



"Status Quo" of Malay Linguistics Studies: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

The study of Malay linguistics is a dynamic and intellectually engaging pursuit that provides valuable insights into the nuanced subtleties of one of the world's most widely spoken languages. The study of the Malay language holds a significant place in the extensive field of linguistic research because it reflects the diverse linguistic and cultural legacy of the Malay Archipelago. The study explores and analyses Malay linguistic studies conducted over the past two decades, examining trends, types of studies, research methodologies, prevalent themes, and author networks within Malay linguistics. The study employs bibliometric analysis of articles retrieved from the Scopus database using the keyword "Malay Linguistic." Utilising Vosviewer software, it identifies key trends and essential research themes within Malay linguistics. The findings revealed several key points. Firstly, publication trends in Malay linguistics varied over two decades, peaking at 91 publications in 2023, with stability observed from 2004 to 2009. This dynamic reflects evolving research interests with 724 publications. Major publishing venues were predominantly international journals in Malaysia and beyond the Malay Archipelago. Secondly, qualitative research was the primary method, often complemented by interdisciplinary and mixed-method approaches. Thirdly, common themes included Malay communities, dialect variations, identity, language structure, and applied linguistics. Fourthly, the author network in Malay linguistics remains interconnected, primarily among researchers from the Malay Peninsula. The trend of study themes in Malay linguistics has remained relatively stable, showing continuity with the status quo of the previous patterns. However, there has been a noticeable development in publication venues and author networks during this period.

Keywords: Malay language; Malay linguistics; Malay research; Bibliometric analysis; Vosviewer analysis

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INTRODUCTION

The status quo of Malay Linguistics refers to the current state of affairs or the prevailing condition of a particular situation that systematically investigates Malay linguistics. The exploration and analysis of Malay linguistic studies constitute a vibrant and intellectually stimulating endeavour that sheds light on the intricate nuances of one of the world's most widely spoken languages (Haji-Othman, 2016). Within the expansive domain of linguistic research, the study of the Malay language occupies a significant place, reflecting the rich cultural heritage and linguistic diversity of the Malay Archipelago (McLellan et al., 2016).

Malay linguistic studies have a rich and extensive history that spans several generations of scholarly inquiries. These studies explore the intricate details of the Malay language, covering historical periods, cultural landscapes, and linguistic subtleties (Adelaar, 2004; 1989; Blust, 1988; Omar, 1992; Teeuw, 1959a). Furthermore, the current

study on research and exceptional productivity achieved by Southeast Asian countries in the field of language and linguistics was conducted by Omar (1986, 2008, 2015); Ahmad and Jalaluddin (2012); Salehuddin and Winskel (2012); Salehuddin, Winskel and Abdullah, (2013); Jalaluddin *et al.*, (2017).

The extensive historical background and studies of Malay linguistics serve as a crucial foundation for researchers to evaluate its present trends and trajectories. This evaluation is essential as it helps researchers to strategize and plan future research endeavours in Malay linguistics. Previous researchers have conducted investigations on trends in specific brand linguistics related to Malay linguistics. Some examples of these studies include Collins (1989); Othman (2006); Khoo (2017); Yaqin *et al.*, (2023). While existing literature offers insights, there is a clear need for an enhanced, comprehensive review of Malay linguistics. A detailed examination is necessary to gain a nuanced understanding of the scholarly endeavours in this area, facilitate methodological advances, identify trends, and explore themes in greater depth. Therefore, the study intends to conduct a bibliometric analysis of articles published in the field of Malay linguistics in the database Scopus with the aid of Vosviewer to present the development in the area of Malay linguistics studies.

The current study is positioned to address several research questions: What are the publication trends and major publishing venues on Malay linguistics over the past two decades? What are the main research methods utilized in the domain of Malay linguistics? What are the dominant themes investigated in studies of Malay linguistics? And How does the network of authors in Malay linguistics reflect researchers' connectivity?

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This study employs bibliometric analysis to quantitatively review and investigate the literature in the field of Malay linguistic studies. Bibliometric analysis is a powerful tool that allows researchers to analyze publication patterns, citation counts, co-authorship networks, and other bibliographic data. By using this method, the study aims to gain comprehensive insights into research trends and scholarly contributions within this specific field (van Eck & Waltman, 2010; Van Eck & Waltman, 2007). One of the primary benefits of bibliometric analysis is its ability to reveal publication trends. By examining the frequency and distribution of publications over time, researchers can identify periods of increased or decreased scholarly activity in Malay linguistics. This information is crucial for understanding the development and evolution of the field, as well as for identifying potential gaps in the literature that may warrant further investigation (Yaqin, 2023). Additionally, bibliometric analysis helps to uncover authorship patterns within the field. By analyzing data on co-authorship and author affiliations, the study can identify prominent researchers and institutions that have made significant contributions to Malay linguistics. This information not only highlights key players in the field but also provides insights into collaborative networks and the geographic distribution of research efforts. Thematic focus is another important aspect that bibliometric analysis can elucidate.

By examining keywords, titles, and abstracts of the publications, the study can identify the main themes and topics that have been the focus of research in Malay linguistics. This thematic analysis helps to understand the areas that have received the most attention from researchers and can also highlight emerging trends and new directions in the field. Furthermore, bibliometric analysis allows for an examination of the research methodologies employed in the field. By reviewing the types of studies conducted and the methods used, the study can provide an overview of the methodological approaches that have been prevalent in Malay linguistics research. This information is valuable for understanding the strengths and limitations of the existing body of literature and for

guiding future research efforts. In conclusion, by utilizing bibliometric analysis, this study aims to provide a detailed and quantitative overview of the literature in Malay linguistic studies. Through the examination of publication trends, authorship patterns, thematic focus, and research methodologies, the study offers valuable insights into the scholarly contributions and research trends within this field. This comprehensive approach not only enhances our understanding of the current state of Malay linguistics but also helps to identify areas for future research and collaboration (van Eck & Waltman, 2010; Van Eck & Waltman, 2007; Yaqin, 2023).

Data Retrieval Queries

The study utilizes articles from the Scopus database with the keyword "Malay Linguistic" to gather relevant literature. By analyzing this data, the study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the state of research in Malay linguistics over the last two decades, highlighting key themes, methodologies, and author networks that have emerged during this period.

Table 1. Search String

Databased	Search string
Scopus	malay AND linguistic AND PUBYEAR > 2002 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "SOCI") OR LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA , "ARTS")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ar") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "ch") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "bk") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "re") OR LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE , "cp")) AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTSRCTITLE ,

Firstly, a search was conducted in Scopus's database using the search string outlined in Table 1 to extract bibliometric information for articles related to Malay linguistics published between 2004 and 2023. The queries identified 724 articles, and their bibliometric information, including article titles, journal titles, publishing years, keywords, abstracts, authors, affiliations, countries, etc., was downloaded to conduct follow-up analyses.

The Scopus database is used because of its broader coverage, global reach, citation tracking, and advanced search and analysis capabilities; it is known for its ability to provide extensive research data. Additionally, it offers quality assurance, integration with other tools, and research performance metrics (Falagas et al., 2008; Tober, 2011). Beyond its disciplinary scope, Scopus also provides quantitative metrics such as citation index, h-index, and journal impact factor, aiding in assessing research articles. These features make Scopus an invaluable resource for researchers conducting bibliometric analyses and aid in a more comprehensive utilization of the existing scientific landscape.

Table 2. The Inclusion of Articles

Criteria	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Document Type	Research article, Review, Book Chapter, Conference Paper, Book.	Editorial, note, letter, conference review, erratum, and data paper
Language	English and Malay	Non-English and Malay
Timeline	Articles published from 2004 to 2023	Articles published before 2004

Data Analysis

The study employed the most recent version of VOSviewer (1.6.20), a robust program renowned for its extensive bibliometric analytic capabilities, to analyze the data

shown in Table 1. VOSviewer allows for cluster analysis, which helps identify linked groups of publications or authors by examining shared attributes (Van Eck & Waltman, 2010). This function facilitates the identification of trends within extensive datasets, providing valuable insights into the fundamental structure of the research landscape of Malay linguistic studies. Furthermore, VOSviewer's visualization functionalities, specifically for co-authorship networks, enable the representation of collaborative connections among researchers. Through the process of visualizing these networks, the study is able to identify the primary contributors, influential alliances, and potential deficiencies in the collaboration within a particular research domain. Moreover, VOSviewer shows exceptional performance in co-citation analysis and detection of co-occurrence patterns, both of which are critical for understanding the interrelationships among different research outputs.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings of the study, encompassing publication trends, primary publishing venues, predominant research methods, explored themes, and the network of authors in Malay linguistics research.

Publication Trends and Primary Publishing Venues

Table 3 presents the annual count of peer-reviewed journal publications from 2004 to 2023. This data highlights the publication output within the field of Malay linguistics over the specified timeframe, offering insights into the research activity and scholarly contributions within this domain across different years.

Table 3. Number of Publications Per Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Documents</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Documents</u>
2013	44	2023	91
2012	42	2022	50
2011	19	2021	55
2010	19	2020	62
2009	12	2019	51
2008	15	2018	50
2007	13	2017	49
2006	9	2016	52
2005	6	2015	39
2004	5	2014	41
Total		724	

The provided data illustrates the annual count of peer-reviewed journal publications in Malay linguistics from 2004 to 2023. Each row corresponds to a specific year, with the adjacent column indicating the number of documents published. The breakdown is as follows: In 2004, there were 5 publications; in 2005, 6; in 2006, 9; in 2007, 13; in 2008, 15; in 2009, 12; in 2010, 19; in 2011, 19; in 2012, 42; in 2013, 44; in 2014, 41; in 2015, 39; in 2016, 52; in 2017, 49; in 2018, 50; in 2019, 51; in 2020, 62; in 2021, 55; in 2022, 50; and in 2023, 91 publications. The total number of documents published over the entire twenty-year period amounts to 724 publications. This dataset offers insights into the trends and fluctuations in research activity within Malay linguistics, showcasing variations in publication output across different years.

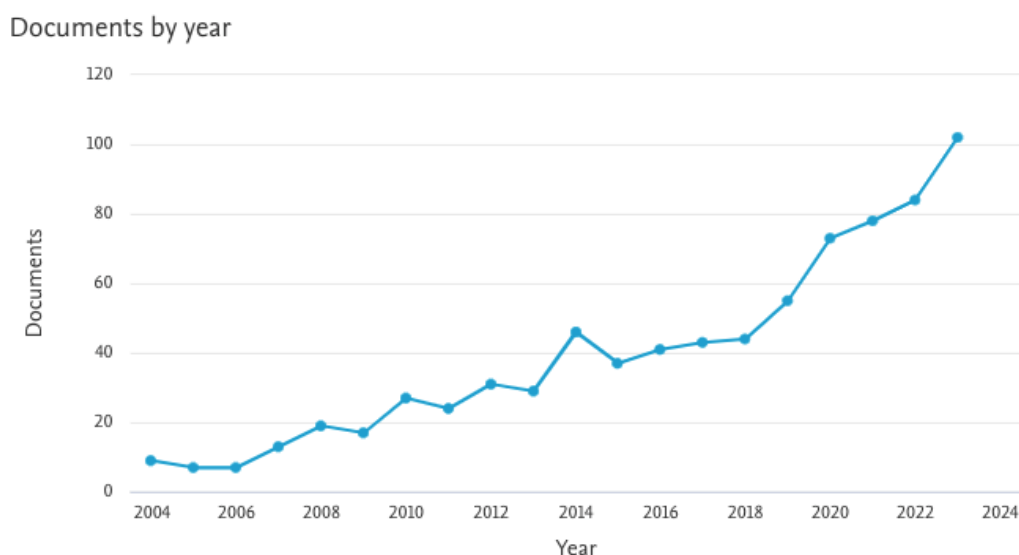


Figure 1. Publication Trends for Each Year

Figure 1 reveals fluctuations in publication output over the twenty years, with notable increases in specific years, such as 2012, 2013, 2016, and 2020, culminating in a significant peak of 91 publications in 2023. There are periods of relative stability observed from 2004 to 2009 with lower publication counts. This dynamic pattern suggests an evolving research landscape within Malay linguistics, influenced by various factors such as shifts in research interests, technological advancements, and changes in funding opportunities. The substantial body of 724 publications underscores the depth of scholarly work in Malay linguistics, providing valuable insights into the field's evolution, trends, and focus areas.

Table 4. Number of Documents by Type

Document Type	Documents
Article	665
Review	30
Book Chapter	27
Conference Paper	11
Book	1
Total	724

The data in Table 4 offers an overview of document distribution across various types in the dataset, including articles, reviews, book chapters, conference papers, and books. Notably, articles dominate, comprising 665 documents with reviews and book chapters, followed by 30 and 27 documents, respectively. The dataset includes 11 conference papers and only 1 book, totaling 724 documents.

Table 4. Publication Venues (Number of Publications>5)

Journals	Number of Publications	Journals	Number of publications
Gema Online Journal Of Language Studies	154	Lingua	11
31 Language Linguistics Literature	52	Asia In Transition	10
Oceanic Linguistics	40	Asiatic	10
Pertanika Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanities	38	Multilingua	10

Jurnal Komunikasi Malaysian Journal Of Communication	37	Studies In English Language And Education	10
World Englishes	37	Asian Social Science	9
Kajian Malaysia	21	International Journal Of Multilingualism	9
Wacana	21	Journal Of Pidgin And Creole Languages	8
Pertanika Journal Of Social Science And Humanities	20	Cogent Arts And Humanities	7
Kemanusiaan	19	Multilingual Education	7
Issues In Language Studies	18	Indonesia And The Malay World	6
Journal Of Multilingual And Multicultural Development	17	Theory And Practice In Language Studies	6
Asian Englishes	14	Applied Psycholinguistics	5
Indonesian Journal Of Applied Linguistics	13	Behavior Research Methods	5
Malaysian Journal Of Learning And Instruction	12	Journal Of The International Phonetic Association	5
Studies In Language	12	Language	5
International Journal Of The Sociology Of Language	11	Language	5
Journal Of Pragmatics	11	Linguistic Insights	5

The provided data offers a detailed overview of the distribution of publications across various journals in language studies. The Gema Online Journal of Language Studies emerges as the most prolific journal, with 154 publications showcasing its significance as a platform for scholarly discourse. Following Gema Online, several other journals exhibit substantial publication counts, such as 3L: Language, Linguistics, and Literature, with 52 publications, and Oceanic Linguistics, with 40 publications. These findings suggest the prominence of these journals within the academic community and their contribution to advancing research in language studies. However, the dataset also reveals disparities in publication counts across journals, indicating variations in editorial policies, scope, and focus. While some journals have a high publication output, others have significantly fewer publications, suggesting differences in popularity, accessibility, or niche specialization. Based on the explanation, it provides useful insights into the evolution and advancement of research in Malay linguistics, enhancing comprehension of the field's growth and establishing a foundation for future academic investigations. A longitudinal methodology and a comprehensive analysis of publication counts over time provide a unique perspective on the development and influence of Malay linguistics research.

Predominant Research Methods

The following provides the primary research methods employed in Malay linguistic studies. The qualitative methods include pragmatics analysis, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, ethnography of communication analysis, and acoustic analysis. Pragmatics analysis was adopted by (Hieda et al., 2021; Maros & Halim, 2018; van Minde, 2008). Hieda et al. (2021) conducted a study to explore the invitation refusal strategies employed by native speakers of Malay (MNSs) and Japanese (JNSs), aiming to shed light on the "politeness effects" influencing the strategies used by MNSs in Japanese. Maros & Halim (2018) focused their investigation on the speech act of requests, specifically emphasizing alerts. An 'alert' refers to a discourse feature that initiates a conversation or captures the listener's attention. Van Minde (2008) examined the relationship between spoken and written discourse, focusing on the function words studied in Malay, notably the particle 'yang.'

Discourse analysis was applied by Jamil (2023) to examine the discourse of defence or *apologia* in responses, focusing on discursive strategies, specifically nomination, predication, and argumentation. Zuraidah & Knowles (2006) investigate how prosody contributes to creating the context in which spoken statements can be understood. When used in specific places, certain aspects of prosody can act as signals to aid in managing conversations and interpreting different types of activities during a conversation. Some studies also investigated acoustic analysis; for example, Hamid et al., (2022) examined the acquisition of voicing contrast in Malay word-initial phrases among Mandarin-speaking children. In a separate study, Latiff & Hassan (2023) analysed the monophthongs of Penang Malay (PM) by examining the frequencies of F1 and F2 formants produced by five female speakers from Penang, Malaysia. Shahidi & Aman (2011) also conducted an acoustic analysis, revealing Malay's distinct feature known as Short Voicing Lag (SVL) in unvoiced plosives, contrasting with Voicing Lead (VLd) in voiced plosives, while also highlighting the neutralization pattern of plosive voicing in Malay. Furthermore, Sharbawi (2006) found that Brunei English (BrunE) and Singapore English (SgE) exhibit similar features, with BrunE's high-back vowels fronted like BrE speakers. Additionally, BrunE is characterized as more open and less back than BrE.

Furthermore, Nor et al. (2019) utilized ethnographic analysis as the qualitative method in their study. Their research revealed the fundamental principles of politeness and the contextual constraints that influence politeness. Moreover, aspects of politeness in communication were emphasized based on storylines and the background of the narrative. The translation methods used by some researchers, for example, Mohd Daud (2021), delved into critical reflections on translating the seminal Bruneian novel "Pengabdian" (1987) by Norsiah Gapar from Malay into English. This novel explores the commonly experienced phenomenon of Bruneians studying overseas and subsequently returning. Abidin et al. (2020) also researched to compare the translation outcomes of Arabic-Malay idiomatic expressions between Google Translate (GT) and dictionary translations based on idiomatic translation methods. Additionally, the study seeks to summarize the Arabic-Malay idiomatic translation techniques utilizing GT. Furthermore, Ai & Seong (2019) examined the function of each typical "*yuqi zhuci*" in the Chinese language and evaluated its translational feasibility in Malay.

The quantitative method corpus analysis was used by Gulnazir & Salehuddin (2023) to analyse the usage of two American lexical items, "lit" and "on fleek," which emerged on American Twitter in 2013 in Malaysian English. Using Twitter API Tools to gather data, the research examined 19,050 tweets containing 203,482 tokens featuring "lit" and "on fleek" from 2013 to 2021 on Malaysian Twitter. Data analysis involved frequency distribution and concordance analysis using AntConc version 3.5.9. Additionally, supplementary tools such as Google Trends and Urban Dictionary were employed. The mixed qualitative-quantitative methods, as seen in Leo & David's (2023) research, were used to gather data by examining the attitudes of Malaysian private university undergraduates towards Manglish through online survey questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. Meanwhile, Hamim et al. (2021) conducted research on the morphosyntactic abilities of 60 bilingual Malay children using a mixed methods method based on sentence repetition (SR) tasks conducted in both Malay (L1) and English (L2). Because of the numerous researchers involved, only a limited number can be included in this section.

Table 5. Research Methods

Research methods	
Qualitative	pragmatics analysis, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, ethnography of communication analysis, acoustic analysis, and Sociolinguistics.
Quantitative	Corpus Analysis
Mix Methods	Applied Linguistics

The various methods used in the study of Malay linguistics highlight the intricate and profound nature of the topic, providing a variety of means of understanding language usage, structure, and societal dynamics. Qualitative methods, like pragmatics analysis, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, ethnography of communication, and acoustic analysis, give us a full picture of how people communicate, how they use language, how sounds work, and how culture affects these things. These methodologies uncover essential elements of courtesy, intonation, and other phonetic features specific to the Malay language and its local variations.

Quantitative methods, such as corpus analysis and mixed-method approaches, enhance research by examining aspects such as morphosyntactic skills, attitudes towards language differences, lexical trends, and language usage on digital platforms. The incorporation of diverse tools and methodologies, such as the Twitter API, AntConc, survey questionnaires, and semi-structured interviews, underscores the inventive and all-encompassing character of present-day research. By employing these approaches, we can not only deepen our understanding of Malay linguistics but also open up possibilities for future research to investigate novel aspects and practical uses in this discipline.

The Dominant Themes Investigated in Studies of Malay Linguistics

The exploration of Malay linguistics has revealed several dominant themes that shed light on crucial aspects of language structure, usage, and development. Scholars have investigated various topics within these themes, which have contributed to a better understanding of the Malay language's cultural significance and societal dynamics. The themes of research in Malay linguistics encapsulate a broad spectrum of inquiries, including but not limited to the Malay community, a variety of dialects, translation, Austronesian language, applied linguistics in teaching and learning, phonology, grammar, semantics, discourse, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics. These research themes have enabled scholars to explore the Malay language's nuances and complexities, providing valuable insight into its historical, cultural, and linguistic significance. As such, they represent a crucial aspect of Malay linguistics research, highlighting the language's rich tapestry and its broader linguistic landscape.

Table 6. The Dominant Themes on Malay Linguistics

Themes	Freq	Themes	Freq	Themes	Freq	Themes	Freq
Malay Community	103	Translation	41	Content Analysis	11	Singapore English	21
Second Language Variety Dialect	35	Brunei English	10	Lingua franca	16	Sarawak	23
Brunei Darussalam	61	Language shift	13	Classroom	29	Politeness	23
	19	Brunei	25	Critical discourse analysis	12	Verb	49
Austronesian Language	30	Bilingualism	14	Student	107	School	51

Syntax	20	Mother tongue	12	Phonology	22	Code-switching	21
Ethnic group	22	First language	12	Standard Malay	11	Writing	42
Solidarity	14	Teacher	52	Local Language	15	Identity	71
Teaching	43	Dominant language	12	Indonesia	53	Vocabulary	27
Tradition	19	China	10	Education	51	Ethnicity	22
Heritage language	10	Secondary school	19	Native speaker	31	National language	19
Language use	44	Mandarin	32	Malaysian	29	Native language	11
Foreign language	17	Malaysia	23	University	39	Language Policy	19
Speech act	16	Cospus	45	Target language	20	Language choice	15

The provided data offers a comprehensive overview of the themes and frequencies in language studies research, reflecting the diverse topics explored within the field. Among the most prevalent themes are those related to the Malay community, with 103 occurrences highlighting the significance of research focusing on this group. Similarly, themes such as Variety of Dialects (61), Second Language Learning (35), and Austronesian Language (30) underscore the multifaceted nature of language studies, encompassing various linguistic phenomena and contexts.

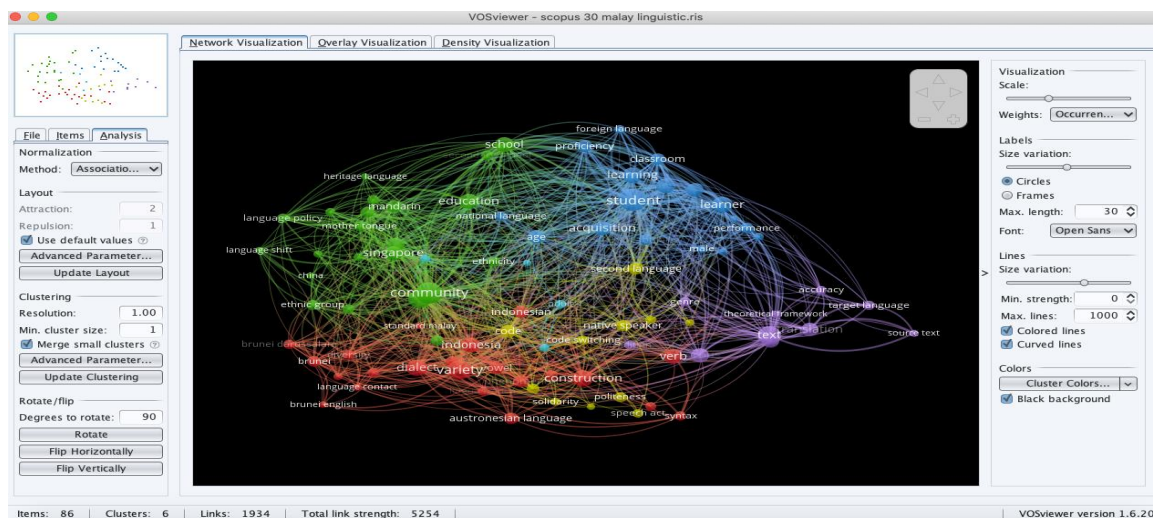


Figure 2. Vosviewer Network Visualisation



Figure 3. Vosviewer Density Visualization

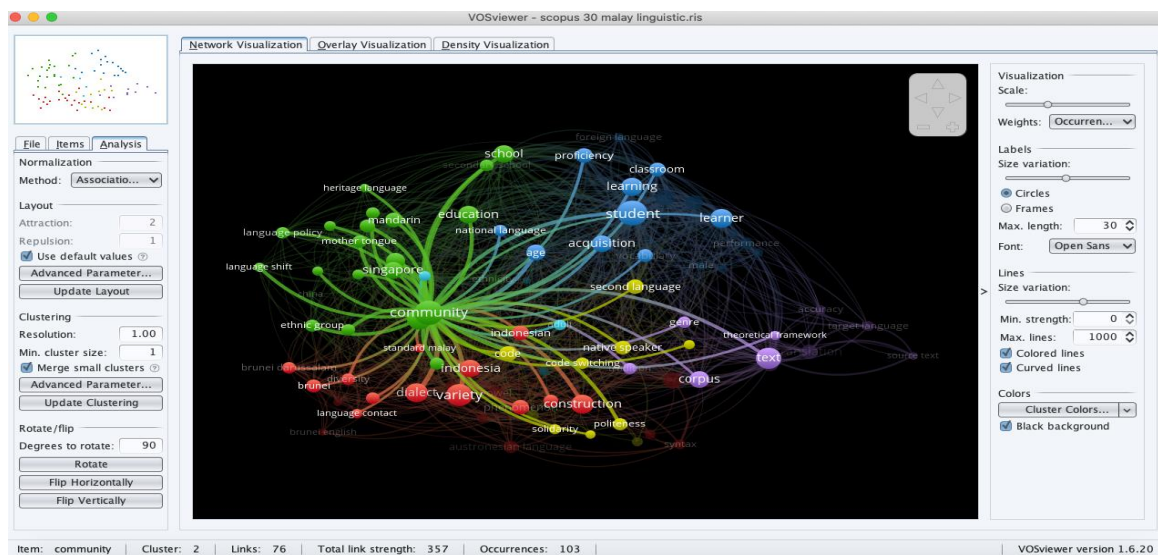


Figure 4. Vosviewer Network Visualization of the Keywords "Community"

Interestingly, the dataset also reveals themes specific to certain geographic regions, such as Brunei Darussalam (19) and Brunei (25), suggesting a focus on language-related issues unique to this area. Furthermore, the prominence of themes like Teaching (43), Teacher (52), and Classroom (29) underscores the importance of education and pedagogy within language studies research, highlighting the role of educators in shaping language acquisition and language use.

Additionally, the dataset reflects a growing interest in sociolinguistic themes such as Identity (71), Ethnicity (22), and Language Policy (19), indicating a shift toward understanding language about broader social, cultural, and political contexts. This reflects the evolving nature of language studies research, which increasingly seeks to explore the intersectionality of language with various aspects of identity and society.

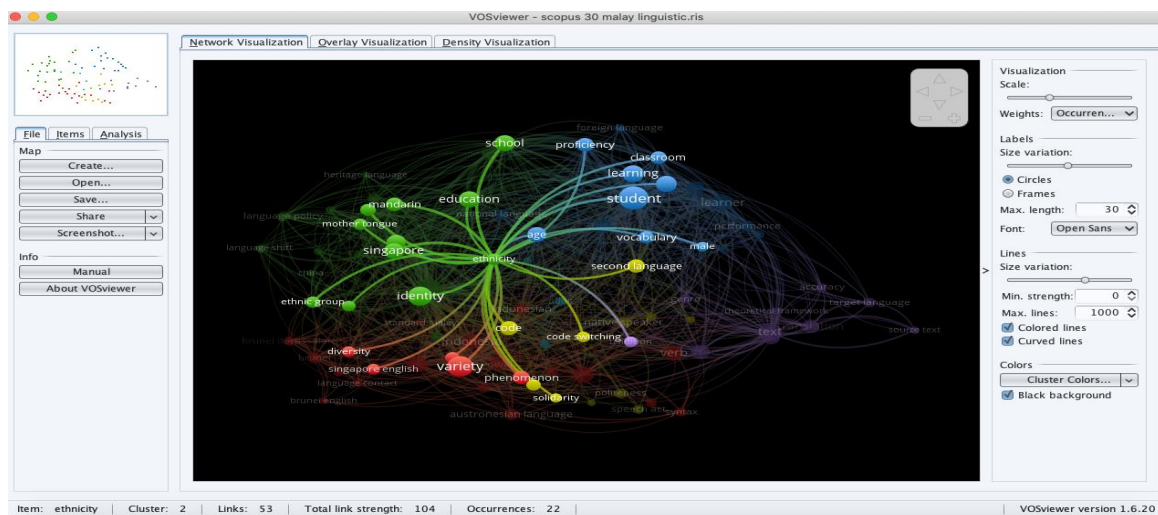


Figure 5. Vosviewer Network Visualization of the Keyword "Identity"

Moreover, the dataset highlights the methodological diversity within language studies research, with themes like Content Analysis (11), Critical Discourse Analysis (12), and Corpus (45) indicating the use of different analytical approaches to investigate linguistic phenomena. This methodological pluralism underscores the interdisciplinary nature of language studies and the importance of employing various tools and techniques to address complex research questions.

The study of Malay linguistics has uncovered some prevailing patterns that offer vital insights into the structure, usage, and evolution of language. The key themes encompass the examination of the Malay community, diverse dialects, and the Austronesian language. Each of these elements plays a crucial role in comprehending the cultural and societal dynamics of the Malay language. The research themes encompass a wide range of subjects, including second language acquisition, applied linguistics in teaching and learning, phonology, grammar, and pragmatics. These topics focus on exploring the intricacies of language. Furthermore, the inclusion of themes pertaining to particular physical places, such as Brunei Darussalam, as well as sociolinguistic subjects like identity and ethnicity highlights the interconnectedness of language with social and cultural contexts. The dataset demonstrates methodological diversity, incorporating approaches such as content analysis, critical discourse analysis, and corpus analysis. This highlights the interdisciplinary nature of Malay linguistic studies, as well as the extensive efforts made to understand the language's intricate details and broader linguistic context.

The Network of Authors in Malay Linguistics

Researchers in Malay linguistics are connected through a network of authors. This network reflects their connectivity and collaboration. The interconnected web of authors in Malay linguistics exemplifies a vibrant scholarly community deeply engaged in collaborative endeavours. This network serves as a testament to the collective pursuit of knowledge, where researchers from diverse backgrounds and institutions come together to advance the understanding of the Malay language and its multifaceted dimensions. These authors enrich the field through shared resources, collaborative projects, and academic exchanges, fostering a dynamic ecosystem of ideas and innovations.

The data provided offers insight into the distribution of research output across various authors in Malay linguistics. Jalaluddin emerges as the most prolific author with 22 documents, indicating a significant contribution to scholarly activity in Malay linguistics. Other authors, such as Salehuddin, Rahim, and Blust, also demonstrate

notable involvement with 16, 12, and 12 documents, respectively. Several authors contribute moderately, each with 7 to 11 papers. These include Jaafar, Abdullah, Aman, Deterding, McLellan, and Jaafar.

The data underscores the diverse range of authors actively engaged in Malay linguistics research. Collaboration and contributions from these authors enrich the discourse in the field and contribute to advancing knowledge in Malay linguistics. Additionally, it highlights the importance of individual scholars in driving research and generating insights within this domain. The data provides insights into the productivity and contributions of various authors in Malay linguistics. Notably, Jalaluddin emerges as a prolific author with 22 documents, indicating significant scholarly output and a leading role in the research community. Salehuddin, K. follows closely with 16 papers, suggesting substantial contributions to the field.

Table 7. Author Productivity in Malay Linguistics

Author	Documents	Author	Documents
Jalaluddin, N.H.	22	Jaafar, M.F.	8
Salehuddin, K.	16	Abdullah, I.H.	7
Blust, R.	12	Aman, I.	7
Rahim, H.A.	12	Cavallaro, F.	7
Aman, R.	11	Deterding, D.	7
Ahmad, Z.	9	Jaafar, S.R.S.	7
Awal, N.M.	9	McLellan, J.	7
Coluzzi, P.	9	Pillai, S.	7
David, M.K.	9	Seong, G.S.	7
Jaludin, A.	9	Sharbawi, S.	7
Maros, M.	9	Ting, S.H.	7
Shahidi, A.H.	9	Vaish, V.	7
Cole, P.	8	Zainudin, I.S.	7
Hermon, G.	8		

However, the distribution of documents among other authors appears more evenly spread, with several authors each contributing 7 or 8 papers. This suggests a diverse range of researchers actively engaged in Malay linguistics research, each making notable but perhaps more modest contributions to the field. It is interesting to note the presence of both local and international authors in the dataset, indicating a global interest and involvement in Malay linguistics research. This diversity of authorship enriches the field by bringing different perspectives, methodologies, and areas of expertise to table 7.

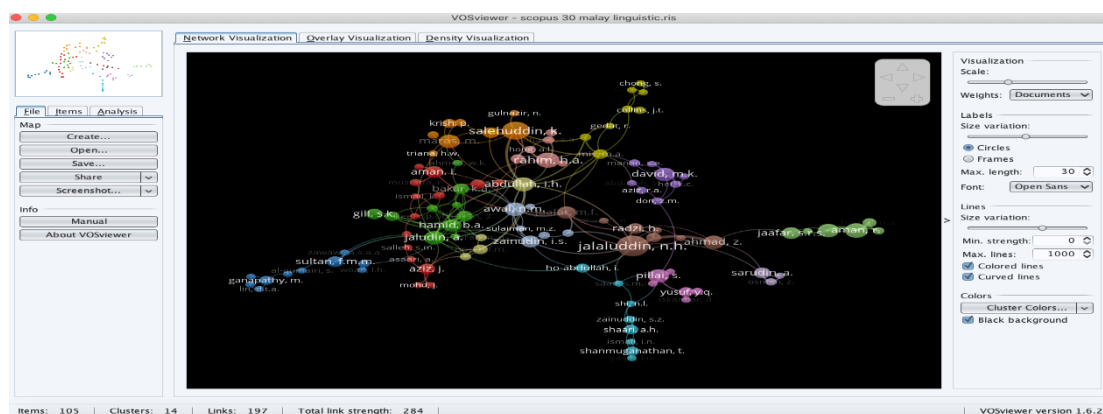


Figure 6. Vosviewer Network Visualization of the Author Network



Figure 7. Vosviewer Network Visualization of the Jalaluddin Network

The research output in Malay linguistics across various academic affiliations. Leading the list, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia demonstrates significant scholarly activity with 204 documents, followed by Universiti Malaya with 85 papers, indicating a strong research presence in this field. Other Malaysian institutions, such as Universiti Sains Malaysia (60 documents) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (50 papers), also contribute substantially to the body of knowledge in Malay linguistics. Beyond Malaysia, the National University of Singapore is a prominent contributor with 45 documents, suggesting a notable interest and expertise in Malay linguistics. Furthermore, international institutions like Nanyang Technological University (36 papers) and Universiteit Leiden (28 documents) display considerable engagement in the field. Interestingly, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (40 papers) and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (11 documents) showcase Brunei's active participation in Malay linguistics research.

Table 8. *Academic Affiliation*

Affiliation	Documents
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	204
Universiti Malaya	85
Universiti Sains Malaysia	60
Universiti Putra Malaysia	50
National University of Singapore	45
Universiti Brunei Darussalam	40
Nanyang Technological University	36
Universiti Teknologi MARA	30
Universiteit Leiden	28
National Institute of Education	26
The Australian National University	24
Universiti Utara Malaysia	22
University of Melbourne	19
International Islamic University Malaysia	17
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak	17
School of Humanities	11
Radboud Universiteit	10

The data highlights diverse academic affiliations in advancing the understanding of Malay linguistics. It underscores the collaborative efforts among institutions within and outside the Malay-speaking region, emphasizing the global significance of Malay language research. Such collaborations facilitate the exchange of ideas, methodologies, and expertise, ultimately enriching the discourse and expanding the scope of Malay linguistics research globally. Interestingly, the data also reflects international collaboration and engagement, with institutions such as the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the National University of Singapore, and Monash University making significant contributions to Malay linguistics research. This underscores the global interest and involvement in studying the Malay language and its linguistic aspects.

However, there is a noticeable variation in research output among institutions, with some contributing significantly fewer documents than others. This could be due to institutional resources, research priorities, and academic culture. Moreover, among the top contributors, international institutions highlight the interdisciplinary nature of Malay linguistics research, which intersects with fields such as anthropology and education. The data provides valuable insights into the institutional landscape of Malay linguistics research, emphasizing the leading role of Malaysian universities while highlighting the diverse range of institutions contributing to advancing knowledge in this field globally.

Table 9. The Contribution of Authors by Country

Country/Territory	Documents
Malaysia	456
Singapore	87
Australia	71
Indonesia	49
Brunei Darussalam	40
United States	21

Table 9 provides a comprehensive overview of the global landscape of Malay linguistics research. It sheds light on the contributions of various countries to the field. Malaysia has emerged as the frontrunner with 456 documents, which reflects its robust academic community and deep-seated interest in exploring the intricacies of the Malay language. This dominance highlights Malaysia's pivotal role in shaping scholarly discourse and advancing knowledge within the field. Singapore's contribution of 87 documents is noteworthy, considering its smaller size relative to Malaysia. It indicates commendable research output and active engagement in Malay linguistics research. Similarly, Australia's 71 documents demonstrate moderate involvement in the field, reflecting a sustained interest in understanding the complexities of the Malay language and its sociolinguistic variations. Indonesia's 49 documents highlight its significant contribution to Malay linguistics research, showcasing its rich linguistic heritage and scholarly endeavors. Similarly, Brunei Darussalam's 40 documents underscore the active academic community within the country, dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of the Malay language.

The network of Malay linguistics authors demonstrates a dynamic and cooperative scholarly community. Researchers from a variety of disciplines and institutions contribute to the field's advancement through broad collaboration and networking. The participation of both local and international authors enhances the research environment, introducing a wide range of viewpoints and specialised knowledge. This cooperative setting promotes the sharing of resources, intellectual interactions, and the development of new ideas. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Malaya have a strong research presence,

with significant contributions from international universities. This network highlights the worldwide involvement and cross-disciplinary character of research on the Malay language, enriching the field's depth and propelling its ongoing development.

CONCLUSION

This study presents the status quo of Malay linguistic studies in the last two decades. Our findings showed that such studies are increasingly being published in leading linguistics journals and cross-disciplinary ones involving linguistics and Malay communities, dialect variations, identity, language structure, and applied linguistics (teaching and learning processes). The article was the most frequent document type, followed by reviews, book chapters, conference papers, and books. The study identified qualitative methods as the most used in pragmatics analysis, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, ethnography communication analysis, and acoustic analysis. A quantitative method was applied for corpus analysis, and mixed methods were used for applied linguistics related to language teaching. Although the study themes have remained consistent, expanding publication venues and author networks indicates positive growth. The interconnected author networks and diverse publication venues underscore the vibrant research landscape in Malay linguistics, emphasizing its significance and potential for further advancement.

RECOMMENDATION

There are also some limitations to the current study. For instance, the study only retrieved articles published in the Scopus database, and the keywords only focused on Malay linguistics. Future research may include additional databases, such as the Web of Science and other indexing databases. In addition, the reviewed aspects of Malay linguistics, research methods, research themes, and author networking are worth exploring in greater depth in future research in the specific area.

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