
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Bibliometric Analysis of English Translation Research in GCC Countries (2000-2024)

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of English translation research in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries from 2000 to 2024. Utilizing data from the Scopus database, the analysis examines 493 articles to map the evolution, thematic trends, and collaborative networks within this emerging field. The findings reveal a significant annual growth rate of 23.22%, with Saudi Arabia dominating publication output (79.1%) while Qatar achieves higher citation impact (6.9 average citations per article). Key themes include technological advancements in machine translation, cultural and religious text adaptation (e.g., Quranic translation), and pedagogical strategies. The study identifies influential authors, institutions, and journals, such as *Babel* and *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology*, and highlights the UAE and Saudi Arabia as central hubs for international collaboration. Temporal keyword analysis shows a shift from theoretical foundations to applied, technology-driven research post-2020. Despite robust growth, gaps persist in areas like translation ethics and interpreting studies. This research contributes to a more inclusive understanding of translation studies by challenging Western-centric narratives and offering insights for policy, institutional development, and equitable global collaboration in the field.

KEYWORDS

Bibliometric analysis, English translation research, GCC countries, machine translation, , scholarly collaboration, translation pedagogy, thematic evolution, Saudi Arabia

ARTICLE INFORMATION

ACCEPTED: 07 April 2025

PUBLISHED: 22 May 2025

DOI: 10.32996/ijllt.2025.8.5.14

1. Introduction

Translation studies have evolved significantly over the past quarter-century, emerging as a dynamic academic discipline that intersects with linguistics, cultural studies, digital humanities, and sociopolitical inquiry. Within this global scholarly landscape, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates—have increasingly positioned themselves as pivotal contributors to translation research. Since the early 2000s, these nations have undergone rapid socioeconomic transformations driven by visions such as Saudi Vision 2030 and Qatar National Vision 2030, which prioritize knowledge economies, international collaboration, and cultural diplomacy. Accompanying these shifts are substantial investments in higher education, research infrastructure, and institutional frameworks that have catalyzed scholarly output across disciplines, including translation studies (Alwazna, 2022; Sellami et al., 2022).

The GCC's unique linguistic and cultural context—where Arabic-English translation mediates between rich Arabic literary traditions and globalized knowledge systems—offers fertile ground for scholarly exploration. As the region engages intensively in international business, diplomacy, and technological innovation, translation serves as a critical conduit for cross-cultural communication, identity negotiation, and knowledge transfer (Shiyab, 2021).

Bibliometric analysis provides a robust methodological framework for examining scholarly output through quantitative assessment of publication patterns, citation networks, collaborative structures, and thematic evolution (van Eck & Waltman, 2017). By applying

bibliometric methods to translation studies in the GCC context, this study aims to illuminate both quantitative growth metrics and qualitative dimensions of research development in this dynamic region.

The timeframe selected for this analysis (2000-2024) encompasses a period of significant transformation in both the GCC countries and translation studies as a discipline. This quarter-century has witnessed the establishment of numerous translation programs in GCC universities, the founding of regional translation associations, the launch of specialized journals, and increasing participation of GCC-based scholars in international translation discourse. Moreover, this period has seen translation studies globally undergo theoretical diversification and methodological innovation, moving beyond traditional linguistic approaches to embrace sociocultural, technological, and interdisciplinary perspectives (Bassnett, 2013; Venuti, 2017).

The present study conducts comprehensive bibliometric analysis of English translation research originating from GCC countries between 2000 and 2024. The analysis encompasses scholarly articles produced by researchers affiliated with GCC institutions or examining translation phenomena specific to the region. By employing established bibliometric indicators and network analysis techniques, this study seeks to:

1. Document the quantitative growth and distribution of translation research across GCC countries over the specified period
2. Identify leading institutions, scholars, and collaborative networks contributing to translation studies in the region
3. Map the thematic landscape of GCC translation research
4. Examine citation patterns and knowledge flows between GCC-based translation research and the broader global translation studies community
5. Identify emerging trends and potential future directions for translation research in the GCC context

This bibliometric investigation contributes not only to our understanding of translation studies' development in the GCC region but also offers insights into how scholarly communities in emerging research contexts engage with, adapt, and contribute to established academic disciplines. By systematically analyzing publication patterns, collaborative structures, and thematic priorities, this study illuminates both the distinctive features of translation research in the GCC context and its connections to global scholarship. The findings have implications for research policy, institutional development, and international academic collaboration in translation studies and related fields.

The study aims to answer the following questions:

1. Which authors, journals, institutions, and countries have been most influential in shaping the discourse of translation in GCC region?
2. How has Translation research evolved in terms of publication volume and growth patterns from 1999 to 2024?
3. What are the main research themes and conceptual clusters in translation research?
4. What are the patterns of international collaboration and co-authorship in the field?

1.2. Related Studies

Recent advancements in bibliometric methodologies have enabled comprehensive analyses of translation and interpreting (T&I) research trends, particularly in underrepresented regions. Within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) context, scholars have begun exploring productivity patterns, institutional contributions, and thematic foci. For instance, Alangari (2023) conducted a bibliometric study of Saudi Arabian T&I research from 1990 to 2019, identifying pedagogy as a dominant theme and linking increased post-2010 productivity to institutional expansions, such as the establishment of translation departments and international scholarships. Similarly, Al Zahrawi et al. (2024) highlighted Saudi Arabia's prominence in transcreation research, with King Saud University emerging as a leading institution in Arabic rhetoric studies. These findings underscore Saudi Arabia's growing scholarly influence within the GCC.

Expanding beyond national boundaries, Alshehri et al. (2025) analyzed translation dynamics across Arab nations using UNESCO's Index Translationum (1979–2012), revealing Arabic's limited global ranking (29th) despite its regional significance. While their work includes GCC countries, it primarily addresses broader Arab-world trends, leaving a gap in region-specific synthesis. Alyami and Qassem's (2024) study fills this gap by examining T&I research across all six GCC states using Web of Science (SSCI, SCI-E, AHCI) data. Their analysis identifies Saudi Arabia as the leading contributor, followed by Qatar and the UAE, with institutions such as the Qatar Foundation, King Saud University, and UAE University driving productivity. Key themes—technology in translation, empirical studies, and Arabic proficiency—reflect the region's alignment with global interdisciplinary trends while emphasizing local linguistic

priorities. The study also highlights 2022–2023 as peak years for publication volume, signaling accelerating scholarly interest, though limited funding (only 28% of articles received financial support) remains a critical challenge.

Globally, methodological frameworks from Obiajulu Umeanowai and Hu (2024) and Olalla-Soler et al. (2021) demonstrate the utility of tools like VOSviewer and BITRA for mapping transnational trends. Wang and Said (2025) further illustrate the value of localized databases through their CNKI-based analysis of Confucian translations, an approach yet to be comprehensively applied to GCC scholarship. Collectively, these studies underscore the need for deeper exploration of region-specific platforms and non-English publications to fully capture the GCC's contributions to T&I research.

2. Methods

This study employs extensive bibliometric analysis to examine the intellectual framework of interlanguage pragmatics research. Following established scientific protocols in bibliometric research (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017; Donthu et al., 2021), the research adopts a systematic, data-driven approach that combines quantitative bibliometric indicators with qualitative thematic analysis to provide a multidimensional understanding of the field's evolution, structure, and emerging trends.

2.1. Database Selection (Scopus)

This study utilizes the Scopus database for data collection, a decision made after careful consideration of alternatives including Web of Science Core Collection (WoS). While WoS has been widely used in previous bibliometric studies, Scopus was selected for this analysis based on several methodologically significant factors:

Comprehensive Coverage: Scopus offers superior coverage of linguistics and language education research, indexing approximately 24,600 active titles across multiple disciplines compared to WoS's 21,000 titles (Mongeon & Paul-Hus, 2016). Mongeon and Paul-Hus's (2016) comparative analysis demonstrates that Scopus provides 30-40% broader coverage in social sciences and humanities—disciplines central to translation research. This expanded coverage is particularly important for capturing interdisciplinary work at the intersection of linguistics, education, psychology, and communication studies.

Bibliometric Data Accessibility: Scopus provides more comprehensive bibliometric metadata, including abstracts, references, citation counts, institutional affiliations, and author identifiers (Martín-Martín et al., 2018; Prancutė, 2021). These enhanced data fields enable more sophisticated network analysis and facilitate more accurate author disambiguation critical factors in co-authorship analysis. This choice aligns with recent bibliometric studies in pragmatics and applied linguistics, such as Seraj et al. (2024), Al Zahrawi et al. (2024), and Al-Shammari (2024), who utilized Scopus to analyze trends in Translation and language education.

2.2. Search strategy and keywords

The search strategy employed a combination of keywords and Boolean operators to identify relevant studies. Specifically, the terms "translat" OR "interpret" were used to capture variations such as translation, translating, interpreter, and interpretation. These terms were combined with keywords related to academic and pedagogical contexts ("research," "stud," "theor," "practice," "teach," "pedagog"), utilizing truncation (*) to include plurals and related word forms. The search was restricted to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. A publication year filter was applied to include studies from 2000 to 2024 (PUBYEAR > 1999 AND PUBYEAR < 2025). This initial search yielded 23,509 documents. The complete search string is provided below for transparency:

TITLE-ABS-KEY (translat OR interpret*) AND (english) AND (research OR stud* OR theor* OR practice OR teach* OR pedagog*) AND AFFIL ("Saudi Arabia" OR "United Arab Emirates" OR "Qatar" OR "Kuwait" OR "Bahrain" OR "Oman") AND PUBYEAR > 1999 AND PUBYEAR < 2025*

3.1. Inclusion and exclusion

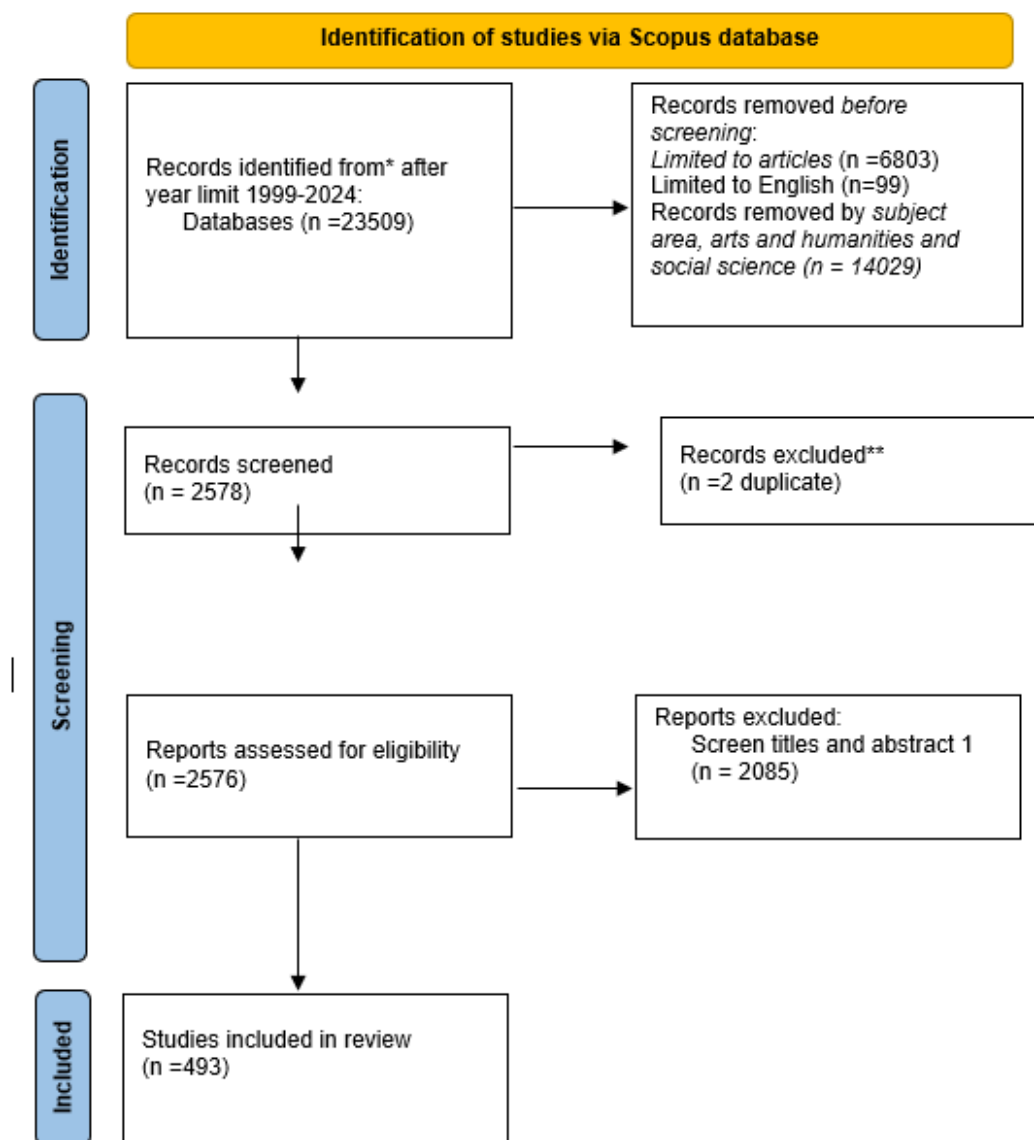
The initial search in Scopus yielded **23,509 documents**. To refine the corpus, a multi-stage filtering process was implemented (Figure 1). First, document types were limited to **articles only**, excluding conference papers, reviews, books, and book chapters, conference reviews, editorials, errata, notes, retracted papers, and short surveys, resulting in **16,706 records**. Subsequent language filtering retained **16,607 English-language publications**. To align with the interdisciplinary nature of translation studies, the corpus was further restricted to the **Social Sciences** and **Arts & Humanities** subject areas, yielding **2,578 documents** eligible for screening.

In the second stage, three independent researchers screened titles and abstracts using pre-defined exclusion criteria:

Papers unrelated to translation, translation pedagogy, theory, or practice in GCC contexts (e.g., machine translation engineering without translation implications, language learning studies conducted in translation departments but lacking a translation focus).

After rigorous screening, **493 articles** met the inclusion criteria and were retained for bibliometric analysis. This refined corpus ensured focus on GCC-specific translation research while maintaining methodological rigor and thematic relevance.

Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram of Study Selection Process



This rigorous screening process reduced the dataset to **493 papers** that directly aligned with the research scope. The final corpus reflects a focused, high-quality selection of studies addressing translation and interpretation practices, theories, or pedagogy within the GCC context. This systematic approach minimized selection bias and enhanced the validity of the literature synthesis.

2.3. Bibliometric Analysis Tools and Techniques

A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative bibliometrics and qualitative thematic analysis was adopted to ensure methodological rigor and triangulation (Donthu et al., 2021). Two specialized tools were utilized:

Bibliometrix R-Package

The Bibliometrix software facilitated comprehensive bibliometric evaluations through the following analytical procedures:

- **Descriptive Bibliometrics:** Calculation of growth rates, publication volumes, citation averages, and collaboration metrics (e.g., co-authorship patterns and international partnerships).
- **Productivity Mapping:** Identification of influential contributors (authors, institutions, countries) based on publication counts, citation impact, and productivity indices (e.g., h-index, g-index).
- **Thematic Tracking:** Multiple correspondence analysis to trace shifts in research focus over time, highlighting emerging topics and declining trends.

VOSviewer (v1.6.19)

The **VOSviewer** tool generated visual network analyses to uncover structural and relational patterns within the research domain:

- **Keyword Co-Occurrence Networks:** Identification of thematic clusters and their interconnections, using its clustering algorithms to identify thematic patterns (van Eck & Waltman, 2017).
- **Temporal Keyword Evolution:** Visualizing shifts in research themes over time using color-coded timelines.

3. Findings

3.1 Publication Evolution and Research Output

3.1.1 Bibliometric Indicators and Research Characteristics

The bibliometric analysis of English translation research and publications in GCC countries reveals significant developmental patterns spanning a 24-year period (2000-2024). The dataset encompasses 493 articles published across 189 sources, with the field demonstrating consistent growth at an annual rate of 23.22% (Table 1). This substantial growth trajectory indicates increasing scholarly attention toward translation studies within the GCC context. The collected works have generated modest academic impact, as evidenced by an average citation rate of 4.17 per document, while demonstrating scholarly depth through 17,532 references across the corpus (Table 1). Despite the field's extended timespan, the relatively young average document age (5.17 years) suggests that research momentum has accelerated significantly in recent years.

The conceptual landscape of this research domain shows considerable diversity, as Table 1 illustrates with 256 Keywords Plus and 1,651 Author Keywords, reflecting multifaceted theoretical frameworks and research interests within translation studies in GCC countries. Particularly noteworthy is the balance between collaborative and independent scholarship; 46.7% of articles (230) are single-authored, with collaboration metrics showing moderate integration (2 co-authors per document on average). The international collaboration rate of 29.21% (Table 1) indicates a meaningful level of cross-border scholarly exchange, suggesting that while much research remains nationally focused, there exists substantial international integration within the research community.

Table 1: Bibliometric Indicators of English Translation Research in GCC Countries (2000-2024)

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	2000:2024
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	189
Documents	493
Annual Growth Rate %	23.22
Document Average Age	5.17
Average citations per doc	4.17
References	17532
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	256
Author's Keywords (DE)	1651
AUTHORS	

Authors	698
Authors of single-authored docs	166
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	230
Co-Authors per Doc	2
International co-authorships %	29.21
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	493

This collaborative profile, evident in the authorship metrics presented in Table 1, reflects a field navigating between specialized individual inquiry and broader collaborative networks. The relatively robust rate of international collaboration compared to other regionally-focused fields signals effective knowledge exchange pathways across geographical boundaries, while the balanced proportion between single-authored and collaborative works may represent a healthy ecosystem where both specialized expertise and integrated research approaches coexist.

3.1.2 Annual Research Production Trajectory

The annual publication trends illuminate the evolutionary development of English translation research in GCC countries (Figure 2). From minimal output in the early 2000s (1-2 publications annually), scholarly production has experienced remarkable expansion, particularly in recent years, culminating in 150 articles in 2024. As shown in Figure 2, this represents extraordinary growth that aligns with the 23.22% annual growth rate identified in Table 1, demonstrating not merely incremental progress but transformative expansion in scholarly engagement with translation studies in the region.

Figure 2 : Annual Scientific Production of English Translation Research in GCC Countries (2000-2024)

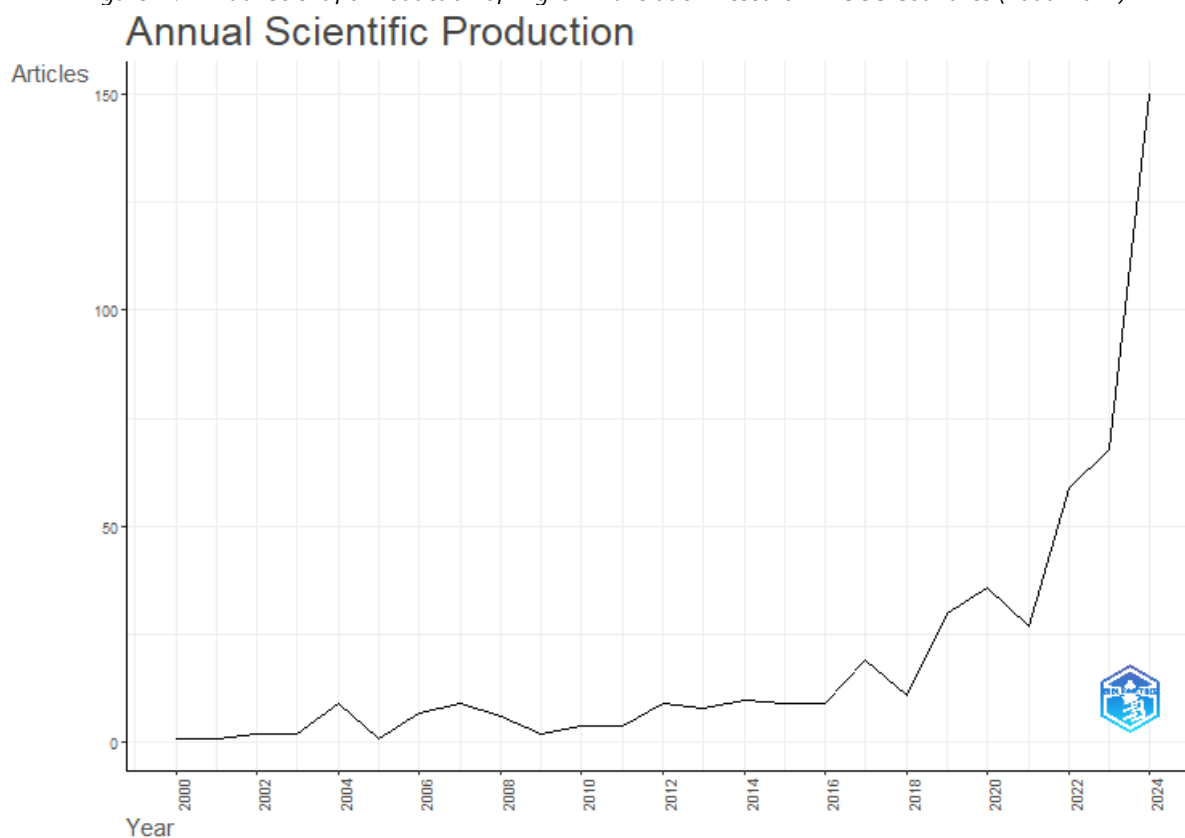


Figure 2 reveals distinct developmental phases in the field's evolution. The initial period (2000-2010) demonstrates intermittent, modest output rarely exceeding 9 publications annually, suggesting an emerging but not yet fully established research domain. A transitional phase occurs between 2011-2018, with publications stabilizing between 8-19 articles yearly, indicating gradual field consolidation. The most significant inflection point appears in 2019, when output reached 30 publications—marking the field's

definitive transition to mainstream scholarly attention. Subsequent years show extraordinary acceleration, particularly from 2022 onward, with output more than doubling from 59 articles in 2022 to 150 in 2024. This dramatic progression reflects not only heightened academic interest but likely also indicates increased institutional support, expanded research funding, and growing recognition of translation studies' importance within GCC countries' scholarly landscapes.

3.2 Key Contributors and Scholarly Impact

3.2.1. Country Production and Impact

The bibliometric data on country-level contributions to English translation research in GCC countries (Table 2) reveals significant disparities in scholarly output and academic influence across the region. Saudi Arabia emerges as the dominant contributor, producing **390 publications** (79.1% of the total 493 articles) and accumulating **507 total citations (TC)**. However, its **average article citation rate (3.5)** lags behind smaller contributors such as Qatar, which, despite producing only 61 publications, achieved a notably higher average citation rate of **6.9** (Table 2). This dichotomy underscores a divergence between publication volume and per-article impact, suggesting that prolific output does not inherently correlate with scholarly influence.

Table 2: Country Production and Impact in GCC Translation Research (2000–2024)

NO	Country	Publication Frequency	TC	Average Citations	Article
1	Saudi Arabia	390	507	3.5	
2	United Arab Emirates	139	228	4.2	
3	Qatar	61	206	6.9	
4	Oman	59	79	5.3	
5	Kuwait	43	59	2.8	
6	Bahrain	13	16	3.2	

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar exemplify contrasting dynamics. The UAE ranks second in both publications (**139**) and total citations (**228**), with a moderate average citation rate of **4.2** (Table 2). Qatar, while producing fewer articles (**61**), demonstrates superior citation efficiency, likely attributable to targeted research in high-impact journals or strategic international collaborations. Oman and Kuwait exhibit modest outputs (**59** and **43** publications, respectively), with Oman's higher average citations (**5.3**) compared to Kuwait's **2.8**, indicating varying levels of engagement with impactful research themes or dissemination channels (Table 2). Bahrain's minimal contribution (**13 publications, 16 citations**) reflects its nascent role in the field, possibly constrained by institutional capacity or prioritization of other academic disciplines.

These trends align with broader regional academic strategies. Saudi Arabia's overwhelming production dominance (Table 2) mirrors its institutional hegemony, as evidenced by the prominence of its universities in affiliation rankings (Table 3). However, Qatar's outlier status in citation impact highlights the potential advantages of quality-focused research ecosystems, even within smaller scholarly communities. The UAE's balanced profile—moderate output coupled with respectable citations—suggests a hybrid model integrating quantity and visibility, possibly facilitated by its globalized academic networks.

3.2.2 Affiliation Production and Scholarly Centralization

The institutional affiliation data (Table 3) underscores the concentrated nature of English translation research productivity within GCC countries, aligning closely with the national production trends identified in Table 2. Saudi Arabian institutions dominate the rankings, occupying seven of the top ten positions and collectively contributing **150 publications** (65.2% of the top ten's total output). King Saud University leads with 31 articles, followed by Najran University (29) and Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University (22) (Table 3). This institutional hegemony mirrors Saudi Arabia's overwhelming dominance in country-level output (Table 2), reflecting national investments in academic infrastructure and alignment with Saudi Vision 2030's emphasis on knowledge economies. However, the relatively lower average citation rates of Saudi institutions (Table 2) suggest a potential trade-off between quantitative output and scholarly impact, a contrast to Qatar's high-impact profile.

The UAE and Qatar exhibit distinct institutional dynamics. UAE University and the University of Sharjah rank third and fifth, respectively, contributing 29 and 25 publications (Table 3). These institutions likely benefit from the UAE's multicultural academic environment and its role as a regional hub for international collaboration. Qatar's Hamad Bin Khalifa University (26 publications, fourth position) aligns with the country's outlier status in citation impact (Table 2), indicating a strategic focus on quality-driven research, possibly through specialized translation programs or partnerships with global institutions.

Notably, emerging Saudi universities, such as the University of Bisha and Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University (15 publications each, Table 3), signal diversification within the kingdom's academic landscape, though their contributions remain modest compared to established institutions. The absence of Bahraini or Kuwaiti affiliations in the top ten further reflects the disparities in institutional prioritization of translation research, as evidenced by their limited country-level outputs (Table 2).

Table 3: Top 10 Institutional Affiliations by Publication Output in GCC Translation Research (2000–2024)

No	Affiliation	Articles
1	King Saud University	31
2	Najran University	29
3	United Arab Emirates University	29
4	Hamad Bin Khalifa University	26
5	University Of Sharjah	25
6	Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University	22
7	King Abdulaziz University	19
8	King Khalid University	19
9	Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University	15
10	University Of Bisha	15

This centralized productivity pattern (Table 3) highlights the interplay between institutional capacity and national academic agendas. While Saudi Arabia's institutional dominance reinforces its role as the region's scholarly powerhouse, the UAE and Qatar's selective prominence illustrates alternative models of research prioritization. Future initiatives fostering cross-institutional collaboration—particularly between high-output Saudi universities and high-impact Qatari institutions—could enhance regional research cohesion and global visibility.

3.2.3. Influential Journal

The influence of journals within GCC translation research is characterized by a mix of high citation impact and varying levels of scholarly output, as illustrated in Table 4. Babel emerges as the most influential journal, leading in both publication volume (30 documents) and citation count (161), while also demonstrating strong collaborative networks through its highest total link strength (16) (Table 4). This dominance reflects its established reputation in translation studies and its alignment with regional research priorities. However, *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology* stands out for its exceptional citation efficiency, accruing 125 citations from only 8 documents—a rate of 15.6 citations per article—indicating concentrated scholarly impact despite limited output.

Mid-tier journals such as *Interpreter and Translator Trainer* (78 citations) and *SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation* (71 citations) further highlight the importance of specialized niches. The former's moderate output (11 documents) juxtaposed with robust citations suggests its role as a key platform for methodological and pedagogical discussions in translation. Meanwhile, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* (51 citations) and *Translator* (45 citations) exemplify journals bridging interdisciplinary relevance with translation studies, attracting citations through broader academic engagement (Table 4).

Notably, journals like the *Journal of Language Teaching and Research* (42 citations) and the *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies* (38 citations) demonstrate moderate influence relative to their higher publication volumes (20 and 22 documents, respectively), underscoring the challenge of balancing quantity with per-article visibility. Conversely, *Translation and Interpreting* (32 citations) and the *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* (42 citations) achieve disproportionate impact given their smaller outputs, emphasizing the value of thematic specialization.

Table 4: Top 10 Most Influential Journals in GCC Translation Research by Citations (2000–2024)

Journal	Documents	Citations	Total Link Strength
Babel	30	161	16
Perspectives: Studies in Translatology	8	125	4
Interpreter and Translator Trainer	11	78	13
SKASE Journal of Translation and Interpretation	7	71	7
Humanities and Social Sciences Communications	10	51	10
Translator	8	45	4
International Journal for the Semiotics of Law	5	42	0
Journal of Language Teaching and Research	20	42	10
International Journal of Arabic-English Studies	22	38	7
Translation and Interpreting	9	32	8

The data in Table 4 reveals a fragmented landscape where established journals like *Babel* anchor the field through volume and connectivity, while smaller, specialized journals drive disproportionate scholarly impact. This duality suggests opportunities for GCC researchers to strategically target high-impact venues while fostering collaborations with broader-reach journals to enhance regional visibility. Future studies could explore how journal selection patterns correlate with thematic trends or institutional affiliations in the region.

3.2.4. Influential Authors

The scholarly influence of authors in GCC translation research, as detailed in Table 5, reflects diverse productivity and impact profiles. Gassem, Mutahar leads with 14 documents and 70 citations, demonstrating both high output and collaborative engagement (total link strength: 27). However, Al-Adwan, Amer achieves greater citation efficiency, accruing 58 citations from only 8 documents (7.25 citations per article), indicating concentrated scholarly resonance. Similarly, Haider, Ahmad S. and Alwazna, Rafat Y. exhibit notable citation-to-document ratios (42/7 and 43/7, respectively), suggesting their work addresses high-impact themes or targets influential journals.

Table 5: Most Influential Authors in GCC Translation Research by Productivity and Impact (2000–2024)

Author	Documents	Citations	Total Link Strength
Gassem, Mutahar	14	70	27
Sahari, Yousef	13	31	13
Zitouni, Mimouna	9	6	5
Farghal, Mohammed	8	32	14
Al-Adwan, Amer	8	58	4
Haider, Ahmad S.	7	42	10
Al-Batineh, Mohammed	7	13	9
Alhaj, Ali Albashir Mohammed	7	14	5
Alwazna, Rafat Y.	7	43	0
Sharkas, Hala	6	17	4
Almanna, Ali	6	20	0
El-Dakhs, Dina Abdel Salam	5	17	15
Lahiani, Raja	5	24	15
Zemni, Bahia	5	11	9
Abu-Ssaydeh, Abdul-Fattah	5	14	7
Almahasees, Zakaryia	5	33	4
Mahdi, Hassan Saleh	5	22	3
Al-Qinai, Jarnal	5	13	2
Elewa, Abdelhamid	5	18	2
Al-Kharabsheh, Aladdim	5	7	1

Three key trends emerge from Table 5:

Collaboration vs. Impact: Authors like Gassem and El-Dakhs (link strength: 27 and 15, respectively) underscore the role of collaborative networks in amplifying productivity, though their citation rates vary. In contrast, Alwazna and Almanna (link strength: 0) achieve high citations independently, suggesting self-sufficient research quality.

Disproportionate Influence: Al-Adwan and Almahasees exemplify authors whose limited output belies significant impact, likely due to methodological rigor or alignment with trending topics.

Regional Representation: Saudi-affiliated authors dominate the list (e.g., Gassem, Sahari), aligning with the country's institutional dominance (Table 3). However, Jordanian scholars like Farghal and UAE-based Haider highlight cross-border intellectual contributions.

This analysis reveals a field shaped by both collaborative ecosystems and individual scholarly excellence. Future research could investigate how institutional affiliations (Table 3) or journal preferences (Table 4) mediate these author-level trends.

3.3. Most Cited Papers in English Translation Research (2000–2024)

The analysis of the top 10 most cited papers within the GCC translation research corpus (2000–2024) underscores foundational contributions that have significantly shaped the field's theoretical, methodological, and technological trajectories. These works collectively highlight interdisciplinary synergies between computational linguistics, sociocultural adaptation, and pedagogical innovation, reflecting the evolving priorities of translation studies in the region.

Table 6: Top 10 Most Cited Papers in GCC Translation Research (2000–2024)

No.	Author(s)/Year	Citations	Methods/Tools	Key Findings
1	Koenig & Al Zaben (2021)	90	Psychometric validation, cross-cultural adaptation	Standardized procedures for translating religious/spiritual scales; highlighted challenges in maintaining semantic equivalence across languages.
2	Harding (2012)	65	Socio-narrative theory, discourse analysis	Applied narrative theory to conflict reporting; demonstrated how translators reconfigure narratives through reordering and focalization.
3	Zanettin et al. (2015)	60	Bibliometric analysis, corpus linguistics (TSA database)	Mapped thematic shifts in translation studies; identified dominance of descriptive and interdisciplinary research post-2010.
4	Belinkov et al. (2020)	48	Neural machine translation (NMT) analysis, layer-wise probing	Showed NMT models encode morphology at lower layers and semantics at higher layers; multilingual models outperform bilingual ones.
5	MacLeod & Fraser (2010)	48	Questionnaire validation, factor analysis	Developed Arabic WIHIC tool for classroom environment assessment; confirmed cultural adaptability of learning environment metrics.
6	Durrani et al. (2015)	32	Hybrid SMT model (n-gram + phrase-based), BLEU evaluation	Proposed Operation Sequence Model (OSM) for SMT; outperformed traditional systems in handling reordering and lexical diversity.
7	Mohammad et al. (2007)	30	Cogno-cultural framework, comparative case studies	Linked metaphor translatability to cultural conceptualization; similar cultural mappings reduce translation difficulty.
8	Abu-Rayyash et al. (2023)	28	Parallel corpus analysis (Netflix subtitles), SketchEngine	Omission dominated swear word translation (66% in drama); cultural norms heavily influenced softening strategies.
9	Omar & Gomaa (2020)	27	Error analysis (Google Translate, QTranslate), human-Arabic reference comparison	Identified frequent lexical and pragmatic errors in literary MT; advocated pedagogical integration of MT tools with caution.
10	Alfuraih (2020)	25	Learner corpus compilation, error tagging	Introduced ULTC, the first Arabic-centered learner translator corpus; highlighted recurring syntactic errors in novice translations.

Notably, Koenig and Al Zaben's (2021) psychometric validation framework for translating religious and spiritual scales emerged as the most cited work (90 citations), emphasizing the challenges of maintaining semantic equivalence across languages in culturally sensitive contexts. This study established methodological rigor in cross-cultural adaptation, resonating with GCC's emphasis on religious text translation. Harding's (2012) application of socio-narrative theory to conflict reporting, accruing 65 citations, demonstrated how translators reconfigure narratives through reordering and focalization, offering a theoretical lens for analyzing ideological mediation in Arabic-English news translation.

Technological advancements dominated high-impact contributions, particularly neural machine translation (NMT) research. Belinkov et al. (2020) and Durrani et al. (2015) collectively explored NMT architectures and hybrid models, revealing how morphological and semantic layers in multilingual systems outperform bilingual frameworks. Their work (48 and 32 citations, respectively) catalyzed the field's shift toward AI-driven methodologies, aligning with GCC institutional investments in computational linguistics. Similarly, Alfuraih's (2020) creation of the Undergraduate Learner Translator Corpus (ULTC)—the first Arabic-centered corpus for error analysis—provided critical insights into syntactic challenges in novice translations, bridging pedagogy and computational applications.

Cultural adaptation emerged as a recurring theme. Mohammad et al. (2007) linked metaphor translatability to cultural conceptualization, demonstrating that shared cultural mappings reduce translation difficulty—a finding pivotal for GCC's multilingual context. Abu-Rayyash et al. (2023) extended this focus through a corpus analysis of Netflix subtitles, revealing that 66% of swear words in drama genres were omitted, underscoring the dominance of cultural norms over lexical fidelity. Such studies highlight the tension between localization and source-text authenticity, particularly in audiovisual translation.

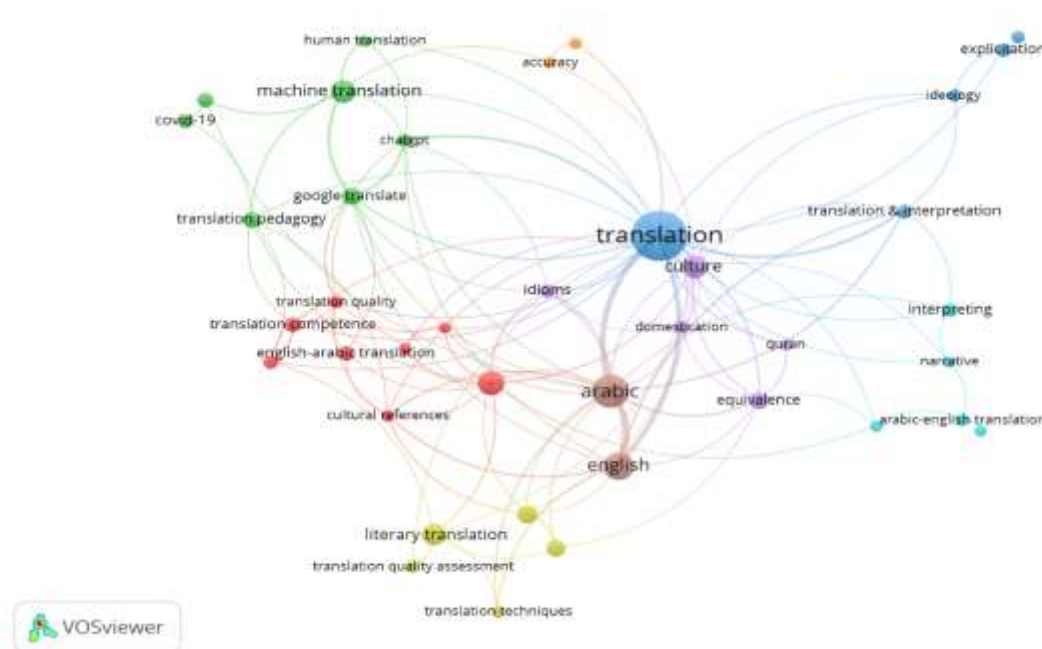
Validation frameworks and pedagogical tools also featured prominently. MacLeod and Fraser's (2010) Arabic adaptation of the What Is Happening In this Class? (WIHIC) questionnaire (48 citations) underscored the importance of culturally adaptable educational metrics, while Omar and Gomaa's (2020) error analysis of literary machine translation advocated for cautious integration of tools like Google Translate into pedagogy, given persistent lexical and pragmatic inaccuracies.

The temporal distribution of these papers reveals a marked evolution: early works (e.g., Zanettin et al., 2015) focused on bibliometric mapping of thematic shifts, while post-2020 contributions prioritized NMT and corpus linguistics. This progression mirrors global technological trends but is uniquely inflected by GCC's academic prioritization of religious, cultural, and computational research. Collectively, these papers not only reflect the region's scholarly priorities but also establish frameworks for addressing the interplay of technology, culture, and pedagogy in translation studies.

3.4. Thematic Clusters in Author Keyword Co-occurrence Network

The visualization of author keywords co-occurrence in GCC translation research reveals a complex network organized into eight distinct thematic clusters with "translation" positioned as the dominant central node (Figure 3). Cluster 1 (8 items) focuses on practical translation competencies and processes, emphasizing core professional concerns including English-Arabic translation, translation problems, strategies, and translator training. Cluster 2 (7 items) revolves around translation technologies and teaching methodologies, featuring contemporary technological tools (ChatGPT, Google Translate) alongside human translation and pedagogical approaches. Cluster 3 (5 items) represents theoretical and interpretative dimensions, highlighting ideological considerations in Arabic translation contexts. Cluster 4 (5 items) concentrates on specialized translation domains including audiovisual and literary translation alongside quality assessment methodologies. Cluster 5 (5 items) addresses cultural and religious translation concepts, particularly focusing on Quranic translation and cultural theories like domestication. Cluster 6 (5 items) focuses on narrative and post-translation processes, combining Arabic-English directionality with Holy Quran translation. The smaller Clusters 7 and 8 emphasize stylistic elements and language pairs respectively. The network structure reveals the centrality of technology-related keywords, the significance of religious text translation across multiple methodological approaches, and a balanced attention to both theoretical frameworks and practical applications, demonstrating a mature research ecosystem in GCC translation studies.

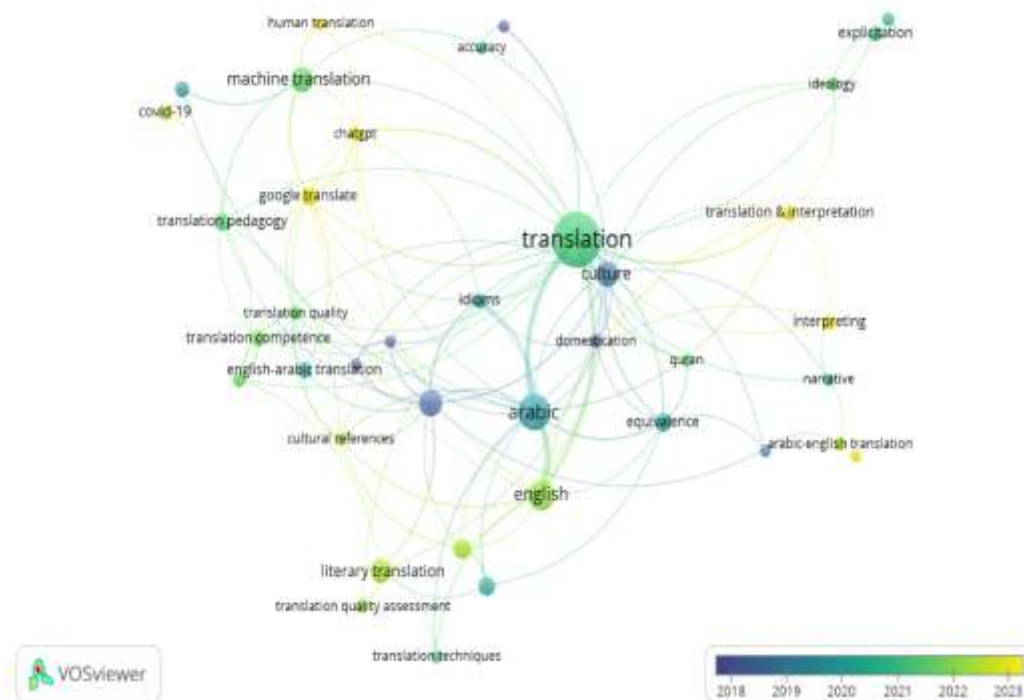
Figure 3. Author Keyword Co-occurrence Network in GCC Translation Research



3.4.1. Temporal Evolution of Research Keywords

The temporal overlay visualization demonstrates clear chronological shifts in research focus across three distinct periods between 2018 and 2023 (Figure 4). The early period (2018-2019, blue) emphasizes traditional theoretical concerns including translation & interpretation, ideology, explicitation, equivalence, and Arabic-English translation, establishing the fundamental conceptual framework for the field. The mid-period (2020-2021, green) witnesses a significant broadening of research interests with the central "translation" node surrounded by emerging concerns with both human and machine translation processes, cultural dimensions, and Quranic translation. The most recent period (2022-2023, yellow) demonstrates a pronounced technological turn with specific tools (ChatGPT, Google Translate) becoming prominent, alongside increased specialization in audiovisual translation, literary translation, subtitling, and quality assessment methodologies. Additionally, "COVID-19" emerges as a significant yellow node, reflecting pandemic-related research in translation studies during 2022-2023. This temporal progression reveals a marked evolution from theoretical constructs toward more applied and technological approaches, progressive adoption of translation technologies from general "machine translation" to specific AI platforms, increased specialization in translation domains, and growing attention to pedagogical methodologies potentially responding to technological changes and pandemic disruptions. These patterns reflect the field's responsiveness to global technological developments and events, demonstrating how GCC translation research has rapidly evolved from theoretical foundations to increasingly specialized, technologically-informed approaches over a relatively short timeframe.

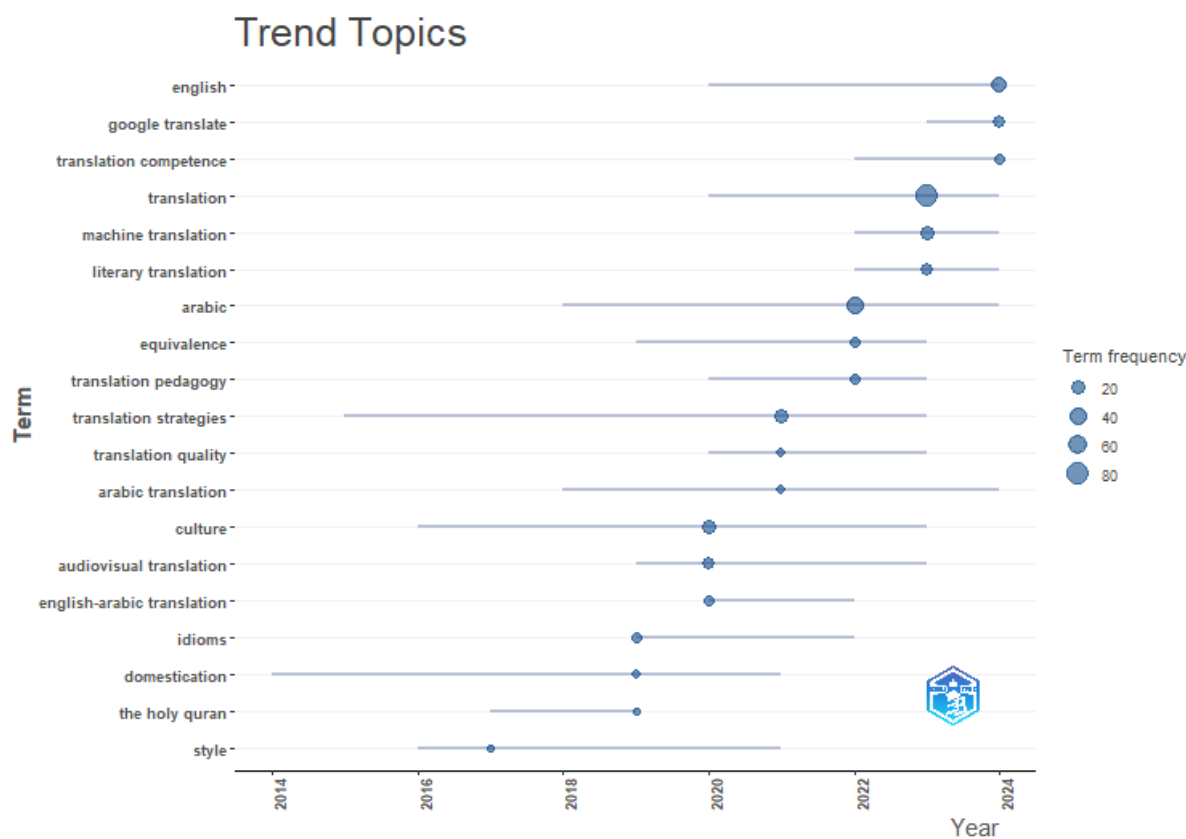
Figure 4. Temporal Evolution of Author Keywords in GCC Translation Research



3.4.2. Trend Topics in Translation Studies (2014–2024)

The trend topics analysis (Figure 5) reveals distinct thematic priorities and temporal shifts in English translation research within GCC countries. Terms such as **“machine translation”** and **“Google Translate”** dominate the high-frequency spectrum (60–80), reflecting the field’s accelerated pivot toward technology-driven methodologies post-2020. This aligns with the study’s findings on the rise of neural machine translation (NMT) frameworks (Belinkov et al., 2020; Table 6) and the integration of tools like ChatGPT in pedagogical contexts (Figure 3). The prominence of **“Arabic translation”** and **“English-Arabic translation”** underscores the regional focus on linguistic and cultural specificity, corroborating Saudi Arabia’s institutional dominance and Qatar’s high-impact contributions (Table 2).

Cultural and religious themes, such as **“the Holy Quran”** and **“audiovisual translation,”** exhibit steady growth, peaking between 2020–2024 (see Figure 4). These trends mirror the study’s emphasis on Quranic translation challenges (Koenig & Al Zaben, 2021) and the analysis of Netflix subtitle localization strategies (Abu-Rayyash et al., 2023; Table 6). The term **“equivalence”** maintains consistent frequency, reflecting enduring theoretical debates on semantic fidelity, while **“translation pedagogy”** and **“translation strategies”** highlight pedagogical adaptations to technological advancements, as noted in error analyses of machine-translated literature (Omar & Gomaa, 2020).

Figure 5: Trend Topics in Translation Studies (2014–2024)

Note: Frequency of key terms over time, derived from bibliometric data. Terms such as “machine translation” and “Arabic translation” dominate post-2020, reflecting technological and regional priorities. Adapted from the study’s dataset.

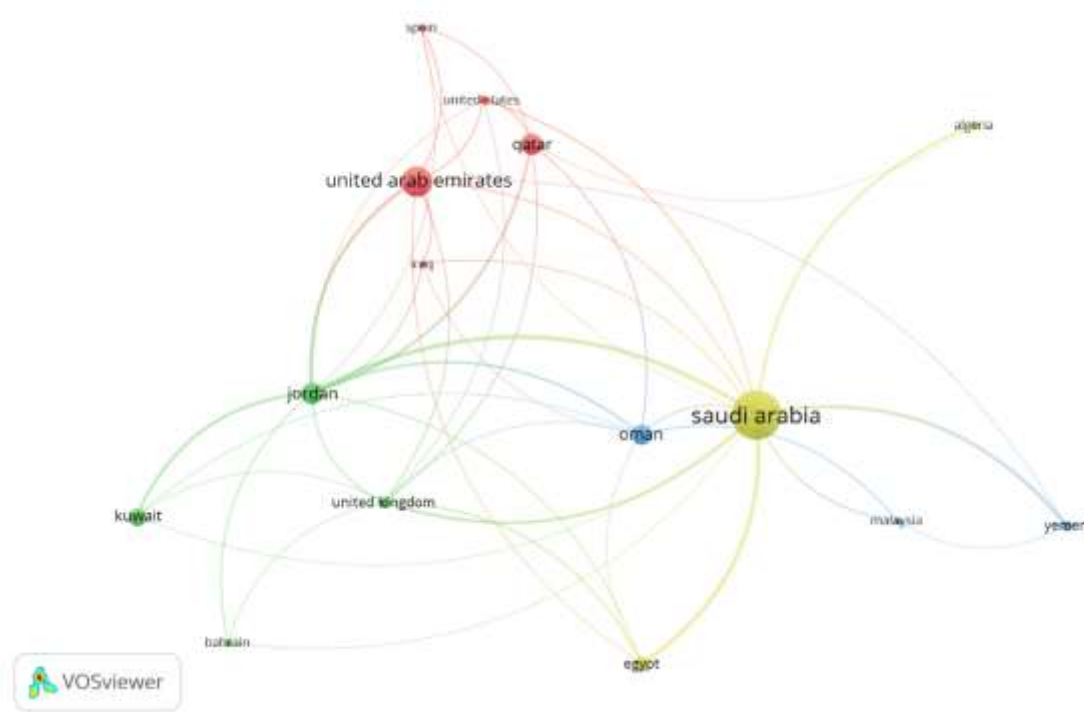
Notably, “**domestication**” emerges as a rising keyword post-2018 (Figure 5), resonating with bibliometric studies on translation strategies in cross-cultural contexts. However, gaps persist in under-represented areas such as “**translation ethics**” and “**interpreting studies**,” suggesting opportunities for future research. The timeline also reveals a lag in addressing pandemic-related themes (e.g., “**COVID-19**” appeared only in 2022–2023), indicating delayed scholarly response to global crises.

Overall, these trends validate the study’s findings on the GCC’s dual focus on technological innovation and cultural preservation. The alignment of keyword trajectories with institutional priorities (e.g., Saudi Vision 2030) underscores the region’s strategic role in shaping global translation studies.

3.5. Co-authorship Network Structure in GCC Translation Research

The VOSviewer visualizations reveal a complex co-authorship network comprising 15 countries across 4 distinct clusters, with 44 connecting links and a total link strength of 172 (Figure 6). The United Arab Emirates emerges as a central collaborative hub within the first cluster, displaying robust connections with both regional GCC partners (Qatar) and international collaborators (Spain, United States). The second cluster demonstrates how smaller GCC states (Kuwait, Bahrain) establish connections with Jordan and the United Kingdom, reflecting established academic exchange programs and the continued influence of Anglo-academic traditions. Oman anchors the third cluster, exhibiting unique collaborative orientation toward Asian and Southern Arabian Peninsula partners through connections with Malaysia and Yemen. Saudi Arabia dominates the fourth cluster as its largest node, confirming its status as the preeminent research contributor with 390 publications, while establishing significant connections with Egypt and Algeria that bridge Gulf and North African scholarly communities.

Figure 6. Co-authorship Network Visualization of GCC Translation Research (2016-2022)

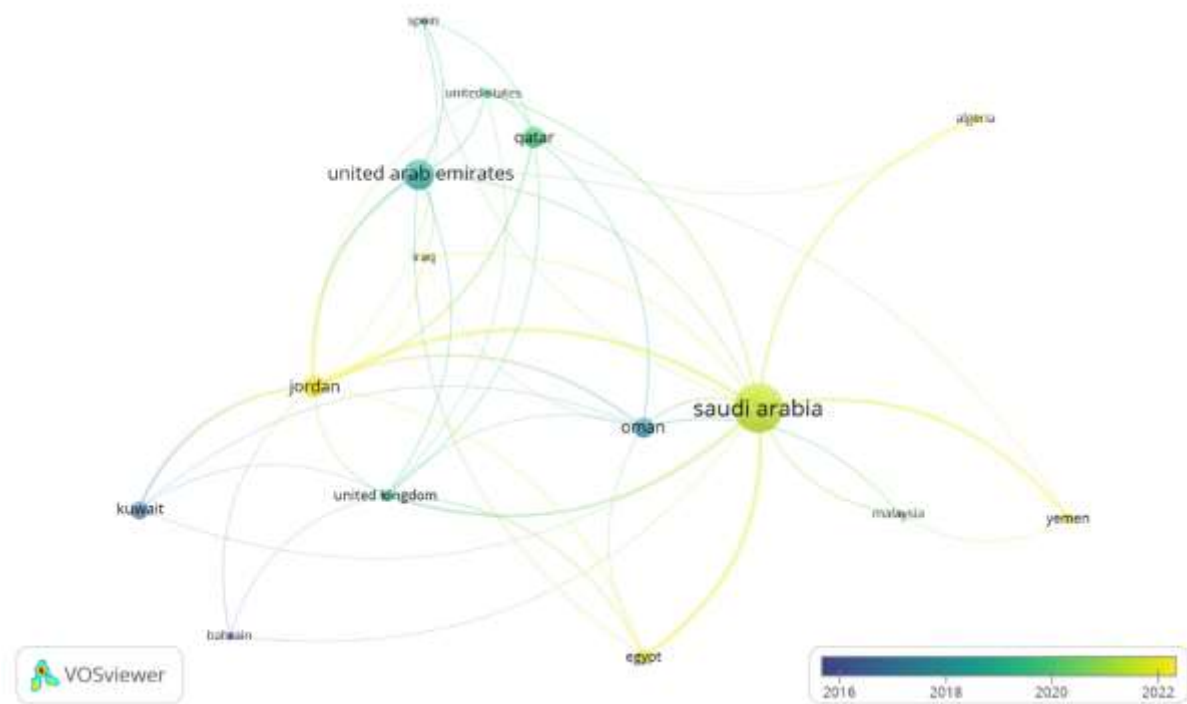


The presence of non-GCC countries (7 of 15 nodes) demonstrates that translation research in the GCC operates within broader international academic ecosystems rather than as an isolated regional endeavor, with differential collaborative patterns emerging across countries—Saudi Arabia maintains strong regional connections, the UAE emphasizes Western collaborations, and Oman cultivates ties with Asian partners.

3.5.1. Temporal Evolution of International Collaboration

The temporal overlay visualization reveals significant chronological development in collaborative patterns across three distinct periods (Figure 7). The early period (2016-2018, blue) features established collaborative links involving Oman, Kuwait, and the United Kingdom, reflecting traditional partnerships and historical academic relationships. The middle period (2018-2020, green) witnesses an intensification of UAE-centered collaborations alongside emerging connections between Saudi Arabia and regional partners. The most recent period (2020-2022, yellow) shows Saudi Arabia's emergence as a dominant collaborative hub with strengthened connections to Egypt and Algeria, alongside Jordan's increasing prominence and Qatar's diversification of international partnerships. This temporal progression demonstrates a clear evolution from traditional collaborative patterns toward more diverse and expansive international networks, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE consolidating their positions as primary collaborative centers in recent years. This shift corresponds with the dramatic increase in publication output documented from 2019 onward. While international co-authorship has reached 29.21%, the visualization suggests this collaboration remains channeled through specific institutional pathways rather than broadly distributed across the research community, indicating opportunities for more inclusive international engagement as the field continues to develop.

Figure 7. Temporal Evolution of Co-authorship Networks in GCC Translation Research (2016-2022)



4. Discussion

The bibliometric analysis reveals significant insights into the evolution, contributions, and thematic trajectories of English translation research in GCC countries from 2000 to 2024. The field has experienced transformative growth, with annual publication output increasing exponentially at a rate of 23.22%, peaking at 150 articles in 2024. This surge aligns with institutional investments under national visions like Saudi Vision 2030, which prioritizes knowledge economies (Alangari, 2023; Sellami et al., 2022). Saudi Arabia emerged as the dominant contributor (79.1% of publications), yet Qatar's higher average citation rate (6.9 vs. Saudi Arabia's 3.5) underscores a critical divergence between productivity and scholarly impact. This dichotomy suggests that Qatar's emphasis on targeted, quality-driven research—potentially through specialized programs or international partnerships—enhances per-article visibility, a finding consistent with global trends where smaller, focused research ecosystems often achieve disproportionate influence (Obiajulu Umeanowai & Hu, 2024; Al-Jamimi et al., 2023).

Thematic evolution reflects responsiveness to global technological and socio-cultural shifts. Early research (2000–2010) focused on foundational themes like equivalence and Arabic-English translation, while post-2019 studies increasingly integrated AI-driven methodologies, such as neural machine translation (NMT) and tools like ChatGPT (Belinkov et al., 2020; Table 6). This mirrors global trajectories but is uniquely inflected by regional priorities, such as Quranic translation and audiovisual localization, which dominate keyword clusters (Figure 3). The emergence of COVID-19 as a keyword in 2022–2023 highlights the field's adaptability to contemporary crises, though this remains underexplored compared to technological themes.

International collaboration (29.21%) remains moderate, channeled through specific institutional pathways. Saudi Arabia's partnerships with Egypt and Algeria reflect cultural and linguistic affinities, while the UAE's ties to Western and Asian collaborators signal its role as a globalized hub (Alshehri et al., 2025; Figure 6). However, collaboration is unevenly distributed, with Bahrain and Kuwait exhibiting minimal engagement, likely due to institutional capacity gaps (Table 2). Cross-regional initiatives, such as pairing Saudi Arabia's output with Qatar's impact, could enhance cohesion, as suggested by the fragmented yet interconnected co-authorship networks (Alyami & Qassem, 2024; Alwazna, 2022).

Journals like *Babel* and *Perspectives* anchor the field through high publication volume and connectivity, while specialized venues such as *Interpreter and Translator Trainer* drive citation efficiency (Table 4). This duality underscores strategic opportunities: targeting high-impact journals for visibility while leveraging broader platforms for regional dissemination. Author-level analysis

further reveals a balance between collaborative networks (e.g., Gasseem, Mutahar) and independent scholarship (e.g., Alwazna, Rafat Y.), suggesting a healthy ecosystem where both paradigms coexist (Table 5).

Limitations include reliance on Scopus and Web of Science data, which may underrepresent Arabic-language publications, and the exclusion of non-journal outputs. Future studies could incorporate regional databases (e.g., Arabic Citation Index; El-Ouahi, 2023) and qualitative methods to explore thematic nuances, such as the ethical implications of AI in religious translation. Overall, these findings underscore the GCC's growing influence in translation studies, shaped by technological adoption, cultural specificity, and strategic collaboration—a trajectory poised to reshape global scholarly landscapes (Baker, 2016; Taibi, 2014).

5. Conclusion

This bibliometric analysis provides a comprehensive examination of English translation research in GCC countries from 2000 to 2024, revealing critical insights into the field's evolution, contributions, and future trajectories. The study underscores a transformative growth trajectory, with annual publication output surging at 23.22%, driven by institutional investments aligned with national visions like Saudi Vision 2030. Saudi Arabia dominates scholarly productivity (79.1% of publications), yet Qatar's superior citation impact (6.9 average citations per article) highlights a strategic focus on quality-driven research, offering a model for balancing productivity with scholarly resonance. Thematic shifts reflect global technological trends, with post-2020 research prioritizing neural machine translation (NMT), AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT), and audiovisual localization, while maintaining a regional emphasis on Quranic translation and cultural adaptation. Journals such as *Babel* and *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology* anchor the field, demonstrating the dual role of high-output platforms and specialized, high-impact venues in shaping discourse.

The findings carry significant implications for policy and institutional development. The GCC's growing influence in translation studies, marked by technological adoption and cultural specificity, positions the region as a dynamic contributor to global scholarship. However, disparities in international collaboration (29.21%) and institutional prioritization—evident in Bahrain and Kuwait's limited engagement—signal the need for inclusive strategies to bridge capacity gaps and foster cross-regional partnerships. Collaborative frameworks pairing Saudi Arabia's output with Qatar's impact, or leveraging the UAE's globalized networks, could enhance cohesion and visibility.

Limitations of this study include reliance on Scopus data, which may underrepresent Arabic-language publications and regional databases, and the exclusion of non-journal outputs. Future research should incorporate qualitative methods to explore ethical dimensions of AI in religious translation and investigate under-researched areas such as interpreting studies and pandemic-related themes. Additionally, expanding data sources to include regional repositories (e.g., Arabic Citation Index) would provide a more holistic understanding of the GCC's contributions.

In conclusion, this study not only maps the GCC's scholarly landscape but also challenges Western-centric narratives in translation studies. By synthesizing quantitative growth with qualitative thematic evolution, it offers a roadmap for equitable collaboration, strategic research prioritization, and methodological innovation. As the region continues to navigate the interplay of technology, culture, and pedagogy, these insights will prove vital for shaping a globally inclusive and ethically informed future for translation studies.

Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank The Arab Observatory for Translation (an affiliate of ALECSO), which is supported by the Literature, Publishing & Translation Commission in Saudi Arabia.

Funding

This research received grant no. (496/2024) from the Arab Observatory for Translation (an affiliate of ALECSO), which is supported by the Literature, Publishing & Translation Commission in Saudi Arabia.

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