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Subject mapping of Punjabi language books: a bibliometric study

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The study presents the subject analysis of Punjabi language books written in 'Gurmukhi' script from 2004-2013 covering different fields of arts and humanities, social sciences, science, engineering, and technology. The distribution of major subjects and their subdivisions were based on the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) 22nd edition. The information centres, and academic institutions such as universities from the different parts of Northern India, having a good collection of Punjabi language books were the focus for data collection. The Punjabi language books publishers and several websites/resources were also consulted to get the required information. A total number of 7997 Punjabi books on different subjects published during the period 2004-2013 have been studied. The largest number of books in Punjabi [5587 (69.9%)] is published in the field of literature.

Subject analysis, decadal growth, analysis of books translations from different Indic and foreign languages to the Punjabi language are also included in the study. A growth rate of 29.37% in the publication of Punjabi books is seen during the decade.

Keywords: Punjabi publications; Subject trends; Bibliometrics; Decadal growth; Punjabi language.

Introduction

India is known all over the world for its multicultural, multilingual, multi-religion and multi-socio-economic fabric. People in various parts of India communicate in more than one language¹. Twenty-two languages, i.e., Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri, Kannada, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu are included in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution. India has a total of 122 significant languages and 1599 other languages². Punjabi is a north Indian language and mainly spoken in the area of Punjab. It is one of the few languages that is written in more than one script, i.e., Shahmukhi and Gurmukhi. To write Punjabi, Shahmukhi script used in West Punjab of Pakistan whereas Gurmukhi is the most extensively used script in Indian East Punjab. Other than the Indian subcontinent, Punjabi is also generally spoken in the United Kingdom, USA, Pakistan and Canada, making it the thirteenth broadly communicated language in the world³.

Published in 1811 by Dr William Carey at Serampore in the West Bengal, a translation of the 'The Bible' was the first book in 'Gurmukhi' script⁴. In 1835, the Christian Mission of Ludhiana began publishing in Punjabi with the motive of spreading

Christianity⁵. In 1854, R J Newton first published the Punjabi dictionary in 'Gurmukhi' and Roman script which was considered premium work in the Punjabi language and publishing⁶. Since those times, there is a considerable incremental growth of Punjabi language books. Today, Punjabi literature exists on different subjects. The eminent awards such as 'Sahitya Akademi', 'Gyan Peeth' and 'Padma Shri' have been conferred to some distinguished Punjabi writers. To know the output of various disciplines and publishing patterns in Punjabi language (Gurmukhi Script) books, the study has been undertaken for ten years (2004-2013).

Review of literature

There are a few studies on books published in Indian languages including the creation of bibliographies. A comprehensive bibliography on studies in the Hindi language was constructed by Verma⁷ which indexed important studies in Hindi published in Indian and Foreign languages from the earliest times to the end of the last century. The status of scientific literature being published in the Punjabi language was identified by Kaur and Kalra⁸. They described the role of various agencies such as Commission of Scientific and Technical Terminology, Government of India; the Language Department, Government of Punjab; Punjab

Agriculture University, Punjabi University, Patiala and Punjab State Council for Science and Technology for publication of scientific literature. Further, they discussed the role of leading Punjabi newspapers and some Internet resources for science articles' publication in Punjabi.

Paul⁹ presented the bibliographic control of 12130 Bengali publications and role of Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. Koley and Sen¹⁰ reviewed 49 books of Prof. C N R Rao, published from 1960 to 2013. They found that most numbers of books published in physical chemistry and 18 books have been translated into Russian, Chinese, Hindi and Kannada Spanish, Polish, Japanese, Thai, Mongolian and Swedish languages.

Ray and Sen¹¹ studied publication productivity of Rabindranath Tagore, the Nobel Laureate poet of India. They analyzed 199 Bengali books authored by Tagore during 1878-1941 and 36 titles published posthumously.

The first Malayalam press in Kerala was set up by Benjamin Bailey, which paved the way for the publication of Malayalam books and the first book printed in Kerala was the *Doctrina Christa* printed at Kollam in 1578¹². Chander and Singh¹³ carried out a study of 272 (1957-2015) Punjabi books published by Sahitya Akademi, Delhi. It revealed that the most number of, i.e., 22.42% books published on subjects such as Hindi literature followed by Punjabi (16.18%), English (11.76%), and Bengali (8.08%) literature and so on. It found that 74.26% translated works, from different languages to Punjabi have been published by Sahitya Akademi during the given period.

From the literature review, it is found that there is no comprehensive study on books in Gurmukhi, and this study fills that gap.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the growth of Punjabi language books on different subjects published during 2004-2013;
- To identify the subject-wise distribution of Punjabi language books;
- To find out translated books in Punjabi (Gurmukhi) language form Indic and Foreign languages; and
- To identify major translators of Punjabi language books.

Methodology

The present study is based on subject analysis of Punjabi language books published in 'Gurmukhi Script' from 2004 to 2013 covering all the disciplines.

In order to maintain the uniformity and consistency of the division of the subject and sub-subjects, the classification of books is based on the 22nd edition of 'Dewey Decimal Classification' (DDC). The subject headings given in the present study are determined on the basis of ten main classes and subdivisions of DDC. For the data collection, the major centres of Punjabi collection from Northern India were visited. These include, Punjabi Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi, Punjabi Academy, Delhi, Central Reference Library, University of Delhi, Delhi, National Book Trust, Delhi, Punjabi Sahit Academy, Chandigarh, A.C. Joshi Library, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Punjabi Sahit Academy, Haryana, Central Library, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Punjabi Sahit Academy, Ludhiana, Bhasha Vibhag, Patiala, Punjab, Bhai Ganda Singh Library, Punjabi University, Patiala, and Bhai Gurdas Library, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. The leading publishers of Punjabi books also visited during the research, and some web resources like sikhbookclub.com, vidhiya.com, apnaorg.com, punjablibrary.com, panjabdigilib.org, punjabipedia.org, kitaban.com, punjabipoetry.net, and unistarbooks.com were consulted to gather the required information.

Analysis

Distribution of Punjabi books

The numbers of books published in the Punjabi language on various subjects during the period of ten years from 2004 to 2013 have been segregated in accordance with DDC, (22nd edition). Table 1 shows the subject-wise distribution of Punjabi language books. It is seen that books on religion, language, literature, history and geography subjects are published continually every year. The greatest numbers of books were published in the field of literature. It is also observed that books on generalities were published regularly except the year 2009. The books published on disciplines like computer science, information & general works, philosophy, social sciences, sciences, technology and arts are very less in numbers than other major subjects. This might be so because the medium of instruction of technical subjects is largely in the English language. From 732 books in 2004 to 947 books in 2013, there has been a 29.37% growth of Punjabi books.

Books translated from Indian languages to Punjabi

It is observed that 513 out of the 7997 books have been translated into Punjabi from 34 different national and international languages over the period of ten

Table 1 — Subject-wise distribution of Punjabi books

Years	Major Subject Categories										Total No. of books
	Computer Science, Information & General Works	Philosophy & Psychology	Religion	Social Sciences	Language	Science	Technology	Arts & Recreation	Literature	History & Geography	
2004	8 (9.76%)	13 (13.68%)	121 (12.05%)	39 (8.84%)	10 (10%)	9 (11.40%)	20 (19.80%)	9 (15.2%)	457 (8.18%)	46 (12.01%)	732
2005	6 (7.31%)	11 (11.58%)	90 (8.96%)	33 (7.49%)	5 (5%)	5 (5.06%)	4 (3.96%)	15 (12%)	494 (8.85%)	40 (10.44%)	703
2006	9 (10.98%)	3 (3.16%)	92 (9.16%)	39 (8.84%)	7 (7%)	4 (5.06%)	13 (12.87%)	5 (4%)	507 (9.08%)	31 (8.09%)	710
2007	10 (12.19%)	5 (5.26%)	115 (11.45%)	39 (8.84%)	7 (7%)	10 (12.66%)	5 (4.96%)	5 (4%)	508 (9.09%)	40 (10.44%)	744
2008	7 (8.54%)	9 (9.47%)	113 (11.25%)	36 (8.16%)	8 (8%)	4 (5.06%)	4 (3.96%)	15 (12%)	476 (8.52%)	44 (11.49%)	716
2009	-	7 (7.37%)	105 (10.46%)	52 (11.79%)	15 (15%)	1 (1.27%)	5 (4.96%)	17 (13.6%)	580 (10.38%)	37 (9.66%)	819
2010	9 (10.98%)	3 (3.16%)	97 (9.66%)	46 (10.43%)	6 (6%)	4 (5.06%)	9 (8.91%)	12 (9.6%)	626 (11.20%)	32 (0.57%)	844
2011	5 (6.09%)	6 (6.32%)	97 (9.66%)	47 (10.66%)	17 (17%)	13 (16.46%)	12 (11.88%)	19 (15.2%)	685 (12.26%)	37 (9.66%)	938
2012	13 (15.85%)	13 (13.68%)	94 (9.36%)	62 (14.06%)	12 (12%)	10 (12.66%)	10 (9.90%)	17 (13.6%)	588 (10.52%)	25 (6.53%)	844
2013	15 (18.29%)	25 (26.32%)	80 (7.97%)	48 (10.88%)	13 (13%)	19 (24.05%)	19 (18.81%)	11 (8.8%)	666 (11.92%)	51 (13.32%)	947
Total (%)	82 (1%)	95 (1.02%)	1004 (12.6%)	441 (5.5%)	100 (1.3%)	79 (1%)	101 (1.3%)	125 (1.6%)	5587 (69.9%)	383 (4.8%)	7997 (100%)

Table 2 — Books translated from Indian Languages to Punjabi

Language (From)	Year of publication										Total	Percentage (%)
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
Hindi	19	12	20	18	13	16	18	15	16	23	170	58.82
Urdu	7	6	8	5	4	5	3	7	5	8	58	20.06
Bengali	1	-	1	-	1	1	11	2	1	1	19	6.58
Sanskrit	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	2	2	1	10	3.46
Kannada	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	1	07	2.42
Oriya	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	06	2.07
Tamil	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	03	1.04
Konkani	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	03	1.04
Marathi	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	03	1.04
Assamese	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	02	0.69
Rajasthani	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	02	0.69
Malayalam	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	02	0.69
Kashmiri	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.35
Maithili	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.35
Dogri	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.35
Telugu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	01	0.35
Total	30	20	31	27	20	24	38	34	27	38	289	100
Percentage	10.38	6.92	10.73	9.34	6.92	8.30	13.15	11.76	9.34	13.15		

years, i.e. 2004-2013. Out of these 513 books, 289 books have been translated from 16 Indian languages into Punjabi. The highest numbers that are 170 (58.82%) books have been translated from the *Hindi* language, followed by 58 (20.06%) books translated from *Urdu* and 19 (6.58%) books translated from *Bengali* to the Punjabi language. There are ten books that have been translated from *Sanskrit*, followed by seven books from *Kannada*, six books from *Oriya*, three books each from *Marathi*, *Konkani* and *Tamil*, and two books each translated from *Assamese*, *Rajasthani* and *Malayalam* to the Punjabi language. One book each is translated into Punjabi from *Kashmiri*, *Maithili*, *Telugu* and *Dogri* languages. The largest numbers of 38 (13.15%) books each were translated in 2013 and 2010 and minimum numbers of 20 (6.92%) translated books published during the year 2008 and 2005.

Books translated from foreign languages to Punjabi

Table 3 shows that a total of 224 books have been translated from 18 foreign languages to Punjabi during the ten years. The maximum numbers of books that is 174 (77.67%) have been translated from the *English* language followed by *Russian* 12 (5.35%), *Persian* 7

(3.12%), *French* and *Shahmukhi* with 5 (2.23%) books each, 4 (1.78%) books from *Arabic*, 3 (1.34%) books each from *Chinese* and *Japanese* and 2 (0.89%) books translated from *Spanish* to the Punjabi language. One book each is translated into Punjabi from *Italian*, *Portuguese*, *Hebrew*, *African*, *Vietnamese*, *German*, *Uzbek*, *Korean* and *Palestine* languages. The most number of 31 (13.84%) books were translated from foreign languages to Punjabi were published in the year 2013, followed by the year 2005 with 30 (13.39%) books, and 26 (11.61%) books each in the year 2012 and 2006. The least amount of 13 (5.81%) books translated from foreign languages to Punjabi published in the year 2009.

Major translators

The highest number of 30 books were translated into the Punjabi language by the Surjit Haans followed by Baldev Singh Badan (18 books), Achroo Singh (14 books), Karminder Singh (12 books) and Jaswinder Kaur Bindra (11 books).

Subjects and number of pages of the books

Out of the total number of 7997 books, the highest numbers of books 5587 (69.9%) are published on literature, followed by books on religion [1004 (12.6%)].

Table 3 — Books translated from foreign languages to Punjabi

Language (From)	Year of publication										Total	Percentage (%)
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
English	9	20	19	21	14	8	13	22	23	25	174	77.67
Russian	-	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	-	-	12	5.35
Persian	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	07	3.12
Shahmukhi	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	05	2.23
French	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	05	2.23
Arabic	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	04	1.78
Chinese	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	03	1.34
Japanese	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	03	1.34
Spanish	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	02	0.89
Italian	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.45
Portuguese	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.45
Hebrew	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.45
African	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.45
Vietnamese	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	0.45
German	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	01	0.45
Uzbek	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	01	0.45
Korean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	01	0.45
Palestine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	01	0.45
Total	16	30	26	25	16	13	16	25	26	31	224	100
Percentage	7.14	13.39	11.61	11.16	7.14	5.81	7.14	11.16	11.61	13.84		100 (%)

Table 4 — Subject-wise distribution of Punjabi books by number of pages

Major Subjects	Categories of pages											Total (%)
	<100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-600	601-700	701-800	801-900	901-100	>1000	
Computer Science, Information & General Works	10 (0.53%)	35 (0.82%)	24 (2.21%)	8 (2.07%)	4 (2.61%)	-	-	1 (4.54%)	-	-	-	82 (1%)
Philosophy and Psychology	17 (0.90%)	53 (1.24%)	17 (1.57%)	8 (2.07%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95 (1.2%)
Religion	136 (7.17%)	493 (11.54%)	188 (17.33%)	74 (19.17%)	42 (27.45%)	34 (37.77%)	18 (36%)	5 (22.73%)	7 (33.33%)	4 (26.66%)	3 (37.5%)	1004 (12.6%)
Social Sciences	46 (2.43%)	225 (5.27%)	82 (7.56%)	34 (8.80%)	13 (8.50%)	13 (14.44%)	7 (14%)	5 (22.73%)	8 (38.09%)	6 (40%)	2 (25%)	441 (5.5%)
Language	7 (0.37%)	45 (1.05%)	28 (2.588%)	12 (3.10%)	4 (2.61%)	1 (1.11%)	2 (4%)	-	-	-	1 (12.5%)	100 (1.3%)
Science	24 (1.27%)	40 (0.94%)	10 (0.92%)	4 (1.04%)	-	-	-	-	1 (4.76%)	-	-	79 (1%)
Technology	26 (1.37%)	54 (1.26%)	13 (1.20%)	5 (1.29%)	1 (0.65%)	0	0	1 (4.54)	-	1 (6.66%)	-	101 (1.3%)
Arts & Recreation	24 (1.27%)	67 (1.57%)	21 (1.93%)	9 (2.33%)	4 (2.61%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	125 (1.6%)
Literature	1531 (80.74%)	3089 (72.32%)	625 (57.60%)	200 (51.81%)	68 (44.44%)	36 (40%)	20 (40%)	10 (45.45%)	5 (23.80%)	1 (6.66%)	2 (25%)	5587 (69.9%)
History & Geography	75 (3.96%)	170 (3.98%)	77 (7.09%)	32 (8.29%)	17 (11.11%)	6 (6.66%)	3 (6%)	0	-	3 (20%)	-	383 (4.8%)
Total	1896 (23.70%)	4271 (53.40%)	1085 (13.57%)	386 (4.82%)	153 (1.91%)	90 (1.12%)	50 (0.62%)	22 (0.27%)	21 (0.26%)	15 (0.19%)	08 (0.10%)	7997 (100%)

Table 4 shows that ten subject areas that the 7997 books belong to, more than eighty per cent (82.5%) books are published on literature and religion. The rest of the books are published in the areas of social sciences, history and geography, arts and recreation, technology, philosophy and psychology, computer science, information and general works, and sciences.

Table 4 also shows that maximum numbers of 4271 (53.40%) books have 101 to 200 pages.

Conclusions

Although bibliometric studies on articles are common, studies on books in specific languages are rare. The growth of books in the language can be considered as an indicator of the growing popularity of the language which in turn can be attributed to the spread of Punjabi people across the world. It is seen that the Punjabi language books are more on the subjects of literature and religion and books on science are very few. There is a need to formulate an integrated policy to promote publishing of scientific literature in Punjabi, and further efforts are needed for bibliographic control of the publications of different Indian languages.

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