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## Analysis of Articles Examining the Effects of Tourism on Regional Development with Bibliometric Analysis

### Turizmin Bölgesel Kalkınmaya Etkilerini İnceleyen Makalelerin Bibliyometrik Analiz İle İncelenmesi

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Geliş/Received: 09.11.2023

Kabul/Accepted: 29.05.2024

#### Abstract

Regional development is defined as the whole of the studies aiming to increase the welfare level of a region by considering its socio-economic status. Regional development has benefits such as providing employment opportunities in a destination with touristic value, eliminating income imbalances, helping national development, providing foreign exchange inflows to the country and having an impact on the balance of payments. The main purpose of the study is to analyze national and international articles on tourism between 2010 and 2023 with the subject of regional development in line with certain parameters. The study was theoretically designed and bibliometric analysis was applied. A total of 126 studies were reached. As a result of the study, it was concluded that national articles are less in number compared to international articles, and that the subject of regional development and tourism has increased at a certain rate, although not periodically. In the analyzed studies, economic development, economic impact, sustainable tourism, sustainable regional development and tourism development issues came to the fore. This implies that economic, sustainable and tourism-oriented activities lie at the basis of expectations from studies on regional development and tourism.

#### Keywords

Development, Regional Development, Tourism, Impacts of Tourism, Bibliometric Analysis

#### Öz

Bölgesel kalkınma bir bölgenin sosyo-ekonomik durumu gözetilerek refah seviyesinin artırılmasını hedefleyen çalışmaların bütünü olarak ifade edilmektedir. Bölgesel kalkınmanın turistik açıdan değeri olan bir destinasyonda istihdam olanaklarının sağlanması, gelir dengesizliklerinin ortadan kaldırılması, ülkesel açıdan gelişmeye

yardımcı olması, ülkeye döviz girdisi sağlayarak ödemeler dengesi üzerinde etkili olması gibi faydaları bulunmaktadır. Çalışmanın temel amacı 2010-2023 yılları arasında turizm ile ilgili, konusu bölgesel kalkınma olan ulusal ve uluslararası makalelerin belirli parametreler doğrultusunda incelenmesidir. Çalışma teorik olarak tasarlanmış ve bibliometrik analiz uygulanmıştır. Toplamda 126 çalışmaya ulaşılmıştır. Çalışma sonucunda ulusal makalelerin uluslararası makalelere oranla daha az sayıda olduğu, bölgesel kalkınma ve turizm konusunun çalışmalara konu edinmesi periyodik olarak olmasa da belirli oranda artışlar gösterdiği sonucuna varılmıştır. İncelenen çalışmalarda ekonomik kalkınma, ekonomik etki, sürdürülebilir turizm, sürdürülebilir bölgesel kalkınma ve turizmin gelişimi konuları ön plana çıkmıştır. Bu da bölgesel kalkınma ve turizm konulu çalışmalardan beklentilerin zemininde ekonomik, sürdürülebilir ve turizm odaklı faaliyetlerin yatmasını ifade etmektedir.

### **Anahtar Kelimeler**

Kalkınma, Bölgesel Kalkınma, Turizm, Turizmin Etkileri, Bibliometrik Analiz

## **Introduction**

It is stated that increasing tourism-related activities in a region is a tool for both reducing poverty and eliminating income inequality, as it increases employment (Durgun, 2006; Kızıldemir, 2017). It is known that tourism has an impact on both the economic growth and development of countries (Çeken, 2004). The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) announced 2017 as the “Year of Sustainable Tourism for International Development,” aiming to promote environmental and cultural sustainability, economic growth, and social development around the world through tourism. In this regard, UNWTO emphasizes the importance of tourism in regional development (Şanlıoğlu & Demirezen, 2020).

The theoretical reason for the idea that regional development can occur through tourism is that tourism is considered an invisible export item in the balance of payments (Kılış & Mancı, 2019). In addition, Durgun (2006) asserted that tourism contributes positively to the region’s economy and plays a role in reducing regional disparities. Moreover, due to its structure, it is observed to expedite regional development by redirecting industrial development from urban areas to rural regions. Furthermore, it is observed that due to its structure, tourism accelerates regional development by attracting development from industrial areas to rural areas. However, especially for developing countries to gain a competitive advantage from the tourism sector and obtain a sufficient share from tourism, it is only related to the diversity of services/products they offer (Öztürk & Yazıcıoğlu, 2002). Furthermore, tourism has an impact on the region’s balance of payments by attracting foreign currency, which can help mitigate foreign exchange fluctuations. It is believed that the development of tourism in less developed regions of countries will lead to the creation of employment opportunities and businesses through the utilization of local resources, thus accelerating the support of the regional economy. The tourism sector has positive effects on the development, economic growth, and advancement of a region (İbiş et al., 2020).

When examining studies on the impact of tourism on regional development, it is observed that thermal tourism (Parlaktuna & Dinçer, 2019), destination marketing (Zengin & Şeyhanlıoğlu, 2019), faith tourism (Köksal & Karabulut, 2019; Demircan & Çeken, 2021), and winter tourism activities (Kara, Dalgın & Çeken, 2021) have been shown to contribute significantly to regional development. No study has been found that examines the impact of tourism on regional development through bibliometric analysis. In this study, unlike the mentioned studies, the effect of tourism on regional development will be examined through bibliometric analysis. Accordingly, the aim of the study is to contribute to the literature by examining national and international articles that investigate the effects of tourism on regional development between 2010 and 2023 in terms of various parameters. Another aim of the research is to outline the general outlines of the literature on regional development and to facilitate researchers who will work in this field. It can be considered that examining the studies related to the subject in terms of quality and quantity will provide guiding information to researchers in terms of the current situation.

The rest of the article is structured as follows: Section 2 covers the concept and development of development, the concept of regional development, the effects of tourism on regional development, and the effects of global, regional, and local events on the tourism sector. Section 3 includes the methodology of the research and the analysis of the findings obtained within the scope of the research. The final section of the research constitutes the conclusion section based on the findings. In this section, recommendations for the public and local governance and future studies are also presented in line with the results obtained.

## Literature Review

### Development Concept and Development

The term that translates to “development” in English has been rendered in Turkish as “gelişim” or “kalkınma.” Interestingly, the word “under-developed,” which originates from the same root, is expressed as “geri kalmış” in Turkish. However, the concept of development, which stems from the same infinitive, is commonly used as “development” rather than “gelişim” in Turkish (Turhan, 2020). In the Oxford English Dictionary, development is defined as ‘A particular state of growth or development; a new and improved product or idea; an event that creates a new phase’ (Oxford English Dictionary, 2023). The Turkish Language Association also defines development as ‘improving the situation, developing gradually, progressing, and becoming rich.’ Development is a concept laden with values and, at the same time, a phenomenon that can take on different meanings in various branches of science. In its most general sense, development refers to a desired process of change (Doğan, 2010). Development is perceived as the outcome of enhancing one’s capacity to be both meaningful and productive within the social structure. Simultaneously, it is seen as the guarantee of equal distribution of the benefits of economic growth (Sinemillioğlu, 2009).

While the concept of development has a long history in Western languages of Latin origin, the phenomenon in question began to gain prominence in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and saw extensive use in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (Başkaya, 2009). Although the concept of development was previously defined as being ‘commodity’-oriented, it has become evident that definitions centered around the individual, personal freedoms, and human values have gained more prominence since the 1980s (Biçen, 2019). While development was previously considered a part of growth theory, it gradually gained a degree of independence by shifting its focus to the issues faced by underdeveloped or developing countries, in contrast to the growth concept primarily addressing the problems of developed countries. This process of gaining independence started after the Second World War, during which many developing countries achieved political independence for the first time. Additionally, capital flows from developed countries to developing countries began, and the global economic environment provided a significant degree of freedom for developing countries to shape their economic future (Yeldan, 2011).

Tourism stimulates regional development and it is a serious source of employment creation, especially in underdeveloped regions. It also helps the integration of underdeveloped regions. Due to these and many other measurable economic benefits, regional tourism activities have gained significant momentum in developed and developing countries (Karabulut etc., 2020). While countries use the industrial opportunities available in some regions to eliminate the imbalance of their regions, they attach importance to alternative economic activities to the existing industry in some regions. Tourism not only benefits regional development or the country’s economy, but also provides benefits in many areas such as eliminating inequalities between regions, creating employment opportunities, reducing interregional migration, using country resources effectively and efficiently, promoting countries, ensuring sustainable development, and increasing the living standards of individuals. It is an alternative economic activity to industry (Yıldız & Sarıtaş, 2021).

In addition, the transition to planned development periods in Turkey, as in many countries, has led to improvements in many areas. In particular, it has contributed to the elimination of inequalities between regions, ensuring economic balance and especially the development of sectors that provide income sources (Çubukcu & Çubukcu, 2024).

Regional development is especially effective in places where the welfare level is low on a city basis (Yücel & Çalık, 2024). In this sense, industries such as tourism, which are a source of income in many

areas, fill this gap and are in the position of implementers. It mediates the increase in the welfare level of the region in a short period of time. This can be counted among the benefits of regional development.

Tourism, especially its positive effects on the balance of payments; It plays an important role in financing the development of countries and regions due to its important effects such as creating employment and income, eliminating regional differences, reducing poverty, and developing infrastructure elements. Therefore, it is possible to say that there is a positive relationship between regional development and the tourism sector (Örnek & Akin, 2022).

Just as there are development differences between countries, there are also differences between regions. There are many factors that cause these differences. These include the geographical structure, the region's lack of a suitable structure for the industrial sector, the security problem, and the cultural structure of the people of the region. Since the main supply sources of the tourism sector are natural beauties and historical buildings, they affect development unlike other sectors. Because many factors are required for other sectors to exist or for existing ones to develop. However, this may not be of great importance for tourism. The most important factor for the development of tourism is related to the effective and efficient use of the sector's supply resources. Thanks to supply resources used effectively and efficiently, development differences between regions can be minimized (Damar, 2021).

Interregional development differences are one of the main problems of many both developed and developing countries. In this context, the use of tourism as a tool in regional development is included in the basic development policies of many countries. Unlike many other industries, tourism activities are carried out without the need for serious capital and infrastructure investments; Increasing employment, developing infrastructure and superstructure, increasing regional income, developing other sectors, developing customs and traditions of local societies, developing social tolerance, protecting/developing historical, cultural, archaeological and natural areas, etc. It has become an important tool in achieving regional development with its many positive effects (Karacı, 2023).

## Concept of Regional Development

For countries to achieve economic development, it is essential to focus on the development and progress of their regions. As a result, it appears that the concept of development has become one of the most critical issues that countries have increasingly focused on in recent years. Regional development is also recognized as a vital concept in addressing regional disparities (Kızıldemir, 2017). The concept of regional development was introduced to economic literature after the Second World War, giving economic and social development a spatial dimension (Sevinç, 2011). Regional development, as defined by the OECD, is described as an effort to reduce regional inequalities by supporting economic activities in various regions. It also pertains to the economic policies followed by public authorities to mitigate differences in economic development across geographical regions within a country. These definitions underscore the focus of regional development on addressing economic disparities among regions through the efficient utilization of existing resources (İbiş et al., 2020).

According to Işık & Kılınc (2011), regional development is described as a collection of efforts aimed at enhancing regional welfare by harnessing socio-economic potentials. It's important to note that national development is closely intertwined with regional development because the progress of a country's regions signifies the development of the entire country (Yılmaz & İncekaş, 2018). According to Tutar & Demiral (2007), in underdeveloped regions, the predominant economic structure relies on agriculture, capital is limited, population growth is high, and there is a continuous outmigration. This underscores the significance of regional development for countries with such regions.

## Effects of Tourism on Regional Development

The role of tourism in regional development is typically evaluated in terms of tourism employment, tourism flows, or revenues, and it is generally seen in a positive light (Telfer, 2002). Nevertheless, in comparison to regional economic growth, tourism growth indicators do not yield automatic results. Instead, they encompass more profound and qualitative objectives that reflect improvements in people's quality of life and well-being (Saarinen, 2014). According to Costa & Lima (2018), the significance of tourism in regional development is increasingly acknowledged. Tourism should be viewed as a tool that contributes to the sustainability of tourism destinations in terms of

economic, social, and environmental dimensions. It is understood that tourism has a substantial and profound impact on regional development and social progress in general (Pak, 1996). It is widely acknowledged that the tourism sector has a significant impact on regional development at both micro and macro levels. On a micro level, it plays a crucial role in promoting income equality by creating new employment opportunities. On the macro level, it contributes positively to the overall national growth, as it accelerates regional development. Additionally, tourism helps balance the country's trade by generating foreign exchange inflows. It enhances the welfare in the region and expedites the growth of services. Furthermore, it helps curb internal migration by maintaining a balance between the region's increasing development rate and population growth rate. Additionally, it contributes to the overall growth of the country's economy by generating added value (Kavaklı & Karakaş, 2022).

Various studies have explored the connection between tourism and development, with a particular focus on regional development (Costa & Lima, 2018). Several approaches have been adopted, including Murphy's (1997) perspective, which emphasizes the significance of sustainable tourism in enhancing the well-being of the local community—a crucial factor in local development. Marujo & Carvalho (2010) also assert that tourism is a phenomenon of significant political, economic, environmental, and socio-cultural importance. Other authors emphasize the significance of harnessing the agricultural potential of regions while preserving and recognizing the richness of natural, cultural, historical, and landscape resources as crucial factors for development and competitiveness (Fons et al., 2011; Park et al., 2012). According to Li et al. (2015), the growing significance of the tourism sector in contributing to the global economy has led to its recognition as a tool that can bridge economic development disparities between developed urban areas and less developed rural regions, thereby helping to reduce economic inequalities. In their research, Jones and Munday (2001) discovered that organizations operating within the host country make valuable contributions to the country's economy, ultimately leading to regional development. Meyer and Meyer (2016) concluded that there is a positive relationship between regional gross domestic product and tourism development.

According to Çakır and Sandalcılar (2018), tourism is among the sectors that have a positive impact on regional development. It is observed that various economic entities, ranging from small to large, actively participate in the regional development process in areas where tourism activities are prevalent. Beyond contributing to economic growth, tourism also promotes the social and cultural development of the local community. Particularly in the context of rural development, tourism is considered a crucial sector that should be cultivated with balanced and mutually supportive policies, alongside agriculture, animal husbandry, and forestry.

Economic development and social development policies are designed to reduce interregional development disparities. The tourism sector plays a crucial role in addressing interregional imbalances. In this context, similar to global development approaches, there have been significant shifts in the perception of tourism since the 1970s (Gezici, 1998). It can be argued that tourism, when less known and prevalent in certain regions of a country, can have a substantial impact on the economic well-being of the local population compared to its more developed counterparts (Bahar & Kozak, 2006). In addition to these factors, when explaining the effects of tourism on regional development, positive effects are not limited to economic benefits. They also encompass enhancing the quality of life, preserving and developing cultural heritage, improving environmental quality, and enhancing infrastructure and superstructure conditions.

As a result, thanks to development efforts, many countries have been able to ensure their economic development and carry out this process in a healthy way from the past to the present. Tourism is among the most important parts of this development (Tuncer, 2024).

**Table 1.** Tourist Arrivals and Tourism Revenue Worldwide by Year

Years	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Tourists (Million)	1088	1134	1189	1235	1326	1413	1465	407	456	963
Tourism Revenues (Billion Dollars)	1197	1252	1196	1220	1340	1440	1494	559	638	1031

Source: UNWTO.

## Impacts of Global, Regional, and Local Events on the Tourism Sector

The problems or events that Turkey encounters, whether on a global scale, within its geographical region, or domestically, have a significant impact on the tourism demand for Turkey (Hacıoğlu & Çavuşoğlu, 2018). The economic crisis, initially triggered by a mortgage loan crisis in the USA in 2007 and subsequently spreading to the UK for similar reasons, escalated into a global crisis in the second quarter of 2008 (Eğilmez, 2009). According to UNWTO's reports, there were an additional 16 million travelers worldwide in 2008, marking a 2% increase compared to 2007, bringing the total number of travelers to 924 million people. However, it has been noted that the tourism sector experienced a significant decline since the onset of the global economic crisis. While the number of tourists increased by 5% in the first half of 2008, this increase dropped to just 1% in the second half of the year. Furthermore, the Middle East emerged as one of the regions that benefited from the upturn in tourism during the crisis period, with an 11% increase. However, it was observed that there was a 3% decrease in Europe and Asia, especially in the second half of the year, despite a 5% increase in Africa and a 4% increase in America (Yıldız & Durgun, 2010).

In a declaration by the Prime Minister of Turkey in 2012, it was announced that the rules of engagement along the Syrian border had been altered, with all elements approaching the border to be treated as military targets. Consequently, Turkish Armed Forces personnel started moving toward the Syrian border, and missiles were deployed at Gaziantep Airport. In 2012, there was an increase in the number of foreign tourists both in Turkey as a whole and in Istanbul, while a decrease was observed in Antalya. When we examine the foreign tourist numbers and nationalities visiting Turkey in 2013, there was an increase in the number of foreign visitors compared to the previous year, with an increase of 9.84% in Turkey as a whole, 11.7% in Istanbul, and 7.99% in Antalya. It can be argued that the Taksim Gezi Park events, along with the Reyhanlı terrorist attack that occurred in Turkey in 2013, hindered a more significant increase. Simultaneously, it was evident from the foreign visitor statistics, especially those coming to Antalya, that Russian tourists opted for Turkey due to civil unrest in Egypt in 2013, rather than choosing the latter destination. "In 2015, a Russian plane was shot down by the Turkish Air Force on allegations of violating the border. Russia, however, contended that the plane in question did not breach Turkish airspace. 2016 proved to be a challenging year for Turkey and its tourism industry. Global, local, and regional crises resulted in an extraordinary decline in demand for Turkey. The shooting down of a Russian plane on the Syrian border at the end of 2015, numerous terrorist attacks, especially in tourist destinations within Turkey, the July 15 coup attempt, and diplomatic and political crises with European countries and the European Union had a detrimental impact on tourism in 2016, as reported by Hacıoğlu & Çavuşoğlu (2018). Similar terrorist attacks were observed in 2017. This year, a nightclub attack was carried out by ISIS in Ortaköy, Beşiktaş. In 2019, the virus called Covid-19, which first appeared in Wuhan, China's Hubei province, affected all sectors and also negatively affected the tourism sector.

**Table 2.** Turkey's Tourist and Revenue Numbers

Years	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Tourists (Million)	34.9	36.8	36.2	25.3	32.4	39.5	45	12.7	24.7	44.5
Tourism Revenue (Billion Dollars)	32	35.1	32.4	22.8	27	30.5	38.9	14.8	30.1	46.2

Source: TURSAB, 2022.

## Methods

The study examines national and international articles on tourism related to regional development between 2010 and 2023, utilizing specific parameters. Descriptive statistical analyses were employed, and the frequencies of the parameters were used to attempt to elucidate the effects of tourism on regional development. Bibliometric analysis reflects the performance of a particular field of research (Low and Cheung, 2008) and allows for quantitative analysis of several features (such as the subject matter of articles or publications, the journals they are published in, the number of authors, etc.)

(Tayfun et al., 2018). In this context, Alkan (2014) suggests that bibliometric studies examining variables such as the journals of publication, the number of publications, and their qualifications can positively influence the future of the field. Additionally, through bibliometric studies, insights can be gained into researchers' and institutions' publication performances (Şakar and Cerit, 2013), as well as the scientific publication policies adopted by countries (Al, 2008), providing an opportunity to become acquainted with the literature on the researched topics (Tayfun et al., 2018). Consequently, the articles reached through the current study's screening process are analyzed based on specific parameters such as the type, year, and language of the article, the methodology used, the country and journal of publication, and the number of pages. The research questions intended to be addressed in the study can be outlined as follows:

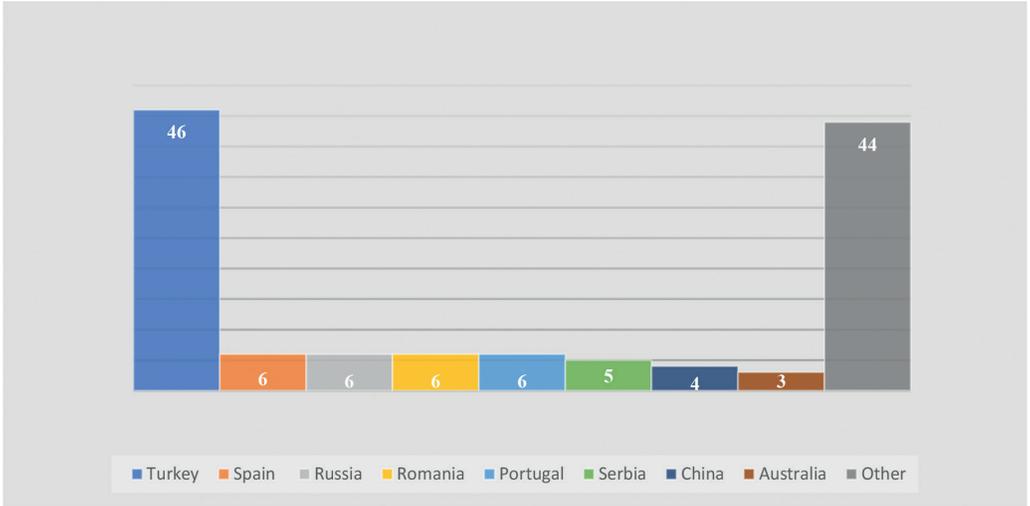
- What is the distribution of articles by type?
- What is the distribution of articles according to the years they were published?
- What is the distribution of articles according to the languages in which they are published?
- What is the distribution of articles according to the method used?
- What is the distribution of articles according to the countries in which they are published?
- What is the distribution of articles according to the journal in which they are published?
- What is the distribution of articles by number of pages?
- What is the distribution of articles according to the number of citations?
- What is the distribution of sub-topics in the articles?

## Findings

Information about the articles analyzed in this research, which examines 126 articles related to regional development in tourism published between 2010 and 2023, within specific parameters, is presented in Table 1. When examining Table 1, it becomes evident that a significant portion of the assessed articles (65.9%) are international articles, while the remaining portion (34.1%) consists of national articles. The research methodology used in these articles is also a subject of examination. In this context, it is observed that the majority of the examined articles are theoretical (38.9%), followed by those using a qualitative method (27%), mixed methods (21.4%), and finally, quantitative methods (12.7%). Another parameter considered was the publication year of the articles, encompassing 126 studies conducted between 2010 and 2023. However, when examined in terms of the languages in which the articles were published, it was found that English (62.7%) was the most commonly used language compared to other languages, with Turkish (35.5%) being the second most prevalent, while other languages (1.6%) were less common. Regarding the last parameter, the journals in which the articles were published, it was observed that international journals accounted for 74.6%, while national journals made up 25.4%.

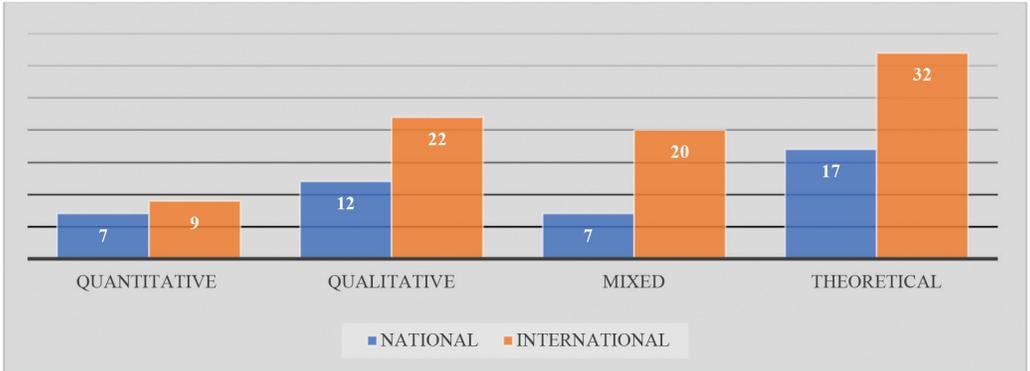
**Table 3.** Descriptive Statistics for the Articles Reviewed

Variable	Group	n	%	Variable	Group	n	%
Type of Article	National	43	34,1	Language in which the Article is Published	Turkish	45	35,5
	International	83	65,9		English	79	62,7
					Other	2	1,6
	<b>Total</b>	126	100		<b>Total</b>	126	100
Methodology Used in the Article	Quantitative	16	12,7	Type of Journal in which the Article is Published	National	32	25,4
	Qualitative	34	27		International	94	74,6
	Mixed	27	21,4				
	Theoretical	49	38,9				
	<b>Total</b>	126	100		<b>Total</b>	126	100
Method Used in the Article	2010-2023	126	100	Number of Pages	National	43	34,1
					International	83	65,9
	<b>Total</b>	126	100		<b>Total</b>	126	100



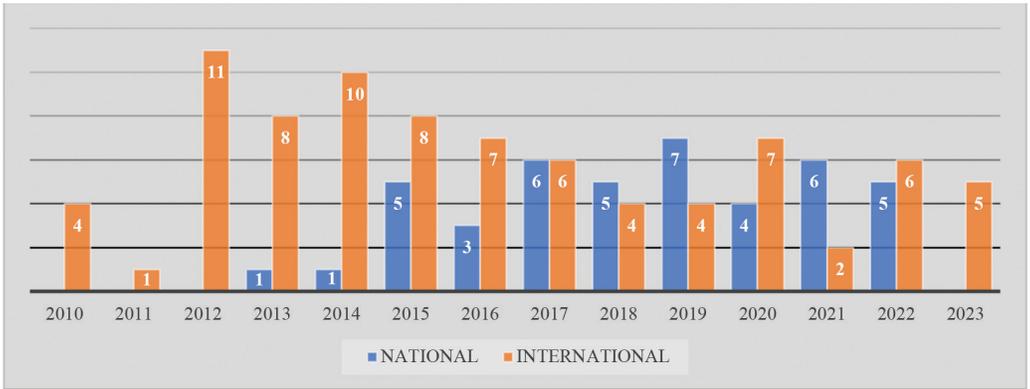
**Figure 1.** Distribution of the Article by Country of Publication

Figure 1 illustrates the frequency distribution of studies on regional development and tourism by country. When assessing the academic attention given to the topic of regional development and tourism, it becomes evident that Turkey is the country where this subject is most prominently emphasized. Furthermore, Spain, Russia, Romania, Portugal, China, and Australia are the subsequent countries in order of emphasis on this topic. The abundance of local studies in Turkey, coupled with Turkey's status as a developing country, particularly in the context of tourism, highlights that the objectives, scope, and features of regional development contain elements that promote tourism. This underscores the need for giving academic significance to this issue.



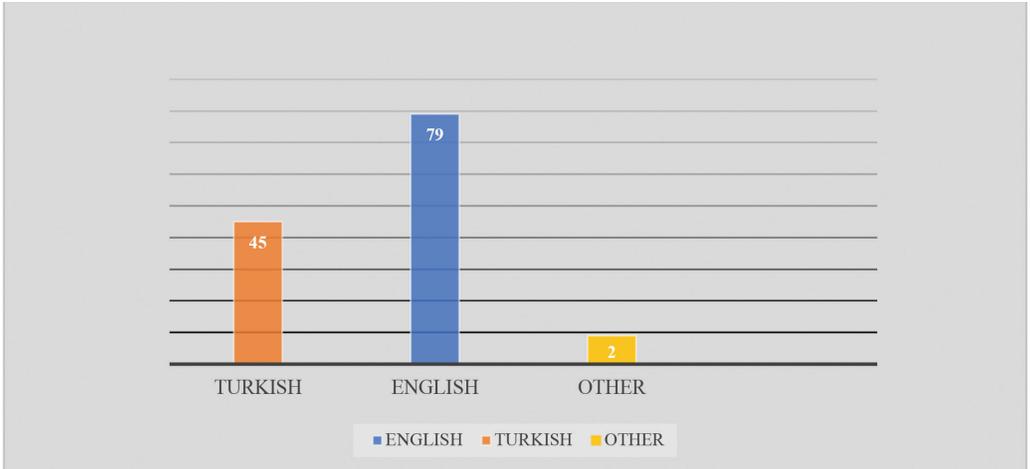
**Figure 1.** Distribution According to the Method Used in the Article

As clearly depicted in the graph in Figure 2, out of a total of 126 articles published in national and international journals on regional development, 16 are quantitative (7 national- 9 international), 34 are qualitative (12 national- 22 international), 27 of them were designed using a mixed method approach (7 national- 20 international), and finally, the remaining 49 were theoretically designed (17 national- 27 international). When we examine the entire graph, it becomes evident that studies on regional development and tourism are predominantly designed using theoretical methods. The primary reason for this variance can be attributed to the appropriateness of employing theoretical methods in academic research when addressing matters concerning higher-level management units, such as regional development.



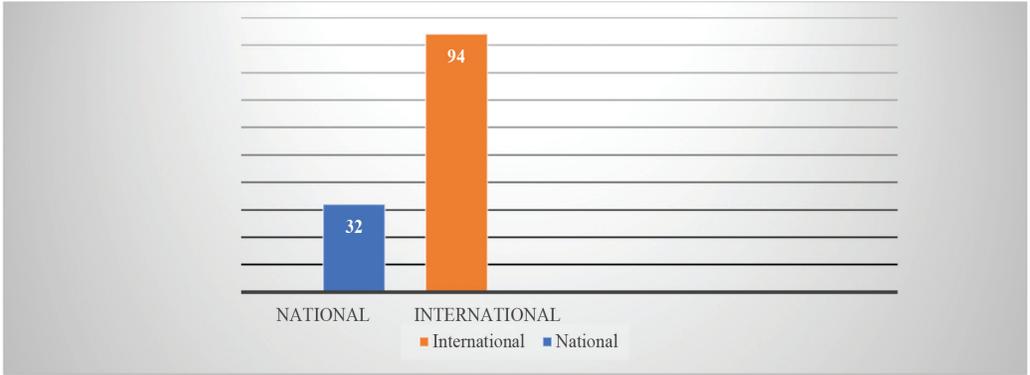
**Figure 2.** Distribution of the Article by Year of Publication

Figure 3 displays the frequency distribution of studies on regional development and tourism between 2010 and 2023. As observed, articles on the subject in question have exhibited fluctuations in frequency since 2012. It is evident that the majority of these articles are published in international journals, indicating that the local emphasis on this subject is comparatively less than the international focus.



**Figure 3.** Distribution of Articles According to the Language in Which They Are Published

In Figure 4, the number of studies related to the subject is presented based on the language of publication. The data reveals that a majority of the studies are written in English when comparing those published in Turkish and English. Furthermore, a considerably smaller number of studies written in other languages were identified. The primary reason for this trend may be the academic evaluation of regional development from a universal perspective, with English being the preferred language to reach a broader audience and enhance visibility. As a result, it is believed that studies on regional development and tourism may have been approached from a more universal standpoint, rather than being limited to the specific location of the study.



**Figure 4.** Distribution by Type of Journal Where Articles Are Published

Figure 5 illustrates the distribution of studies categorized by journal type. It is evident that international journals are significantly preferred when it comes to the subject under examination. This suggests that publishing topics related to regional development and tourism in international journals is more effective in terms of contributing to the field of science.

**Table 4.** Number and Number of Pages of National Articles

National								
Number of Pages	12	16	17	18	19	21	26	Other
Number of Works	5	2	4	3	3	2	2	22

The number of pages in articles is another parameter under examination. Table 4 provides the count and page numbers for national articles. In the national articles analyzed in this research, there are 5 articles with 12 pages, 2 with 16 pages, 2 with 21 pages, and 2 with 26 pages, totaling 17 articles. Additionally, there are 3 articles with 18 and 19 pages combined. When examining both the count and the number of pages, it becomes apparent that the studies typically range between 10 and 20 pages. The limited level of detail in these studies may suggest that the number of national studies on this subject is insufficient.

**Table 5.** Number and Number of Pages of International Articles

International														
Number of Pages	5	7	10	12	13	15	16	17	18	19	20	24	27	Other
Number of Works	2	2	5	3	3	4	6	4	2	4	7	2	2	37

Table 5 provides the count and page numbers for international articles. In this context, there are 2 articles each with 5, 7, 18, 24, and 27 pages. Additionally, 5 articles each have 10 pages, 3 articles each have 12 and 13 pages, and 4 articles each have 15, 17, and 19 pages. Furthermore, there are 6 articles, each with 16 pages, and 7 articles with 20 pages. When assessing the count and page numbers of international studies on the subject in question, it is evident that the majority of the studies fall within the 10-20 page range. However, the presence of more articles in the 20-30 page range compared to national articles may indicate a gradual increase in the level of detail concerning this subject.

**Table 6.** Distribution of Subtopics in Articles

Subtopic	Number of Works
Thermal Tourism	3
Tourism Impacts	2
Tourist Expenditures	2
<i>Economic Impact, Economic Development</i>	14
Culture Tourism	4
Natural and Cultural Heritage	3
Local Cuisine	2
<i>Sustainable Tourism- Sustainable Regional Development</i>	18
Regional Inequalities	2
Faith tourism	3
Ecotourism	2
Rural Tourism	6
<i>Development of Tourism</i>	13
Tourism and Employment	2
Gastronomy	5
Development	2
Other	43

Table 6 presents subtopics and the number of studies in articles related to regional development and tourism. Specifically, the subject of regional development and tourism is closely linked to economic development, economic impact, tourism development, sustainable tourism, and sustainable regional development. As a result, the primary reason for the economic evaluation of regional development and tourism can be attributed to the financial empowerment of destinations and their prominence in the market. Connecting it with another aspect, sustainability and sustainable tourism, can be considered a path to ensure the transfer of destinations to future generations and to guarantee their continuity for regional development and tourism initiatives. Lastly, the most evident observation is the advancement of tourism. In this regard, the direct correlation between regional development and tourism activities with the tourism sector and the primary implementation of decisions in the context of tourism activities and destinations may have shed light on this matter.

**Table 7.** Citation Numbers of Articles

Number Of Citations	Number Of Articles
0-50	113
51-100	6
101-150	3
151-200	3
251-300	-
301-350	1

Table 7 provides data on the number of citations to the articles and the number of articles. Notably, the most prominent citation range is 0-50, with 113 articles falling into this category. This suggests that studies on regional development and tourism are evolving and gaining prominence in the literature. The increasing number of articles within specified citation ranges indicates that the subject is actively discussed in the literature, with ongoing research.

## Conclusion, Recommendations and Discussion

Regional development and tourism concepts have gained prominence and received increased attention in recent years. The primary reason for this is the interconnection between these two concepts, with tourism serving as a tool for regional development. The presence of tourism activities in a region facilitates and expedites regional development efforts. Therefore, given the significance of this topic, various studies have been conducted and continue to be conducted in this field.

The study aimed to examine articles published in both national and international literature on regional development and tourism between 2010 and 2023, considering specified variables. In this context, a total of 126 studies were identified, allowing for an assessment of the status of published research on regional development and tourism in the literature.

According to the data obtained, the majority of the articles examined in this research on regional development and tourism are studies published in international journals and written in English. This allows for the scientific connection of regional development with tourism, not only at the local level but also for many countries to benefit from the results of these studies and use them as a practical guide. Furthermore, the greater number of studies published in English, and the fact that the readership is more international compared to national journals, has led to the preference of English as the language of publication on the subject in question. When evaluating the studies over the years, it was observed that there has been an increase following a non-periodic pattern after 2012. The irregularity of this increase is sometimes seen as an indicator of decreasing importance in the field. Especially in recent years, it appears that scientific studies have shifted focus away from the subject in question.

In the studies analyzed, the theoretical method predominantly prevails. This actually implies that regional development and tourism issues are subjects that can be addressed by individuals with higher political status and other decision-makers. Hence, as collecting data from the field and accessing these individuals might be challenging, it would be more beneficial to utilize other published scientific reports and resources. When evaluating the studies in terms of the country in which they are published, it is apparent that Turkey predominantly centers its research on regional development and tourism issues. The fact that our country is considered one of the developing nations and that it has placed scientific importance on the concepts of regional development and tourism to create equilibrium in various sectors explains this situation. Regional development is viewed as one of the avenues through which tourism can flourish.

Çelikkaya & Demirgil (2019) conducted a bibliometric analysis of the concept of regional development in graduate theses. As a result of this study, it was concluded that the predominant language used in postgraduate theses on regional development is Turkish. It has been noted that the number of theses written in foreign languages is considerably lower. Additionally, it has been observed that the number of theses written on the subject in question has been increasing over the years. In Çelikkaya & Demirgil's study (2019), the results related to the written language parameter align with the findings in our current research, as it is evident that Turkish is the preferred language for scientific studies on regional development. However, divergent results were obtained regarding the parameter of distribution by years. In our study, when we examined the number of studies on regional development and tourism by year, we observed fluctuations, and there was no significant increase in recent years. Both studies concluded that there is no consensus on the parameters of year and the number of studies.

When examining the content of studies on regional development and tourism, certain sub-themes emerge prominently. These include economic development, economic impact, sustainable tourism, sustainable regional development issues, and tourism development issues. Firstly, the fact that the concepts of regional development and tourism serve as catalysts for economic development, sustainability, and overall tourist activities in destinations has brought these subtopics to the forefront. Çelikkaya & Demirgil (2019) conducted a study that supports these findings. In this study, during the bibliometric analysis of postgraduate theses focused on regional development, 'tourism'

emerged as one of the most frequently recurring words in the word cloud generated from these theses. Consequently, both studies confirm that the topic of tourism is closely linked to the concept of regional development.

The number of citations for articles and the number of articles referencing these numbers indicate that studies on regional development and tourism are the subject of diverse research, with a relatively equal level of examination on average. This suggests that there are still gaps in this field, and apart from specific studies, there is a lack of comprehensive research that adequately addresses the subject and serves the field. In this context, what is crucial when preparing a study on regional development and tourism is to approach the topic in a unique manner, avoiding the commonplace, and ensuring that it possesses a distinguishing feature that sets it apart from other studies on the same subject.

As evident from the research, regional development and tourism topics periodically gain attention from a scientific perspective in our country but have, especially in recent years, diminished in academic significance. Firstly, emphasizing the importance of these topics can foster the development of destinations and indirectly stimulate tourist activities in specific regions. Therefore, it is essential to highlight and bring new ideas to the forefront in studies related to regional development and tourism. Additionally, there should be an increase in studies conducted in Turkish on this subject, aiming to achieve academic depth and saturation. The limited number of studies conducted throughout Turkey regarding regional development and tourism further supports this conclusion. Based on the available information, it is apparent that a majority of the studies in this field are theoretical in nature. Consequently, research on regional development and tourism should be designed to incorporate both qualitative and quantitative methods, allowing for the inclusion of the ideas and opinions of local residents and individuals living in tourist destinations. This approach will provide an evaluation of the issue from the local perspective.

Additionally, regional development can be assessed from the perspective of tourism businesses. Positive and negative developments resulting from regional development can be evaluated by businesses, and solutions can be found regarding their impacts. This way, the consequences of regional development will be addressed in a more practical and application-oriented manner. Through this evaluation, shortcomings from a policy standpoint will also be identified.

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## Özet

*Toplumların ekonomik açıdan gelişmesi, refah seviyesine ulaşması ve bu bağlamda yapılan çalışmaların tamamı bölgesel kalkınma kavramı altında toplanmaktadır. Ülkelerin ve toplumların sadece ekonomik anlamda değil iş fırsatları yaratma, rekabet ortamında destinasyonların devamlılığını sağlama ve ülkenin büyümesini sağlayarak kişi başına düşen milli geliri arttırmaya odaklanan ve bunun gibi yapılan geniş çaplı çalışmaların tamamı bölgesel kalkınma faaliyetleri olarak değerlendirilmektedir. Bu bağlamda turistik destinasyonlarda iyileştirme faaliyetlerinin yapılması, gelir eşitsizliğinin dengelenmesi, ülkedeki turizm faaliyetlerinin sektörde tercih edilirliliğini artırarak rekabet avantajının sağlanması gibi birçok alanda iyileştirici özelliğe sahiptir. Özellikle turizm faaliyetlerinde ön plana çıkması da turizmin ülkenin ekonomik açıdan bir çıkış kapısı konumunda bulunması ve günümüzde birçok ülkenin kurtarıcı sektörü konumunda olması bölgesel kalkınma faaliyetlerinin turizm çalışmalarında ön plana çıkmasını da tetiklemiştir. Genel anlamda turizm sektörü bölgesel kalkınmayı olumlu yönden etkileyen sektörler arasında yer almaktadır. Bunun ışığında turistik destinasyonlarda en küçük faaliyetten en kapsamlısına kadar bütün ekonomik, sosyal ve kültürel çalışmaların bölgesel kalkınma sürecinde yer almaktadır. Turizm bu bakımdan bölgenin sadece ekonomik açıdan gelişmesini değil aynı zamanda sosyal ve kültürel anlamda seviye atlamasını sağlayan faaliyetler arasındadır. Özellikle kırsal alanlarda tarımsal faaliyetlerin, hayvancılık, ormancılık ve diğer yerel faaliyetlerin teşvik edilerek desteklenmesi örnek teşkil edebilir. Tüm bu faaliyetlere ek olarak turizm ve bölgesel kalkınma kavramlarının arasındaki bağı ve etkinin ifade edilmesinde bölgeye sağladığı yararların ve göze çarpan ekonomik faydaların yanı sıra bölge halkının yaşam kalitesinin var olduğundan çok daha iyi bir konuma getirilmesi, doğal ve kültürel miras niteliğinde olan kaynakların koruma altına alınarak gelecek nesillere aktarımı konusunda iyileştirmelerin yapılması, bölgede alt yapı ve üst yapı çalışmalarını hızlandırması da göze çarpmaktadır. Çalışmanın amacı bu denli kuvvetli bir ilişkiye sahip olan bölgesel kalkınma ve turizm kavramlarını konu edinen 2010-2013 yılları arasında yayımlanmış olan ulusal ve uluslararası nitelikteki makalelerin tür, yayımlandıkları yıl, yayımlandıkları dil, kullanılan yöntem, yayımlandığı ülke, yayımlandığı dergi ve sayfa sayısı parametreleri dikkate alınarak incelenmiştir. Çalışma teorik bir düzlemde tasarlanmış ve bibliometrik analiz yapılmıştır. Çalışma sonucunda toplamda 126 makale detaylı bir biçimde belirtilen parametreler ışığında incelenmiştir. Çalışma sonucunda ise turizm paydaşları, sektörü ve destinasyon açısından bu denli önemli olan bölgesel kalkınma kavramının turizm ile birlikte ele alan uluslararası nitelikte çalışmaların ulusal çalışmalara göre daha yoğunlukta olduğu görülmüştür. Ancak ulusal nitelikteki çalışmaların bahsi geçen yılları bakımından incelendiğinde periyodik bir düzlemde sayıca artış gösterdiği görülmesine de belirli oranda kısmi artışlar olduğu da görülmektedir. Çalışmaların yöntemleri dikkate alındığında ise genellikle teorik çalışmaların olması göze çarpmaktadır. Çalışmaların yayımlandığı yıllar baz alındığında ise 2012 yılında pik noktasına ulaştığı diğer yıllarda ise kısmi artma ve azalmalar meydana geldiği görülmüştür. Dil olarak genellikle İngilizce tercih edilmiştir. Çalışmaların geneline bakıldığında ise konu olarak turizm ve bölgesel kalkınma bağlamında ekonomik etki, ekonomik kalkınma ve turizmin gelişimi başlıklarının ön plana çıktığı, çalışmalarda daha çok ele alındığı görülmüştür.*

*Çalışma sonucunda bölgesel kalkınma ve turizm konulu çalışmaların evrensel bir konu olduğu ve birçok ülkenin kadrajına girdiği görülmektedir. Ancak makale sayısı bakımından değerlendirildiğinde bu konuda daha fazla akademik nitelikte çalışma yapılması gerekmektedir sonucuna varılmıştır. Çünkü turizm faaliyetlerinin belirli alanlarda öne çıkması ve belirginleşmesi hem bölgesel anlamda hem de ulusal anlamda ekonomiye katkı sağlayacaktır. Ek olarak bu konuda yerel halkın görüş ve önerilerinin de yer aldığı çalışmaların planlanması bölgesel kalkınma ve turizm konularında yerel açıdan eksiklerin saptanmasına ve fark edilmeyen noktaların gün yüzüne çıkartılmasını sağlayacaktır. Akademik çalışmaların yol açtığı ve fikir verdiği uygulamalara geçildiğinde ise bölgesel kalkınma ve turizm faaliyetleri açısından kusursuz işlere imza atılabilecektir.*