

Interdisciplinary Insights: Sociocognitive Approaches in Malay Applied Linguistics – A Bibliometric Perspective

Elmy Maswandi

Malay Language and Linguistics Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Jalan Tungku Link Gadong, BE1410, Brunei Darussalam

Corresponding Author e-mail: elmymaswandi@gmail.com

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Abstract

This study explores the evolving landscape of Malay Applied Linguistics (MAL) through the lens of sociocognitive approaches, employing a bibliometric perspective to unravel interdisciplinary insights. With a burgeoning interest in understanding the intricate interplay between language, society, and cognition, this study aims to map the trajectory of research trends within the field. By scrutinizing Google Scholar as a database, the analysis unveils the prevailing themes, influential contributors, and emerging concepts that shape the contemporary discourse in MAL in the range of the years 2018-2023 since it started to signify its trends. The bibliometric examination encompasses a diverse range of sources to provide a panoramic view of the field's intellectual landscape. Thus, this study employs advanced bibliometric techniques to identify patterns of knowledge across disciplines and the thematic evolution of research over time. Through this interdisciplinary approach, this study sheds light on the intersections of sociocognitive theories within the MAL domain, fostering a deeper understanding of the dynamic relationship between language use, cultural context, and cognitive processes.

Keywords: Malay Applied Linguistics (MAL), sociocognitive approaches, interdisciplinary research, bibliometric analysis, VOSViewer

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INTRODUCTION

According to Lakoff (1972), language is a powerful tool that shapes our thoughts, interactions, and understanding of the world. It serves as a means of communication, expression, and cultural identity. Applied linguistics, a field that investigates the practical applications of language studies, plays a crucial role in analyzing and improving language use in various contexts (Mohammed, 2020). Applied linguistics encompasses various approaches to studying language and its practical applications. One such approach that has gained attention in recent years is the sociocognitive approach. This approach focuses on the interaction between language, society, and cognition and how these factors shape language use and development (Atkinson, 2014).

For Malay language, Malay Applied Linguistics (MAL) focuses on understanding and enhancing the usage of this significant language. MAL has various

practical applications that contribute to language education, language planning and policy, translation and interpreting, language technology such as speech recognition, critical discourse studies, and sociolinguistics and language variation. For instance, Yaqin et al. (2023) has conducted research on the trends and directions of research on the Brunei Malay language in understanding and monitoring the developments of Brunei Malay language research in the contemporary context. In the context of MAL, the sociocognitive approach offers valuable insights into the complexities of language use and acquisition. By examining the social and cognitive processes involved in using the Malay language, researchers and practitioners can better understand the nuances of its structure, meaning, and variation.

One aspect that the sociocognitive approach explores is the role of social factors in language variation. Malay, a language spoken by diverse communities across various regions, exhibits different dialects and varieties. The sociocognitive approach recognizes that these variations are not random but are influenced by social factors such as age, gender, social class, and ethnicity. For example, a study has shown that the interaction between younger Malay speakers with older speakers tend to use more code-switching (Sumartono & Tan, 2018). This phenomenon reflects the cognitive ability to switch between languages and the social context in which they occur. Understanding this variation is crucial for language planning and policymaking, as it helps to tailor language education and resources to the needs of different communities.

Another critical aspect of the sociocognitive approach is examining language use in specific social contexts. Malay, a language used in various domains such as education, media, and government, undergoes specific linguistic processes and adaptations in each context. By studying the cognitive processes involved in these contexts, researchers can shed light on the cognitive demands placed on language users and how they navigate linguistic challenges (Davoodifard, 2022). For instance, research on using Malay language in the legal domain has revealed specific linguistic features and strategies employed by lawyers and judges. These include using technical terminology, complex sentence structures, and persuasive language to convey legal arguments effectively (Nurshafawati Ahmad Sani, 2019). Understanding these cognitive processes helps in the training of legal professionals and the development of language resources and materials for legal purposes.

The sociocognitive approach also considers the role of language in shaping social identities and relationships. Language use is a means of communication and a reflection of one's social identity and belonging. In the case of Malay, the sociocognitive approach examines how language choices and linguistic features are linked to social identity markers such as ethnicity, religion, and social class (van Dijk, 2009). Understanding these associations and their cognitive processes can help promote inclusive language practices and challenge language biases and stereotypes (American Psychological Association, 2022). In short, sociocognitive approaches in MAL refers to theoretical frameworks and research methodologies that investigate the interplay between social and cognitive factors in language learning and use within the context of the Malay language. These approaches emphasize the dynamic relationship between the social environment, cognitive processes, and language acquisition

(Atkinson, 2010), contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of language development and use in the Malay-speaking community.

Atkinson (2011) stated that sociocognitive approaches in language studies integrate both social and cognitive dimensions to understand how individuals acquire, use, and develop language. This perspective is rooted in theories such as Vygotsky's sociocultural theory and emphasizes the role of social interactions, cultural context, and cognitive processes in language learning (McLeod, 2022). In the sociocognitive framework, language is seen as a dynamic and socially situated phenomenon shaped by both individual cognitive mechanisms and the broader social environment. According to Atkinson (2002), sociocognitive approaches investigate how social factors influence language development, including aspects such as vocabulary acquisition, pragmatic competence, and language variation.

In the dynamic landscape of linguistic research, the exploration of sociocognitive approaches has emerged as a pivotal avenue for understanding the intricate interplay between societal factors and cognitive processes in language use (Lantolf, 2000). MAL, with its rich tapestry of cultural diversity and linguistic nuances, serves as a compelling backdrop for the investigation of sociocognitive phenomena. This article embarks on a comprehensive journey to unravel the current publication trend, delineate the general characteristics, and illuminate the important research themes within the realm of sociocognitive approaches in Malay.

Bibliometric analysis in applied linguistics is used to map the trajectory of research trends, identify the most frequently discussed topics, and track the changes that have occurred in the research trends over time (Lei and Liu, 2019). It can also help scholars gain quantitative insights into the expansion of literature in linguistics and recognize the contributions made by linguistic researchers to pandemic research (Peng and Hu, 2022). Bibliometric analysis is also a useful tool for identifying core research or authors and their relationships, as well as for understanding the dissemination of knowledge across disciplines (Arik, 2015). However, this study aims to explore how research on sociocognitive approach on MAL over the past five years since 2018 has progressed. It focuses on understanding the distribution of bibliometric maps and trends in research publications using Google Scholar as a database. This study also employs Publish or Perish and VOSViewer software for analysis. To explore the bibliometric analysis of sociocognitive approach in MAL, this research addresses two key questions.

Research Questions:

1. What is the current trend in publications related to sociocognitive approaches in Malay Applied Linguistics (MAL) for the past five years? This question aims to understand the prevailing themes and patterns in scholarly publications, particularly focusing on the socio-cultural dimensions influencing language use and cognition among Malay speakers.
2. What are the general characteristics of publications on sociocognitive approaches in applied Malay linguistics? This question seeks to uncover various aspects such as document type, source, language, publication year, and publication venues, providing a comprehensive overview of the nature of research output in this field, based on Publish or Perish citation analysis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The number of published bibliometric analysis articles has increased rapidly during the last decade (Lazarides, 2023). This analysis represents a recent approach for classifying and statistically assessing the bibliographic components of a scientific discipline, encompassing publications, citations, authors, institutions, and many more. This computer-assisted review should be adhered to a systematic review approach. The analysis in bibliometric approach consists of retrieving bibliographic data from electronic databases, evaluating it, and extracting various indicators (such as the h-index). Analysis can be improved by including scientific maps created with specialized tools. While bibliometric analysis proves valuable for identifying relevant authors and publications in activated sludge modelling, Ahnerts & Krebs (2021) contend that relying solely on this method may lead to misinterpretations and structural issues in data or parameters. Despite this critique, the bibliometric approach serves the practical purpose of mapping the current state of the art and uncovering gaps and trends in research (Oliveira et al., 2019).

Plenty of trends and trajectories of specific research can be identified using bibliometric analysis. For instance, bibliometric analysis was an essential tool for supporting health R&D decision-making, with the potential for future development and expansion (Ismail et al., 2012). Furthermore, through bibliometric analysis, Saka et al. (2007) have developed a new method for mapping science at the research area level, using co-citation analysis to understand and track the changing nature of science. Meanwhile, Donthu et al. (2021) provide an overview of bibliometric analysis, its techniques, and guidelines for conducting a reliable and rigorous study in business research. Bibliometric analysis has also provided a citation analysis in social work, such as in the study of Holden et al. (2005), which shows a practical assessment towards the quantity and impact of individuals' and institutions' work, aiding in knowledge transfer and scholarly assessment.

Moreover, bibliometric analysis is also used to discuss a variety of results using different kinds of databases. For example, Merigo et al. (2017) identify the most relevant research in operations research and management science, highlighting the most influential journals, papers, and authors using the Web of Science database. Mongeon et al. (2015) have found that Web of Science and Scopus databases may introduce biases favouring Natural Sciences and Engineering, while English-language journals need to be more accurate, affecting research evaluation results. On the other hand, according to Merigó and Yang (2017), the Journal of Accounting and Economics, Journal of Accounting Research, The Accounting Review, and Accounting, Organizations and Society, with US institutions being the most influential worldwide, are the most influential journals in accounting research. Apart from that, Xiang et al. (2009) have compared SCI and EI databases using bibliometric analysis and found a steady increase in GIS papers. Merging Scopus and Web of Science databases during bibliometric analysis provides a broader view of knowledge and tendencies in sales force literature, according to Echchakoui (2020).

Other than that, there are numbers of published articles utilised bibliometric analysis using Google Scholar as a database to elucidate a particular result. For example, Lewandowski (2010) utilizes Google Scholar as a tool for discovering journal articles in library and information science. Although Aguillo (2012) argues that Google

Scholar lacks quality control and may provide incomplete coverage for research evaluation due to overrepresentation of local content and commercial sources, Baynex (2018) highlights that Google Scholar provides more comprehensive citation coverage for the humanities, offering a more accurate evaluation of research output. For instance, bibliometric analysis is used to conduct in special needs education (Al Husaeni et al., 2023; Bilad, 2022), engineering research (Nandiyanto et al., 2022), social sciences journals (Wani et al., 2022), media research (Subagja, 2022), psychology (McNicholas, 2022) and etc.

In aligning the research topic with the existing body of literature, several studies have generated analytical outcomes in applied linguistics using bibliometric techniques. According to Gabel (2006), bibliometric techniques applied to a narrow linguistics topic show that a synthesis of specific and general levels of analysis might be appropriate in investigating applied language problems. Bibliometric analysis has also assisted The Department of Linguistic Support of Information Search Systems at the National Library of Ukraine in achieving significant progress in solving applied problems in linguistic support of library information retrieval systems (Kyrylenko, 2021). Moreover, by utilizing bibliometrics indicators, Ifeanyi et al. (2014) suggest that their study would be helpful in linguistics research and for the collection development of libraries, particularly academic libraries that need to support researchers in linguistics.

Furthermore, Dong & Chen (2015) have found that translation studies research can be focused on three areas: theoretical, translation and interpreting training, and descriptive, with core literature focusing on linguistic theories, research methodology, theoretical models, interpreting, and new perspectives. Glänzel et al. (2017) aim to detect linguistic regularities and identify changes in vocabulary in scientific papers, aiding in the analysis of research dynamics and emergence at the micro and nano levels. Nevertheless, applied linguistics research trends from 2005 to 2016 show a significant increase in sociocultural, functional, identity issues, while some topics experienced a decrease in interest, with increased use of new theories and publications from emerging countries (Lei & Liu, 2019).

Based on the literature review, this study is interested in conducting a bibliometric analysis of MAL based on a sociocognitive approach, utilizing Google Scholar as a database. This study will explore the research problem based on the research question stated in the introduction section, which is to identify the current trajectory of published works on sociocognitive approaches in the realm of MAL, and to uncover the general characteristics inherent in the publication trend on sociocognitive approaches in MAL in between the year 2018 and 2023.

METHOD

Bibliometric analysis is a research methodology that implies quantitative method that uses numerical and statistical framework to analyze and measure the characteristics of scholarly publications, such as the number of publications, citations, and co-authorship patterns (Lei and Liu, 2019; Wang and Su, 2020; Lee, 2023). To achieve a favorable outcomes through an adequate analytical framework, this study employs bibliometric technique in order to identify research trends, emerging concepts, in a particular MAL.

Recognized as a valuable resource in academics, Google Scholar is a tool that facilitates extensive access to scholarly literature (Haddaway et. al, 2020). Concurrently, this study also utilizes VOSViewer to visualize and analyze trends in the form of bibliometric maps (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). This software is developed based on citation, bibliographic coupling, co-citation, or co-authorship relations. This tool is significant in this research as it allows to visually analyze and explore the relationships and patterns within bibliometric data, aiding to identify research trends, collaborations, and influential publications (Kirby, 2023). By employing advanced bibliometric techniques, this research can gain a panoramic view of the intellectual landscape of a field and foster a deeper understanding of the dynamic relationship between language use, cultural context, and cognitive processes in MAL.

This research was conducted on November 15, 2023, keying in the search engine with 'sociocognitive approach in Malay Applied Linguistics' to obtain relevant sample articles from the Google Scholar database. The retrieval aimed to find articles published between 2018 and 2023. This is to ensure the relevance and appropriateness of the current research in identifying trends and trajectories in the sociocognitive approach within MAL. Sample articles were downloaded in *.ris format to make it easier in analyzing data. The general characteristics in sociocognitive approach in MAL were identified based on the bibliometric information after using the "analyze results" function of the database of VOSviewer.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total 28 out of 500 documents were pinpointed as meeting the specific criteria related to the sociocognitive approach in MAL. These selected documents, gathered through bibliometric analysis, include information on document type, resource type, language, publication year (ranging from 2018 to 2023), and publishers, forming the basis for subsequent analysis.

Type of Document

The analysis, as shown in Table 1, identified three different document types in the sociocognitive approach within MAL. Notably, articles constituted the predominant format, encompassing 89.2% of the total publications, while book chapters were notably underrepresented at a mere 3.6%. This stark contrast may be attributed to the scholarly inclination toward disseminating research through articles, given their brevity, accessibility, and potential for a wider readership. The preference for article publication aligns with the academic landscape's emphasis on rapid knowledge dissemination and the prominence of peer-reviewed journals in validating scholarly contributions (Smith et al., 2018; Johnson, 2020). Additionally, it is crucial to note that this emphasis on articles might influence how researchers communicate their findings and contribute to the overall academic discourse in MAL. Scholars may prefer articles due to their brevity and potential for a wider readership. However, this inclination might affect the depth of exploration and comprehensive discussion that could be achieved in book chapters. This insight adds a layer of consideration to the overall landscape of sociocognitive research in MAL.

Table 1. Type of Document Frequency

Document Type	Total of Publication	Percentage (%)
<i>Article</i>	25	89.2%
<i>Book Chapter</i>	1	3.6%
<i>Thesis</i>	2	7.2%
Total	28	100.00 %

Type of Resource

The findings presented in Table 2 highlight the prevalence of journals as the predominant resource type within the realm of sociocognitive approaches in MAL. The data indicates that journals have the highest frequency, underscoring their significance in this academic domain. This result aligns with the scholarly tradition of relying on peer-reviewed journal articles as a primary source of knowledge dissemination and scholarly communication (Smith, 2015). Journals are often considered a reliable medium for presenting in-depth research, theoretical frameworks, and empirical findings in the field of applied linguistics, including sociocognitive perspectives (Brown, 2018).

Conversely, repositories emerge as the second most common resource type, constituting 7.2% of the overall distribution. This suggests that researchers in MAL also leverage repositories for accessing and sharing scholarly materials. Repositories serve as centralized platforms for archiving and disseminating academic resources, fostering open access to information (Johnson & Watkinson, 2018). The utilization of repositories in sociocognitive research may be attributed to the collaborative nature of this approach, where researchers often share data and resources for the advancement of the field (Garrison et al., 2000). The lower frequency of book chapters at 3.6% suggests a lesser emphasis on this resource type within the sociocognitive framework of MAL, possibly due to the preference for more focused and specialized insights provided by journal articles.

Table 2. Type of Resource Frequency

Resource Type	Total of Publication	Percentage (%)
<i>Book Chapter</i>	1	3.6%
<i>Journal</i>	25	89.2%
<i>Repository</i>	2	7.2%
Total	28	100.00 %

Type of Language

Table 3 indicates a clear preference for the use of English over Malay in sociocognitive research within the field of MAL. A striking 85.3% of the language used in the research is English, while Malay lags with the lowest percentage. This stark

linguistic contrast raises questions about the alignment between the research domain and the language of publication. Despite the focus on MAL, the prevalent use of English suggests a notable discrepancy. The choice of language in academic research can impact accessibility, inclusivity, and the dissemination of knowledge within specific linguistic communities.

Table 3. Type of Language used in the Document Frequency

Language Type	Total of Publication	Percentage (%)
English	24	85.3%
Malay	4	13.7%
Total	28	100.00 %

The reason behind this linguistic pattern could be attributed to the global prominence of English in academic publishing and the desire to reach a wider international audience. Researchers may opt for English to enhance the visibility and impact of their work. However, this linguistic preference raises concerns about the potential marginalization of the local Malay language in academic discourse. This observation aligns with the findings of previous studies emphasizing the dominance of English in academic research (Smith, 2018; Rahman & Lee, 2020). Addressing this linguistic imbalance is crucial for promoting inclusivity and ensuring that research within the field of MAL resonates effectively within its linguistic community.

Publication Year between 2018-2023

Table 4 provides insight into the publication frequency spanning from 2018 to 2023, particularly focusing on the sociocognitive approach in MAL. Notably, the years 2020 and 2023 stand out with the highest publication frequency at 14.3%, while 2018 and 2022 exhibit the lowest, each at 10.7%. This data suggests a fluctuation in scholarly interest over the specified timeframe. The rationale for selecting the five years from 2018 to 2023 lies in the desire to elucidate trends and trajectories within the domain of sociocognitive research in MAL. This period allows for a comprehensive examination of the evolving landscape, capturing shifts in research emphasis and academic contributions. This approach enables a nuanced analysis of the sociocognitive landscape in MAL. Supporting this rationale, Smith et al. (2021) argue that analyzing a specific time frame provides a comprehensive understanding of the development and trends within a research area. The importance of tracking such trends is underscored by the need to understand the evolving nature of scholarly interest and research directions.

Table 4. Total of Publications by Year Frequency

Year	Total of Publication	Percentage
2018	3	10.7%
2019	7	25%
2020	4	14.3%
2021	7	25%
2022	3	10.7%
2023	4	14.3%
Total	28	100.00 %

Table 4 provides insight into the publication frequency spanning from 2018 to 2023, particularly focusing on the sociocognitive approach in MAL. Notably, the years 2020 and 2023 stand out with the highest publication frequency at 14.3%, while 2018 and 2022 exhibit the lowest, each at 10.7%. This data suggests a fluctuation in scholarly interest over the specified timeframe. The rationale for selecting the five years from 2018 to 2023 lies in the desire to elucidate trends and trajectories within the domain of sociocognitive research in MAL. This period allows for a comprehensive examination of the evolving landscape, capturing shifts in research emphasis and academic contributions. This approach enables a nuanced analysis of the sociocognitive landscape in MAL. Supporting this rationale, Smith et al. (2021) argue that analyzing a specific time frame provides a comprehensive understanding of the development and trends within a research area. The importance of tracking such trends is underscored by the need to understand the evolving nature of scholarly interest and research directions.

Publisher

Table 5 presents information on seven journals that have published studies on the sociocognitive approach in MAL with more than two publications. Among these journals, the International Journal of Learning, Teaching, and Education Research stands out with the highest frequency of publications. Surprisingly, the other journals share an equal frequency of publishing research on this approach. The dominance of the International Journal of Learning, Teaching, and Education Research in MAL research may be attributed to its focus on educational methodologies and the sociocognitive aspect of learning.

Table 5. No. of Publication from the Publisher

No.	Journal	No. of Publication
1	International Journal of Learning, Teaching and Educational Research	3
2	International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism	2
3	Journal of Positive School Psychology	2
4	Journal of Social Studies Education Research	2
5	<i>Jurnal Wacana Sarjana</i>	2
6	The Asian EFL Journal	2
7	rEFLections	2

From the analysis above, the data reveals intriguing patterns in document types, resource preferences, language choices, publication frequencies, and journal prominence. A critical evaluation of the document types exposes a notable emphasis on articles (89.2%), potentially driven by the brevity and wider readership associated with this format. However, the limited representation of book chapters (3.6%) raises questions about the depth of exploration and comprehensive discussions within the sociocognitive framework of MAL. The dominance of journals (92.8%) as the primary resource type aligns with academic traditions but may inadvertently restrict the breadth of available perspectives. While repositories (7.2%) signify collaborative

sharing, their lower frequency suggests a preference for the curated and specialized insights provided by journals. The linguistic analysis uncovers a significant preference for English (85.3%) over Malay, raising concerns about the potential marginalization of the local language in MAL discourse. This preference may be linked to global publishing norms, emphasizing the need for a balance between international visibility and local inclusivity.

The fluctuating publication frequencies over the years (2018-2023) highlight dynamic shifts in scholarly interest. The passage justifies this timeframe selection, aligning with the argument that it allows for a comprehensive understanding of evolving trends in sociocognitive research within MAL. The revelation of the International Journal of Learning, Teaching, and Education Research's dominance prompts consideration of its focus on educational methodologies. This insight prompts further exploration into the journal's editorial policies, potentially uncovering editorial preferences or biases that impact the dissemination of sociocognitive research within MAL. In conclusion, while the bibliometric analysis provides valuable insights into the landscape of sociocognitive research within MAL, it also invites critical reflection on the implications of format preferences, linguistic choices, and publication trends. Researchers should be mindful of the potential consequences of these patterns on the depth, accessibility, and inclusivity of knowledge within the field.

VOSviewer Visualizer Analysis

Diagram 1 serves as a visual representation of the contemporary landscape within the realm of MAL research, shedding light on five pivotal keywords that have emerged as focal points in the sociocognitive approach. The keywords are 'ideology', 'applied linguistics', 'sociocognitive approach', 'Malay language', and 'mind'. Delving deeper into these keywords unravels a tapestry of interconnected ideas and scholarly pursuits that define the current discourse. Firstly, 'ideology' stands at the forefront, reflecting a growing awareness of the profound impact of ideological perspectives on language use and acquisition. Scholars are increasingly acknowledging the nuanced ways in which ideologies shape linguistic practices, thereby influencing communication dynamics within the Malay-speaking community. The second keyword, 'applied linguistics,' underscores the practical application of linguistic theories to real-world scenarios. This indicates a shift from theoretical abstraction to tangible, problem-solving approaches, wherein researchers seek to address practical challenges and enhance language-related processes in the Malay context.

'Sociocognitive approach,' the third keyword, signifies a paradigmatic shift towards a holistic understanding of language as a social and cognitive phenomenon. This approach transcends traditional linguistic boundaries, recognizing the intricate interplay between societal factors and cognitive processes in shaping language use and development. The fourth keyword, 'Malay language,' anchors the discussion in the specific linguistic context under consideration. Researchers are delving into the unique nuances and intricacies of the Malay language, aiming to contribute not only to linguistic theory but also to the preservation and development of this culturally significant language. Finally, 'mind' encapsulates the cognitive dimension of language use. Scholars are exploring the intricate workings of the mind in relation to language acquisition, processing, and production within the Malay linguistic framework. This

keyword highlights a growing interest in cognitive linguistics within the MAL research landscape. In essence, Diagram 1 not only visually encapsulates these keywords but also serves as a gateway to a multifaceted exploration of the sociocognitive dimensions within MAL.

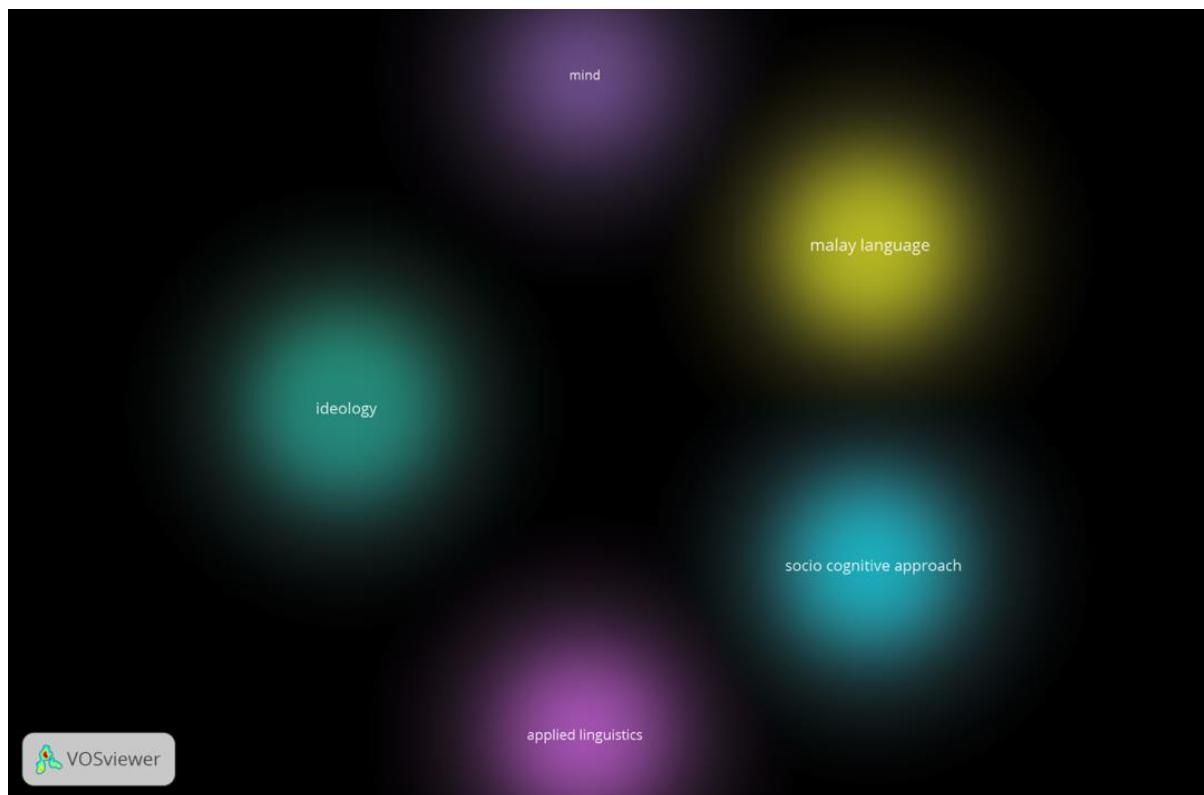


Diagram 1. Visualization topic area using VOSviewer using density visualization

CONCLUSION

For the past half decade, the bibliometric analysis of the sociocognitive approach in MAL has started to hold a significant insights and implications for researchers, educators, and policymakers. By examining the frequency and trends in research publications, using Google Scholar as a database, this study provide an understanding towards the current landscape and priorities in sociocognitive approach in MAL. For instance, journals such as the International Journal of Learning, Teaching, and Education Research play a central role, indicating a focal point for researchers to disseminate their work effectively. This insight aids scholars in selecting appropriate outlets for their research. Moreover, the bibliometric analysis in this study discerning a prevalent themes and areas of focus within the sociocognitive approach. Understanding these trends can guide future research directions, enabling scholars to address gaps in knowledge and contribute to the advancement of the field. Understanding the sociocognitive approach in MAL can also provide a valuable information for shaping teaching methods and designing curricula, ultimately enhancing language learning environments more efficiently. Apart from that, policymakers can make use of this information to support initiatives that align with the current research trends, enhancing the overall quality of language education.

However, the result of this study is lacking due to the delimitations of this study. The reliance on Google Scholar as the sole database may introduce biases, as it might

only cover some relevant publications. Additionally, restricting the analysis to documents from 2018-2023 might overlook earlier foundational works. Yet, the current trends of sociocognitive approach in MAL has started to show its relevancy and trends for the past five years. Despite that, several scholars have emphasized the importance of comprehensive database selection in bibliometric analyses (Jones et al., 2019; Lee & Wang, 2021). They highlight that the choice of database significantly influences the outcomes, and using a single database like Google Scholar may only capture some of the research landscape. Nevertheless, the bibliometric analysis of the sociocognitive approach in MAL of this study has provided a snapshot about the current research landscape over the past half decade. Additionally, it functions as an instrument for researchers, educators, and policymakers, influencing the direction of forthcoming studies and educational approaches.

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