Publications in the Field of Theatre: Bibliometric Analysis of International Theatre Studies

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to examine international publications in the field of theatre using bibliometric analysis methods. For this purpose, scientific articles published in the journals listed in Web of Science are analysed. A total of 8,047 articles published from 1975 to 2021are included in the analysis. Descriptive bibliometric analysis and social network mapping method are used to examine data. According to the analysis, the first three countries that have contributed the most to the field of theatre are the USA, England and Canada. In terms of citations, the most cited articles in the field are also published in the most cited journals in the field. Moreover, the most frequently cited books in the field are related to publications that improve the intellectual structure of the field. In terms of co-author citation analysis, our study shows that the most frequently cited authors are Shakespeare, Brecht, Boal, Schechner and Beckett.

Keywords: Theatre, Drama, Performance, International Theatre Studies, Bibliometric Analysis

Introduction

Witnessing both the relatively hidden and explicit narratives of history, theatre is a distinctive field of art that transforms individual and social experiences – which are shaped in parallel with the circumstances of definite time periods – into a creative act with/for/by the participants or audience. Theatre, which constantly recasts itself by going through both supportive and discouraging processes depending on the cultural, political, economic, and artistic developments of the time, takes place at every moment of life. In this long historical process up to the present the development of theatre as an art has enabled it to evolve into a very varied genre both in practice and content, and hence it has come into prominence as a comprehensive term.

The most common definition cited to emphasize the inclusive characteristic of theatre leads scholars and art lovers to the play *The Tragical History of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, one of the most intense and impressive tragedies of all time. The rhetoric "*Play's the thing ...*"[1] conveyed by British playwright William Shakespeare through Hamlet, the protagonist of the tragedy, provides an insight into the sophisticated functionality of theatre at the present time. 'The thing', which literally mediated the search for human nature and the reality of life 420 years ago, has a wide scope including different theatrical processes and practices today. 'The thing', which has now moved out of traditional theatre buildings, is performed by amateur and/or professional actors, actor/teachers, participants, practitioners, and facilitators for/with audiences who differ in language, religion, race, gender, age, occupation, social and economic background, education and upbringing in places such as hospitals, museums, prisons, schools, parks and gardens, heritage sites, and even on the street.[2] Collaborating with different disciplines such as dance, music, education, technology, history, health, and culture, 'the thing' fulfills different objectives including those that relate to artistic, political, educational, cultural, therapeutic, and entertainment purposes.[3]

Since the 1990s theatre has been classified under the domain of the performing arts as one of the creative industries[4,5], and its multi-, inter- and intradisciplinary structure has also attracted the interest of researchers from various disciplines[6,7] thus generating prolific and

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1   William Shakespeare, *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* (London & New Haven: York University, 2003), 92.

2   Uğur Ada, *Eğitimde Tiyatro: Theatre in Education* (Ankara: Pegem Akademi, 2021), v.

3   Anthony Jackson, *Theatre, Education and The Making of Meanings: Art or Instrument?* (Britain: Manchester University Press, 2007).

4   David Throsby, "Modeling the Cultural Industries," *International Journal of Cultural Policy* 14, no. 3 (2008).

5   Unesco, *Statistics on Cultural Industries: Framework for the Elaboration of National Data Capacity Building Projects* (Bangkok: Office of the UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific, 2007).

6   Bridget Keehan, "Theatre, Prison & Rehabilitation: New Narratives of Purpose?" *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance* 20, no. 3 (2015).

7   Belén Massó-Guijarro, Purificación Pérez-García and Cristina Cruz-González, "Applied Theatre as a Strategy for Intervention with Disadvantaged Groups: A Qualitative Synthesis." *Educational Research* 63, no. 3 (2021).

relevant studies worldwide. There is an extensive scientific literature, as is reflected by the plethora of articles, book chapters, and proceeding papers in the field, verifying the broadening theoretical and applied practices of the field from global, regional or local perspectives. This heterogeneous comprehensiveness of knowledge on theatre which has particularly been expanding in the first quarter of the 21st century (WoS, 2000-2022, n=58,606) urges scholars to carry out bibliometric studies to reveal a systematic overview of scientific research. Scholars carry out bibliometric research for a variety of reasons such as to introduce national and international contributions to the field[8], put forward statistical analysis of publications and collaborations[9], and to "explore the intellectual structure of a specific domain in the extant literature"[10]. It empowers scholars to find new and emerging areas of research[11], produce new ideas for research[12] and specify research priorities in order to manage large amounts of scientific data and research input.[13]

In consideration of the literature, bibliometric theatre studies comprise of research that gives particular importance to certain fields of study and definite document types. The research scope of these studies is based on playwrights,[14],[15] movements,[16],[17] historical periods,[18],[19] sub-

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8   Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, *Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development, The Measurement of Scientific, Technological and Innovation Activities* (France: OECD), https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264239012-en.

9   Alan Pritchard, "Statistical Bibliography or Bibliometrics." *Journal of Documentation. 25*, no. 4 (1969).

10   Naveen Donthu, et al. "How to Conduct a Bibliometric Analysis: An Overview and Guidelines." *Journal of Business Research* 133 (2021): 285.

11   Jean-Pierre V. M., Hérubel, "Historical Bibliometrics: Its Purpose and Significance to the History of Disciplines." *Libraries & Culture* 34, no. 4 (1999): 381.

12   Ivan Zupic, and Tomaz Čater, "Bibliometric Methods in Management and Organization." *Organizational Research Methods* 18, no. 3 (2015): 430.

13   İzzet Şeref and Beytullah Karagöz, "A Bibliometric Profile of Literature of Turkish Language Education-Teaching: A Case Study of 9th İnternational Language Education-Teaching Conference." *Journal of Alternative Education Studies* 4, no. 1 (2019): 109.

14   Susan Bennett, "The world Shakespeare Bibliography 1987-1994 on CD-ROM." *Theatre Survey* 39, no.2 (1998).

15   Maria Del Carmen Simon Palmer, "Mil estudios actuales sobre escritoras del siglo XX. Bibliografía." *Arbor-Ciencia Pensamiento Y Cultura* 182, no.721 (2006).

16   Luca Ruggio, "Il Teatro Umanıstıco In Europa: Rısultatı E Prospettıve Dı Rıcerca."" *Lettere Italiane* 70, no.1 (2018).

17   Susan Steadman, *Dramatic Re-visions: An Annotated Bibliography of Feminism and Theatre, 1972-1988* (USA: American Library Association, 1991).

18   Komla Aggor and Carolyn Harris, "El Drama Español de los Siglos XX y XXI: Bibliografía Selecta del Año 2001" *Estreno-Cuadernos Del Teatro Espanol Contemporaneo* 29, no. 1 (2003).

19   Kevin Curran, "Recent Studies in Tudor and Stuart Drama." *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900,* 57, no. 2 (2017).

genres,[20],[21] theorists and practitioners[22], the relationship with other disciplines[23] and geographical areas and countries[24],[25]. The bibliographical context of these studies generally embraces materials from the following main types of sources: (1) Books (2) Pamphlets (3) Journals (4) Dissertations (5) Playtexts (6) Reviews (7) Library catalogues. The studies, some of which are annotated by the same or different scholars after a while, only center upon the theatre as a field[26] or evaluate the publications on theatre as a part of the compiled literature of genres[27] such as poetry, short story, etc. The main objective is to indicate and scrutinize the complete listing of publications on the refined areas of theatre discipline to reveal representations of literature that may prove valuable to researchers.

It is within the abovementioned context that scientific literature is scrutinized to exemplify bibliometric studies on theatre as a discipline. Brown, Rappaport, Rubin and Wang presented an annotated world theatre bibliography and cumulative index of book series, *World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre*. The scholars documented "theatre books … in the second half of the twentieth century … to create intercultural and non-colonial world map of theatrical activity."[28] Sheppard, Costello and Dodaro include "all playwrights … influential figures who lived past 1899 to record current scholarship, criticism, and commentary that may prove valuable to students of dramatic literature and, to a lesser extent, of theatre history."[29] Igweonu collects prominent resources on African theatre published since 1990. The compiled publications included in the book chapter lists selected monographs and the edited collections of books on African theatre.[30] In parallel with the bibliographic studies refined by country, Reyes carried out research to document books, dissertations, scientific articles and interviews on Spanish theatre

20 Marion Baraitser, "Theatre of Animation - Contemporary Adult Puppet Plays in Context - Select Bibliography." *Contemporary Theatre Review* 9, no. 4 (1999).

21 Richard Hudson Palmer, *The Contemporary British History Play* (London: Greenwood, 1998).

22 Maddie Schutzman and Jan Cohen-Cruz, "Selected Bibliography on Boal, Augusto." *TDR-The Drama Review-A Journal of Performance Studies* 34, no. 3 (1990).

23 Jose Romera Castillo, "Towards a State of the Theater and New Technologies in Spain", *Signa-Revista de la Asociacion Espanola de Semiotica*, 17 (2008).

24 Şafak Horzum and Başak Ağın, "A Chronological Bibliography of Turkish Literature in English Translation: 2004 – 2020" *Translation Review* 110, no. 1 (2021).

25 Guo Yingde, "An Overview of Research on Classical Chinese Drama in North America (1998-2008)" *Asian Theatre Journal* 27, no. 1 (2010).

26 Sandra M. Mayo, *Black History Plays 1823 to 2020s: An Annotated Bibliography* (USA: BTIT, 2021).

27 Klaus Küpper, *Bibliographie der Brasilianischen Literatur: Prosa, Lyrik, Essay und Drama in Deutscher Übersetzung* (Germany: TFM, 2012).

28 Irving Brown, et. al., *World Encyclopedia of Contemporary Theatre Volume 6: Bibliography and Cumulative Index.* (UK: Routledge, 2000), 1-4.

29 Philippa Sheppard, Charles Costello and Maurizio Dodaro, "Modern Drama Studies: An Annual Bibliography" *Modern Drama* 42, no. 1 (1999): 59.

30 Kene Igweonu, "A Selected Bibliography of African Theatre (1990-2011)," in *Trends in Twenty-First-Century African Theatre and Performance*, ed. Kene Igweonu, (NY: Rodopi, 2011).

and Spanish theatre plays published in 2012, 2013 and 2015.[31],[32],[33] Ziółkowski, Filipowicz and Grossman present a selected bibliography in English for Polish drama and theatre. The study includes sources such as books, special issues, articles, plays and stage adaptations published in and after 1989 in chronological order.[34] Westmore creates a taxonomy to reveal modern Japanese drama translated into English. To help the researchers of Asian theatre find texts and plays to use in the classroom and find out untranslated texts, this scholar presents the plays listed by playwrights or included in anthologies and works defined as intercultural productions that blend both traditional Japanese theatre and modern theatres from around the world and cross-cultural productions.[35] Gray introduces the first major bibliography on the Black theatre movement in his book, *Black Theatre and Performance: A Pan-African Bibliography*. The book covers a broad range of media, books, dissertations, unpublished papers, periodical and newspaper articles, films, playtexts, playwrights, theatre companies, festivals and videotapes within two categories: studies of specific geographic areas and countries such as Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Canada, and publications on individual playwrights.[36] Williams reasserts the Black theatre movement within a narrower context based on contemporary African American female playwrights who "have had at least published one drama since 1959 and are citizens of the United States or have resided in the United States for an extensive period of time."[37] The scholar compiles the studies published in the annotated entries of selected anthologies, general criticism and reference works with an appendix including "a list of selected magazines and periodicals that frequently publish articles about playwrights and their plays and a brief biographical sketch of each dramatist".[38]

Despite the number of bibliometric studies that have been carried out in accordance with the increasing number of scientific research studies on theatre, academic literature still neglects a holistic academic analysis of these studies. The comprehensiveness of theatre as a discipline requires a global framework of rigorous study. Bibliometric studies within the field of theatre up to the present are predominantly based on document analysis and listing of publications in reference to the themes, playwrights, publication types, etc. Accordingly, approaching theatre from the viewpoint of scientific production over time underemphasizes the general profile of

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31   Jose Manuel Reyes, "El Drama Español de los Siglos XX y XXI : Bibliografía Selecta del Año 2012" *Estreno Cuadernos de Teatro Español Contemporáneo*, http://artemis.austincollege.edu/acad/cml/lbueno/estreno/estrenopagina/bibliography.pdf

32   Jose Manuel Reyes, "El Drama Español de los Siglos XX y XXI: Bibliografía Selecta del Año 2013." *Estreno Cuadernos de Teatro Español Contemporáneo*, http://artemis.austincollege.edu/acad/cml/lbueno/estreno/estrenopagina/bibliography.pdf

33   Jose Manuel Reyes, "El Drama Español de los Siglos XX y XXI: Bibliografía Selecta del Año 2015 (I) (II)." *Estreno Cuadernos de Teatro Español Contemporáneo*, http://artemis.austincollege.edu/acad/cml/lbueno/estreno/estrenopagina/bibliography.pdf

34   Grzegorz Ziółkowski, Halina Filipowicz and Elwira Grossman, "Polish Drama and Theatre: A Select Bibliography in English", *Contemporary Theatre Review* 15, no. 1 (2005).

35   Kevin J. Westmore, "Modern Japanese Drama in English", *Asian Theatre Journal* 23, no. 1 (2006).

36   John Gray, *Black Theatre and Performance: A Pan-African Bibliography* (London: Greenwood, 1990).

37   Dana Williams, *Contemporary African American Female Playwrights: An Annotated Bibliography* (London: Greenwood Press, 1998), ix.

38   Ibid., x.

the field, social network and intellectual profundity of the studies from a global perspective. It is under consideration that there is a lack of comprehensive and sophisticated bibliometric studies that depict and visualize the underlying intellectual structure of theatre research.

With the aim of contributing to the systematic analysis of knowledge in the field of theatre, this study offers an evidence based bibliometric review of scientific literature published from 1975 to 2021 and which is included in the databases of Web of Science (WoS). Therefore, the analysis of recent and relevant literature on theatre is especially valuable for the discipline to achieve a descriptive perspective of the current status, and to determine and summarize the emerging concerns and trends in the field.[39] An established general framework will reveal the intellectual profundity of the field and enable social networks, including collaborations and underlying dynamics of recent studies. Thus, it will expand the possibilities of current or ongoing research. Revealing the least researched topics and concerns, in other words the research gaps, it will also create new areas of research and lead scholars to further studies in the field. Thus, the research will provide scientific-based awareness to the researchers in the field, have a positive effect on the recognition and envisioning of the knowledge, and contribute to the development of scientific interaction in the field. Accordingly, in this paper the authors seek answers to the question, 'What can we learn from bibliometric and social network views of publications in the field of theatre within the period 1975 to 2021?'

Methodology

Research Model

This study is designed around the descriptive research model. In research based on the descriptive model, researchers try to reveal and examine unconnected facts. The aim of such scientific research is to define these fact and to predict the relationships between them.[40] Accordingly, the descriptive research model was preferred in the present study in order to examine international theatre research in terms of bibliometric indicators and social network analysis.

Data Collection

First, the database to be used in the study was determined in the research. As the oldest citation database, Web of Science (WoS) has a wide scope and a wide range of records, with a bibliographic and citation dataset from 1900 onwards.[41] Thus, WoS was chosen as a data source since it supports extensive scientific tasks and provides a data set for large-scale data-intensive studies as a research tool.[42] WoS enables a quick search (by entering a subject), advanced search,

39 Massó-Guijarro, Pérez-García and Cruz-González, "Applied Theatre as a Strategy for Intervention with Disadvantaged Groups: a Qualitative Synthesis", *Educational Research* 63, no:3 (2021): 337-356

40 Şener Büyüköztürk, et al., *Bilimsel Araştırma Yöntemleri* (Ankara: Pegem Akademi, 2011)

41 Frances Boyle and Damien Sherman, "Scopus: The Product and its Development" *The Serials Librarian* 49, no. 3 (2006).

42 Kai Li, Jason Rollins and Erjia Yan, "Web of Science Use in Published Research and Review Papers 1997–2017: A Selective, Dynamic, Cross-Domain, Content-Based Analysis" *Scientometrics* 115, no. 1 (2018).

general search, and cited reference search. This provides guidance to researchers regarding all types of authors, collaborations and full reference titles and abbreviations. In this regard, all the necessary preliminary information is initially enabled for the researchers.[43]

An online search was conducted at WoS (https://www.webofscience.com/wos/woscc/basic-search) on January 11, 2022, by applying the Advanced Search Query Builder to access publications in the field of theatre. The research covers the period from 1975 to this date. Despite the production of different types of publications in the field of theatre, only scientific articles were selected as the document type in the study. Thus, the study corpus is grounded on an objective knowledge that is peer-reviewed.

Dataset and Data Selection Criteria

Certain criteria were taken into consideration in the selection of the publications included in the dataset of the study. Accordingly, the dataset of the study was refined to the publications listed in the Web of Science (Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) and Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). The results were also narrowed by choosing Web of Science Theater Category and also the document type was filtered to only select articles. The scope of research on theatre field published in the Web of Science Core Collection ranges from 1975 to the date of the online search. The query sequence used in the study is created as TS= ("theatre" OR "theater") AND TI= ("theatre" OR "theater"). Concordantly, a total of 8,121 publications published between 1975 and 2021 were determined for bibliometric analysis.

The PRISMA Flow Diagram which is developed for systematic compilation and bibliometric analysis research was followed during the data collection and analysis phase in the study.[44] The flow chart for the research processes is presented below (Figure 1).

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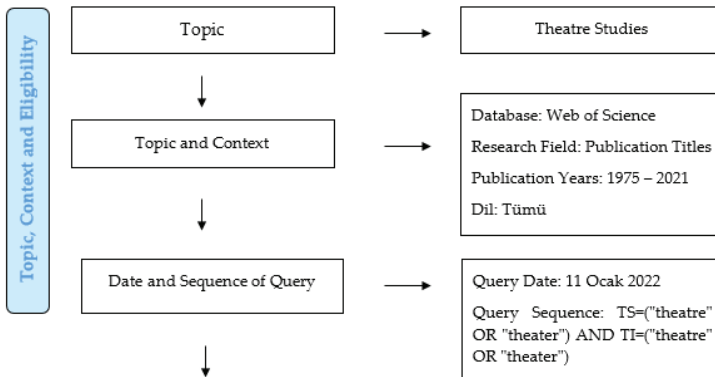
43   Matthew Falagas, Eleni Pitsouni, George Malietzis and Georgios Pappas, "Comparison of PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar: Strengths and Weaknesses" *The FASEB Journal* 22, no. 2 (2008).

44   David Moher, et. al., "Reprint - Preferred Reporting İtems for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: the PRISMA Statement", *Physical Therapy* 89, no. 9 (2009).
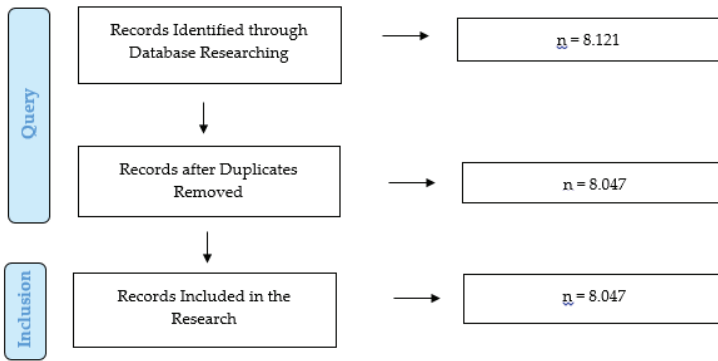
Figure 1: Research flow diagram

In the query process, a total of 8,121 different types of publication indexed in WoS between 1975 and 2021 were included in the research. However, a total of 74 biographical items such as Proceedings Papers (n=69) and Book Chapters (n=5) were excluded since they are not related to the basis of the study. As a result, this study consists of a data set of 8,047 publications.

All data are saved in Excel format to carry out the longitudinal analysis of the publications. This Excel file contains descriptive information formed by WoS database analytics tools (for example, the number of publications and citations by year, citation data of the publications, influential publications, authors, journals, countries, etc.). The bibliometric analysis is based on metadata associated with interconnected research studies. For this, some steps had to be taken to ensure the accuracy of the bibliographic data before analysis.[45] In this context, a data cleaning process was conducted on the dataset. Necessary precautions were taken to prevent any duplication or overlap in the records in the database. In order to ensure this, issues preventing the identification of the data set, such as different spellings of names for those with more than one name (Carlson, Marvin / Carlson, m.), and different spellings of journal names and abbreviations (TDR: The Drama Review/tdr-drama rev-j perf), were corrected and the data set was organized with deduplication.

Data Analysis

In order to seek a reply to the research question of the study, two different analysis techniques are used in the data analysis. The first of these is a descriptive bibliometric analysis which is used due to the methodological procedure of the research. This analysis includes descriptive statistics (number of publications, annual publication production, etc.) and citation analysis

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45   Philip Hallinger, "Mapping Continuity and Change in the Intellectual Structure of the Knowledge Base on Problem-Based Learning, 1974–2019: A Systematic Review", BERJ *British Educational Research Journal* 46, no. 6 (2020).

(citation count, citations per year, core articles, etc.) enabled by the WoS analytics tool. Social network mapping method is used after the descriptive bibliometric analysis. It includes social network analysis, co-citation analysis, and co-word analysis.

Bibliometrics is "the most extensively practiced approach to trace the knowledge anatomy of a research field"[46] and covers research topics for analysis such as publication productivity, productive country and author(s), influential journals, most cited articles, and network analysis across countries.[47] This approach is based on the idea that citation structures, which have accumulated over time in research areas, reflect authors' reasons about the subject, methodology, and value of other authors' research.[48] Thus, it has become possible to identify influential authors, publications and journals in the literature.[49] This type of citation analysis is based on the citation data obtained from other documents listed in the citation index of the documents in the database. The data used in the citation analysis of this research should be considered as Web of Science citations.

Social network analysis is based on describing the scientific communications that make up the literature and the patterns created by these relationships[50] and its purpose is to reveal the map and evaluation of scientific relationships and trends among researchers, groups, organizations or communities.[51] In research, social network analysis is conducted to examine the field in depth and then describe the intellectual contents. In social network analysis, co-word maps based on author, journal and sources, and co-occurrence data are created using common data.[52] Accordingly, citation and co-word analysis is conducted. This type of analysis assumes that two researchers, often 'cited together' by other authors, tend to share a similarity in theoretical perspective.[53] In this approach, each document is represented by a node represented as a dot. The analysis makes it possible to identify core research and publication focuses that intellectually contribute to the knowledge and development of the field in the scientific community.

46   Chenxi Li, Kening Wu, and Jingyao Wu, "A Bibliometric Analysis of Research on Haze during 2000–2016", *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 24, no. 32, (2017), quoted in Kirti Goyal and Satish Kumar, "Financial Literacy: A Systematic Review and Bibliometric Analysis." *International Journal of Consumer Studies 45,* 1 (2021): 83.

47   Tara Malone and Susan Burke, "Academic Librarians' Knowledge of Bibliometrics and Altmetrics", *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice* 11, no. 3 (2016).

48   Howard D. White and Katherine W. McCain, "Visualizing a Discipline: An Author Co-citation Analysis of Information Science, 1972–1995", *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* 49, no. 4 (1998).

49   Deniz Gülmez, İrem Özteke and Sedat Gümüş, "Overview of Educational Research from Turkey Published in International Journals: A Bibliometric Analysis", *Eğitim ve Bilim* 46, no. 206 (2020).

50   Alexandra Marin and Barry Wellman, "Social Network Analysis: An Introduction" In The SAGE Handbook of Social Network Analysis, ed. John Scott and Peter Carrington (USA, SAGE Publications Limited, 2011).

51   Ömer Faruk Sönmez, "Bibliometric Analysis of Educational Research Articles Published in the Field of Social Study Education Based on Web of Science Database", *Participatory Educational Research* 7, no. 2 (2020).

52   Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman, "Software Survey: VOSviewer, a Computer Program for Bibliometric Mapping", *Scientometrics* 2, no. 84 (2010).

53   White and McCain, "Visualizing a Discipline: An Author Co-citation Analysis of Information Science, 1972–1995.", *Journal of the American Society for Information Science* 49, no:4 (1998):327-355

VOSviewer software is used to prepare social network analysis maps in the research. VOSviewer is a science mapping software that enables bibliometric maps to be created and scientific literature to be viewed based on evidence.

Findings

In this part of the study, the findings are presented in line with the research question, 'What can we learn from bibliometric and social network views of publications in the field of theatre within the period 1975 to 2021?' First, bibliometric findings such as publication and citation trends, researchers contributing to the literature, countries, and sources are discussed. Secondly, the findings of the social network structures in the field of theatre are given sequentially, accompanied by tables and visuals.
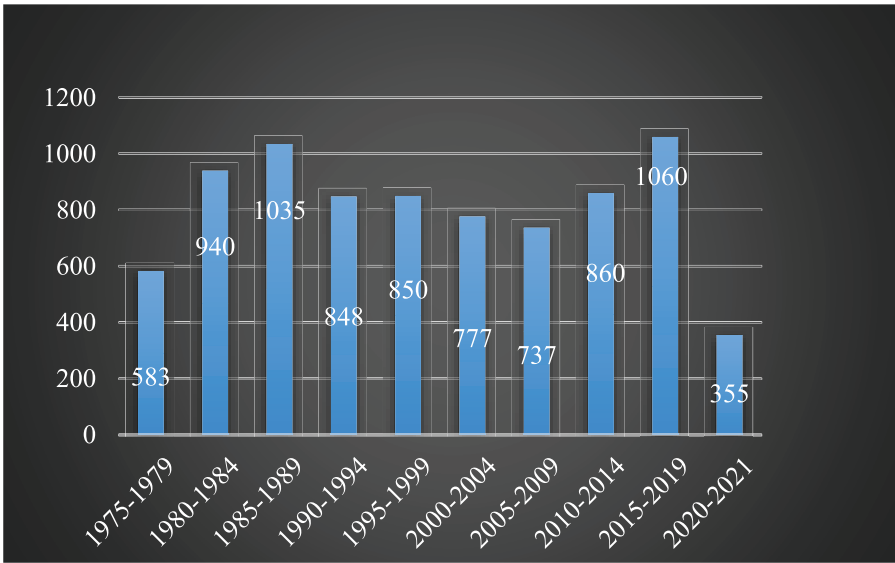

Figure 2: Distribution of WoS publications by years (11.01.2022)

Figure 2 reflects the quantitative distribution of the publications in the theatre category by years. The total number of publications produced in the field is 8,047. The highest number of publications belong to the period between the years 2015 and 2019 (1,060, 13,17%). Then comes the 1985-1989 period (1,035, 12.86%) followed by the 1980-1984 period (940, 11.68%). It is noteworthy that the number of publications has been at a certain level in every period and is envisioned to gradually increase between 2020 and 2024.

The Most Cited Articles in the Field of Theatre

The most cited articles are intellectual sources of literature that contribute to the development of the field. In this respect, it is very important to determine these publications because these core publications play an active role in shaping the background in the fields of science. Articles that mediate the development of scientific network in the field of theatre are presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

The Top 10 Most Cited Articles

No	Title	Author(s)	Year	Citation Rate	Journal
1	Cross-dressing, the Theater, and Gender Struggle in Early Modern England	Howard, Jean E.	1988	127	*Shakespeare Quarterly*
2	Toward a Topography of Cross-cultural Theatre Praxis	Lo, J., & Gilbert, H.	2002	93	*The Drama Review*
3	The Materiality of the Shakespeare and Text	De Grazia, M., & Stallybrass, P.	1993	91	*Shakespeare Quarterly*
4	Acting Together: Ensemble as a Democratic Process in Art and Life	Neelands, J	2009	72	*RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*
5	Bodies of evidence	Martin, C.	2006	71	*The Drama Review*
6	Grocers, Goldsmiths, and Drapers: Freemen and Apprentices in the Elizabethan Theater	Kathman, D.	2004	60	*Shakespeare Quarterly*
7	Verbatim Theatre': Oral History and Documentary Techniques	Paget, D.	1987	59	*New Theatre Quarterly*
8	On Immersive Theatre	White, G.	2012	55	*Theatre Research International*
9	Putting the Document into Documentary: An Unwelcome Corrective?	Bottoms, S.	2006	52	*The Drama Review*
10	Lethal theatre: Performance, Punishment, and the Death Penalty	Conquergood, D.	2002	52	*Theatre Journal*

The most cited articles in the field are given in Table 1. Accordingly, the most cited publication is the study titled "*Cross-dressing, the Theater, and Gender Struggle in Early Modern England*" written by Jean E. Howard. The article has been cited 127 times on WoS since 1988. In the article, attention is drawn to the differences between clothing in Renaissance culture and their various manifestations. Their relationship with the theatre in the class and gender struggle of the period is also analysed. The second-ranked article is "*Toward a Topography of*

Cross-cultural Theater Praxis" published in 1994 by J. Lo and H. Gilbert. In the article, the authors attempted to theorize various theatrical practices by proposing a new two-way flow model for intercultural theatre. The total citation of the study is 93. *Shakespeare Quarterly* and *The Drama Review* are distinguished from other academic journals on theatre because of their core publications in the field. Within this context, it is seen that both journals form a platform that plays an active role in the development of scientific network in the field. In addition, the intellectual structure of the discipline shows that theatre is a developed field of science. The most cited article in the field, *Cross-dressing, the Theater, and Gender Struggle in Early Modern England* is published in the most cited journal in the field, *Shakespeare Quarterly*. This suggests that the authors mainly prefer journals with high impact level for citation sources.

Co-Word Analysis

Co-words are distinctive concepts in terms of understanding the structure and content of scientific research. Generally, they provide insight into the trends of the field which characterize and also longitudinally extend the current research literature. In other words, determining at which points the co-words assigned to academic studies are intensified makes it possible to examine the relevant literature thematically. Hence, co-word analysis enables us to configure data set at varied levels of analysis (networks of connections and nodes, distributions of interactive networks and transformation of networks over time periods, etc.).[54] In this analysis, the data is reduced to a visual representation by explaining the basic information and presented holistically. The conceptual network that meets the threshold value of 10 out of 3,747 co-words assigned to publications in the field of theatre is shown below (Figure 3).
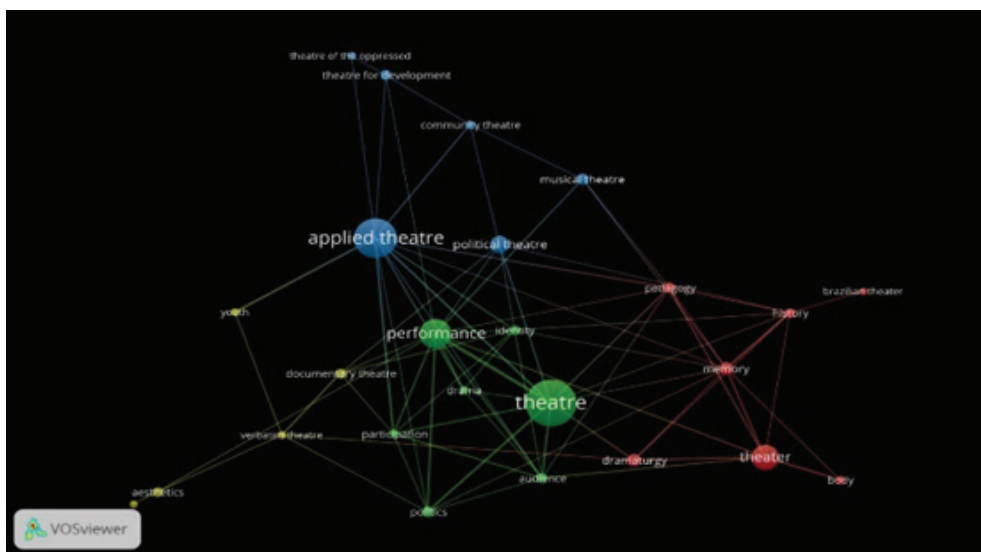

Figure 3: Co-word Network Map

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54   Ying Ding, Gobinda Chowdhury and Schubert Foo, "Bibliometric Cartography of Information Retrieval Research by Using Co-word Analysis", *Information Processing and Management* 37, no. 6 (2001).

Figure 3 shows that the co-words in the field of theatre form a total of 4 core clusters. It is seen that these clusters are represented by different colors. The size of the nodes reflects the number of occurrences, and the connections between the two nodes represent coexistence in the same publication. The width of the circle and the font size reveal the connection count and strength of the co-words. Accordingly, it is possible to say that the first cluster, the green one, represents the intensity in the field of theatre and performance. In this cluster, words with high connection strength such as 'theatre', 'performance' and 'participation' can easily be identified. The second cluster is in red. This cluster shows that there are publications about the relationship of theatre with different fields in the context of memory. The co-words with the highest connection strength in this cluster are 'theater', 'memory', 'history' and 'pedagogy'. It should be noted that there are also studies on the Brazilian theatre school in this cluster. The third cluster is in blue. Here attention is drawn to the intensity of research in different theatre genres. The co-words with the highest connection strength in this cluster are 'applied theatre', 'political theatre', 'community theatre' and 'musical theatre'. The fourth and last cluster, the yellow cluster, includes concepts such as 'documentary theatre', 'oral theatre', 'aesthetics' and 'youth'. This reveals that the cluster has a structure that covers some theatre genres on the basis of period and theory.

Influential Countries

Influential country analysis enables the identification of countries with a strong scientific research platform in various disciplines. Cooperation among these countries strengthens scientific network. Based on this, it is thought that it is necessary to focus on increasing research cooperation with influential countries and to strengthen the network between countries. This effort can positively impact an increase in scientific productivity and can widen the academic network. The number of publications and citations of countries that have contributed effectively to the field of theatre with their scientific publications are shown below (Table 2).

Table 2.
Distribution of Publications and Citations by Top Ten Influential Countries in the Field of Theatre

Country	Number of Publication	Number of Citations	Citation per Publication
USA	2494	4840	1.94
England	1345	2720	2,02
Canada	653	744	1.14
Brasil	641	109	0.17
Australia	407	1001	2.46
Germany	342	469	1.37
France	303	160	0.53
Spain	221	91	0.41
South Africa	138	202	1.46
Scotland	129	161	1.25

In the field of theatre, publications are produced from 98 different countries according to the WoS data. The first three countries that contributed most to the field of theatre are USA (2494, 30.99%), England (1345, 16.71%) and Canada (653, 8.11%). It can also be said that Türkiye is among the countries that contribute intellectually to the field with 22 publications. In addition, the analysis of the distribution of publications and citations by countries is also conducted in the research. With regard to the analysis, it was determined that there is a parallel between the number of publications produced by a country and the number of citations per year. For example, the findings reveal that the USA, England, Canada and Australia have the highest number of publications and citations and also have the nodes with the strongest connection strength (Figure 4).
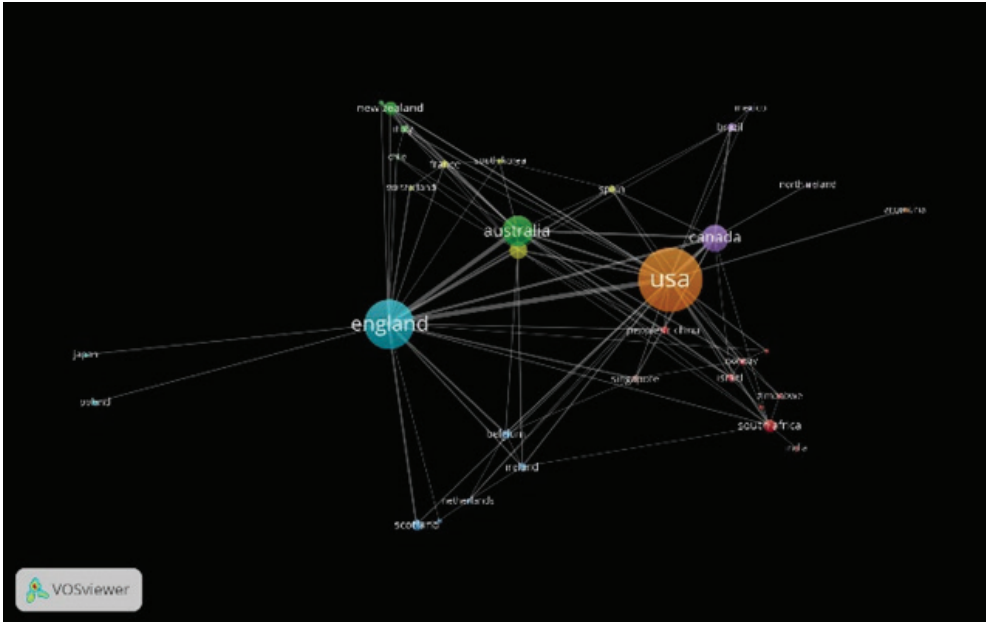

Figure 4. Country-based article citation network

Commonly Cited Books

In scientific studies, references to various types of academic publications are given in order to make the data more valid, to mature the intellectual background of the research, and to connect with the scientific network. The types of publications cited in social sciences are mostly books, journals (articles), symposium papers, the chapters of a book, and theses.[55],[56] Since books are the most cited publications in the field of social sciences they form the focus of researchers' citation preferences. This is because researchers need cumulative research in

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55   Beytullah Karagöz and İzzet Şeref, "Yunus Emre ile İlgili Araştırmaların Bibliyometrik Analizi", *Akdeniz Eğitim Araştırmaları Dergisi* 13, no. 27 (2019).

56   Yaşar Tonta, "Açık Erişim: Bilimsel İletişim ve Sosyal Bilimlerde Süreli Yayıncılık Üzerine Etkileri", in *Sosyal Bilimlerde Yayıncılık* 1. *Ulusal Kurultay Bildirileri*, ed. Kasım Karakütük, (Ankara: TÜBİTAK, 2006).

the field and there is no significant time pressure on the actuality of research processes in social sciences.[57] Thus, books have an important role in the citation network of social sciences. This situation reveals the necessity of determining the books cited in the articles published in the field of theatre, which is an important component of social sciences. For this purpose, we carried out an analysis of commonly cited books as a unit of co-citation analysis in order to determine which books are most frequently cited together in the field (Figure 5).
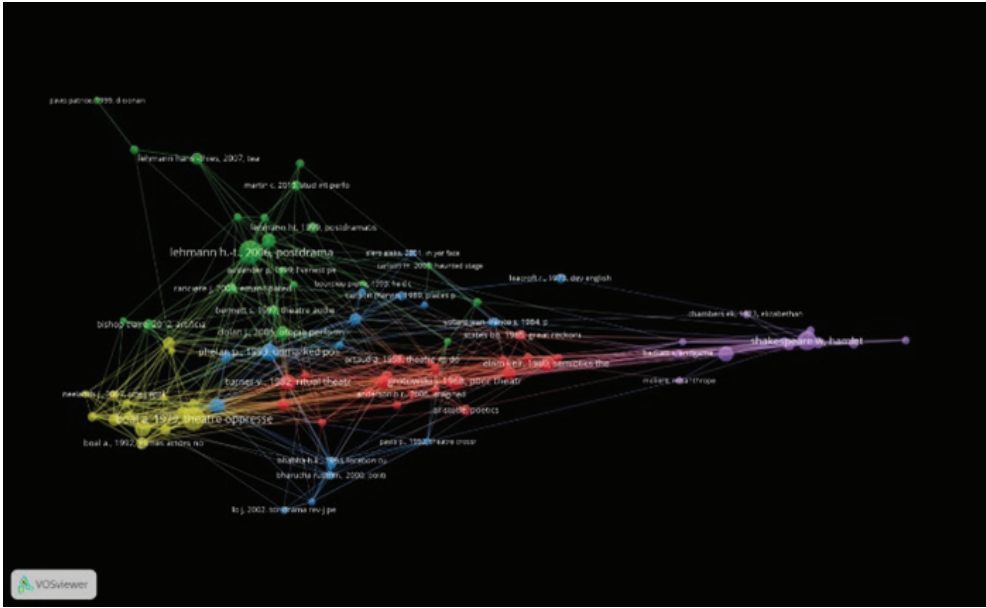

Figure 5: Network map of commonly cited books in articles

The analysis revealed that the number of book citations in the articles on theatre is 95,553. A total of 98 references with a minimum of 10 citations can be identified while visualizing the data. The findings on the network map show that book citations form 5 clusters, and the network of connections between clusters reveals a frequent structure. In order to analyse the data more clearly, the findings regarding the books with the highest connection strength are given below (Table 3).

Table 3.

The Most Cited Books in the Field of Theatre

No	Title	Author(s)	Citation Number	Total Connection Strength
1	The Theatre of the Oppressed	Boal, A.	50	78
2	Postdramatic Theatre	Lehmann, H. T.	50	45
3	Hamlet	Shakespeare, W.	37	32

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57   Nazan Özenç Uçak and Umut Al, "Sosyal Bilimler Tezlerinin Atıf Özellikleri", *Hacettepe Üniversitesi Edebiyat Fakültesi Dergisi* 25, no. 2 (2008).

4	Unmarked: The Politics of Performance	Phelan, P.	33	40
5	From Ritual to Theatre: The Human Seriousness of Play	Turner, V.	29	63
6	Poor Theatre.	Grotowski, J.	29	46
7	The Politics of Performance: Radical Theatre as Cultural Intervention	Kershaw, B.	28	41
8	Waiting for Godot	Beckett, S.	27	19
9	The Semiotics of Theatre and Drama	Elam, K.	26	27
10	The Transformative Power of Performance A New Aesthetics	Fischer-Lichte, E.	25	27

The abovementioned ranking is based on the citation data. In this context, the book titled *The Theatre of the Oppressed* by Augusto Boal comes to the fore. The overview of the table presents that the listed books are mostly related to the theoretical aspects of the theatre field. This finding reveals that the most cited books in the field are mostly publications that prepare the ground for theatre's theoretical development. More clearly, the most frequently cited books in the field are related to publications that affect and improve the intellectual structure of the field (Figure 5, Table 3).

Co-Author Citation Network Analysis

Science is "a linear process with accumulating or developing progresses."[58] Scientists are involved in the scientific network by benefiting from previous researchers while designing the research process. In other words, researchers refer to previous notable studies in order to create connection with the literature. These references can sometimes be given directly to the relevant field and sometimes to adjacent fields. In both cases, the main purpose is to increase the scientific validity of the research. Identifying researchers who are frequently cited in academic publications is crucial in terms of identifying the influential researchers in the journals. Within this context, for the purposes of this present study a co-author citation map was created in VOSviewer to map the researchers that form the intellectual structure of the field and their publications. The co-author citation map enables readers to determine which researchers are most cited in the field of theatre. For this purpose, a co-author citation network analysis was carried out as a unit of co-citation analysis in order to determine the most frequently cited researchers in the field, and the findings are shown in Figure 6.

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58   Hülya Yaldır and Aslı Üner, "Bilimsel İlerleme ve Metod Kavramı Üzerine Karl Popper ve Thomas Kuhn", *Pamukkale Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi* 4 (2009), 56.
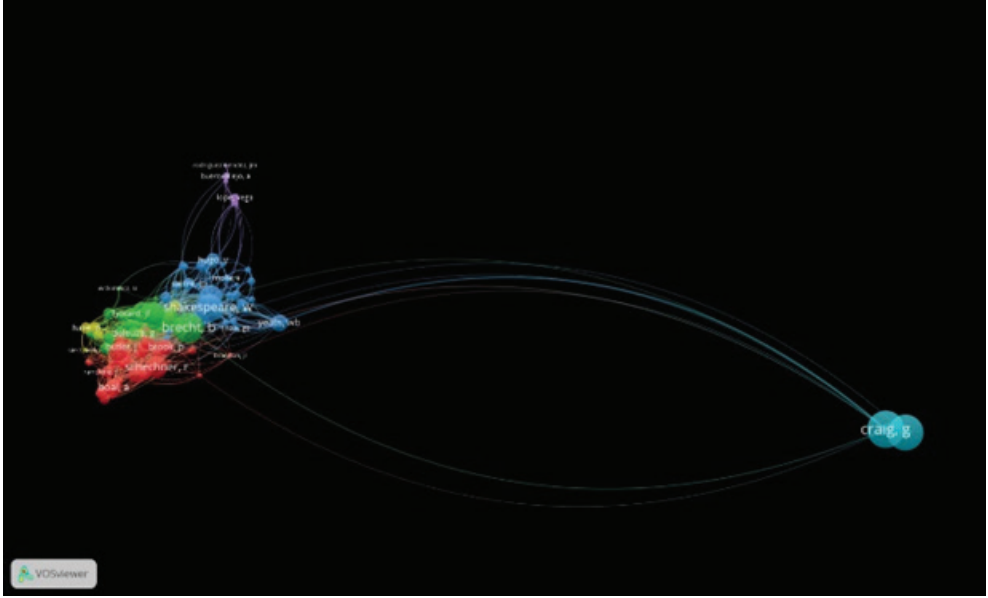
Figure 6: Co-author citation network map

The results of the analysis show that a total of 54,648 authors are cited in the field of theatre. Not all authors are included in the graphic. The analysis was carried out on 155 authors with a minimum of 30 citations. Accordingly, the most frequently cited authors in the articles published in the field of theatre are William Shakespeare [Number of Citations (NC)=310, Total Connection Strength (TCS)=764], Bertolt Brecht [NC=215, TBG=885], Augusto Boal [NC= 210, TCS=471], Richard Schechner [NC=195, TCS=642] and Samuel Barclay Beckett [NC=154, TCS=721]. These findings show us that publications often refer to prominent authors who have influenced many subsequent authors. The mentioned authors are literary critics and theorists such as Antonin Artaud [NC=153, TCS=619], Roland Barthes [NC=148, TCS=696], Michel Foucault [NC=149, TCS=553], Victor Witter Turner [NC=124, TCS= 448], Marvin Carlson [NC=109, TCS=310] who influence the main debates and practices in the field.

Discussion and Results

In this study, the general status, social network and intellectual structure of theatre studies are scrutinized. From this standpoint, the basic research dynamics of the field are revealed. The findings reveal that theatre is an advanced field of study in terms of social and intellectual structures. It can be seen that the annual number of publications is at a high level. The number of studies indexed in SSCI and AHCI in the field supports this view.

The research aimed to determine the main trends of the theatre field. Within this context, bibliometrics and social network analysis techniques were used in the study. The countries in

which the articles were produced reveal that the field of theatre has an important place in the world as a research subject. It is thought that the category titled 'Theater' in Web of Science is also effective on this result.

When the most cited articles in the field of theatre in WoS are examined, it can be observed that there are publications that discuss the role that theatre plays in social change and institutional development. The relationship between politics and theatre, and the theatrical reflection of this relationship as political theatre such as documentary or verbatim theatre are discussed mostly in the articles. The interest on performance studies can also be seen in accordance with the practice and effects of political theatre on real life. Creating a list of these publications presents a comprehensive citation trend regarding the field. At the same time, it is anticipated that it will contribute to researchers as a science-based guideline and a suggested reading list for those studying theatre.

This present research concludes that theatre (f=63) is the most used co-word in the articles published in the theatre field in WoS. This word is followed by the co-words applied theatre (f=53), performance (f=40) and theater (f=30), respectively.

The findings in the field of theatre reveal that this field has gained an international eligibility in about 40 years. However, it was an expected result that studies from the Anglo-Saxon tradition such as the USA, England, Canada and Australia would rank first because of the dominance of English-language journals with high academic standards in the field.

Citation is one of the fundamental indicators of scientific network. It is also a kind of channel between scientific publications and literature. Scholars connect with the academic environment by citing publications related to their field of study. The improvement of the field depends on the development of this network. In other words, citation provides inferences about the improvement of a scientific discipline. It is known that frequently cited publications emerge in an improving discipline. Accordingly, our study concluded that the first three books highly cited in theatre publications in WoS are *The Theatre of the Oppressed, Postdramatic Theatre* and *Hamlet*. In terms of citation analysis, the comprehensive approach in these three books, each of which is important in its own way, is effective in making them the most cited studies. For example, *The Theatre of the Oppressed* demonstrates the theatrical methods and techniques which are needed to ensure the revolutionary potential of human acts in combination with the arts for the sake of democracy, equity and freedom. This introduces groundbreaking terms and concepts which lie at the root of performance studies and practices today. *Postdramatic Theatre* is one of the most significant documents of modern theatre. It is the basis of a new form of theatre which brings out new ways of staging the political facts of the time on deep and personal issues. This leads scholars and practitioners to find out and stage real narratives among post-truth facts by bringing modern technology and human nature together. *Hamlet* is

one of the well-known theatre texts in world theatre history. As one of the most staged plays, *Hamlet* provides an insight into human life which is comprised of love, revenge, kinship, and power and reveals the fragility of human nature, manifesting its liminality between consciousness and madness.

In order for the current study to be beneficial in terms of the field, we would like to point out the following. The fact that there is a category titled *theatre* in Web of Science is an important opportunity for the field. Researchers in the field can follow the scientific developments in the world by means of this category and observe the developmental status of the scientific literature by following the prominent trend topics and researchers in the field. Thus, it may be possible to provide scientific communication not only with the knowledge in Türkiye but also in the world.

It is possible to say that the field of theatre studies is now a discipline that has gained a scientific qualification. Owing to the strong editorial boards of academic journals such as *Shakespeare Quarterly, New Theatre Quarterly,* and *Theatre Research International* and their publication interest that includes all kinds of sub-categories of theatre such as performance, researchers of theatre studies have been integrated as a community and the field has gained a corporate identity. The fact that there are not only SSCI or AHCI but also ESCI indexed journals in the field reveals a great expectation for the future of the field. As a result, the WoS global database presents that a common *theatre discipline* consciousness has been formed in the field.

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