Mapping Saudi Institutions' Translation and Interpreting Research in the Web of Science and Scopus: A Bibliometrics Approach

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ABSTRACT

This bibliometric study examines the field of translation and interpreting (T&I) research in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) by using data from the Web of Science (WoS) (SSCI, SCI-E, AHCI) and Scopus databases. Our objective is to identify key trends in publications, citation patterns, collaborative networks, journal affiliations, historical developments, research domains and funding sources across 33 Saudi universities. In this study, we employed analytical tools such as Excel, CiteSpace and VOSviewer to process, analyse and visualise the data, adhering to strict selection criteria for the indexation of journals in WoS and Scopus and excluding predatory journals. Results indicate that KSA universities have made relatively limited contributions to WoS-indexed journals (n = 37) compared to Scopus-indexed journals (n = 109). A notable increase in published research output and collaboration occurred in 2022, particularly in WoS (11/37, 29.7%) and Scopus (30/109, 27.5%). Key contributors include King Saud University, King Abdulaziz University, Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University and Najran University. These findings emphasise the need for further research incentivisation, enhanced collaboration and securing research grants to advance T&I research in KSA.

KEYWORDS: translation, interpreting, bibliometric, Saudi Arabia, Web of Science, Scopus

1. Introduction

This bibliometric study examines translation and interpreting (T&I) research published in journals indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) and Scopus, focusing on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The selection of Saudi Arabia as the focal point is based on its active support for T&I, as reflected in initiatives such as the 'establishment of translation training programmes', research centres, state-funded projects and the creation of the 'Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission[1]'—all aimed at advancing T&I scholarship (Al-Amri, 2025: 286). Considering these efforts, documenting the research output of Saudi academic institutions, in internationally recognised journals indexed in WoS and Scopus, is crucial. These journals are known for their 'high visibility and substantial impact' (i.e. global reach, citation impact and scholarly influence) on university rankings (Alyami & Qassem, 2024: 14). There is however a noticeable gap in the existing literature, particularly in comprehensive bibliometric analyses of T&I research in the Saudi context. Whilst studies have been conducted (Al-Amri, 2025; Alangri, 2023), they focus on the King Fahd National Library, Scopus and the general index of WoS only. This current study however examines T&I research in KSA, incorporating the selective indexes of WoS (i.e. SSCI, SCI-E and A&HCI) and systematically excluding predatory journals from the data retrieved from Scopus.

This study addresses this gap by providing a systematic and visually enhanced analysis of T&I research affiliated to Saudi institutions. Specifically, the study maps the research output and impact of Saudi institutions in WoS- and Scopus-indexed journals, identifying key trends, thematic focuses and the alignment of Saudi research with global T&I academic trajectories. By placing Saudi contributions within the broader international landscape, this study emphasises the achievements of Saudi academic institutions and highlights their growing role in advancing T&I scholarship globally.

2. Literature Review

The bibliometric approach is defined as 'a way of measuring and analysing scientific output, studying the evolution and trends of academic disciplines and evaluating scholarly communities' (Doorslaer and Gambier, 2015:306). This approach involves the statistical

[1] https://lpt.moc.gov.sa/en

analysis of written documents, emphasising the productivity of authors, institutions and countries (Ellegaard & Wallin, 2015). Additionally, this approach visualises networks of journals, researchers, keywords and publications through co-citation, coupling and co-authorship, yielding clear and interpretable results (Alyami and Qassem, 2023). Since the 1970s, bibliometrics has become an accepted branch (Doorslaer and Gambier, 2015:306). A review of the existing literature shows that one of the earliest studies in translation and interpreting (T&I) research was conducted by Šajkevič (1992), who adopted a statistical analysis approach using data from the Index Translationum. The bibliometric approach, in its real sense, was introduced in translation studies through the work of Castro-Prieto and Olvera-Lobo (2007), who analysed nine academic journals related to translation studies and investigated a total of 1072 articles contributed by 750 scholars between 1967 and 2001. By contrast, from a quantitative perspective, Toury (2009) examined articles published in *Target* (an international journal of translation studies) during its first two decades. Toury analysed articles by major contributing nations, the geographical distribution of journal articles and the gender of contributing authors. He offered profound insights, substantially contributing to a socio-cultural comprehension of research activities within the field of translation studies.

Doorslaer and Gambier (2015) also analysed several aspects of academic publishing in translation studies, using information available in the online TSB database. They identified 20 prominent institutions that have generated a substantial volume of articles, including Autonoma Barcelona, KU Leuven, University of Granada, University of Montreal, University of Trieste and University of Ottawa, amongst others. Their findings revealed that certain regions, such as Europe and North America, demonstrate a higher concentration of research activity in T&I. According to the TSB, the journals with the highest number of articles in the field of translation studies include *Cadernos de Tradução, TTR, Chinese Translators Journal, The Translator, Perspectives* and *Target*. Furthermore, Dong and Chen (2015) investigated publication patterns and thematic areas within translation studies from 2000 to 2015. They employed bibliometric techniques and visualisation tools using the Web of Science (WoS) databases: Science Citation Index Expanded (SCI-E), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI). Their findings emphasised that the primary literature in translation studies mainly focuses on ‘linguistic theories’, ‘research methodology’, ‘theoretical models’, ‘interpretating’ and ‘new perspectives’ (Dong and Chen, 2015:1120) Additionally, they found that the United States led in article contributions, with

410 articles (18.5%), followed by England (269), Spain (206), China (149), Germany (109) and Australia (101), amongst others.

In the context of Saudi Arabia, studies documenting research articles published in journals indexed in WoS and Scopus are limited (Alangari, 2023; Al- Alkhatnai,2021; Otaibi 2015; Alkhamis, 2012; Fatani, 2009). The earliest explorations of the Saudi translation industry were conducted by Fatani (2009) and Alkhamis (2012), who examined its evolution and sociological dimensions between 2009 and 2011. These foundational studies emphasised the early stages of professionalisation in the field, highlighting how translation began to gain recognition as a critical discipline in Saudi Arabia. They also investigated the societal implications of translation, offering a baseline understanding of the industry's role in bridging cultural and linguistic gaps.

Building on these early studies, Al-Otaibi (2015) assessed translation activities in Saudi Arabia from 2010 to 2015. Although this study did not explicitly focus on T&I research, it offered a broader perspective on the practical applications of translation across various sectors, including media, literature and government. Alkahtani (2021) examined the status of the Saudi translation industry in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. This study emphasised the integration of novel remote work modalities within the field, reflecting the global shift towards digitalisation and remote work. He also highlighted how the pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital tools and remote workflows in the translation industry, whilst also addressing the challenges and opportunities that emerged from this transformation. Alangari (2023) recently conducted a comprehensive bibliometric investigation of T&I research in Saudi Arabia over three decades (1990–2019). This study revealed a lack of research during the first two decades (1990–1999 and 2000–2009), followed by a substantial increase in scholarly output from 2010 to 2019, with a total of 111 studies identified. The analysis of Alangari used a dataset of 180 journal articles sourced from the King Fahad National Library, Scopus and Arabic secondary references, focusing on articles published by Saudi-based journals or authored by researchers affiliated with Saudi institutions. She found that '2010–2019 witnessed the sharpest increase of Saudi-affiliated journal articles in terms of publication count' (2023:6). One of the key findings of Alangari's study involved the prevalent emphasis on pedagogical inquiries within T&I research across all three phases (early years, academic advancements and industry progression). This emphasis on teaching and learning in T&I reflects the increasing importance of education and training in the development of the profession in Saudi Arabia. The increase in research output

during the third phase (2010–2019) was attributed to the expansion of translation programmes at Saudi universities and the growing availability of scholarships for students to study abroad, providing opportunities for academic and professional growth.

This study aims to introduce new dimensions on the research activities in Saudi Arabia (referred to forthwith as KSA) focusing on published studies in top-quality international databases such as SSCI, SCI-E and AHCI within the WoS and Scopus, whilst excluding predatory journals and publishers based on Beal's List[2]. This approach raises the question: 'Why are Scopus and WoS included in this bibliometric study?' Articles indexed in both databases indicate the increasing international recognition of scholars and their contributions to the field. The inclusion of Saudi T&I research in Scopus and WoS demonstrates that these studies have undergone a thorough evaluation process. Being indexed in these databases improves the visibility of research from Saudi Arabia universities, enabling scholars in KSA to share their findings with a global audience and promoting international collaboration and knowledge dissemination. Furthermore, indexed articles are more likely to be cited by researchers worldwide, which not only emphasises the influence of KSA T&I research but also fosters a culture of academic excellence and collaboration.

3. Research Questions

The present research work addresses the following questions:

1. Which university currently holds the distinction of having the most extensive publication record in the WoS database (SSCI, SCI-E and AHCI) and Scopus?
2. Which global and/or local institutions have collaborated with Saudi universities and research centres on T&I research?
3. Which academic journals indexed in the WoS and Scopus databases are the leading platforms for publishing T&I research from KSA?
4. Are there any critical transitions in the history of T&I research in KSA? If so, what are the turning points?
5. Based on input data sets, what are the major research areas in T&I studies in KSA?
6. Which Saudi institutions offer the highest number of funding grants for researchers in the field of T&I?

[2] https://beallslist.net/

4. Methodology

This study employed a bibliometric approach to examine the landscape of T&I studies within Saudi Arabian academia. Using quantitative and qualitative analyses of bibliographic data, the study provided a comprehensive understanding of research trends, impact and quality in the field. The authors collected a dataset of research publications on T&I studies from Saudi institutions, sourced from the WoS and Scopus databases to ensure the inclusion of relevant scholarly articles. Citation analysis was then conducted to evaluate the influence and importance of these contributions, assessing their academic impact based on citation frequency. Additionally, the study identified research trends within collaborative networks, offering insights into the dynamics that influence the field. The analysis also examined publication outlets and their role in scholarly recognition. Keyword and co-keyword analyses revealed dominant research themes, emphasising the primary focus areas within Saudi translation and interpreting studies. Furthermore, the study mapped the geographical distribution of collaborative research and identified international institutions partnering with Saudi universities and research centres, placing the research within a global context. Finally, temporal trends were analysed to track the evolution of research output and impact, identifying periods of growth and shifts in research priorities.

4.1 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

We applied specific inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure a comprehensive search and collect data from the WoS and Scopus. The following key entry terms were used to extract relevant data: *translate*, *subtitle*, *interpret*, *translation* and *translations* across WoS and Scopus databases. Although the same criteria were applied to both databases, the data collection procedures varied slightly due to differences in their indexing systems and categorisation. The WoS provides a highly detailed index structure, categorising journals into '254 subject disciplines', such as Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Economics and Linguistics (Singh, et al., 2021:5116). By contrast, Scopus utilises a broader classification system, with '334 subcategories' grouped under 'four major subject areas: Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences and Health Sciences' (Takahashi, et al., 2023 :3511). Additionally, whilst WoS focuses on highly selective citation indices such as 'SCIE', 'SSCI', 'A&HCI' and 'ESCI', Scopus offers broader coverage across disciplines (Singh, et al.,

2021:5115). This difference in indexing and categorisation between WoS and Scopus resulted in slight variations in the search procedures. However, the same criteria were maintained across both platforms to maintain consistency in the data collection process.

For the WoS, the search produced 1,359,785 results, spanning all years of interest (1919–2022). The authors then refined the results to include only *articles, review articles* and *early access publications,* yielding 1,187,940 results. Next, considering that the field of translation studies is interdisciplinary, the authors restricted the results to categories such as *linguistics, languages, sociology, literary criticism, educational, educational science* and terminology, which produced 175,491 results. Subsequently, the authors restricted the search to the following indices: *Social Science Citation Expanded*, *Arts and Humanities Citation Index* and *Science Citation Index Expanded,* resulting in 133,887 articles. A total of 620 results were obtained after narrowing the focus to Saudi Arabia. Confining the search to Saudi universities yielded only 581 results. Two 'raters' (researchers assigning ratings) filtered the results based on their relevance to T&I to ensure their reliability, identifying only 37 studies as relevant.

In this study, two rates were used to assess the data based on predefined criteria. Kappa statistics were calculated to evaluate the degree of agreement between the raters, with values ranging from −1 to 1. The inter-rater reliability, measured by Kappa, was 0.95, indicating strong agreement between the raters. This high level of inter-rater reliability emphasises the consistency and objectivity of the data analysis process, ensuring the validity of the study's findings (Mellinger and Hanson, 2017).

A similar process was conducted for Scopus, using the same criteria with minimal differences in the categories. In Scopus, the social science category was selected, as most journals published in translation studies fall within this category. Applying these search parameters led to the initial identification of 2,661,712 articles. However, after application of the specified filters and exclusions, the search ultimately yielded 1201 articles that were closely aligned with the predefined criteria, ensuring a notably focused and relevant set of research articles for further exploration and analysis. These results were then filtered, excluding predatory journals and publishers in the Beal List of Predatory Journals and Publishers. A total of 109 articles remained after filtering. Kappa's inter-rater reliability was calculated to assess agreement, yielding a value of 0.90.

Notably, journal articles were included in the analysis only if they met one of two categories: they were published in Saudi-based journals or authored by researchers affiliated with Saudi-based institutions. Articles without acknowledged affiliations were excluded. Additionally, book chapters, postgraduate dissertations, calls for papers and conference proceedings were excluded from the analysis because they were outside the scope of the study.

Regarding the language of the articles, all retrieved articles from journals that met the inclusion and exclusion criteria mentioned earlier were written in English, regardless of the region or the primary language of the journals. Additionally, few WoS- and Scopus-indexed journals publish articles in Arabic, and in Translation Studies. In this regard, Meddah (2023: 63) argues that "there is a problem with the lack of journals indexed in Scopus that adopt the Arabic language."

4.2 Software

Three software applications, namely, CiteSpace (Chen, 2006), VOSviewer and Excel, were used for data analysis, network visualisation and trend analysis. Data extracted from the WoSCC (SSCI, SCI-E and AHCI) were in plain text format, whilst the data extracted from Scopus were in Research Information Systems and comma-separated value formats to ensure compatibility with the chosen software. CiteSpace was employed for citation analysis, whilst VOSviewer was preferred for visualising the relationships between authors and publication sources due to its clear node visualisation.

5. Results

This section is organised in accordance with the research questions. Considering the first question, the investigation focused on identifying the institutions with the most substantial contributions to translation and interpreting research in Saudi Arabia academia. This study found a relatively low number of articles associated with Saudi universities, with only 37 articles published since the beginning of WoS indexation from 1919 to 2022. In terms of the contributions by Saudi universities, *King Saud University*, *King Abdulaziz University*, *Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University* and *Najran University* have notably higher publication numbers in SSCI, SCI-E and AHCI, with 7, 5, 4 and 4 publications, respectively. In terms of citations, *King Saud University*, *Electronic Saudi University*, *Imam Mohammad*

bin Saud University and *Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University* have received the highest numbers (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Table 1. Production and citations of articles in WoS

No.	Affiliations	Articles	Citations	Total Link of Strength
1.	King Saud University	7	62	0
2.	King Abdulaziz University	5	7[3]	0
3.	Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University	4	18	0
4.	Najran University	4	5	0
5.	Taif University	2	2	0
6.	Prince Sultan	2	0	0
7.	Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University	2	7	0
8.	Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University	2	14	0
9.	Umm Al Qura University	2	3	0
10.	Saudi Electronic University	2	26	0
11.	Qassim University	1	2	0
12.	Others	4	4	0
	Total	**37**	**150**	0

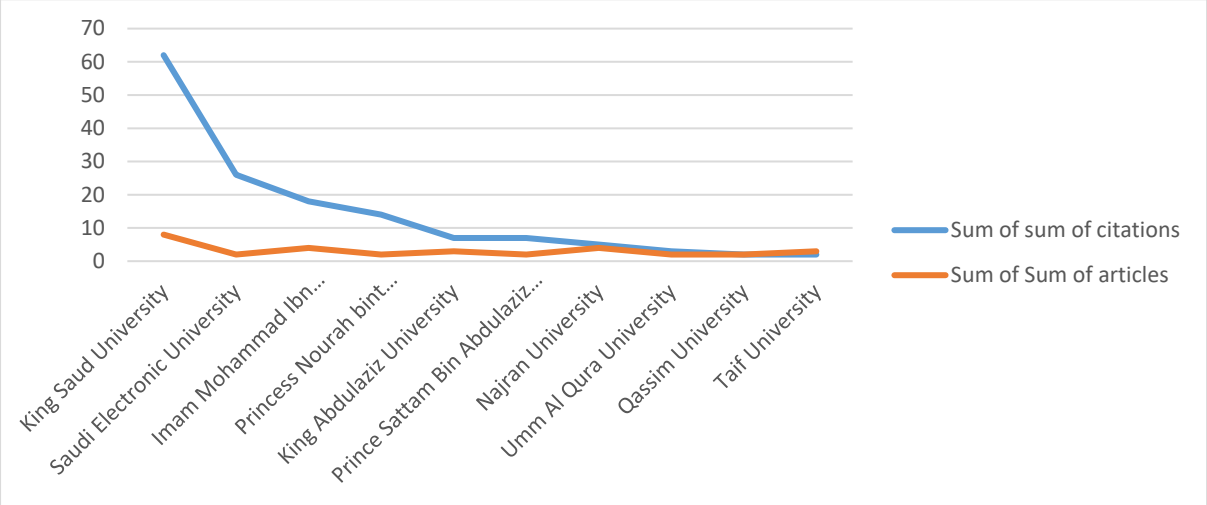

Figure 1. Number of articles and citations in the WoS

In Scopus, Saudi universities have contributed 109 articles, excluding those from predatory journals and publishers based on Beall's List of Predatory Journals and Publishers. Amongst these, *King Saud University* maintains its top ranking with 17 articles. *Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University* ranks second place with 16 articles, followed by *King Abdulaziz*

[3]Five citations shared with Imam Saudi University

University and *Najran University*, each with 14 articles. In terms of citations, *King Abdulaziz University* leads with 169 citations, followed by *Saudi Electronic University* with 63 citations and *King Saud University* with 49 citations. Additional details are presented in Table 2 and Figures 2 and 3.

Table 2. Production and citations of articles in Scopus

No.	Organisation	Articles	Citations	Total link strength
1.	King Saud University	17	49	0
2.	Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University	16	14	0
3.	King Abdulaziz University	14	169	0
4.	Najran University	12	25	0
5.	Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University	11	25	0
6.	Qassim University	8	1	0
7.	Umm Al-Qura University	7	11	0
8.	King Khalid University	6	18	0
9.	University Of Tabuk	4	19	0
10.	Saudi Electronic University	3	63	0
Others			354	
Total		**113**	**528**	

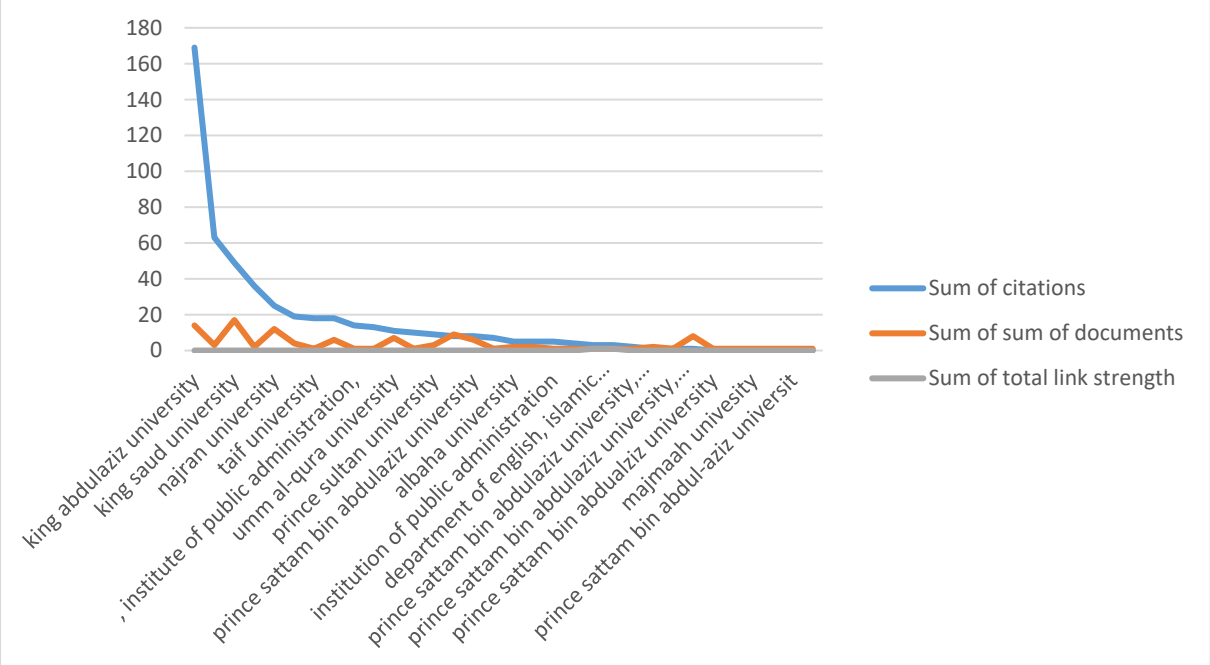

Figure 2. Production of articles and citations in Scopus

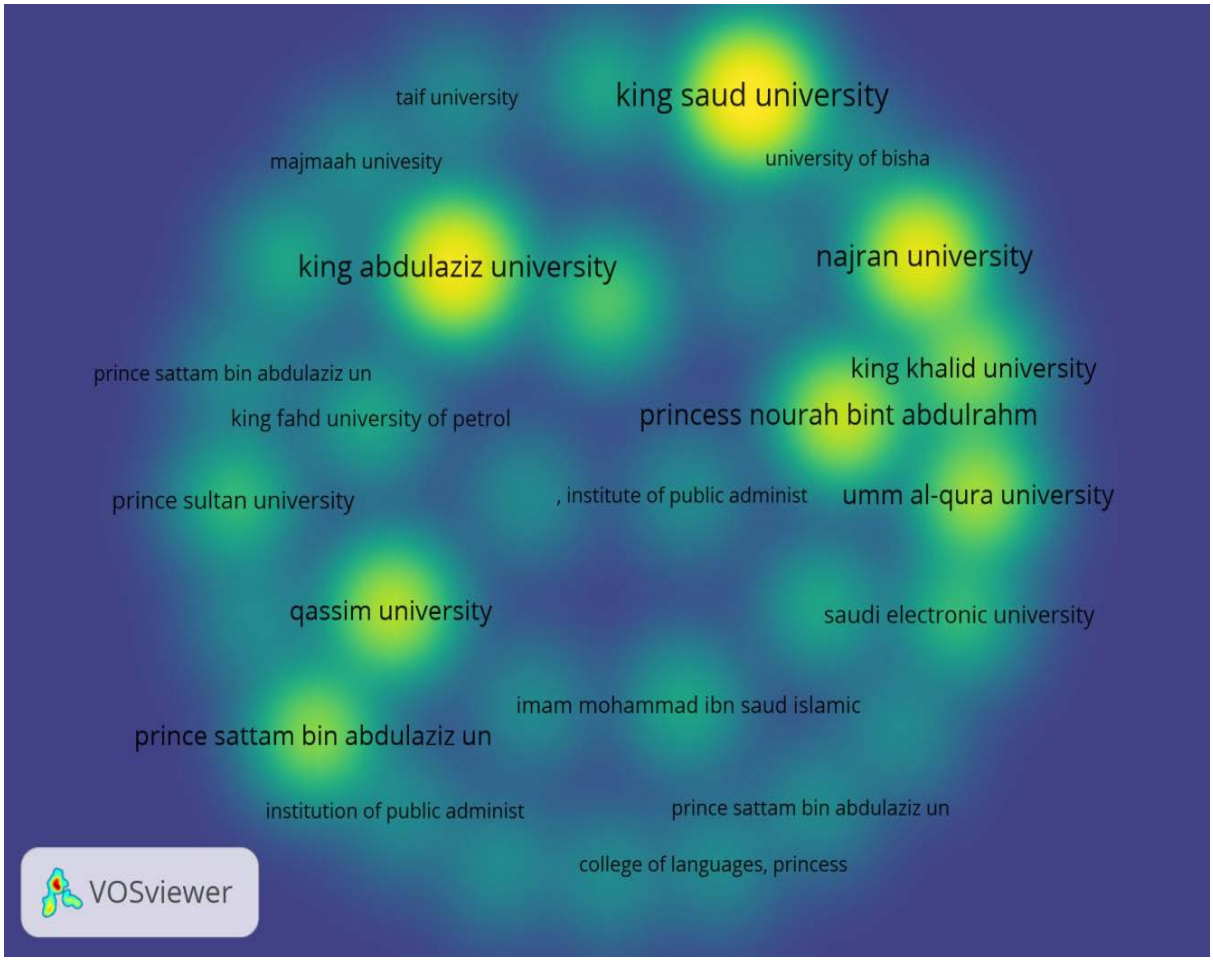

Figure 3. Production of articles in Scopus

The second question, *Which global and/or local institutions have engaged in collaborative research on T&I together with Saudi universities and research centres?,* addresses the collaborative efforts between Saudi universities and institutions locally and internationally. Saudi universities were found to have engaged in collaborative research with other universities in 18 of the 37 articles indexed in WoS. Hence, 48.6% of the articles produced by Saudi universities in this subject area involved partnerships with either local or international universities. Amongst these, *King Abdulaziz University* had the highest number of collaborative articles (4), followed by *King Saud University* and *Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University*, each with three articles (Table 3 and Figure 4 for details).

Table 3. Collaboration of Saudi universities with other universities (inside and outside KSA)

Saudi University	**Order affiliation**	**Collaborated university**	**Articles**
King Abdulaziz University	Second	Jordan University of Science & Technology, Jordan	1
	Second	Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, KSA	1
	Third	Duke University, USA	1
	First	University of Leeds, UK	1
King Saud University	Second	Hashemite University, Jordan	2
	Third	Umm Al Qura University, KSA	1
Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University	First	Al-Azhar University, Egypt	2
	First	King Abdulaziz University, KSA	1
Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University	First	Mansoura University, Egypt	1
Taif University	First	University of Liverpool, UK	1
	Third	Kohat University of Science & Technology, Pakistan	1
Umm Al Qura University	Fourth	Kohat University of Science & Technology, Pakistan	1
	First	Prince Sultan University, King Saud University, KSA	1
Princess Nourah	Third	Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy; Symbiosis International University, India	1
Prince Sultan University	Second	Shanghai International Studies University, China	1
	Second	Umm Al Qura University, KSA	1
Total			**18**

Figure 4. Collaboration with other universities

In Scopus, a notable finding is that a total of 30 articles written in collaboration with other universities, accounted for 27.5% of the entire body of work by KSA universities. *King Abdulaziz University* recorded the highest number (6). *Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman* University contributed 4, whilst *King Saud University* was involved in 3 (Table 4 and Fig. 5).

Table 4. Collaboration of KSA universities with universities, inside and outside of KSA (Scopus)

Saudi University	**Order of affiliation**	**International University**	**No. of articles**
King Abdulaziz University	Second	University of Zurich, Switzerland	2
	Fourth	Gomal University, University of Science and Technology, University of Swat, Pakistan	1
	Second	Duke University, USA Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran	1
	Second	Duke University, USA Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran	1
	Second	Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan	1
King Saud University	Fourth	University of Michigan, USA King Salman Centre for Disability Research, KSA King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, KSA Leiden University, Netherlands	1
	First	Université de la Manouba, Tunisia	1
	Frist	Hashemite University, Jordan	1
Princess Noura bint Abdulrahman	First	Mammeri University of Tizi Ouzou, Algeria	1
	Second	Queen Arwa University, Yemen	1
	First	Sousse University, Tunisia University Mohamed Boudiaf, M'sila, Algeria	1
	First	University of Algiers, Algeria	1
Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University	First	Al-Azhar Univeristy, Egypt	2
	First	King Abdulaziz University, KSA	1
Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University	First	New Valley University, Egypt	1
		Qassim University, Buraydah, KSA	1
	Second	Jahrom University, Iran	1
Saudi Electronic University	Second	University College of Bahrain, Bahrain	1
	First	Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, India	1
Umm Al Qura University	First	King Abdulaziz University, KSA	1
	First	Prince Sultan University, KSA King Saud University, KSA	1
Prince Sultan University	First	King Saud University, KSA	1
	Second	Shanghai International Studies University, Shanghai, China	1

		University of Sahiwal, Pakistan	
University of Tabuk	Second	Jerash University, Jordan	1
	Second	Xinyang Normal University, China	1
Qassim University	First	King Khalid University, Abha, KSA	1
Najran University	Second	Applied Science Private University, Jordan	1
University of Bisha	Second	Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, India	1
Total			**30**

Figure 5. Collaboration between Saudi universities and other universities (Scopus)

The third question focuses on journals which published articles on T&I in Saudi Arabia. Table 5 and Figure 6 indicate a wide range of journals/ Translation-specialised journals, specifically *Babel*, *Meta*, *Perspectives*, *Translator*, *Across Languages and Cultures* and *Translator and Interpreter Trainer* attracted most articles, with *Babel*, *Meta* and *Interpreter and Translator Trainer* publishing five, three and two articles, respectively. Interdisciplinary journal *IEEE Access* published four articles and *Interactive Learning Environment* featured two articles.

Table 5. Distribution of articles amongst journals in WoS

Translation Specialised Journals	**No. of articles**	**Other Journals (non-specialised)**	**No. of articles**
Babel	5	Linguistics Journals	4
META	3	Computer &	10
Interpreter and Translator Trainer	2	Education	1
Translator	1	Culture	2
Across Languages and Cultures		Multidisciplinary	6
Perspectives-Studies in Translation	1	**Total**	**23**
Translation and Interpreting Studies	1		
Journal of Psycholinguistic Research	1		
Total	**14**		

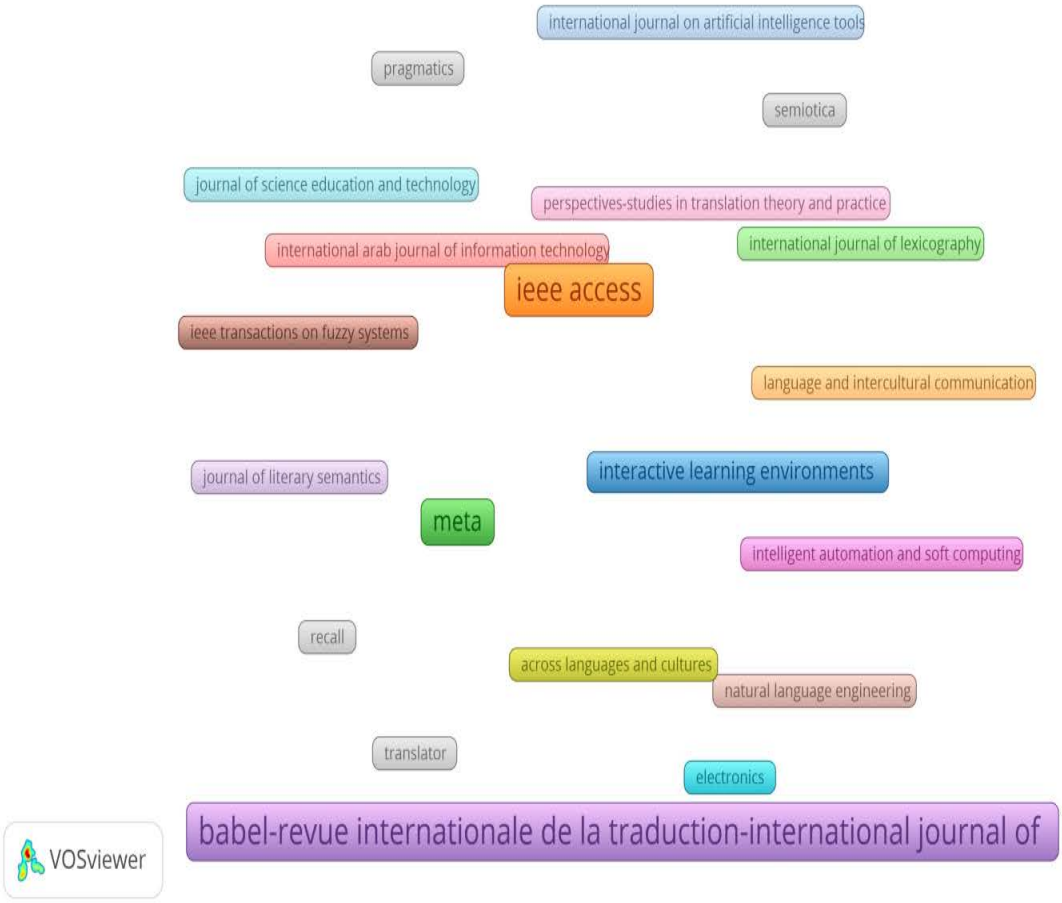

Figure 6. Distribution of articles amongst journals indexed in WoS

When reviewing the most prolific journals in Scopus based on article count, highlighting a distinct leader amongst the 71 journals studied is essential. *Babel*, which is the predominant

journal in this context, has published a total of 12 articles. Figure 7 illustrates the notable volume of research contributions in *Babel* compared to other journals. However, Babel is not the only notable performer in this category. *Kervan* and the *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* have demonstrated their impact, each featuring four articles (Table 6, below).

Table 6. Distribution of articles amongst journals (Scopus)

Translation Specialised Journals	**No. of articles**	**Other Journals (non-specialised)**	**No. of articles**
Babel	12	Linguistics Journals	31
META	3	Computer & Technology	17
Asia Pacific Translation and Intercultural Studies	3	Education	11
Interpreter and Translator Trainer	2	Multidisciplinary	12
Translator	1	Various topics	10
Across Languages and Cultures	1	**Total**	**81**
Perspectives-Studies in Translation	1		
Translation and Interpreting Studies	1		
SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation	1		
Translation and Interpreting	1		
Hikma	1		
Sendebar	1		
Total	**28**		
Grand Total		**109**	

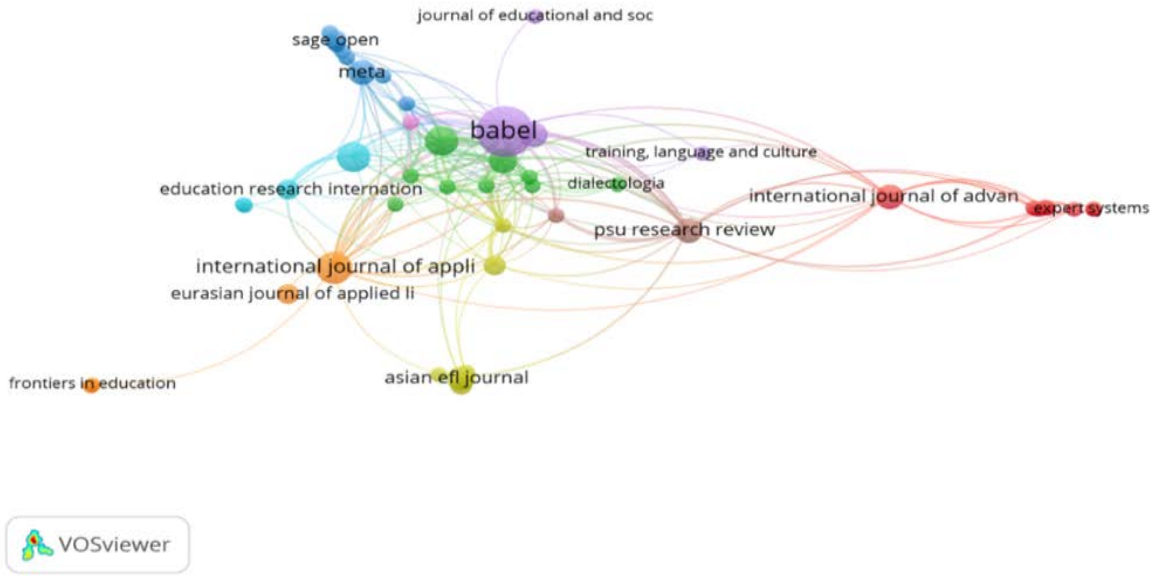

Figure 7. Distribution of articles amongst journals (Scopus)

Regarding the fourth research question, data analysis (table 7) presents a chronological overview of research articles entering the WoS database. The timeline commences in 1993, when the inaugural article was recorded in this scholarly repository. Notably, the number of articles added between 2005 and 2017 indicates a phase of gradual growth, characterised by a relatively low rate of article submissions, implying a period of limited scholarly activity within WoS (2–3). A key transformation occurred from 2018 to 2021, marking a notable upturn in the research landscape, with a development rating of 4. A discernible surge in the volume of articles entering the database was observed during this period, indicating an increasingly vibrant scholarly domain. However, the ensuing years, specifically from 2020 to 2021, witnessed a decline in article numbers (Reason why?). The remarkable turn of events in 2022 is of particular interest, revealing a substantial spike in the number of articles, reaching a total of 11. This surge indicates a potentially dynamic, evolving research environment in the field.

Considering Scopus, the timeline begins in 1999, when the first two scholarly articles were included in the repository. The production rate remained relatively low from 2000 to 2017, with outputs ranging from 1 to 5 articles. However, a noticeable increase in activity was

observed from 2018 to 2021, with the number of articles produced ranging from 10 to 19, followed by a slight decrease to 11. Remarkably, a substantial spike was found in 2022, reaching a total of 30 published articles.

Table 7. WoS and Scopus: publications across years

Web of Science		**Scopus**	
Publication Year	**No. of articles**	**Publication Year**	**No. of articles**
1993	1	1999	2
2005	1	2000	2
2007	1	2002	2
2011	2	2003	1
2012	1	2004	2
2013	2	2005	1
2014	1	2006	2
2015	1	2007	2
2017	3	2011	1
2018	4	2012	2
2019	4	2013	4
2020	2	2014	1
2021	3	2015	2
2022	11	2016	1
Total	**37**	2017	5
		2018	10
		2019	13
		2020	19
		2021	11
		2022	30
		Total	**109**

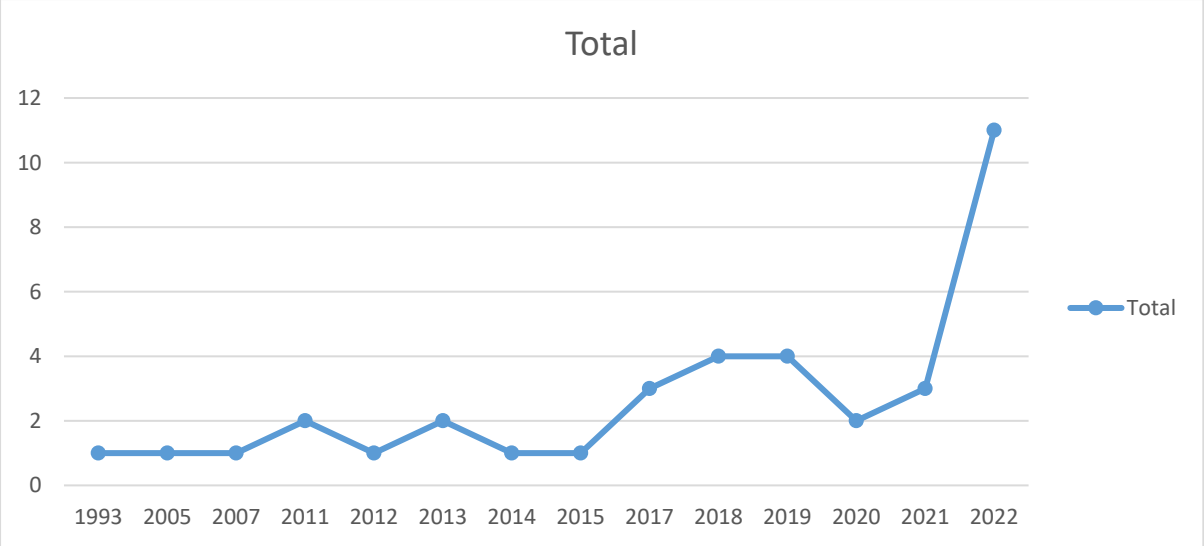

Figure 8. WoS: publications across years

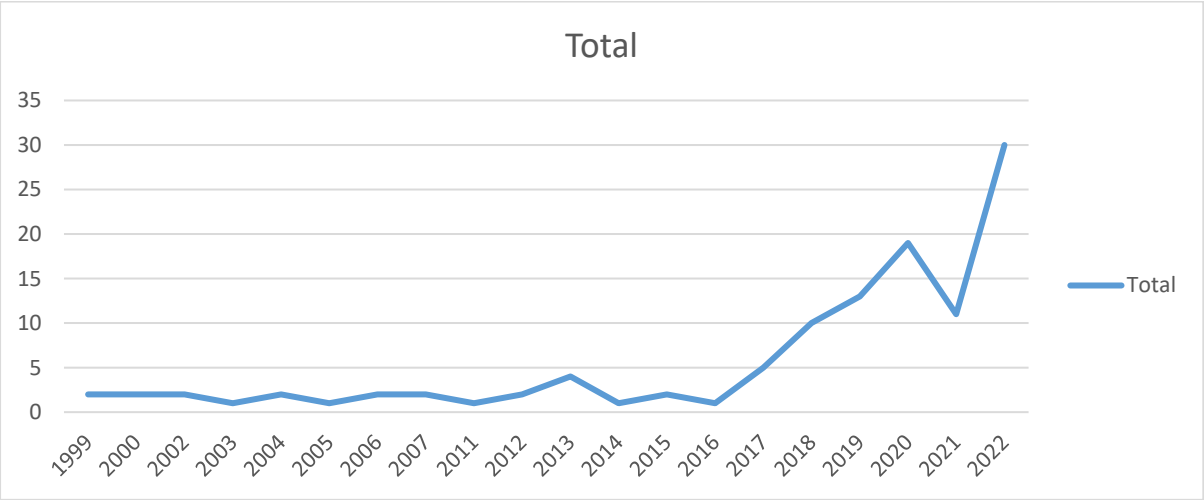

Figure 9. Scopus: publications across years

The fourth question, *Based on input datasets, what appear to be the major areas of research in T&I studies in Saudi Arabia?*, is divided into two sections: WoS and Scopus. The frequency of keywords in WoS offers valuable insights into the prevailing research trends within the field of translation and language studies. Data analysis of research articles in WoS revealed a total of 22 distinct keywords, collectively appearing 220 times across the selected publications. The keyword *English* leads the list, having been mentioned 22 times. The high frequency of references underscores the central importance of the English language in translation and language studies, reflecting its global prominence and the extensive body of research dedicated to improving translation practices involving this widely spoken language. Following closely is the term *translation*, demonstrating 17 mentions, which reaffirms its

enduring importance within the field. Researchers continue to explore the intricacies of the translation process, making it a central theme in their investigations, whether related to literary translation, technical translation or other domains. The keyword *learners*, which appeared 14 times, highlights the growing emphasis on translator education and training. This trend is likely driven by the increasing demand for proficient translators. Researchers are focused on preparing the next generation of language professionals by equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge. The word *collocations*, mentioned 13 times, also indicates another major area of research interest. The frequency of this keyword emphasises the pivotal role that collocations, or word combinations, play in language use and translation (cumbersome). The study of translating collocations has become a prolific research avenue within the larger field of translation. The term *translation quality* follows closely behind with 12 mentions, highlighting the importance of maintaining high-quality translations. In the contemporary landscape, where machine translation systems are increasingly used, this mention highlights the need to maintain high standards of excellence in human-generated translations. Closely aligned with the emphasis on learners, the term *translation competence* was mentioned 11 times, indicating a strong interest in skills and proficiency levels required of translators. Understanding these competencies is crucial for effective training but also for assessment within the profession.

Another recurring term, *congruency*, has 11 mentions. This keyword reflects an ongoing concern on ensuring the consistency and alignment of translated texts. Maintaining congruency is regarded as a fundamental aspect of effective translation practice. Like the general *collocations* keyword, *L2 collocations* is mentioned 11 times, indicating the continuous attention given to word combinations, particularly amongst non-native speakers of a language. The frequency (11) demonstrates the importance of examining how individuals acquire and apply these linguistic elements during communication using a second language. With 10 mentions, *Google Translate* emerges as a key term that (inaccurate), revealing the impact of machine translation on the field. The ubiquity of Google Translate and other machine translation tools is substantially impacting the translation landscape, forcing researchers to scrutinise their own performance and identify potential limitations. The fact that *corpus* is also mentioned 10 times indicates that corpus linguistics plays a key role in translation studies. Researchers rely on linguistic corpora to extract valuable data and insights, making it a critical tool in their investigations. Cited nine times, *machine translation* is a technology attracts the interest of researchers in translation studies. Researchers actively

engage in exploring the potentials and limitations of automated translation systems, given their increasing prevalence and impact. *Translog*, mentioned seven times, refers to a specific tool or software used in translation research. The frequency of this keyword indicates an increasing reliance on technology and specialised tools in the field of translation studies. The importance of education and (adequate preparation) (unclear) is reflected by the seven mentions of *translator training*, indicating that a concerted effort is being made to equip future professionals with the skills and knowledge to address the demands of the translation industry (Table 10 and Appendix 2).

Table 8. Distribution of keywords in WoS

No.	**Keyword**	**Sum of total link strength**	**No. of occurrences**
1.	English	22	9
2.	Translation	17	7
3.	Learners	14	3
4.	Collocations	13	3
5.	translation quality	12	3
6.	translation competence	11	2
7.	Congruency	11	2
8.	L2 collocations	11	2
9.	Google Translate	10	3
10.	Corpus	10	2
Others		89	46
Total		**220**	**82**

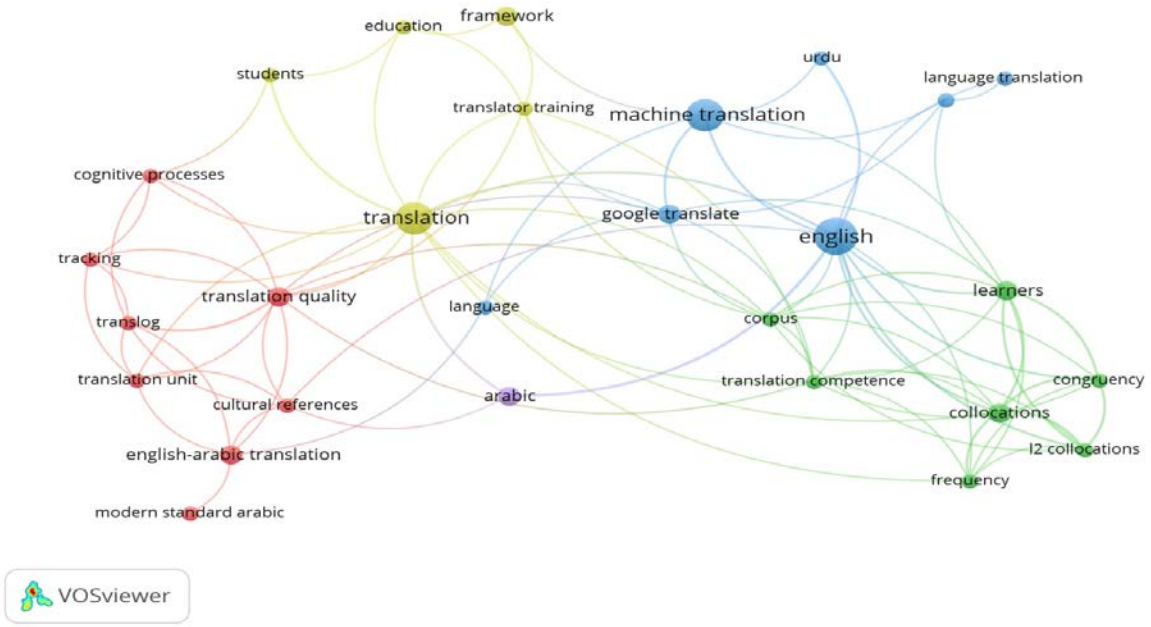

Figure 10. Frequency of keywords in WoS

In Scopus, 80 keywords were identified with a total of 1088 frequencies. This number provides valuable insights into the current research trends within the broad field of translation and language studies in Saudi Arabian academia. By examining the frequency of these keywords, and their total link strength, the strength of connections between keywords in research articles and a comprehensive understanding of the evolving research landscape can be obtained.

Leading the list with 28 mentions, *translation* remains a central and enduring topic in the field. The frequency of this keyword emphasises the ongoing interest in understanding and improving the intricate process of translation, indicating a substantial amount of research dedicated to unraveling the complexities of linguistic and cultural transfer. Following closely is *machine translation*, revealing 12 mentions. Although *machine translation* appears less frequently than *translation*, the total link strength of this keyword indicates a robust interest in this specific topic. This finding implies the growing influence of automated translation systems in the field, prompting extensive discussions and investigations into their performance and capabilities. The impact of technology on the profession is undeniable, and this keyword provides insights into the scholarly exploration of this impact. *English* has eight mentions, highlighting the prominence of this language in translation and language studies

and indicating a strong research focus on this subject. The global importance of this language and its status as the current international language make it a crucial area of research in the field.

The term *translation strategies*, also mentioned eight times, highlights its key role in the broader translation research field (avoid redundant and cumbersome wording often yielding some unusual/uncommon linguistic and syntactical associations in English). Although its frequency is notable, the total link strength indicates a specialised research area explaining the intricacies of strategy formulation and application in translation practice. The term *Arabic*, mentioned seven times, reveals a specific focus on translations involving the Arabic language. This finding indicates the cultural, contextual and linguistic importance of this keyword and its role in cross-linguistic communication. The inclusion of *Arabic* as a keyword emphasises the importance of understanding the challenges and nuances of translating to and from this language, particularly in the context of research conducted in Arabic speaking countries. *Computational linguistics*, appearing seven times, indicates the increasing reliance on technology in the field. This keyword reflects the intersection of language and technology, with its strong link implying a close association with various translation research areas. The synergy

between computational linguistics and translation is evident in its frequency and strong links. Furthermore, the six mentions of culture reflect an increasing recognition of the role culture plays in translation. Researchers are becoming increasingly aware of the need to produce translations that accurately convey cultural nuances embedded in language.

The strong link strength of culture emphasises its role as a crucial consideration in translation studies, highlighting the importance of cross-cultural understanding. Similarly, *machine translations,* also mentioned six times, is closely linked to discussions surrounding the role of technology in translation. The high link strength indicates active research into the performance and capabilities of machine translation systems, showing the commitment of researchers to improving the quality and effectiveness of this technology in the translation process. *Computer-aided language translation*, mentioned six times, reflects a growing interest in the application of technological aids for translation. The strong link strength underscores its importance as a research area, indicating that scholars are deeply engaged in investigating and utilising computer-assisted tools to facilitate the translation process. Similarly, *translation quality*, also mentioned six times, indicates the ongoing concern

amongst translators to maintain high-quality translations. The frequency of this keyword reflects the continuous effort to ensure that translated texts meet or exceed specific quality standards. The moderate link strength shows that researchers continue to discuss and address this critical aspect of translation studies.

Table 9. Distribution of keywords in Scopus

No.	**Keyword**	**Sum of occurrences**	**Sum of total link strength**
1.	translation	28	33
2.	machine translation	12	32
3.	English	8	18
4.	translation strategies	8	6
5.	Arabic	7	9
6.	computational linguistics	7	37
7.	culture	6	6
8.	machine translations	6	35
9.	computer-aided language translation	6	37
10.	translation quality	6	16
others		165	859
Total		**259**	**1088**

Regarding the sixth and final question, *Which organisation offers the most research grants for studies in the field of translation and interpreting?*, the results indicate that many article authors (26) did not receive any financial support. Notably, *Najran University* emerged as the top contributor, providing a total of four research grants. Additionally, nine other universities each offered one grant to support research in this field.

Table 10. Distribution of funding amongst Saudi institutions in WoS

No.	**Funding Organisation**	**No. of Grants**
1.	Najran University	4
2.	King Saud University	1
3.	Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University	1
4.	Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University	1
5.	Prince Sultan University, King Saud University	1
6.	Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University	1
7.	Taif University	1
8.	Dr Hamza Alkholi Chair for Developing Medical Education in Saudi Arabia	1
No Funding		26
Total		**37**

Scopus data revealed a total of 25 funding grants provided by Saudi universities. *Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University* offered the highest number of research grants (five), followed by *Najran university* with four *King Saud University*, *King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals* and *Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University* each offered three grants.

Table 11. Research grants offered by Saudi institutions Scopus

Funding Institution	**No. of research grants offered**
Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University	5
Najran University	4
King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals	3
Prince Sattam bin Abdulaziz University	3
King Saud University	3
King Faisal University	2
King Abdulaziz University	1
Prince Sultan University	1
Majmaah University	1
Ministry of Culture	1
Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, SABIC	1
Total	**25**

6. Discussion

This study aimed to examine research publications, impact of citations, collaborative research efforts, scholarly journals, historical research trends, specific areas of investigation and sources of research funding in the T&I research field in Saudi Arabia, using a bibliometric approach.

The WoS database revealed that Saudi universities contributed only 37 articles in the field of translation. This relatively small number indicates that, according to this database, Saudi institutions have not produced as much research compared to what is observed in Scopus. However, databases similar in scope to WoS may not capture all the research from Saudi institutions; therefore, their actual output could be more extensive. The limited number of T&I journals indexed in SSCI, SCI_E and ESCI may also pose a challenge for researchers looking to publish in WoS. Franco Aixelá and Rovira-Esteva (2015) succinctly highlight a notable issue encountered by scholars in translation studies. They emphasise that researchers

are at a considerable disadvantage when encouraged to publish in WoS, given the limited number of WoS-indexed journals specifically dedicated to translation studies. They argue' When scholars are told they should publish in journals included in ISI databanks or similarly, it seems that TS authors are put at a huge disadvantage. TS-oriented ISI journals are scarce'(Franco Aixelá and Rovira-Esteva, 2015: 267).

In countries with a strong research output, such as the USA, T&I studies remain however relatively limited. Dong and Chen (2015) found that the USA produced the highest number of articles (410), accounting for 18.5% of translation studies. Other countries, including England (269), Spain (206), China (149), Germany (109) and Australia (101), also made notable contributions. Whilst these numbers represent meaningful contributions to the field, they also indicate that T&I research remains relatively limited on a global scale.

The data analysis revealed the distribution of publications across various Saudi institutions and their corresponding impact. *King Saud University* emerged as a prominent contributor, with seven articles indexed in SSCI, SCI-E and AHCI, followed by *King Abdulaziz University* and *Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Najran University*. In terms of research impact, *King Saud University* emerged as the most influential, with *Electronic Saudi University*, *Imam Mohammad bin Saud University* and *Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University* also making substantial contributions. Their remarkable impact can be attributed to collaborations with international institutions. The findings (overused) confirm that most of the research reported in their articles was conducted in collaboration with international universities. This level of collaboration facilitates the exchange of knowledge and the pooling of expertise, both of which enhance the quality and impact of research. Compared to other Saudi universities, *King Abdulaziz University* engages in a substantial level of collaboration, demonstrating a strong commitment to international partnerships and knowledge sharing. *King Saud University* and Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University also participate in collaborative research, reflecting their active involvement with global institutions in this field.

The findings focus on the journals that have published articles related to T&I within the Saudi Arabian context. A diverse range of journals was examined, each with a unique focus, demonstrating the multidisciplinary nature of the field, including *Interactive Learning Environments, Education and Information Technologies* and *ReCALL,* amongst others. Notably, specialised journals dedicated exclusively to T&I receive a higher volume of

submissions. Amongst them, *Babel, Kervan* and the *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* stand out as prominent platforms for researchers in the field.

A timeline analysis presents a historical overview of research articles entering the WoS database. From 2005 to 2017, research activity demonstrated slow growth. However, a notable increase in the number of published articles was observed from 2018 to 2021, indicating heightened interest, funding opportunities or evolving research trends. A decline in article submissions is observed in 2020 and 2021, possibly due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The most striking observation is the substantial increase in research output in 2022, indicating a renewed or heightened research interest.

An examination of keyword frequency in the WoS database shows prevalent research trends in translation and language studies. Keywords such as *English, translation, machine translation, learners* and *collocations* are frequently mentioned. These keywords emphasise the enduring importance of topics such as English language, translation processes and the impact of technology in translation. Additionally, terms such as *translation quality, translation competence* and *congruency* reflect concerns regarding the quality and proficiency of translations in traditional and technology-driven contexts. The frequency of these keywords in Scopus provides a rich and dynamic picture of the current research landscape in translation and language studies. In this field, the interests of researchers are diverse, ranging from traditional translation practices to the growing influence of machine translation and computational linguistics. Additionally, these keywords highlight the critical role of language, culture and technology in shaping the dynamic field of translation studies. The link strength data offers valuable insights into the depth and interconnectivity of these research areas, providing a comprehensive understanding of the field's current dynamics and trends. Researchers and practitioners can draw inspiration and guidance from these trends as they navigate the complex, ever-changing world of translation and language studies.

The last finding focuses on research funding in the field of T&I in Saudi Arabia. Notably, most articles are self-funded. Amongst the funded projects, based on the collected data, Najran University ranked first for research articles published in journals indexed in WoS. For Scopus-indexed journals, Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University ranked first (n = 2), followed by Najran University (n = 4), King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (n = 3), Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University (n=3), King Saud University (n = 3) and King Faisal University (n = 2). These figures highlight the limited number of funded research articles

published in SSCI, SCI-E and Scopus-indexed journals in T&I within the Saudi academic landscape from 1919 to 2022.

7. Conclusion

This study investigated the research landscape of T&I in Saudi Arabia academic sphere. The study offers a comprehensive view of this research field, covering research productivity, collaborative efforts, research impact, publication trends, historical growth, research interests and funding sources at Saudi universities. The results indicate that research outputs from Saudi institutions, particularly in the WoS database, are relatively limited compared to those in Scopus, indicating a pressing need for increased research activity in the field.

Citation analysis indicates that some universities, despite producing fewer articles, have realised substantial research impact, primarily due to international collaboration. The prevalence of collaborative research indicates a positive trend, fostering knowledge exchange and improving research quality and impact. Therefore, encouraging further collaborative efforts is advisable. The diverse array of journals, including specialised, interdisciplinary and educational outlets, is a crucial indicator of the multidisciplinary nature of the field. Hence, researchers should continue exploring various publication avenues to disseminate their work.

A historical overview of the evolution of T&I research in Saudi Arabia reveals fluctuations in research activity, with periods of gradual growth alternating with substantial upswings. Understanding these trends can help researchers and institutions in strategic planning and adapting to the evolving research landscape. The availability of research grants from institutions fosters potential for growth. Thus, one recommendation is that other universities explore and provide additional funding opportunities to support T&I research.

Considering these findings, Saudi universities are recommended to increase research activity in the field of T&I, fostering a culture of research and collaboration. Institutions should focus on producing high-impact research, targeting journals indexed in WoS, especially those within the SSCI, SCI-E and AHCI. Researchers should consider a diversified publication strategy to ensure effective dissemination and reach a broader audience, prioritising specialised journals, followed by linguistic-based journals and then interdisciplinary and educational journals. Strategic planning will be essential for institutions to effectively navigate periods of growth and transformation in this evolving field.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Distribution of keywords in Web of Science

No.	Keyword	Sum of total link strength	Sum of occurrences
1.	English	22	9
2.	Translation	17	7
3.	Learners	14	3
4.	collocations	13	3
5.	translation quality	12	3
6.	translation competence	11	2
7.	congruency	11	2
8.	l2 collocations	11	2
9.	google translate	10	3
10.	Corpus	10	2
11.	machine translation	9	7
12.	Frequency	8	2
13.	Translog	7	2
14.	translator training	7	2
15.	Arabic	6	3
16.	cultural references	6	2
17.	translation unit	6	2
18.	English Arabic translation	6	3
19.	cognitive processes	5	2
20.	Tracking	5	2
21.	machine learning	4	2
22.	Education	4	2
23.	Students	4	2
24.	Urdu	3	2
25.	Framework	3	3
26.	Language	3	2
27.	language translation	2	2
28.	modern standard Arabic	1	2
29.	decision-making	0	2
Grand Total		**220**	**82**

Appendix 2: Distribution of keywords in Scopus

No.	Keyword	Sum of occurrences	Sum of total link strength
1.	translation	28	33
2.	machine translation	12	32
3.	English	8	18
4.	translation strategies	8	6
5.	Arabic	7	9
6.	computational linguistics	7	37
7.	Culture	6	6
8.	machine translations	6	35
9.	computer aided language translation	6	37
10.	translation quality	6	16
11.	Article	4	45
12.	Language	4	35
13.	Human	4	45
14.	domestication	4	4
15.	natural language processing systems	4	22
16.	translation problems	4	4
17.	Humans	4	45
18.	image processing	3	29
19.	cognitive processes	3	6
20.	Male	3	37
21.	collocations	3	4
22.	sign language	3	9
23.	Adult	3	37
24.	controlled study	3	33
25.	translation studies	3	2
26.	English Arabic translation	3	6
27.	Female	3	37
28.	Urdu	3	10
29.	supervised learning	2	15
30.	translation unit	2	7
31.	translation adequacy	2	8
32.	human translation	2	3
33.	executive function	2	25
34.	cultural references	2	6
35.	terminology	2	2
36.	Arabic sign language	2	10
37.	Cognition	2	25
38.	interpretation	2	3
39.	semantics	2	14
40.	discourse analysis	2	1

41.	Speech	2	25
42.	learning algorithms	2	12
43.	surveys and questionnaires	2	20
44.	legal English	2	0
45.	training	2	2
46.	literary translation	2	0
47.	translation errors	2	4
48.	machine learning	2	11
49.	forecasting	2	9
50.	untranslatability	2	2
51.	Translog	2	6
52.	Arabic audiovisual translation	2	1
53.	Shakespeare	2	4
54.	Attitudes	2	5
55.	sign language recognition	2	5
56.	cat tools	2	3
57.	Students	2	5
58.	Meaning	2	4
59.	supervised machine learning	2	15
60.	multilingualism	2	25
61.	target language	2	6
62.	natural language processing	2	13
63.	the Qur'an	2	2
64.	equivalence	2	2
65.	adaptation	2	14
66.	near-synonyms	2	2
67.	translation competence	2	4
68.	physiology	2	25
69.	translation pedagogy	2	2
70.	publication	2	20
71.	Fluency	2	3
72.	questionnaire	2	20
73.	foreignisation	2	2
74.	Quran	2	3
75.	translations	2	20
76.	Revision	2	5
77.	covid-19	2	2
78.	Saudi Arabia	2	13
79.	academic discourse	2	2
80.	machine translation systems	2	12
Grand Total		**259**	**1088**

Appendix 3: List of Saudi Academic institutions in the WoS & Scopus

1. King Abdulaziz University
2. King Saud University
3. Taif University
4. King Fahd University of Petroleum Minerals
5. Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University
6. Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University
7. Prince Sultan University
8. Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University (IMSIU)
9. Umm Al Qura University
10. King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
11. Najran University
12. King Khalid University
13. Qassim University
14. Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University
15. Taibah University
16. Al Jouf University
17. King Faisal University
18. University Ha'il
19. University of Jeddah
20. azan University
21. King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center
22. King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences
23. Alfaisal University
24. University of Bisha
25. University of Tabuk
26. Islamic University of Al Madinah
27. Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University
28. Alfaisal University
29. King Faisal University
30. Saudi Electronic University
31. Effat University
32. King Fahad Medical City
33. King Abdullah International Medical Research Center (KAIMRC)