


Trends in global literary studies: Mapping using Open Access (OA) journals database

Tren dalam studi sastra global: Pemetaan menggunakan database jurnal *Open Access* (OA)

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ABSTRACT

Currently, the study of journal mapping is in great demand by researchers from various disciplines, one of which is the literary discipline. Mapping literary research allows for the presentation of statistics on literary research that is currently trending or less desirable. This study aims to map trends in literature studies globally from 2015 to 2019. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative with interpretive-narrative techniques. The data used in this study were international journal literature category with Open Access (OA) criteria obtained from the ScimagoJR database. The data used are 10 literary journals in the Open Access category. The data were collected using documentation technique. Data analysis techniques in this study include identification, classification, reduction, analysis, presentation, mapping, and conclusions. The results showed that the trend of literary research in the Open Access database changes every year. In the 2015-2019 period, trends in literary studies that were found include philosophy, translation, feminism, anthropology, and interdisciplinary studies. The conclusion shows that the highest ranking of literature studies in the Open Access database is translation.

KATA KUNCI

database,
sastra,
open acces,
pemetaan

ABSTRAK

Saat ini studi mengenai pemetaan jurnal sangat diminati oleh peneliti dari berbagai disiplin, salah satunya adalah disiplin sastra. Melalui pemetaan penelitian sastra dapat diketahui penelitian sastra yang saat ini tren ataupun penelitian sastra yang kurang diminati. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memetakan tren studi sastra secara global mulai tahun 2015 hingga 2019. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik interpretatif-naratif. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah jurnal internasional kategori sastra dengan kriteria *Open Access* (OA) yang diperoleh dari database ScimagoJR. Data yang digunakan adalah 10 jurnal sastra kategori *Open Access*. Teknik pengumpulan data dilakukan secara dokumentatif. Teknik analisis data dalam penelitian ini meliputi identifikasi, klasifikasi, reduksi, analisis, penyajian, pemetaan, dan simpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tren penelitian sastra dalam database *Open Access* mengalami perubahan setiap tahun. Dalam kurun waktu tahun 2015-2019 ditemukan tren studi sastra, yaitu filsafat, penerjemahan, feminisme, antropologi, dan interdisipliner. Kesimpulannya menunjukkan bahwa peringkat tertinggi studi sastra dalam basis data *Open Access* adalah penerjemahan.

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Introduction

Literature as a field of study can be viewed from a monodisciplinary perspective, such as philosophy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, feminism, rhetorics, stylistics, and religion. In its current development, literature has also been studied as an interdisciplinary study, for example, eco-criticism (Glenn, 1993), environmental psychology (Ahmadi, 2017a), masculinity (Ladele, 2010) animal studies (Borgards, 2015), sea/maritime studies (Glynn, 2017), critical discourse analysis (Simeon-Jones, 2010), postcolonial (Ashcroft, Griffith, & Tiffi, 2007), narrative studies (Hatavara, 2016), historiography (Wolff, 2014), gastronomy (Iomaire & Maher, 2014), ecopsychology (Ahmadi, 2017b, 2019a, 2019b; Ahmadi et al., 2019), and therapy and treatment (Charon et al., 1995). The inclusion of interdisciplinary studies in the literature shows that literature is seen as a result of the author's creative process to provide an essential contribution to other scientific fields (Nancy, 2013). In this regard, literature as a result of the creative process is not only aesthetic, but also contribute to providing "alternatives" in science (Bjork, 2018; Fallon, 2018; Dawson & Shuttleworth, 2003, Drury, 2017, Amigony, 2017) that help humans find newness in technology. Literature is therefore not only considered a pseudo-scientific study, but is also capable of providing breakthroughs in scientific studies

Literary studies in both monodisciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts are currently developing rapidly and appearing in the form of criticism, namely literary criticism book, journal article, research, thesis, dissertation, and literary magazine article. Literary studies are currently growing rapidly along with technological advances, including the emergence of online literature, online journal, and online literary studies uploaded on the internet. In addition, this was coupled with the emergence of online indexing machines. The machine allows literary researchers to access the enormous data on the literary studies on the internet, whether paid or free or open access data. Due to the number, it is categorised as big data in literature (Ferrer, 2015), be it classical literature, modern literature, or digital literature, all of which can be accessed on the internet. The use of database in literary studies makes it easier for literary researchers to promote and disseminate the results of the conducted research. Researchers no longer have to struggle to conduct direct dissemination, for example through conferences, to promote their findings. Researchers only need to send their research articles to reputable international journals. However, the submission process requires a selection because the publication of articles in reputable journals is competitive. Furthermore, the use of literary database keeps researchers updated about the latest development related to the study of literature in various countries.

As we know, research on the issue trends in literary studies is still rare. Based on the author's observations, research that discusses trends in literary studies cover mapping studies in geographic literature (Piatti et al., 2008), marine literature (Yamashiro, 2014), environmental destruction literature (Bolt, 2015), feminism literature (Halířová, 2016) and animal literature (Barcz, 2013). Philips (2011) extensively researched and mapped pilgrimage literature in Britain. Kim (2018) conducted an initial mapping study related to theology in Chinese literature. Thomsen (2019) mapped world literature through the perspective of canon literature and transnational literature. Müller and Lambrecht (2013) researched and mapped

German literature through historical contexts. All of these studies are interesting because they attempted to map literary research trends in the context of geography, the sea, environmental destruction, feminism, animal, pilgrimage, history, and theology.

Unfortunately, regarding the global study of literature, researchers have never conducted mapping on the trend of issues specifically those published between 2015 and 2019. In fact, the mapping of issue trends in literary studies is urgent since the mapping has the function (1) to find out about the latest trends in literary studies in an international context; (2) to add insight into the study of literature which is currently a trend; (3) in education context, the results of mapping literary studies are very important for students' understanding in relation to the latest critical approaches; and (4) to provide materials for further research in comparative studies, for example between western literature and Eastern literature. In addition, this research also explores the massive amount of the literary resonance in the global scale. Therefore, this study aims to map the issues and trends in literary studies emerging in the span of 2015-2019 by analysing the open access data in ScimagoJR website to provide an overview of the spread of literary studies in the ScimagoJR academic database.

Method

This research uses the descriptive-qualitative method since it uses more descriptive and expressive data presentation (Mills, 2018) which is stronger in the context of empirical phenomena than quantification (Cunningham et al., 2013). The descriptive-qualitative method is characterized by “the classification and interpretation of linguistic material to make statements about implicit and explicit dimensions” (Flick, 2013) and interpretation (Creswell, 2017). In this study, an electronic database was used, namely ScimagoJR which is an open and free electronic-academic database as well an easily accessible site to academics (Falagas, 2008). The data used were in the form of words, phrases, sentences related to major literary studies: philosophy, psychology, sociology, and anthropology. The data were then coupled with the data from interdisciplinary literature studies, namely ecocriticism, critical discourse analysis, postcolonialism, masculinity, translation, and femininity. Qualitative data collection techniques were carried out through literature or documentation studies related to global literary studies through ScimagoJR. The data analysis technique was carried out using successive flow stages, namely (1) identification of data relevant to the study of global literature; (2) classification of data relevant to the study of global literature; (3) reduction of data relevant to the study of global literature; (4) the selection of the main data as the selected data used in the study; (5) exposure of research findings; and (5) data verification. The specific data for the analysis were obtained from literary studies in open access journal of ScimagoJR ranging from 2015 to 2019. Since the data obtained from ScimagoJR are categorized as international journals, they belong to authoritative literary data.

In order to maintain the scientific levels, the data and instruments were validated simultaneously (Zohrabi, 2013). In addition, the “credibility, dependability, conformability, transferability, and authenticity” of this study were also maintained so that the research results could be theoretically and methodologically accountable (Elo

et al., 2014). For the validity of the data, data triangulation, theory triangulation, and methodology triangulation were used so that conformity findings can be obtained (Yeasmin & Rahman, 2012). In addition, researchers also conducted internal and external validity checks (Creswell & Plano, 2018). For internal validity, the researcher crosschecked the data simultaneously. As for external validity, the researcher discussed the research findings with experts in the field of literature.

Journals in this research are English journals found in ScimagoJR (open access). While the non-English-language journals were not used in this study on the grounds of: (1) the author's limitation related to the language comprehension; (2) journals in English are used more as a reference since English is an international language that is widely used by people in various countries as a language of science; and (3) literary journals in English are considered better in terms of academic reputation.

The chosen literary journals as the source of data used in this study include (1) *Literature and Literary Theory*, (2) *International Journal of English Studies*, (3) *Translations and Interpreting*, (4) *Gema Online, Journal of Literary Studies*, (5) *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, (6) *Kemanusiaan*, (7) *Nordic Journal of English Studies*, *Brno Studies in English*, *Humanities Dilman*, (8) *Skase Journal of Translation and Interpretation*, (9) *Kritika Kultura*, and (10) *Multicultural Shakespeare*. The ten journals are open access journals found on SJR (<https://www.scimagojr.com>) and categorized in quartile 1, quartile 2, quartile 3, and quartile 4.

Results

The mapping of literary studies is not much different from the mapping of other studies, sometimes it changes according to the times. Therefore, Cadera and Walsh (2017) show that the periodization of times determines the development of literature and global literary trends. Developments in literary research are indeed dynamic. At one time, research on sociology of literature became a trend. But, at one time also, the trend of sociology has declined because it was replaced by other literary research trends, such as anthropology. This shows the dynamics in the study of literature that is always changing every year along with trends in the context of society. If there is a current trend regarding interdisciplinary studies in literature, this is because research trends are indeed leading to interdisciplinary studies. It is this development in literary research that is very important to be mapped so that people can know the current literary trends.

The trends of literary research issues ranging from 2015 to 2019 were related to major literary studies, namely history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and anthropology (Wellek & Warren, 1956). In addition to those five trends, in this study, there are five additional literary trends related to feminism, semiotics, religion, interdisciplinary, and translation. The trend is certainly very volatile because every year it certainly changes according to the conditions and developments of the times. Therefore, literary research is determined by a condition of the times. Thus, the times affect literature and also the themes contained in literature.

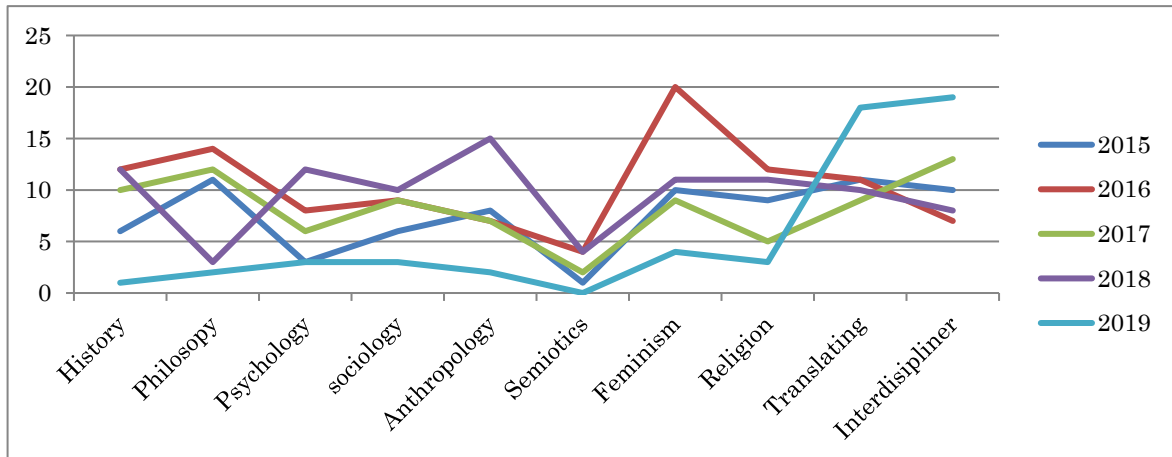


Figure 1. The Database of Literary Study Trends, 2015-2019

Based on Figure 1, the highest trend of literary studies in 2015 was philosophy and translation which amounted to 11 studies, while feminism and interdisciplinary studies ranked second with 10 studies. In the third place, there was religion with 9 studies, followed by anthropology with 8 studies in the fourth place. Following anthropology, sociology ranked fifth with 6 studies. Meanwhile, psychology was in the sixth place with 3 studies and followed by semiotics in the last place. Based on Figure 1, the 2016 literary research trends are far different from the previous year. In 2016, feminism ranked first with 20 studies. While interdisciplinary stayed occupied the second place with 17 studies. The third and fourth place were occupied by philosophy with 14 studies and religion with 12 studies respectively. Translating fell into the fifth place since only 11 studies belonged to this category. Sociology placed sixth with 14 studies and followed by psychology with 8 studies. The eighth place was occupied by anthropology with 7 studies and semiotics stayed in the last place with 4 studies.

Figure 1 shows the 2017 literary study trends with interdisciplinary studies, amounting to of 13 studies, claiming the highest result. The second place was occupied by philosophy with 12 studies and followed by history with 10 studies in the third place. Whereas sociology, feminism, and translation had the same number of studies (9 studies) and placed fourth. The fifth and sixth were occupied by anthropology and religion with 6 and 5 studies respectively. However, semiotics ranked the last with only 2 studies. Figure 1 also presents the literary study trends in 2018 in which anthropology led the trends with 15 studies. Meanwhile, psychology and history placed second with 12 studies and followed by semiotics, psychology, and feminism with 11 studies in the third place. The last two places were occupied by interdisciplinary studies philosophy with 8 and 3 studies respectively.

In 2019, the figure shows that translation led in the first rank, making a comeback with 18 studies. Following translating, feminism placed second with 4 studies and psychology along with sociology and religion placed third with 3 studies. The fourth place was occupied by interdisciplinary with 9 studies and the fifth by philosophy and anthropology with 8 studies. Philosophy with 3 studies placed the last followed by history and semiotics with only 1 study.

Those literary studies have different fluctuations in one-year period. This is a dynamism in literary studies. When visualized, the dynamism of literary studies based on international database appears in the following Figure.

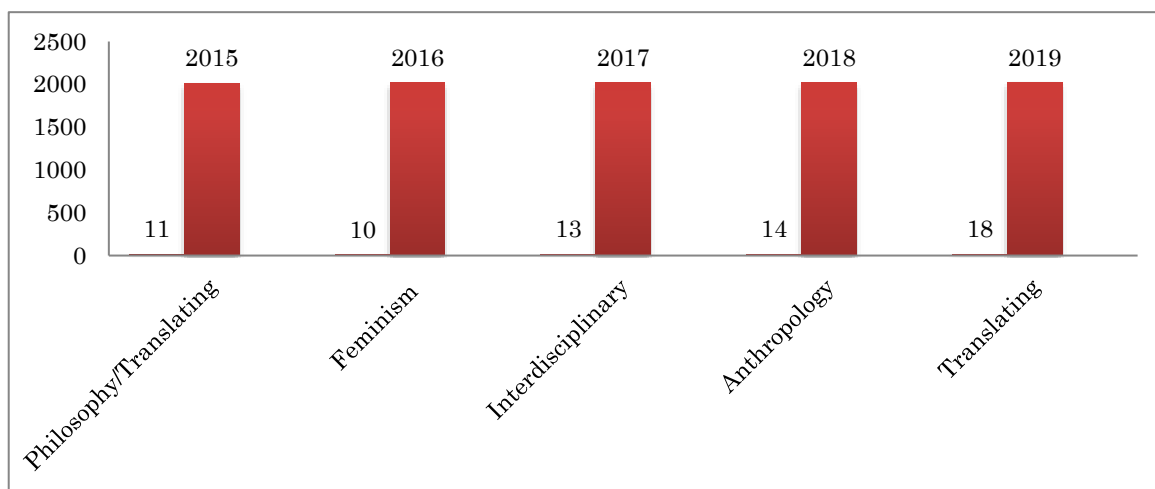


Figure 2. The Database of Literary Study Rankings Every Year

According to Figure 2, between 2015 and 2019 the highest rankings of literary studies had been occupied by (1) translation with 18 studies (2019); (2) anthropology with 14 studies (2018); (3) interdisciplinary studies amounted to 13 (2017); (4) philosophy and translation with 11 studies; and (5) feminism with 10 studies.

Translation studies are currently a trend because translation will reveal things that have not been studied in literature, especially related to translation. In terms of translating literature from native language to target language, sometimes mistranslations occur due to misunderstanding in interpretation of the literary metaphor (Zheng, 2017), failure in interpreting text due to the use of textual translation that may eliminate the aesthetic essence of the literature (Norås, 2013) and translators' subjective interpretations regarding gender, race, culture, and religion (Arrojo, 2017). These three points are the other sides of the translation study which makes this study a trend now.

Discussion

Research on literary studies has changed along with trends in global literary studies. Therefore, new studies in literature are emerging rapidly as a result of global literary algorithms. This can be seen in the emergence of new literary studies, such as postcolonialism (Brydon, 2006), ecocriticism (Garrard, 2012), geography (Sharp, 2015), and trauma (Kurtz, 2018). The resonance wave of global literary studies changes along with global literary trends caused by various factors, such as literary studies, literary researchers, and the results of disseminated literary research.

In today's modern context, many journals and books have the theme of translation. Thus, the study of literary translation is stronger because it has a place to express ideas about translated literary works, namely journals and books. The results of this study indicate that the study of translation is indeed a literary research which is currently trending. The results of this study are in line with Colombo (2019) who stated that literary trends in relation to translation studies are owing to research that currently

leads to transnational studies. Through transnational studies, literature is discussed across countries and one of the strategies is through literary translation studies. Thus, the literature contained in one country, can be known in another country because it has been translated. A study conducted by Meister (2018) added that currently literature and translation studies can use as a combination. As mixed studies, they are therefore included in the interdisciplinary realm. This type of research is favoured by many contemporary researchers because it is considered as research that is capable of answering today's increasingly complex challenges. According to Horan's (1978) view, the attention of literary researchers to the study of translation has been widely discussed around the 1970s. Initially, the study of translated literature was used to translate classical literature, for example Ancient Greek (Rosenmeyer, 2006; Eidsvåg, 2016). In its current development, the study of translated literature is increasingly popular and in demand by many literary researchers.

The results of research related to literary mapping support the research of Prince and Kikon (2018) which shows that the study of translation is urgent because it is related to certain mission. Translation in an interdisciplinary perspective can provide knowledge in various countries with different languages. For this reason, translation studies are in great demand because people from various countries with different languages can understand literary works. Literature is also inseparable from a mission related to the spread of certain ideologies to countries around the world. However, literature aesthetically does not see this as a mission or ideology in disguise. The results of this study also support Jünke (2021) who examines translation literature. The results of his research show that translated literature is indeed needed by various literary connoisseurs in various countries. This translated literature will make it easier for someone to understand the socio-culture of a particular society. In the context of religion, literary translation is related to religious missions. Literary translation of this model is more directed at literature that has religious content. Therefore, the dissemination of religious missions can be carried out through literary channels that have gone through the translation process.

There are several factors that cause translation studies in literature to become a trend. Firstly, translators understand the ins and outs of literature, understand the metaphors of literature, understand the aesthetics in literature, and are able to translate aesthetically the literary texts from the original language into another language. In addition, the translators understand several languages, especially languages in terms of the language of translation, for example they master different languages such as Chinese, English, French, Japanese, and German. A good translator usually understands literature as well as masters' other languages to strengthen the results of his translation. This type of translator can translate literature in free translation style instead of word-for-word translation. With free translation, a translator has the freedom to translate. Because of this, sometimes the translator's unique language is in the translation. This type of translator is literary translation, which according to Hokenson & Munson (2016) is called self-translation. That is, they are authors who have the ability to translate literature in other languages.

Secondly, the study of translational literature is indeed interesting, but also complicated (Kazakova, 2015); hence, it becomes a challenge for researchers. Therefore,

literary studies and translations give rise to many gaps and also open many opportunities for further research. According to Cadera and Walsh (2017), this happens because a literary work translated by someone in different years will produce different translations. Differences in translation and interpretation cannot be separated from the socio-cultural context. Literary translation in colonialism era with modern era is very different. Therefore, translation studies have changed from time to time.

Thirdly, there has been a rise in the number of literary journals that raise the issue of translation and literary books that raise the issue of translation in the last ten years. This can be seen in Bernaerts et al. (2014) who examine the study of narrative translation contexts, Zidjaly (2012) who raise comparative studies in language and literary translation, and Nelson and Maher (2016) who write about literary translation of the reader's context. See also Xie (2011), Wang (2016), and Bassnet (2019) who examined literary studies of comparative context translation. Research and writing on comparative literature have strengthened the study of translated literature on a global scale.

Literary studies that are mostly dominated by translational studies imply that currently literary researchers are not only from the realm of pure literature. That is, researchers in the field of literature do not only lead to the philosophy of literature, psychology of literature (Bezari, Raimondo, & Vuong, 2018), sociology of literature (Haddadian-Moghaddam, 2015), and anthropology of literature (Tihany, 2004); but current researchers from linguistics who study translation studies also examine literature because language also reviews literature. In addition, the study of literature in the perspective of translation studies shows that literature can be studied through the perspective of 'language' in the context of influence, similarity, or even plagiarism (see Philips, 2020; Dougherty, 2020; Jones, 2009). As we all know, at present literary similarities across countries sometimes occur. Translation studies are expected to be able to answer whether literature is plagiarism or influenced. The factors of literary researchers in the context of translation who come from outside of the literary zone, such as linguistics, psychology, sociology, anthropology, or politics make a major contribution to literary studies. This causes the resonance of the study of the translation of literary contexts to be more developed at the global level.

Conclusions

Based on the presentation of data analysis and discussion of the results, it can be concluded that literature studies that can be accessed on an open access database show that the trends in literature studies have different rankings each year. There are changes in the trend of literary studies due to various factors, for example related to the rising literary topic that year. In connection with the results of the mapping of global literature studies, the following results are obtained.

In 2015, literary studies that were ranked at the top were philosophy and translation. In 2016, the study of literature that was ranked at the top was feminism. In 2017, literary studies which were ranked at the top were interdisciplinary. In 2018, the study of literature that was ranked at the top was anthropology. Meanwhile, in 2019, the study of literature that was ranked at the top was translation. Thus, the study of literature that dominates in the global context is the study of translation literature. These results indicate that the current literary trend is dominated by translation studies due

to the recent proliferation of studies related to translation. The factors that cause translational studies to become a current trend are due to the following. First, the increase in translators who understand the ins and outs of literary works, literary metaphors, literary aesthetics, and are able to translate literary texts from their original languages into other languages aesthetically. Second, the study of translational literature is interesting and complicated because it compares/translates the original text into translation. Third, the rise of literary journals that raise the issue of translation and literary books that raise the issue of translation in the last ten years.

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