

# A bibliometric study of pragmatic studies in language research: insights and trend

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## Article information:

Received

Revised

Accepted

## Abstract

This bibliometric study investigates the development and trends within pragmatic studies in language research over the past five years. Pragmatics, which explores language use in context, including phenomena such as speech acts, implicature, deixis, and conversational strategies, has gained prominence as scholars recognize its importance for effective communication. Using a quantitative bibliometric approach, this study analyzes academic publications from databases like Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar to identify key research themes, influential works, and evolving methodologies in the field. The analysis reveals a significant peak in research activity in 2020, with seven articles published, likely driven by increased interest in communication during the COVID-19 pandemic. The variability in publication numbers across other years suggests that research trends in pragmatics are influenced by broader academic and global contexts. The predominant use of qualitative methods, including observation, attentive reading, and listening, highlights the nuanced nature of pragmatic research, which often involves detailed analysis of language use in media such as films, novels, and dramas. Findings also indicate a focus on speech acts, with twelve out of fifteen articles addressing this topic, while research on EFL learning and pragmatic failure is less represented. Data collection primarily involves observational methods, supported by analysis and interviews, reflecting the complexity of studying pragmatic phenomena. The data analysis techniques mostly include percentage-based methods, with fewer studies employing advanced statistical analyses like ANCOVA. This study underscores the evolving nature of pragmatic research and highlights the need for further exploration in areas such as educational settings and advanced methodological approaches. The insights gained provide valuable guidance for future research and practical applications of pragmatic theories, contributing to a deeper understanding of language use and communication.

**Keywords:** Pragmatic studies, language use, quantitative bibliometric approach

## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, pragmatic studies have gained prominence within the field of language research, as scholars increasingly recognize the importance of understanding how language functions in context. Pragmatics, the study of language use in social interactions, explores how meaning is constructed and interpreted beyond the literal level of words. This focus on language in action encompasses various phenomena such as speech acts, implicature, deixis, and conversational strategies, which are crucial for effective communication. As the field of pragmatics continues to evolve, a comprehensive bibliometric analysis offers valuable insights into its development and current trends.

The growing interest in pragmatic studies reflects broader changes in the linguistic landscape, where there is a heightened awareness of the role of context in shaping meaning. This shift is driven by the increasing recognition that language use cannot be fully understood through isolated linguistic elements alone; instead, it must be examined within the social and cultural contexts in which it occurs. By systematically mapping the research output in this area, this study aims to uncover the major themes, influential works, and evolving methodologies that have shaped the field of pragmatics.

Bibliometric analysis, which employs quantitative techniques to evaluate academic publications, provides a structured approach to understanding the growth and impact of research in pragmatics. This method allows for the identification of key research trends, prominent authors, and significant publications, offering a comprehensive overview of the field's development. By analyzing bibliometric data, this study seeks to highlight patterns in research output, thematic focuses, and methodological preferences, shedding light on how pragmatic studies have progressed over time.

In addition to examining research trends, this study will explore the impact of pragmatic studies on related fields such as applied linguistics, language teaching, and cross-cultural communication. Understanding these connections is essential for appreciating the broader implications of pragmatic research and its practical applications. By mapping the interconnections between pragmatics and other areas of language research, this study aims to illustrate the relevance of pragmatic insights in addressing real-world linguistic challenges.

Ultimately, this bibliometric study of pragmatic studies in language research aims to provide a detailed account of the field's evolution, offering valuable insights for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. By highlighting key research contributions and emerging

trends, this analysis will contribute to a deeper understanding of how pragmatics informs language use and communication, and guide future research endeavors in this dynamic and interdisciplinary field.

## **METHODS**

This study employs a bibliometric approach to systematically analyze the development and trends within the field of pragmatic studies in language research. Bibliometric analysis is a quantitative method that uses statistical techniques to evaluate and interpret academic publications, providing insights into research output, citation patterns, and the impact of scholarly work. By applying bibliometric tools, this study aims to map the evolution of pragmatic studies, identify key research themes, and highlight influential authors and publications in the field.

Data for this bibliometric analysis was sourced from academic databases such as Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar, ensuring a comprehensive collection of relevant publications. The inclusion criteria for the data were based on the relevance to pragmatic studies, publication quality, and citation impact. Publications from a specified timeframe—covering the last decade—were selected to capture the most recent developments and trends in the field. Keywords related to pragmatics, such as "speech acts," "implicature," "deixis," and "conversation analysis," were used to conduct structured searches and compile a dataset of academic articles, books, and conference papers.

The data analysis process involved several key steps. First, the identified publications were classified based on bibliometric aspects such as publication year, author affiliation, research methodology, and citation counts. Quantitative metrics, including citation frequency and publication volume, were analyzed to assess the impact and productivity of individual studies and authors. Visualization tools, such as VOSviewer and Bibliometric, were used to create graphical representations of research trends, citation networks, and thematic clusters, facilitating a clearer understanding of the field's development.

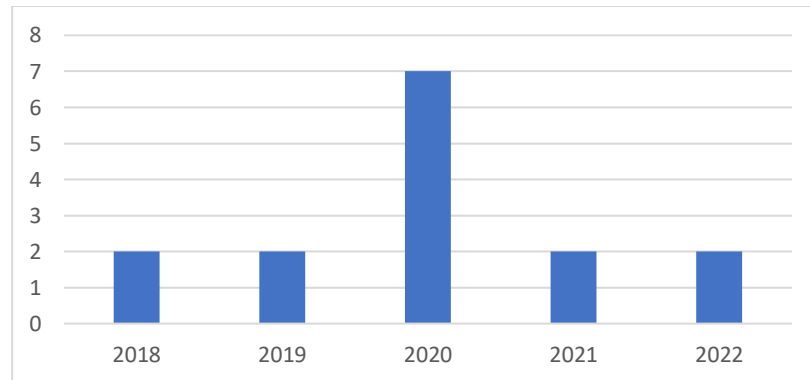
Finally, the study examined the thematic and methodological shifts within pragmatic studies by analyzing temporal trends and thematic foci. This involved exploring changes in research priorities, methodological approaches, and emerging areas of interest within the field. The findings from this analysis are expected to provide valuable insights into the evolution of pragmatic studies, highlighting significant contributions and offering guidance for future

research directions in this area of language research.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

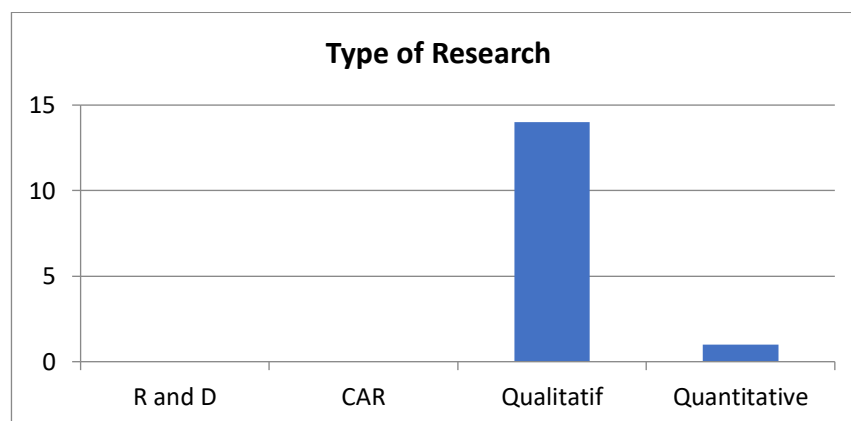
### *Number of Publications*

In this section, we collected articles from several SINTA journals over the past 5 years. The highest number was in 2020 with 7 articles that researchers identified. Meanwhile, in the two years before and after each of them, there were only 2 articles from 15 studies collected.



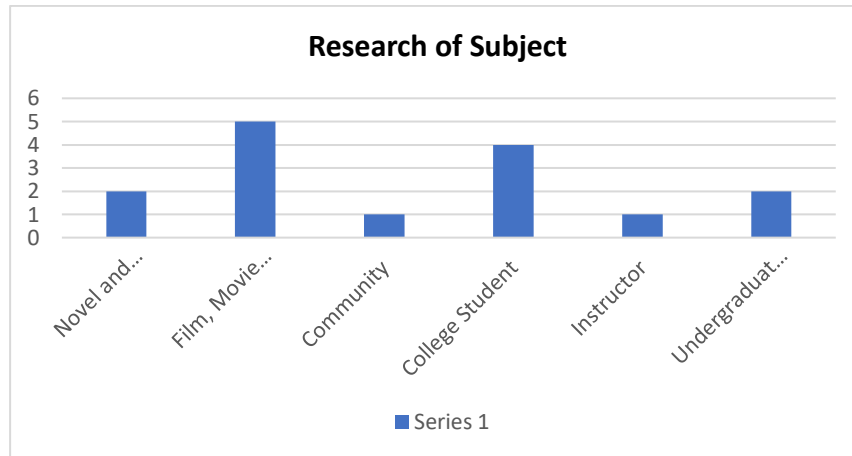
### *Type of Research*

Most of the data is found using quality methods whose techniques used for data analysis are pragmatic (identity) methods. There is also data collection carried out by Observing. The method of reading attentively and listening is also used in collecting data, especially in recording techniques. But there are also those who use sheets such as pre-test and post-test.



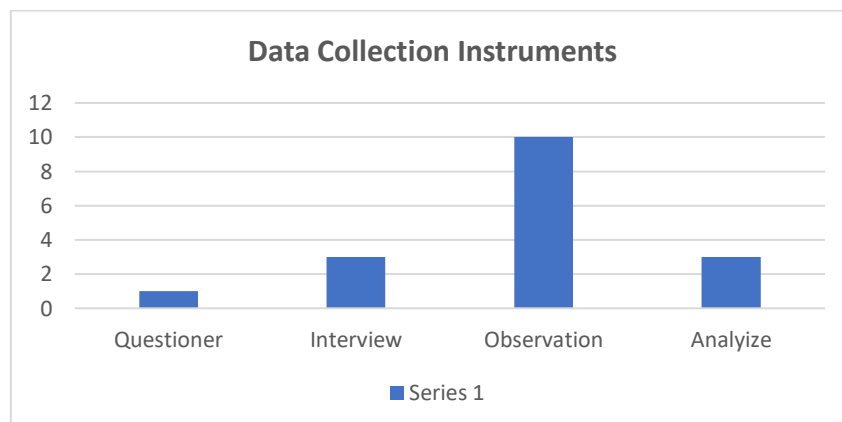
### *Research Subject*

The average research subjects include drama, movie, novels, student instructor and community. But the most dominant of them is in the movie and drama. But not a few are also students who are subjects in research. There are only 1 in 15 articles that research between movies, movies or dramas and students.



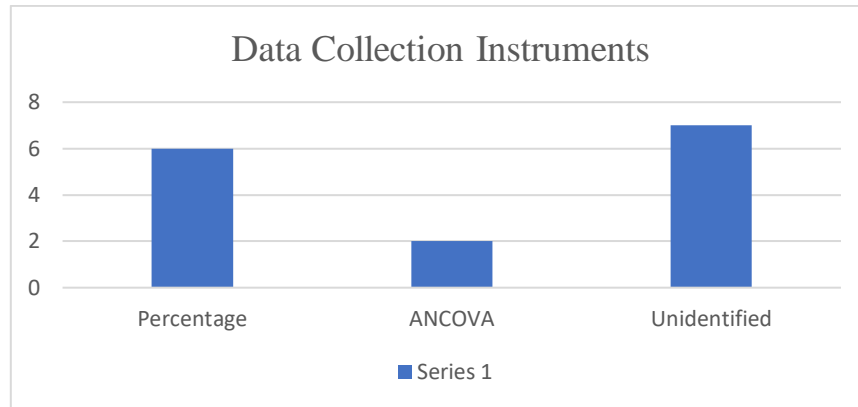
### *Data Collection Instruments*

Of the 15 articles collected, the most data collection is on the observation method because considering pragmatic studies is more on the observation of literary works or habits and speech acts of a person or character in fiction works in the form of films, novels or dramas. But not a few data collection is also carried out by reviewing and analyzing and some even use analysis methods and interviews as well as observations and interviews simultaneously



### *Data Analysis Method*

Referring to the graph shown in the figure, there are 6 studies that use Percentage as the analysis method data. considering that among the studies taken, most refer to counting the number of speech acts, either in terms of which or grouping them in certain categories. while those who use ANCOVA as a data analysis method there are only two while many are not identified because the analysis data is not displayed clearly and only directly on the presentation of the research results



### Topic

Pragmatics is a discourse study of the intention of speakers, this study is more affiliated with the analysis of the meaning of speech than the separate meaning of the word or phrase used in the speech itself pragmatic has about the science that examines the use or use of language, the point is always that it is always mandatory to determine the context of the speech situation in the citizens and the cultural vehicles that accommodate and background it. In pragmatic studies, especially in the research we collected, the scope of pragmatic studies among them are deixis, presumption, implicature and speech act, and the most studied topic is speech acts, either in literary works or in learning. But there are also studies that discuss the study of pragmatics in EFL Learning and Pragmatic Failure

Topics	Number of articles
Speech Act	12
EFL Learning	2
Pragmatic Failure	1

### Discussion

The analysis of publications on pragmatic studies over the past five years reveals a notable peak in research activity in 2020, with seven articles identified. This increase in publications could be attributed to the heightened focus on understanding communication and language use during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many researchers and educators turned to exploring various aspects of language, including pragmatics, to address emerging challenges in communication. The variability in the number of publications across the years, with fewer articles in the years preceding and following 2020, suggests that while interest in pragmatic studies remains significant, it is subject to fluctuations influenced by broader research trends and global events.

The predominant use of qualitative methods in the collected studies highlights the nature of pragmatic research, which often involves a nuanced analysis of language use in context. Pragmatic studies frequently employ observation techniques to analyze speech acts, discourse, and communication patterns in literary works such as films, novels, and dramas. The use of detailed observation methods aligns with the need to understand the subtleties of language use and speech acts within specific contexts, which is central to pragmatic analysis. Additionally, methods such as attentive reading and listening, as well as pre- and post-test sheets, indicate a multifaceted approach to data collection, reflecting the complex nature of pragmatic phenomena.

The research subjects predominantly include films and dramas, which offer rich contexts for analyzing speech acts and pragmatic features. The focus on these media aligns with their value in providing authentic and varied examples of language use, which are crucial for studying pragmatics. Although there is significant research on these subjects, the limited focus on students as research subjects suggests a potential gap in understanding how pragmatic principles apply in educational settings. The few studies involving students emphasize the need for further exploration of how pragmatic theories can be integrated into language learning contexts.

Data collection instruments reveal a strong emphasis on observation, which is essential for capturing the intricate details of language use in pragmatic studies. The use of observation methods, along with analysis of recorded materials and interviews, reflects the need for a comprehensive approach to studying speech acts and discourse. The combination of these methods provides a robust framework for examining the dynamics of language use and the application of pragmatic theories in various contexts.

Regarding data analysis methods, the majority of studies utilize percentage-based analysis to categorize and quantify speech acts. This approach is effective for identifying patterns and frequencies in pragmatic data. However, the limited use of advanced statistical methods such as ANCOVA suggests that many studies may focus on descriptive analyses rather than in-depth statistical evaluations. The lack of detailed reporting in some studies also highlights a need for clearer presentation of data analysis methods to enhance the reproducibility and transparency of research findings.

The topics covered in the studies show a clear emphasis on speech acts, with 12 articles focusing on this area. Speech act theory's prominence underscores its central role in pragmatic

studies, reflecting its significance in understanding how language functions in various contexts. The relatively smaller number of studies on EFL learning and pragmatic failure suggests that while these areas are recognized, they may receive less focus compared to the more established topic of speech acts.

## CONCLUSIONS

The bibliometric analysis of pragmatic studies highlights the dynamic and evolving nature of research in this field. The peak in publications in 2020 reflects a heightened interest in understanding language use during a period of global disruption. The predominant use of qualitative methods and observation techniques underscores the complexity of studying pragmatics, particularly in media contexts. While speech acts remain the primary focus, there is an opportunity for further research on the application of pragmatics in educational settings and the use of advanced analytical methods. Overall, this study provides valuable insights into the trends and gaps in pragmatic research, guiding future investigations and applications of pragmatic theories.

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