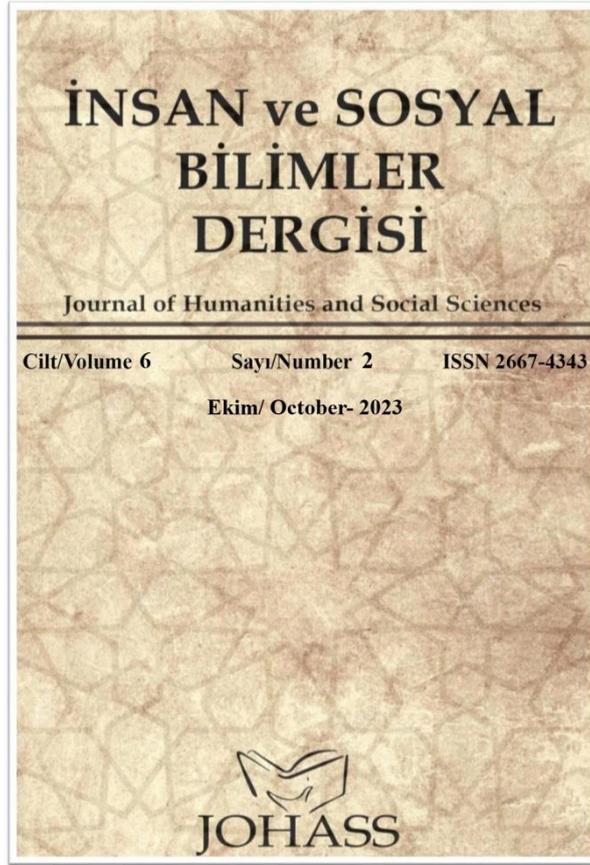


JOURNAL OF HUMAN AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (JOHASS)



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**Bibliometric Profile of Doctoral Dissertations on Minstrel Literature in
Türkiye Between 2013-2023**

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Article Type: Research Article

Received: 11.10.2023

Revision received: 16.10.2023

Accepted: 24.10.2023

Published online: 27.10.2023

Citation: Dağaşan, E. (2023). Bibliometric profile of doctoral dissertations on minstrel literature in Türkiye between 2013-2023. *Journal of Human and Social Sciences*, 6(2), 210-230.

Bibliometric Profile of Doctoral Dissertations on Minstrel Literature in Türkiye Between 2013-2023

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Abstract

This research aims to present the bibliometric profiles of doctoral dissertations completed in the field of Minstrel Literature in Türkiye between 2013 and 2023. The study was designed using a descriptive content analysis design, which is one of the non-interactive patterns within qualitative research approaches, in terms of its process and subject. The population of the study consists of doctoral dissertations on the topic of "Minstrel Literature" in the category of theses in the YÖK National Dissertations Center database. The year limitation has been extended to cover the years 2013-2023. As a result of the scanning, 29 theses related to the subject were identified and included in the analysis. According to the results; a significant majority of the studies were completed in 2015, and there was a noticeable decrease in the number of theses in 2016 and 2021. Atatürk University and Erciyes University have hosted the most doctoral theses in Minstrel Literature, becoming significant centers in this field. A significant portion of the doctoral theses were supervised by academicians with the title of Professor. When examining the gender distribution of researchers, it is observed that male researchers produce more theses in this field. The Department of Turkish Language and Literature is the academic department that focuses the most on doctoral theses. The length of doctoral theses is generally in the range of 400-499 pages. "Minstrel tradition," "Minstrel," and "Music" are the most commonly used and emphasized keywords in these studies. The recent decrease in dissertations intensity suggests the need for more research in this field.

Keywords: Minstrel literature, folk literature, doctoral dissertations, bibliometric profile

Research Article

*Received: 11.10.2023
Revision received:
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Accepted: 24.10.2023
Published online:
27.10.2023*

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Introduction

Language and culture are among the fundamental elements that distinguish nations from one another. Language serves as a living tool that elevates societies beyond mere collectives and acts as a vessel through which a nation's wealth of emotions and thoughts are poured and passed down from generation to generation. Culture, on the other hand, encompasses a nation's unique elements, stemming from its experiences, oral and written literature, language, music, aesthetics, and economic products. In this context, folk culture and folk literature are significant components for a nation. At the core of being a nation lies the sharing of common experiences in a shared space. Folk culture and folk literature encompass all the elements that reflect a society's shared experiences, emotions, and values.

Minstrel literature is one of the significant branches of folk literature, with its origins dating back to written and predominantly oral sources that extend as far as Central Asia. Initially, poets chanted religious and later magical-religious poems, and poets known as "Shamans of the Tungus, Oyun of the Yakuts, Kam of the Altay Turks, Baksı-Bakşı of the Kyrgyz, and Ozan of the Oghuz" are the earliest representatives of the Minstrel-style poetry tradition in our culture (Köprülü, 2004). In Turkish cultural history, the tradition of the minstrel is one of the oldest and most established forms of expression. This tradition has survived as the "Minstrel tradition" due to the cultural changes it underwent throughout history (Özarslan, 2001). Until the 15th century, the "Minstrel" continued to exist, but gradually, starting from the 13th century and becoming more apparent in the 16th century, the term "Minstrel" which became widespread during this century, began to refer to poets with certain characteristics (Oğuz, 1994). Minstrel literature encompasses the literary works, including poems and stories, of artists referred to as "Minstrels" who are known in cultural circles. The first sources related to Minstrel literature date back to the period known as the manuscript period, which covers the years 1072-1729. Although these compilations do not conform to today's understanding of collection, determination, and evaluation, we can find the first information about this literary genre in the works that have survived from this period (Günay, 2005).

Ashik literature, crafted by the troubadours who have been the carriers and creators of Turkish culture for the past five centuries, holds a significant place within education. The most tangible indicators of education lie within textbooks, and it is imperative that Ashik literature receives more comprehensive representation within them. These troubadours, in a sense, serve as the custodians of the cultural and moral memory of the Turkish nation. Given

that the fundamental purpose of education is cultural transmission, these troubadours can fulfill crucial functions in this context (Kılıç and Seven 2002). Research findings indicate that Ashik literature is primarily integrated into Turkish language textbooks only for the 3rd, 4th, and 7th grades of primary education. Furthermore, in the eighth grade of primary education, merely three troubadours are introduced. A closer examination of the Turkish Literature textbooks utilized during the four-year high school curriculum reveals a notable absence of substantial information concerning Ashik literature, except for the 9th and 10th grades. In general, these textbooks tend to feature the poetry of a limited selection of troubadours, such as Ashik Veysel and Karacaoğlan. Over the course of a 12-year education, students are introduced to a total of only 21 troubadours. Furthermore, the information provided about the art and lives of these troubadours is scant, if not entirely absent, beyond their sample poems. A comprehensive section on Ashik literature appears to be allocated only in the 10th grade of high school. Apart from this, informative sections regarding Ashik literature or the troubadours themselves cannot be identified (Yıllar, 2016).

In recent years, thanks to prominent figures in the field of folklore such as Ziya Gökalp, Fuad Köprülü, and Mehmet Kaplan, universities have established departments and undertaken postgraduate studies in the field of folklore and folk literature.

Doctoral theses represent a scientific approach of a specific school of thought in their own right. In addition to their structure, doctoral theses reveal the fundamental tendencies of the academic discipline under which they were prepared, both in terms of their contributions to the scientific world. In recent years, Folklore has become one of the focal points for doctoral theses, especially in the field of social sciences (Duman, 2013). In Türkiye, studies in this field have been defined as a scientific discipline starting from the early 20th century, and research has begun. Minstrel literature is one of the subjects that stand out in this field and is a subject of intensive research.

Importance of Research

Postgraduate education, which is a part of higher education, enables individuals to pursue master's or doctoral education in a specific field of science after obtaining a bachelor's degree. In the implementation of postgraduate programs, it is of great importance to develop programs tailored to needs and train instructors for higher education institutions. In this regard, universities bear significant responsibilities in terms of scientific knowledge production through postgraduate education. Examining scientific theses prepared in a

particular field can provide various information about the depth, prevalence, and overall appearance of the relevant field (Güneşer, 2022).

This study, by conducting a detailed examination of the quantity, distribution, and subject areas of doctoral dissertations on Minstrel literature in the last decade, will reveal the current state of academic research in this field and provide guidance for future studies. Additionally, the research will enhance the general knowledge base related to folklore studies, Turkish literature, and culture in Türkiye, thus serving as a valuable resource for students, researchers, and educators in this domain. Minstrel literature is an integral part of Turkish culture, and this study will not only contribute to the academic scrutiny of this tradition but also play a motivating role in inspiring further research in this field. Furthermore, this article has the potential to lead the way in showcasing the use of bibliometric analyses and text mining techniques in Turkish literature, encouraging their application in more literary research.

Simultaneously, this study will lay a foundation for future research by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of doctoral theses on Minstrel literature conducted in Turkish universities. The outcomes of this research can be utilized by decision-makers and educators in the field of education to enhance the teaching of Minstrel literature. Therefore, this study will provide significant insights to researchers, teachers, and those interested in preserving cultural heritage.

Purpose of the Research

In line with this need, this research aims to present the bibliometric profiles of doctoral dissertations completed in the field of Minstrel Literature in Türkiye between 2013 and 2023.

To achieve this aim, the following research questions were addressed: What is the distribution of doctoral dissertations in the field of Minstrel Literature by

- i. year?
- ii. universities?
- iii. institutes?
- iv. the academic titles of advisors?
- v. in the field of Minstrel Literature?
- vi. department and academic discipline?
- vii. subject?
- viii. page numbers?
- ix. in the field of Minstrel Literature?

Method

Research Model

The research employed qualitative research approaches, considering both the process and the subject matter. The study was designed using a descriptive design, which is one of the non-interactive patterns within qualitative research. This design is used to describe and depict events, phenomena, or situations. Descriptive research allows researchers to provide detailed descriptions of the subjects and analyze these descriptions (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2005).

Collection of Data

Doctoral theses on "Minstrel Literature" in the category of theses in the National Dissertations Center of the Council of Higher Education (<https://tez.yok.gov.tr/UlusalTezMerkezi/>). In order to conduct the review, a search was made in the Council of Higher Education's dissertations scanning engine using the Turkish keyword "Aşık" on August 2023. The search area was kept broad, including all (title, subject, index, and summary). The year limit was extended to cover the years 2013-2023. As a result of the search, a total of 93 theses were reached, and similar theses were separated, with closed-access theses excluded from the scope of the study. As a result of the search, 29 theses related to the topic were identified and included in the analysis, as indicated in the figure (Annex 1).

Data Analysis

Content analysis was employed in the analysis of research data. This analysis involves subjecting materials to code-category distinctions to determine the frequency of use (Gökçe, 2006). Through this analysis, trends and outcomes of studies conducted on a common subject can be identified as well (Lin, Lin, and Tsai, 2014; Sözbilir, Kutu, and Yaşar, 2012). In the analysis of the obtained data, bibliometric analysis techniques were also partially utilized. Bibliometrics is defined as the numerical analysis of publications produced by individuals or institutions in a specific field, during a particular period, and in a particular region (Güneşer, 2022; Abdi et al., 2018). Excel software was used for analyzing the data using frequency and percentage ratios. Additionally, content analysis was performed on thesis files to identify their themes, results, and recommendations. The data were subjected to partial code-category distinctions for the purpose of determining frequency of use. The results were expressed through graphs and descriptive statistics using percentage frequency tables.

The analysis was conducted by two experts, and Miles and Huberman's (1994) formula was used for the reliability calculation of the study.

$$\text{Reliability} = \text{Agreement} / (\text{Agreement} + \text{Disagreement})$$

According to the reliability formula calculations, the reliability of the research was found to be 74%. Reliability calculations exceeding 70% indicate that the research is reliable. Based on the obtained result, it can be said that the research is reliable (see also Kirk and Miller, 1986).

Compliance with Ethical Standard

Since the research made use of data accessible from open databases and theses that were available in full text, no research permission was required. However, all sources used in the research have been appropriately cited in the references section, and ethical principles have been adhered to during the reporting process.

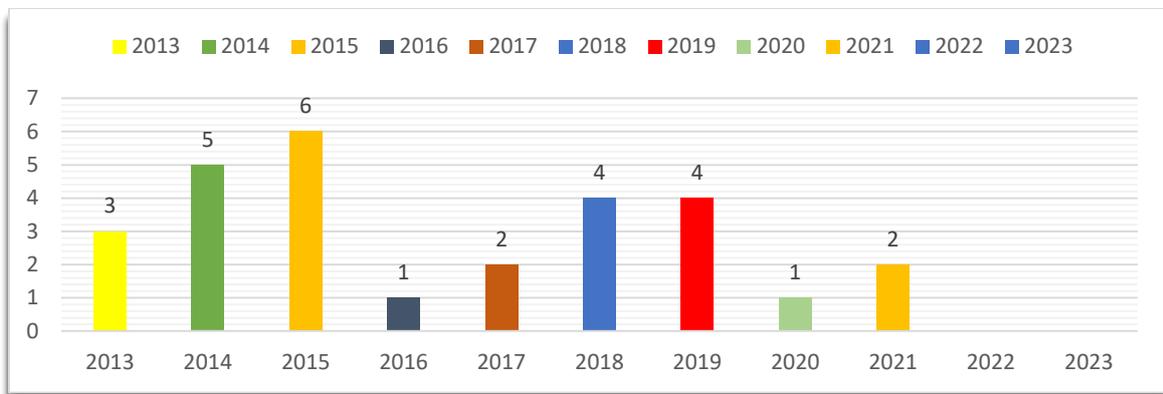
Results

Results Regarding the Publication Year Sub-Research Question

The distribution of doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature by years is depicted in Figure 2.

Figure 2

Minstrel Literature by Years



As seen in Figure 2, when the distribution of doctoral theses published between 2013 and 2023 is examined, it is observed that the highest number of theses ($f=6$) was in the year

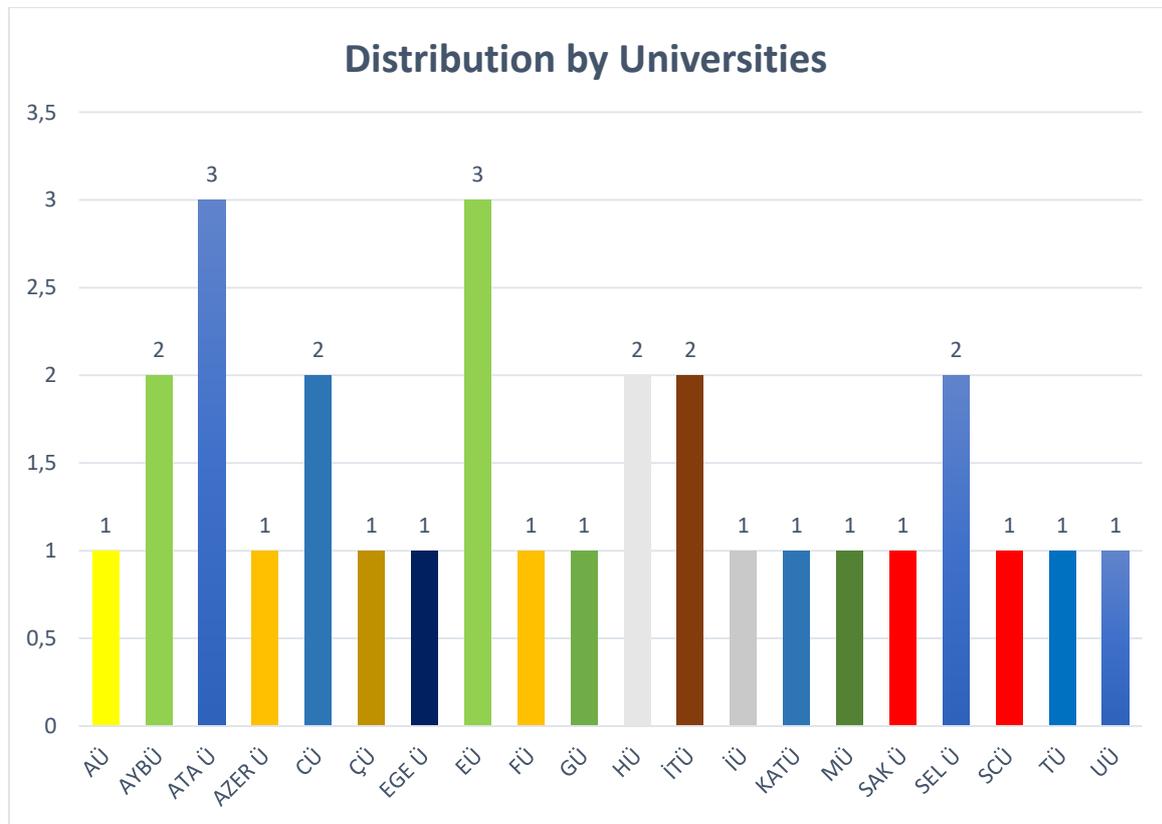
2015, while the lowest frequency occurred in the years 2016 and 2021 ($f=1$). There were no doctoral dissertations studies published in the years 2022 and 2023.

Results Regarding the Sub-Research Question of Distribution According to Universities

The distribution of doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature by universities is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3

Minstrel Literature by Universities



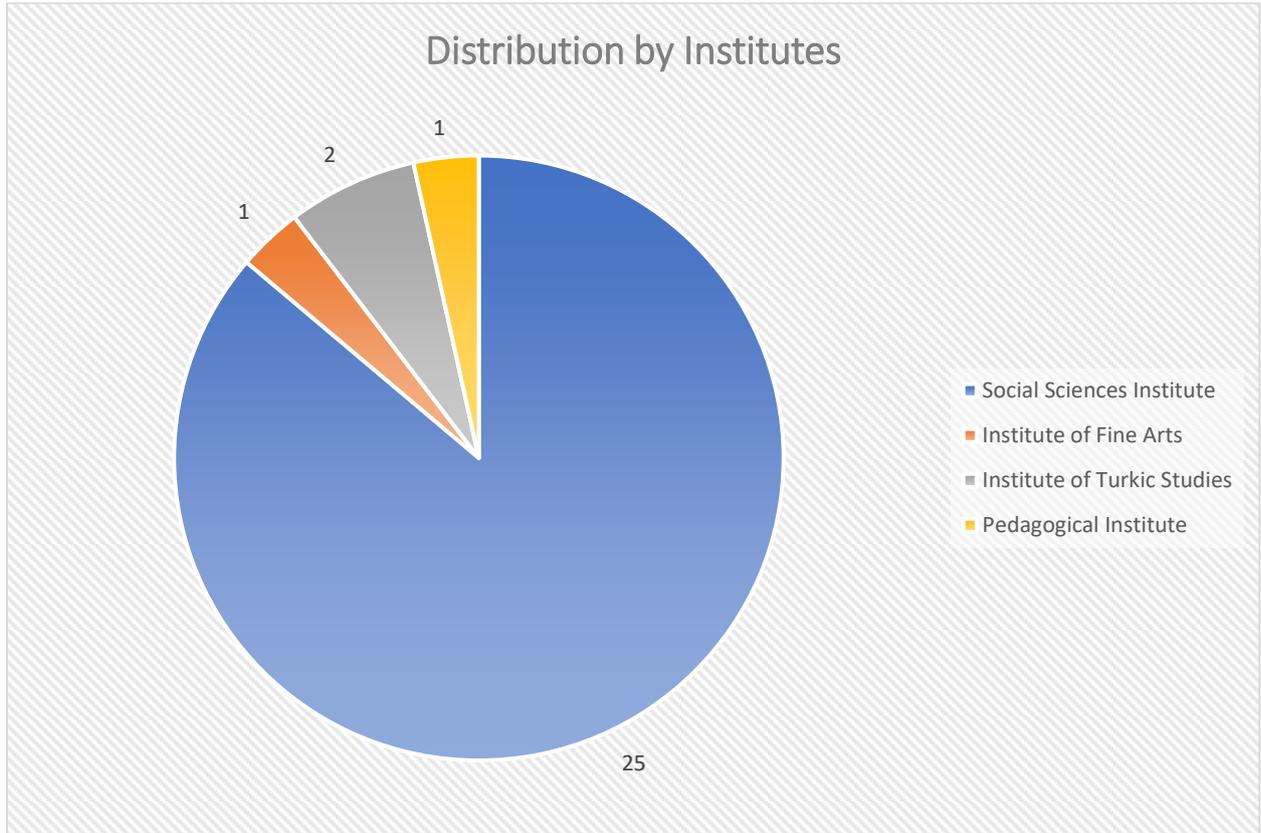
As seen in Figure 3, when examining the distribution of doctoral theses published on a university basis, it is observed that the highest number of theses ($f=3$) were conducted at Atatürk University and Erciyes University. Additionally, research in this field is relatively intense at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Cumhuriyet University, Hacettepe University, Istanbul Technical University, and Selçuk University compared to other universities.

Results Regarding the Sub-Research Question of Distribution According to Institutes

The distribution of doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature by institutes is presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4

Minstrel Literature by Institutes



As seen in Figure 4, when examining the distribution of doctoral theses published by institutes, it is observed that the highest number of theses ($f=25$) were conducted at the Institute of Social Sciences. Additionally, research in this field is also evident at the Institute of Turkish Studies, the Institute of Pedagogy, and the Institutes of Fine Arts.

Results Regarding the Sub-Research Question of Advisor Title Distribution

The distribution of doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature by advisor titles is presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5

Minstrel Literature by Advisor Titles



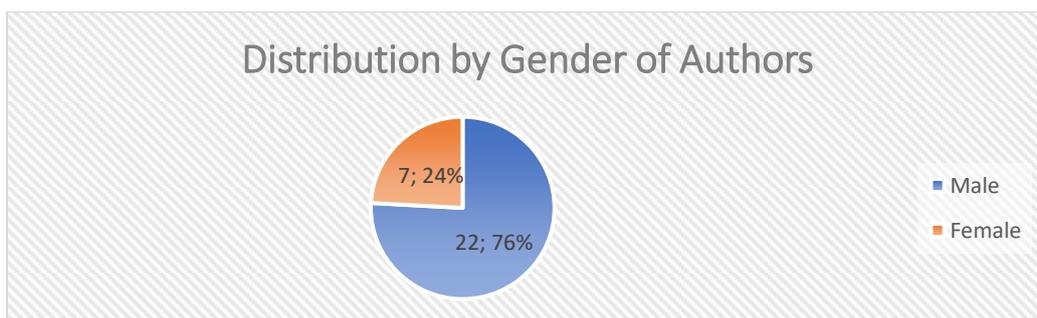
As shown in Figure 5, when examining the distribution of published doctoral theses by advisor titles, it is evident that the majority of doctoral theses (f=24) were supervised by academics holding the title of Prof. Dr. Additionally, it can be noted that advisors with the title of Assoc. Prof. Dr. (f=4) are also prominent in this field.

Results Regarding the Sub-Research Question of Authors' Gender

The distribution of doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature by the gender of the authors is presented in Figure 6.

Figure 6

Minstrel Literature by The Gender of The Authors



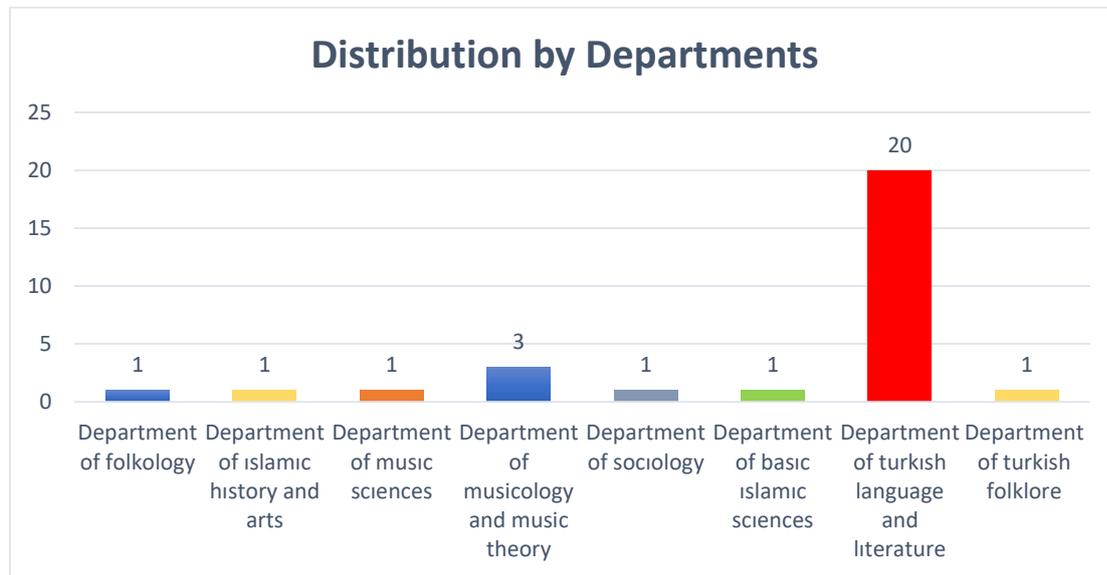
As observed in Figure 6, when examining the gender distribution of researchers who published doctoral theses, it is evident that the majority of doctoral theses (f=22) were completed by male researchers. It can be noted that female researchers (f=7) have produced a limited number of theses in this field.

Results Regarding The Sub-Research Question of Research Department

The distribution of doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature by the context of the department is presented in Figure 7.

Figure 7

Minstrel Literature by The Context of The Department



Examination of Figure 7 reveals that when considering the distribution of published doctoral theses by academic departments, it is evident that the majority of doctoral theses have been conducted in the Department of Turkish Language and Literature (n=20). Additionally, it can be noted that there is a concentration of theses in the Department of Musicology and Music Theory (n=3) in this field.

Results of Sub-Research Questions Regarding the Distribution of Doctoral Thesis Topics

The distribution of subject matters of completed doctoral theses in the field of Minstrel Literature is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Distribution of Subject Matters of Doctoral Theses

Subject	f	%
Minstrelsy Tradition	5	18
Minstrel Life and Works	5	18
Geography of Iran	4	14
Minstrel Literature	4	14
Translation Work	3	12
Erzurum region	2	6
Work review	2	6
Folk Poet	2	6
Tabriz lovers	1	3
Local Lovers	1	3
Total	29	100

According to Table 1, Minstrel Tradition and Minstrel's Life/Works are the most researched topics, accounting for 18% each. Geography of Iran and Minstrel Literature are significant research areas, with a rate of 14% each. Translation Studies account for 12% of the theses. Regional or work-focused studies like Erzurum Region, Work Analysis, Folk Poet, also hold a significant place.

Results of Sub-Research Questions Regarding the Distribution of Doctoral Thesis Pages

The distribution of the page numbers of doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature is presented in Figure 8 and Figure 9.

Figure 8

The Page Numbers of Doctoral Theses

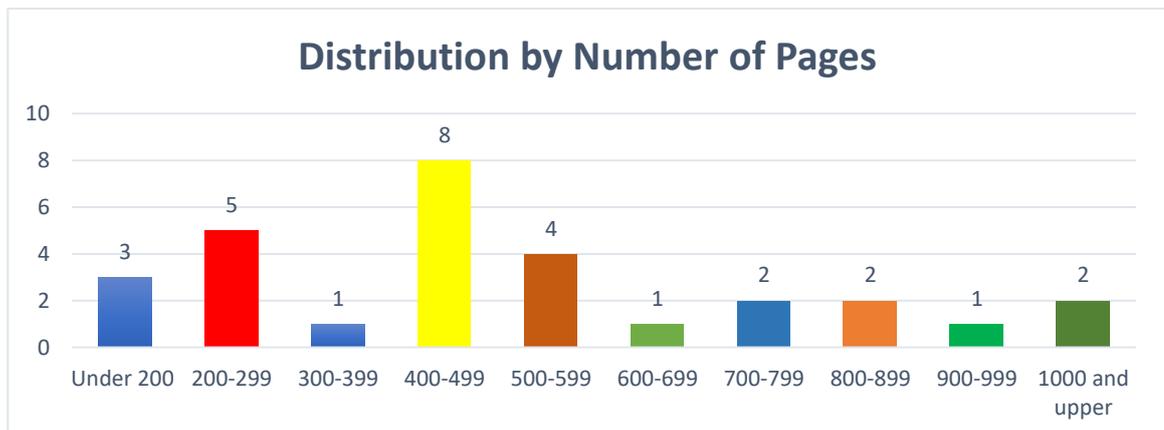
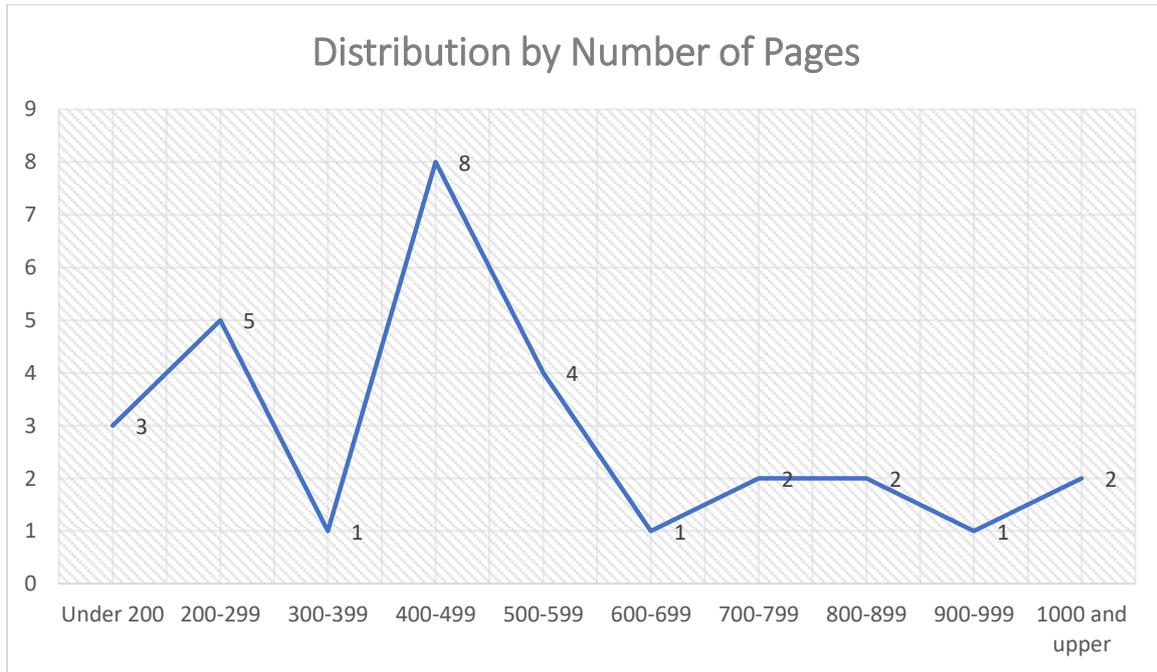


Figure 9

The Page Numbers of Doctoral Theses



According to Figure 8 and Figure 9, when looking at the distribution of the page numbers of the published doctoral theses, it is observed that most of the doctoral theses fall within the range of 400-499 pages ($f=8$). Additionally, it can be noted that the theses of 200-299 pages are also quite common ($f=5$).

Results of Sub-Research Questions Regarding the Distribution of Keywords

The density of keywords for doctoral theses completed in the field of Minstrel Literature is presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Density of Doctoral Theses According to Keywords

Keywords	f	%
Minstrel tradition	9	9.7
In love	7	7.4
Music	7	7.4
Minstrel Literature	6	6.3
Culture	6	6.3
Literature	4	4.2

Tradition	4	4.2
Socio-cultural context	3	3.1
Poet	3	3.1
Azerbaijan	3	3.1
Minstrel music	2	2.1
Total Keywords	95	

Examining Table 2, the keyword "Minstrel tradition" is the most frequently used keyword with a percentage of 9.7%, indicating that the majority of the theses in this field focus on this topic. The keywords "Minstrel" and "Music" have been used equally frequently, each at 7.4%. The keywords "Minstrel Literature" and "Culture" are seen with a similar frequency at 6.3%. The keywords "Literature" and "Tradition" have been used with a percentage of 4.2%. Other keywords have been used less frequently, and among these keywords are various topics such as "Socio-cultural context," "Minstrel," "Azerbaijan," and "Minstrel music"

Discussion and Results

Through the examination of doctoral theses in the field of Minstrel Literature, various dimensions of research in this field have been unveiled. When we look at the research years, the year 2015 stands out as the year with the highest number of completed theses, suggesting a particular intensity for that year. However, a significant drop in the number of theses is noticeable in 2016 and 2021. This decline may indicate that research intensifications in specific years are somewhat seasonal, raising questions about the sustainability of research in this field.

When examining the distribution of theses among universities, Atatürk University and Erciyes University are prominent in this field. These universities have become significant centers for Minstrel Literature and have hosted many doctoral theses in this area. However, it is also evident that research in this field is substantial at other universities like Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Cumhuriyet University, Hacettepe University, Istanbul Technical University, and Selçuk University. In this regard, more emphasis could be placed on the potential of different universities in the field of Minstrel Literature, and the establishment of specialized institutes in this field could be considered.

Regarding the distribution of doctoral theses by institutes, the Institute of Social Sciences clearly leads in this field. This institute has become a focal point for the

concentration of Minstrel Literature theses, with numerous theses completed under its auspices. Additionally, research in this field is also conducted at other institutes such as the Institute of Turkic Studies, the Institute of Pedagogy, and the Institutes of Fine Arts, demonstrating that different institutes contribute to Minstrel Literature research. When we look at the distribution by advisor titles, it is observed that academicians holding the title of Prof. Dr. are preferred to supervise doctoral theses. This reflects the effectiveness of academicians with this title in this field. Gender distribution shows that more theses are completed by male researchers. This indicates the need for increased representation and encouragement of female researchers in this field.

By examining the distribution by main disciplines, it is seen that the Department of Turkish Language and Literature hosts the most research in this field. This emphasizes the concentration of Minstrel Literature research in this department and the importance of the academic staff in this area. Additionally, the Department of Musicology and Music Theory plays a significant role in this field. Looking at the keywords, "Minstrel tradition" is the most frequently used keyword, indicating that researchers predominantly focus on this topic and intensively engage with this tradition. The keywords "Minstrel" and "Music" are equally used frequently. However, increasing the use of other keywords could highlight different subject areas. In summary;

- The majority of studies were completed in 2015, and a significant decrease in the number of theses is observed in 2016 and 2021.
- Atatürk University and Erciyes University have hosted the most Minstrel Literature doctoral theses and have become significant centers in this field.
- The Institute of Social Sciences has become an area of intense concentration for Minstrel Literature theses, with numerous theses completed in this institution.
- A significant portion of the doctoral theses were supervised by academicians holding the title of Prof. Dr., reflecting their influence in this field.
- When examining the gender distribution of researchers, it is observed that male researchers have produced more theses in this field.
- The Department of Turkish Language and Literature is the academic department that predominantly focuses on Minstrel Literature doctoral theses.
- The length of doctoral theses is generally found in the range of 400-499 pages, indicating that these theses involve in-depth examination and analysis.

- The keywords "Minstrel tradition," "Minstrel," and "Music" are the most frequently used and emphasized keywords in the field.
- The recent decrease in dissertations intensity suggests the need for more research in this field.

Compliance with Ethical Standard

Since the research made use of data accessible from open databases and theses that were available in full text, no research permission was required. However, all sources used in the research have been appropriately cited in the references section, and ethical principles have been adhered to during the reporting process.

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