered keywords within this topic. The article by Ağırdağ et al. (7) published in the journal is the most cited study on this subject. In this study, the opinions of teachers about the use of Turkish language by Turkish children in Belgian primary schools were investigated and it was concluded that despite the negative views of teachers, quantitative analyses did not provide evidence to support these negative views. Akçadağ (29) determined the training needs of teachers regarding methods, techniques, measurement, and evaluation and whether these needs showed a significant difference according to seniority and gender. Kılıçlar et al. (157) investigated the effect of adaptation problems experienced by students from the Turkish world who settled in universities in Türkiye on their academic achievement. When the most cited studies on education are examined, it is noteworthy that these studies also draw an interdisciplinary profile with other subjects such as language, linguistics, and migration.

Migration

The 24 articles on migration cover the sub-headings of immigration, the situation of asylum seekers, bilingualism, immigration policies and social integration. Migration, identity, immigration, values, adaptation, language attitudes, assimilation, internal migration, refugees, asylum seekers, citizenship, social integration are the most frequently encountered keywords in this subject, which is closely related to education, language, and international relations. When the most cited articles within the scope of migration are analysed, Şahin's (103) study, which examines the level of Turkish immigrants in Germany adopting German culture and maintaining Turkish culture in the context of differences between generations, stands out. Utaş Akhan and Batmaz (23) found that socio-economic variables are important in determining the satisfaction status of immigrants who migrated from Bulgaria to Türkiye and live in various neighbourhoods of Istanbul, and that those who find a job suitable for their profession and qualifications are more satisfied than others.

Geography

In the 21 articles identified within the scope of the subject; human geography, regional characteristics, political geography, population movements, demographic structure, climate changes, ancient cities and Asian studies are included. The most frequently repeated keywords in the subject of geography, which is closely related to history, culture and tradition, are Asia, population, climate change, environmental problems, ancient city, Istanbul, demographic structure, cities, regions, economic geography, borders, music, spatial elements. When we look at the most cited studies on this subject, Gümüşçü's (79) article in which he analyses the existence and characteristics of village borders with examples from Türkiye and focuses on state borders draws attention. Özcan (193) tried to define the elements shaping the spatial organisation of Anatolian cities that were restructured on the settlement heritage inherited from Byzantium during the Seljuk period.

Religion

Within the scope of religion, Islamic civilisation, Sufism, Alevi-Bektashi tradition, folk beliefs, Shamanism, religious identity and secularisation are discussed. Islam is the most frequently encountered keyword in this subject. This is followed by Muslims, Islamic civilisation, death, faith, shaman, Sufism, Mevlânâ, Ahmet Yesevî, non-Muslims, monasteries, folk beliefs, freedom of will. It is thought that the Fetö coup attempt in Türkiye was also effective in the increase of studies on religion, especially in 2016. Lorasdağı's (105) study on the impact of globalisation on religion in Türkiye in the case of MÜSİAD, an Islamic-oriented business association, is the most cited article in the journal. Yılmaz and Kamalova (217) explained that the praise of woman and soil, the demand for fertility, and the integration of death and birth in Karakalpak rituals overlap with Bakhtin's observations on carnival and grotesque.

Management/Organisation

The 15 articles on management/organisation cover the sub-headings of leadership and effective management, job satisfaction, commitment to work environment, work ethics, manager and supervisee relations, classroom management skills, mobbing. The most common keywords in the studies on this subject are organisation, management, leadership, job

satisfaction, mobbing, job commitment, work ethics, organisational justice. Çokluk and Yılmaz's (75) study is the most cited article on management/organisation in the journal. The study focused on the relationship between teachers' organisational commitment and school administrators' leadership behaviours. Cemaloğlu and Ertürk (67) tried to determine the direction of intimidation to which teachers and school principals are exposed and concluded that intimidation is generally downward.

Contact

The 14 articles on communication cover the sub-headings of media, internet, journalism, newspapers and magazines, social media, publishing, communication strategies, online media. In this subject, media, social media, telecommunication, television discourse, journalism, newspaper, magazine, press, internet, social network, Facebook, twitter, digital surveillance are the keywords encountered. Gülnar et al.'s (161) study on communication is the most cited article in the journal between 2008 and 2022. In this study, it was aimed to discover the purposes of users of personal photo and video sharing sites, and 7 motives that are effective in the use of these sites were revealed. Ayhan and Balcı (13) evaluated the internet usage habits and motives of university students in Kyrgyzstan in terms of uses and gratifications approach.

Science and Technology

Measurement and evaluation techniques, quantitative and qualitative data analyses, scientific measurements, statistics, information technologies, bibliometrics, meta-analysis are examined in 9 articles. The most frequently used keywords are method-technique, bibliometric analysis, computers, information technology, statistical method, scientific collaboration. The study of Al et al. (1) published in the journal in 2010, in which they analysed 100 publications published in *bilig* within the scope of citation indexes in terms of bibliometric properties, is the most cited article on this subject. In another study, Al ("Avrupa Birliği Ülkeleri" 1) evaluated Türkiye in terms of publication and citation performance and compared it with the European Union countries and found that Türkiye is in the group of countries with low citation performance in all areas covered by the research.

Psychology

In 7 articles on psychology; attitudes and motivation, social psychology, addiction, prejudice, social identities subtopics are discussed. Especially in the field of education, studies on the attitudes and motivation of students and teachers stand out. Social psychology, internet addiction, prejudice, psychiatry, attitude, motivation, burnout, psychological well-being, self-perception are the keywords used in psychology. When the most cited articles on this subject are analysed, Özmete's (361) study in which he adapted this measurement tool into Turkish by determining the need for a measurement tool that allows a multidimensional evaluation of the lives of married women and men with the changing family structure and increasing divorce rate comes to the fore. Balcı and Ayhan (275), in their research conducted in Kyrgyzstan, tried to determine people's television viewing habits and motivations, and identified 5 motivations that are effective in television viewing.

Energy

In the 6 research articles on energy, especially the topics of oil and energy security attract attention. In addition, energy relations and cooperation between countries, energy policies and projects, energy resources are among the sub-topics examined. It is seen that energy is a subject directly related to both international relations and economy and entrepreneurship. Oil, energy security, nuclear energy, natural gas, pipeline project, energy policy, resource richness are the most frequently preferred keywords within the scope of this subject. When the studies on energy are examined; Kartal (163) investigated the relationship between energy security and growth between 1992-2016 with a panel data set consisting of Turkic world countries, Aslanlı (27) evaluated the emergence process, development, current situation, and contribution of Trans-Caspian cooperation to the cooperation between Turkic Republics.

Other Topics

Twelve research articles, which could not be included in the aforementioned 15 topics, are handled within the scope of other topics. Tourism research, research on the classification of objects, studies on personal care and aesthetics, editorial proposals, biographies of some intellectuals are evaluated under the

title of other subjects. Deveci Bozkuş (1) evaluated the works written by the Armenian intellectual class in Ottoman Turkish in general terms. Soykan (177) aims to classify all possible objects by defining everything as an object of reason, mind, memory, consciousness, spirit, and imagination.

Citation Analysis

In the citation analysis, the most cited articles shown in Table 4 were included. This section was analysed in parallel with the topics shown in Table 3.

The most cited article with 30 citations is “Motivations of Facebook, YouTube and Similar Websites Users” which is a joint study of Gülнар, Balcı, and Çakır. The researchers aimed to discover the motives of users of personal photo and video sharing websites such as YouTube and Facebook and revealed 7 motives that have an effect on the use of these websites.

The subjects of the two studies shown in Table 4, in which Orhan Ağırdağ is the author, are Turkish usage and language attitudes of Turkish students living outside Türkiye. In the article titled “Speaking Turkish in Belgian Primary Schools: Teacher Beliefs Versus Effective Consequences”, which is a joint study of Ağırdağ, Jordens and Van Houtte on education, investigated teachers’ beliefs about the use of Turkish language by Turkish children in Belgian primary schools and discussed the lack of evidence to support teachers’ rather negative views on the use of Turkish language and this study received 27 citations.

Al, Soydal and Yalçın’s study titled “Evaluation of *bilig* in terms of Bibliometric Properties”, which was evaluated within the scope of science and technology, received 15 citations, while Burcu, Yıldırım, Samyaman and Sirma’s study titled “The Fate of Flowers: A Qualitative Research on Women’s Early Marriage in Turkey” received 11 citations. Yavan’s study received 11 citations, Akçadağ’s study received 10 citations, while Altınkamış and Ağırdağ and Lorasdağı’s articles received 8 citations and were among the most cited articles.

When the most cited articles are analysed in terms of institutions, Hacettepe University draws attention, and this data coincides with the data in the table of the most contributing institutions. While 3 authors from Selçuk University are included in the list with their joint studies, Ankara University also stands out among the institutions where the most cited articles come from. While 5

institutions in Table 4 consist of universities operating in Türkiye, there are 3 institutions from abroad. While this situation provides data on the national dimension of the journal, it also shows that although the number of English publications is less than Turkish publications, it is easier to find a place among the most cited publications. It is also noteworthy that half of the most cited articles are in Turkish and half in English. This finding suggests that articles published in English are in a more advantageous position than those written in Turkish in terms of international visibility and, accordingly, receiving citations from authors abroad. However, although most of the studies are single authored, it is also seen that the most cited studies have three or more than three authors. This situation suggests that interdisciplinary studies receive more citations. In the journal, 474 articles published between 2008 and 2022 have not yet been cited, and this finding draws attention to the need for the journal to increase its visibility in the international arena.

Table 4
Most Cited Articles in Web of Science Database⁴

| No | Article | Authors | Subject | Institution | Year | Attribution | Year Average |
|----|--|---|------------------------|--|------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | Motivations of Facebook, You Tube and Similar Web Sites Users | Bırol Gülnar, Şükrü Balcı, Vedat Çakır | Contact | Selcuk Uni., Selcuk Uni., Selcuk Uni. | 2010 | 30 | 2,3 |
| 2 | Speaking Turkish in Belgian Primary Schools: Teacher Beliefs Versus Effective Consequences | Orhan Ağırdağ, Kathelijne Jordens, Mieke Van Houtte | Education | University of Amsterdam, KU Leuven and Ghent University. | 2014 | 27 | 3 |
| 3 | Bibliyometrik Özellikleri Açısından <i>bilig</i> 'in Değerlendirilmesi | Umut Al, İrem Soydal, Haydar Yalçın | Science and Technology | Hacettepe Uni., Hacettepe Uni., Ege Uni. | 2010 | 15 | 1,1 |
| 4 | Çiçeklerin Kaderi: Türkiye'de Kadınların Erken Evliliği Üzerine Nitel Bir Araştırma | Esra Burcu, Filiz Yıldırım, Cigdem Sema Sirma, Secil Samyaman | Culture and Sociology | Hacettepe Uni, Ankara Uni, Baskent Uni, Hacettepe Uni | 2015 | 11 | 1,3 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|------|----|-----|
| 5 | Türkiye'nin Yurt Dışındaki Doğrudan Yatırımları: Tarihsel ve Mekânsal Perspektif | Nuri Yavan | Economics and Entrepreneurship | Ankara Uni. | 2012 | 11 | 1 |
| 6 | Öğretmenlerin İlköğretim Programındaki Yöntem Teknik Ölçme ve Değerlendirme Konularına İlişkin Eğitim İhtiyaçları | Tuncay Akçadağ | Education | On Dokuz Mayıs Uni. | 2010 | 10 | 0,7 |
| 7 | Determinants of Language Use and Attitudes Among Turkish Speakers in Flanders: A Focus On Generational Difference. | N. Feyza Altinkamis, Orhan Ağırdağ | Language and Linguistics | University of Ghent, University of Amsterdam. | 2014 | 8 | 0,9 |
| 8 | The Relationship between Islam and Globalization in Turkey in the Post-1990 Period: The Case of MUSIAD | Berrin Koyuncu Lorasdağı | Religion | Hacettepe Uni. | 2010 | 8 | 0,6 |

Discussion

Evaluation of Findings

According to the findings obtained because of this study, which aims to examine the development of the journal since the journal entered the Web of Science by revealing the bibliometric profile of the articles published in *bilig* journal between 2008-2022:

- With 262 articles, the period with the highest number of articles published is the 2013-2017 period, while the number of articles decreased to 190 between 2018-2022. Whether this downward trend will continue in the following years is one of the facts to be investigated.

- Of the studies published in the journal, 527 are in Turkish and 159 are in English. The reason for the higher number of articles published in Turkish than in English can be considered as the fact that *bilig* is a journal focusing on the studies of the Turkic world. Although English and Russian abstracts are included, the fact that most of the publications are in Turkish reduces the possibility of citation by researchers abroad and negatively affects the international recognition of the journal.
- When the number of authors of the articles in *bilig* is analysed, it is determined that single-author articles are in majority. In this respect, it is possible to state that the authors who contribute to the journal do not tend to publish jointly. This finding reveals the individual working habits of the authors and coincides with the publishing tendencies of researchers in the field of social sciences.
- Most contributions to the journal were made from Türkiye and other Turkic Republics. It has been observed that the tendency of the Turkish Republics such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, especially Türkiye, to studies of the Turkic world is higher.
- Most of the 276 different institutions submitting articles to the journal are domestic institutions. The top three contributing institutions are Hacettepe University, Gazi University and Ankara University, respectively. It is noteworthy that all three institutions are in Ankara. This finding is important in terms of showing that the journal has a local character.
- Literature and art, history, international relations and political science, language and linguistics, culture and sociology are the most frequently encountered subjects in the journal. Unlike other subjects, the subject of culture and sociology has increased in the recent period. This result suggests that the cultural characteristics of the Turkic world are a subject that has recently attracted the attention of researchers. In addition, in some articles, studies to be evaluated within the scope of several subjects were identified. This shows that interdisciplinary studies are included in the journal. In the second period, there was an increase in literature and arts, international relations and political science, economy and entrepreneurship, education, religion, and communication. It is thought that the coup attempt in Türkiye in 2016 was effective in increasing the tendency towards these subjects.

- When the most cited articles in *bilig* were analysed, it was seen that the study on communication, which received 30 citations, ranked first. Most of the institutions where the most cited articles are published are universities in Türkiye and Hacettepe University stands out. Half of the 8 most cited articles were written in Turkish and half in English. This finding is important in terms of showing that articles written in English are more likely to be cited as they have high visibility abroad. In addition, although the most preferred subjects are literature, and arts and history, these subjects were not found among the most cited articles. Table 5 shows the number of cited articles and the total number of citations according to five-year periods. Accordingly, 209 of the 686 articles received at least one citation. It was determined that 474 articles published in the journal have not received any citations yet. The decrease in the number of cited articles and citations in the recent period suggests the visibility of new publications.

Table 5

Citation Trends by Periods

| | 2008-2012 | 2013-2017 | 2018-2022 | Total |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Published Article | 234 | 262 | 190 | 686 |
| Cited Article | 83 | 93 | 33 | 209 |
| Attributions | 255 | 237 | 50 | 542 |

Comparison with Previous Studies

Similar to this study examining the trends of *bilig* journal, Al, Soydal and Yalçın in 2010 analysed 100 articles published in *bilig* since 2008 and found that 87% of the publications were in Turkish, indicating that the predominance of Turkish publications is a common situation in journals originating in Türkiye. It is seen that the rate of English publications has increased in the last 12 years, but it has not reached a sufficient rate. Yalçın (208) found that 98.2% of the 171 articles he analysed in Millî Folklore were published in Turkish. Gökçen and Arslan (48) analysed the studies published in the field of Turkish education in scientific journals scanned by WoS and found that 71.8% of the publications were in English and

explained this situation with the fact that English is the common language of the global scientific world.

Karagöz and Şeref (226), in their bibliometric analysis of the Journal of Values Education, concluded that the articles were mostly produced by a single author. Polat et al. (23) also analysed the Journal of Atatürk University Faculty of Fine Arts and found that the rate of single-author articles was as high as 86.8%. The findings obtained from these studies coincide with the findings of this study on authorship tendency.

Karagöz and Koç Ardiç (432) found that Gazi University, MoNE and Abant İzzet Baysal University are the institutions that contribute the most to the Journal of Mother Tongue Education, while Yalçın (208) stated that Bilkent University, Gazi University, Selçuk University and Hacettepe University are the institutions that contribute the most to the Journal of National Folklore. Hacettepe University, Gazi University and Selçuk University are also among the institutions that contribute the most to the journal *bilig*.

Similar to the findings in *bilig*, Karagöz and Şeref (236) concluded that one fourth of the articles in the Journal of Values Education did not receive any citations and the citations reflected the national dimension of the journal. Şeref and Karagöz (310) analysed academic publications on Mevlâna Celâleddin Rumî in terms of bibliometric indicators and concluded that while Türkiye is the most active country in research on Mevlâna, the most cited publications originate from the USA and Denmark which is related to the language of publication.

Conclusion

Bibliometric studies are important in terms of recognising scientific journals closely, determining their productivity and current status, providing researchers with comprehensive information about the field, and investigating the place and effects of publications within the discipline. In this study, *bilig*, a scientific journal for Turkic world studies, is analysed within the scope of authorship tendencies, subject and citation analysis.

The bibliometric analysis of *bilig*, which has been published continuously since 1996 to reveal the cultural richness, historical and current realities of the Turkic world within scientific measures and to propose solutions to these issues, will contribute both to the field and to the researchers working in this

field. From this point of view, it is important and necessary to consider *bilig*, which provides a scientific environment for the studies of the Turkic world, in the context of bibliometric indicators. This study contributes to the field in determining the current situation of publication trends in *bilig*.

Revealing the place and impact of the publications in the journal within the discipline and their deficiencies through bibliometric analyses plays a role in taking measures to improve the quality of publications and determines the sources that feed the field. For this purpose, the bibliometric profile of the journal by analysing the publications in *bilig* has shown the general situation with holistic data to new researchers who will conduct research in this field and has enabled studies to be carried out in this direction by determining the subjects that have not yet been researched in the Turkish world.

Conducting similar studies in the following periods may contribute to the literature and researchers in terms of following the scientific development of the journal and identifying changes in its trends. Future studies with larger data may play a role in reaching the desired level of research by providing the opportunity to evaluate the development of the journal with more detailed analyses. Conducting similar studies to increase the visibility of the journal in the international arena, to increase interdisciplinary publications by collaborating with scientists in different fields of study, to increase citation rates, to increase the interest in the journal and Turkish world studies to a high level can be a guide in making the necessary decisions.

Recommendations

bilig is one of the few Turkish journals in SSCI. For the journal to consolidate this position and take its place as an internationally respected journal with its studies that shed light on the Turkic world, it is possible to list the suggestions as follows:

- Steps can be taken to increase the number of publications in English or to make long abstracts in English compulsory.
- To increase the visibility of the journal, researchers from abroad can be included in the author staff.
- By giving more space to interdisciplinary studies in the journal where multi-authorship is low, both the multi-authorship rate and the

visibility of the journal in the international platform can be increased by encouraging joint publications with researchers abroad.

- The diversity of topics can be increased by prioritising new topics and different perspectives on the Turkic world.
- The number of citations can be increased by issuing special issues for the most cited topics.

Contribution Rate Statement

The authors' contribution rates in this study are equal.

Conflict of Interest Statement

There is no conflict of interest with any institution or person within the scope of this study. There is no conflict of interest between the authors.

Notes

- 1 The VOSviewer programme used in the study automatically added 13 files (editorials, book reviews, etc.) that are not included in the scope of research articles to the system in the section where the continental distribution of publications is evaluated, but it is understood that these files will not affect the results of our research due to the very small number of these files.
- 2 The table shows the institutions that contributed ten or more articles to the journal.
- 3 Articles on language education are included in the subject of education.
- 4 The table includes articles with at least eight citations.

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