

# Mapping Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia: Trends, themes, and major contributors

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## Mapping Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia: Trends, themes, and major contributors

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### Abstract

This study aims to map the development of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia through bibliometric analysis, focusing on trends, key themes, and major contributors in the field. Data were retrieved using the Publish or Perish software with Google Scholar as the primary source, covering the period from 2000 to 2024. Analytical tools such as VOS viewer and Tableau were utilized to examine annual publication trends, keyword co-occurrences, and author collaboration networks. The findings reveal a significant growth in publications post-2010, dominated by applied linguistics themes such as language teaching, public language use, and sociolinguistics, while theoretical studies, including sentence structure and semantic analysis, provide critical foundational insights. Key contributors were identified based on their productivity and citation metrics, highlighting patterns of inter-institutional collaboration. This study provides a comprehensive overview of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia, bridging theoretical and practical perspectives. The findings underscore the importance of strengthening research collaboration and integrating applied and theoretical studies to advance Japanese language education and cross-cultural understanding in Indonesia.

### Kata Kunci:

linguistik terapan;  
analisis bibliometrik;  
Indonesia; linguistik  
Jepang; Publish or  
Perish

### Abstrak

Peta penelitian linguistik Jepang di Indonesia: Tren, tema, dan kontributor utama

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memetakan perkembangan penelitian linguistik bahasa Jepang di Indonesia melalui analisis bibliometrik, dengan fokus pada tren, tema utama, dan kontributor utama di bidang tersebut. Data diambil menggunakan perangkat lunak Publish or Perish dengan Google Scholar sebagai sumber utama, yang mencakup periode dari tahun 2000 hingga 2024. Alat analisis seperti VOS viewer dan Tableau digunakan untuk memeriksa tren publikasi tahunan, kemunculan kata kunci, dan jaringan kolaborasi penulis. Temuan-temuan tersebut mengungkapkan pertumbuhan yang signifikan dalam publikasi pasca-2010, yang didominasi oleh tema-tema linguistik terapan seperti pengajaran bahasa, penggunaan bahasa publik, dan sosiolinguistik, sementara studi teoretis, termasuk struktur kalimat dan analisis semantik, memberikan wawasan dasar yang penting. Kontributor utama diidentifikasi berdasarkan metrik produktivitas dan kutipan mereka, yang menyoroti pola kolaborasi antar institusi. Penelitian ini memberikan gambaran menyeluruh tentang penelitian linguistik Jepang di Indonesia, menjembatani perspektif teoretis dan praktis. Temuan ini menggarisbawahi pentingnya memperkuat kolaborasi penelitian dan mengintegrasikan studi terapan dan teori untuk memajukan pendidikan bahasa Jepang dan pemahaman lintas budaya di Indonesia.

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## 1 Introduction

The Japanese language has gained increasing popularity in Indonesia, driven by the strong bilateral relations between Indonesia and Japan in economic, educational, and cultural sectors (Soebagijo et al., 2022). These ties have not only bolstered trade and investment but have also encouraged Indonesians to learn the Japanese language and culture as a means to foster cross-cultural understanding (Suryadimulya & Sakamoto, 2014). Japanese has become an integral part of curricula across various educational institutions in Indonesia, ranging from secondary schools to universities (Mardani et al., 2020). This growing interest underscores the need for comprehensive linguistic studies to support effective Japanese language instruction tailored to the Indonesian context (Djafri & Wahidati, 2020).

This phenomenon is not exclusive to Indonesia but reflects a broader trend across Southeast Asia, where Japanese has emerged as one of the most studied foreign languages (Hashimoto, 2022a). The region's growing economic and cultural ties with Japan have made proficiency in the Japanese language a valuable asset for students and professionals. For instance, the growing demand for Japanese language skills in Southeast Asia is significantly driven by employment opportunities in Japan, emphasizing the role of language as a tool for mobility and employability (Hashimoto, 2022a). Additionally, Japanese language education has also been linked to Japan's soft power strategies, promoting its cultural influence across Asia (Hashimoto, 2018). Moreover, targeted educational policies in Southeast Asia, such as Vietnam's promotion of Japanese as a foreign language, have contributed to its rising popularity in academic and professional settings (Hashimoto, 2022b). Furthermore, the younger generation in Indonesia has shown substantial interest in learning Japanese through online platforms, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlights the intersection of technology and language learning (Kastaty & Prihatini, 2022). Consequently, understanding the development of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia can provide insights that are relevant not only locally but also regionally, as it reflects the broader dynamics of language learning and cross-cultural interaction in Asia.

Linguistic studies in Japanese in Indonesia encompass both pure and applied linguistics. On the one hand, pure linguistic research focuses on theoretical aspects such as phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, which are significantly different from the Indonesian language (Kartika et al., 2019). These studies are critical for understanding the structural intricacies of Japanese, which often pose challenges for Indonesian learners (Natalia et al., 2022). On the other hand, applied linguistics investigates practical applications of linguistic theories, including language teaching, translation, and sociolinguistic phenomena. These applied studies have contributed to the development of contextualized teaching strategies that address the unique characteristics of Indonesian learners (Kusumawati, 2019). Together, pure and applied linguistics play a vital role in advancing the study of the Japanese language in Indonesia (Philiyanti et al., 2019).

Despite the increasing volume of research on Japanese linguistics in Indonesia, a comprehensive overview of this field remains lacking. To the best of our knowledge, this study represents the first bibliometric mapping of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia, addressing a gap that previous studies have overlooked. Most existing studies focus on specific themes or narrow scopes, failing to provide a holistic understanding of research trends, dominant themes, and key contributors in this domain (Wardhaningtyas et al., 2023). This limitation underscores the need for an in-depth analysis that identifies publication trends, influential contributors, and patterns of collaboration among institutions both in Indonesia and Japan. Such an analysis is essential for guiding future research and fostering stronger collaborations between academics in the two countries (Damayanti et al., 2023).

Bibliometric analysis offers a robust approach to understanding the patterns and development of research comprehensively (Herawati et al., 2022). This method enables researchers to identify annual publication trends, dominant themes, and influential contributors in a given field (Baako & Abroampa, 2023; Taqdir, 2024). By employing tools like VOSviewer and Publish or Perish, bibliometric analysis can provide visualizations that highlight collaboration networks and research distribution (Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto, 2021; Kartikowati, 2024). Beyond its quantitative capabilities, bibliometric analysis serves as a roadmap for future research by identifying gaps and directing efforts toward addressing pressing academic and practical needs (Arruda et al., 2022; Moral-Muñoz et al., 2020).

The present study addresses this gap by providing the first bibliometric mapping of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. Its contributions are threefold: (1) mapping publication trends over the past two decades, (2) identifying dominant themes in both pure and applied linguistics, and (3) highlighting the key contributors and their patterns of collaboration. By offering a comprehensive overview of the research landscape, this study provides insights into the dynamics and growth of Japanese linguistics in Indonesia. The findings aim to guide academics, educators, and policymakers in shaping the future of this field, emphasizing the integration of theoretical and applied studies for greater academic and practical relevance.

## 2 Methods

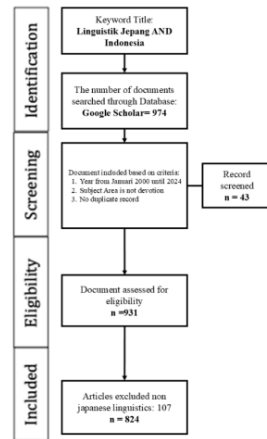
This study employed a bibliometric approach to map the development of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. Data were collected using the Publish or Perish software with Google Scholar as the primary data source. The study focused on publications spanning from 2000 to 2024, capturing two decades of research activity. The inclusion criteria for the dataset encompassed journal articles, conference proceedings, books, theses, and dissertations that explicitly addressed Japanese linguistics in the Indonesian context. Publications unrelated to linguistic topics, such as community service reports, were excluded.

The data collection process followed a systematic procedure to ensure reliability and replicability. Keywords such as “Linguistik Jepang” and “Indonesia” were used in the Publish or Perish query to retrieve relevant publications. A total of 974 potential documents were initially identified. These documents were screened based on their relevance to the research objectives and filtered for duplicates, resulting in a final dataset of 824 documents for analysis. The final dataset consists of approximately 54% journal articles, 4% conference proceedings, 39% theses and dissertations, and 3% books and book chapters, providing a balanced representation of both academic and educational research outputs. The process of data collection and refinement is illustrated in the PRISMA Flow Diagram (Figure 1).

Data analysis was conducted using VOSviewer and Tableau software. VOSviewer was employed to perform co-occurrence and network analyses, including keyword clustering and collaboration mapping among authors and institutions. Tableau was used to visualize temporal publication trends and to analyse the distribution of research themes across the dataset. These tools enabled a comprehensive analysis of research patterns, identifying dominant themes, key contributors, and collaborative networks within the field of Japanese linguistics in Indonesia.

The methodological rigor of this study lies in its systematic approach to data collection and its use of established bibliometric tools. By applying these techniques, this study ensures that the results are reliable and provide a replicable framework for future bibliometric analyses in similar fields.

Figure 1 PRISMA Flow Diagram



### 3 Findings

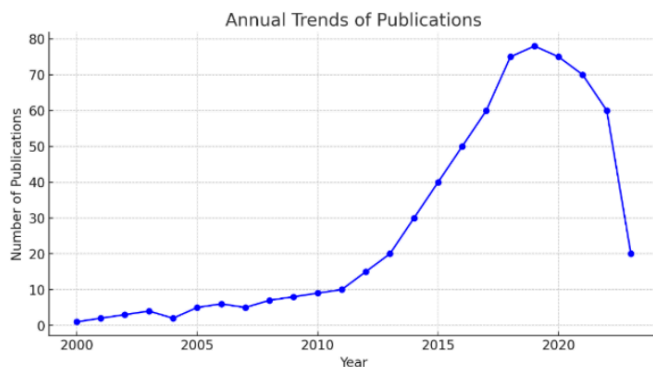
This section presents the key findings derived from the bibliometric analysis of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia from 2000 to 2024. The results are organized into three main subsections: publication trends over time, thematic distributions of the research output, and identification of key contributors in the field. The analysis reveals notable patterns in the evolution of scholarly interest, the shifting focus of research topics, and the structure of academic collaboration. Through visualization and quantitative mapping, this section aims to provide a comprehensive overview of how the field has developed and where its future trajectory may lie.

#### 3.1 Publication Trends

Data analysis shows that publication trends in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia have changed significantly over the past two decades. The number of publications has generally increased, especially in certain periods, which is thought to be influenced by the increasing public interest in Japanese culture as well as educational policies that support Japanese language teaching in Indonesia. The temporal trend graph shows a spike in publications in certain years, indicating increased attention to this topic among academics.

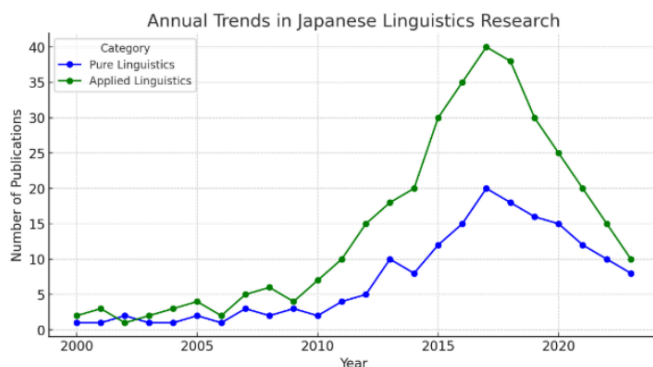
Figure 2 displays the overall annual publication trend from 2000 to 2024 in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. After 2010, the trend shows a significant increase, where the number of publications increased sharply and peaked in 2019 with more than 80 publications. After that, there is a drastic decline, especially after 2020. The surge in the number of publications in the last decade can be attributed to a result of the increasing interest in the Japanese language and culture in Indonesia, and supported by educational policies and the development of Japanese language curricula in various educational institutions. The decline that occurred after 2020 is likely due to various factors, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which hampered some research activities and academic collaborations.

**Figure 2. Annual Trends of Publication in Japanese Linguistics**



Meanwhile, Figure 3 shows the distribution of annual trends grouped into two main categories, namely Pure Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. From this visualization, it can be seen that the trend of publications in applied linguistics tends to be higher than in pure linguistics, especially in the period from 2015 to 2020. This phenomenon suggests that research focusing on practical applications of Japanese, such as language teaching and sociolinguistics, is more dominant in Indonesia than theoretical linguistic studies. In addition, although both categories experienced a significant increase after 2010, the number of publications in applied linguistics showed greater fluctuations than pure linguistics. This pattern indicates that interest in Japanese application linguistics tends to increase along with the growing need for Japanese language teaching and adaptation in local contexts in Indonesia.

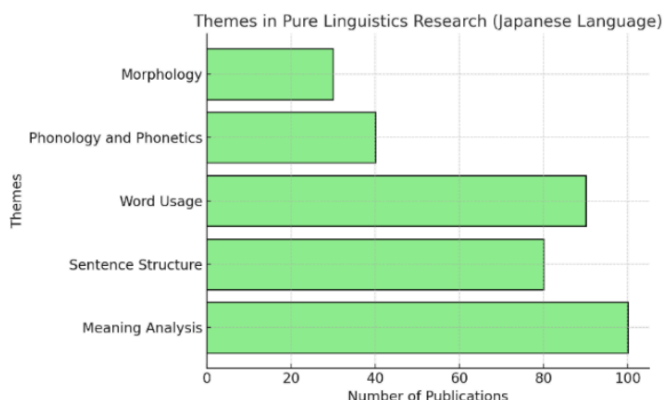
**Figure 3. Annual Trends by category, pure and applied linguistics**



### 3.2 Research Theme Distribution

There are two main categories in the distribution of themes in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia, namely Pure Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. Figure 4 displays some of the dominant themes in pure linguistics, such as meaning analysis, sentence structure, word usage, phonology and phonetics, and morphology. The theme of meaning analysis is the most frequently researched, showing a focus on understanding the meaning of Japanese in various contexts. Research on sentence structure is also quite prominent, reflecting academics' efforts to understand Japanese syntactic constructions, especially given their differences with Indonesian. In addition, studies on phonology and morphology make important contributions to understanding the fundamentals of Japanese from the standpoint of linguistic theory. Overall, these themes in pure linguistics contribute to building a strong theoretical understanding of structure, sound, and meaning in Japanese, which is useful for both language teaching and further research.

Figure 4. Pure linguistic research themes



Meanwhile, Figure 5 displays the main themes in applied linguistics, including Japanese language teaching, language use in public spaces, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and translation and language adaptation. The theme of Japanese language teaching is the most dominant, which shows the importance of practical applications of Japanese linguistics in educational contexts. Public language use and sociolinguistics are also prominent, reflecting researchers' interest in how Japanese is used in social interactions and public settings, both in Indonesia and in the Japanese community in Indonesia. Translation and language adaptation are also important topics, given the need to understand and translate Japanese in various cultural contexts. Overall, these themes in applied linguistics are relevant in supporting Japanese language education in Indonesia and helping researchers understand the practical applications of Japanese in various everyday situations.



Other clusters that emerged were methods and linguistic studies, which were linked to the terms *keigo* (respectful language in Japanese) and Japanese people. These clusters indicate a concern for research methods in Japanese studies, particularly in relation to the use of *keigo* or polite forms of

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language in social interactions, which are important in the Japanese cultural context. This focus reflects efforts to teach or understand the social aspects of Japanese in Indonesia. Another cluster shows interest in phonology and morphology, with links between morphology, *gengogaku* (linguistics), and speech acts. This cluster shows that research also focuses on the basic elements of Japanese, including words and phonetic structures, which are important foundations in understanding Japanese as a whole.

Another theme visible in this map is sociolinguistics, with the link between Japanese society and sociolinguistic studies, indicating the study of how Japanese is practiced in society. This focus involves exploring the social aspects of Japanese, which is important for cross-cultural understanding and adaptation in the Indonesian context. Overall, this map shows that Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia covers a wide range of aspects, from language theory to practical applications in social interaction and education. This visualization provides a comprehensive overview of the main foci in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia, identifying dominant themes and their interrelationships, thus providing insights for future research developments.

Figure 4 and Figure 5 (research themes in pure and applied linguistics) and Figure 6 (keyword co-occurrence map) show the thematic linkages and focus of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. In Figure 4, the main themes in pure linguistics such as meaning analysis, sentence structure, word usage, and morphology show a focus on the theoretical and structural aspects of Japanese. This focus is in line with the keyword cluster in Figure 6 which centers on Japanese sentences and cognitive linguistics, with related terms such as structure and syntax, theory, and morphology. This relationship indicates that pure linguistics research in Indonesia focuses on a basic understanding of the structure of Japanese, which is important for building the theoretical foundations of the linguistics of the language.

Meanwhile, Figure 5 displays themes in applied linguistics, such as Japanese language teaching, language use in public spaces, and sociolinguistics. These themes are reflected in the linguistic methods and studies cluster in Figure 6, with keywords such as *keigo* and Japanese. These linkages show that applied linguistics research in Indonesia focuses a lot on the application of Japanese in social and educational contexts, which is relevant to Japanese language teaching in Indonesia. This indicates that applied research not only explores language use in everyday interactions but also includes practical approaches to teaching Japanese by considering cultural and social contexts.

In addition, the cognitive linguistics and meaning analysis cluster in Figure 6 also show a focus on aspects of meaning and concept understanding in Japanese, which is relevant both to the theme of meaning analysis in pure linguistics (Figure 4) and to practical aspects in applied linguistics (Figure 5). For example, keywords such as “polysemy” and “cognitive linguistic” studies indicate an interest in understanding meaning and connotation in Japanese, which is important in teaching as well as cross-cultural understanding. This confirms that cognitive and semantic aspects are significant components of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia, involving an in-depth understanding of word meaning and interpretation in various contexts.

Overall, Figure 4, Figure 5 and Figure 6 show that Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia integrates theoretical studies with practical applications. The research focuses not only on structural understanding and meaning in Japanese, but also on applications in teaching and social interaction, as seen from the frequent use of co-occurring keywords. This relationship illustrates how themes in pure and applied linguistics complement each other, providing a comprehensive view of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia that links theory with practice to achieve a broader understanding of the Japanese language.

In addition to journal articles and conference proceedings, some data were drawn from books and book chapters, such as those authored by Sutedi. These works were classified according to their dominant focus. For example, Sutedi's contributions, which emphasize the theoretical and structural aspects of Japanese linguistics, were included in the category of pure linguistics.

**Table 1. Distribution of Japanese Linguistics Research in Indonesia by Category and Theme (2000–2024)**

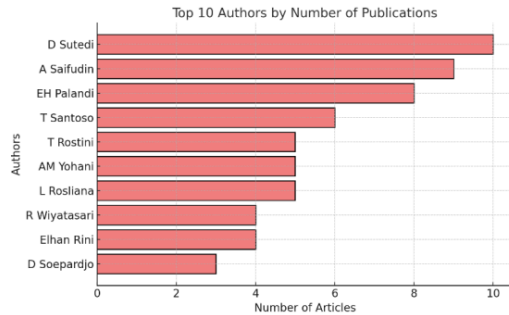
Category	Main Themes	Number of Publications	% of Total (824)
Pure Linguistics	Semantics / Meaning Analysis	102	12%
	Syntax / Sentence Structure	78	9%
	Phonology and Phonetics	38	5%
	Word Usage	90	11%
	Morphology	30	4%
Applied Linguistics	Japanese Language Teaching	144	17%
	Language Use in Public Spaces	120	15%
	Sociolinguistics	91	11%
	Translation and Adaptation	73	9%
	Psycholinguistics	58	7%
Total		824	100%

As shown in Table 1, the largest proportion of research falls under applied linguistics, particularly in Japanese language teaching (17%) and language use in public spaces (15%), reflecting the strong orientation toward practical applications in the Indonesian context. Meanwhile, pure linguistics themes such as semantics/meaning analysis (12%), word usage (11%), and sentence structure (9%) highlight ongoing interest in the structural aspects of Japanese. Although phonology (5%) and morphology (4%) appear less frequent, they still provide important theoretical foundations. Thematic diversity across both pure and applied linguistics indicates a balanced growth of the field, with applied studies directly supporting pedagogical needs while pure studies contribute to a deeper understanding of Japanese linguistic structures.

### 3.3 Major Contributors

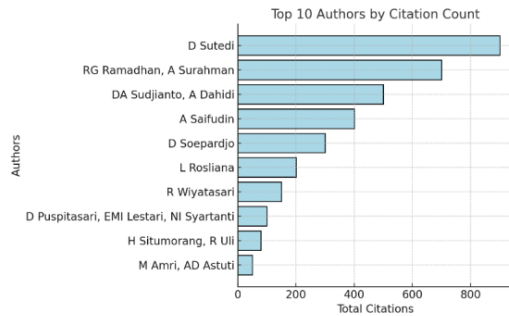
In Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia, several key contributors play a significant role in terms of both the number of publications and the citations they receive. Figure 7 shows the ten authors with the highest number of articles, with Dedi Sutedi taking the top spot as the most productive author with the highest total publications. Other authors who also stand out in terms of productivity are A. Saifudin and E.H. Palandi, who each have a significant number of articles. The high number of publications from these authors shows their dedication to Japanese linguistics research, as well as their consistent contribution to developing Japanese studies in Indonesia.

**Figure 7. Top Publication Authors**



In terms of impact, Figure 8 shows the ten authors with the highest number of citations, reflecting the influence and relevance of their research in this area. Dedi Sutedi, who is also the most prolific author, tops the list of authors with the most citations, showing that his research results are not only large in number but also have a wide impact within the academic community. In addition, authors such as R.G. Ramadhan and A. Surahman have a high number of citations despite not being included in the list of most productive authors. The high number of citations received by them indicates that their research has significant influence and is considered relevant by other academics, signaling that their topics or approaches provide an important basis for further study in the field of Japanese linguistics.

**Figure 8. Top Cited Authors**



In contrast, Figure 7 (authors with the highest number of articles) and Figure 8 (authors with the highest number of citations) indicate that author productivity is not always in line with the level of influence or impact of their research. For example, Dedi Sutedi is the most productive and most cited author, indicating that his productivity is accompanied by high relevance and benefit to the academic community. This indicates that Dedi Sutedi's topics or approaches are not only published in large numbers, but are also considered useful and often referred to by other researchers. In contrast, some authors such as R.G. Ramadhan and A. Surahman, although not included in the list of authors with

the highest number of publications, they have high citations. This suggests that their academic influence does not depend on the quantity of publications, but rather on the quality and relevance of the research topics they contribute to, which are often referenced by other researchers. This shows that academic contribution can be measured not only by productivity, but also by the substantive impact felt by the academic community through citations.

On the other hand, there are authors such as A. Saifudin and E.H. Palandi who have many publications but are not included in the list of most cited authors. This suggests that, despite their high productivity, their works have not achieved great influence in the academic community, or have not been widely referenced by other studies. This shows that high productivity does not necessarily result in a large citation impact, as academic influence is also influenced by the relevance of the topic and the theoretical contributions offered.

This analysis highlights that publications and citations measure different dimensions of academic contribution. Productivity does not always equate to influence; fewer works can have significant impact if they are highly relevant and frequently cited. These findings emphasize that quality and relevance, alongside productivity, are key to shaping scholarly influence in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia.

#### 4 Discussion

This section provides an in-depth interpretation of the bibliometric findings concerning the landscape of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. The discussion focuses on the interplay between pure and applied linguistic approaches, the emerging significance of cognitive linguistics and semantics, as well as the roles of key contributors and patterns of academic collaboration. Additionally, it outlines prospective research directions that could enhance the integration of theoretical insights and practical applications, particularly in language education and intercultural communication. This discussion aims to offer a broader conceptual understanding of the field's development and highlight relevant research gaps for future exploration.

##### 4.1 Focus on Pure and Applied Linguistics

The analysis of publication trends reveals that Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia is dominated by applied linguistics studies, which have consistently surpassed pure linguistics, especially during the period from 2015 to 2020. This indicates that researchers in Indonesia place a greater emphasis on the practical applications of Japanese linguistics. Applied linguistics, which encompasses themes such as Japanese language teaching, language use in public spaces, and sociolinguistics, appears to be more relevant and appealing to the academic and educational communities in Indonesia. These topics have direct practical benefits, particularly in supporting Japanese language teaching in Indonesian educational institutions and understanding the use of Japanese in Indonesia's social context (Sunarni, 2017; Yogyanti et al., 2023). This strong focus on applied linguistics reflects the need to bridge cultural and linguistic differences between Indonesia and Japan, particularly given the high interest in learning Japanese among Indonesian communities.

On the other hand, although the number of publications in pure linguistics is lower, its role remains significant. Pure linguistics focuses on fundamental aspects such as sentence structure, morphology, semantic analysis, and phonology. These studies form a critical theoretical foundation for systematically and deeply understanding the Japanese language. For instance, research on adnominal clause structure underscores the importance of pure linguistics in enhancing Japanese language proficiency among Indonesian learners (Maarif, 2021). The theoretical knowledge generated from pure linguistics studies is essential for supporting applied studies. For example, a deep

understanding of Japanese sentence structure or morphology can help educators design more effective teaching methods grounded in robust linguistic principles.

This trend highlights the importance of balancing theoretical and applied research, even though applied approaches are more dominant. Researchers in Indonesia seem to see greater opportunities in the practical applications of Japanese linguistics, which can directly address social and educational needs in Indonesia. However, the integration of these two approaches remains crucial for advancing the field. Theoretical studies in pure linguistics can continue to strengthen and underpin the practical applications developed in applied linguistics. In the future, closer integration between pure and applied linguistics may foster more comprehensive studies, such as applying cognitive linguistic theories or semantic analyses to Japanese language teaching, as suggested by global trends in applied linguistics that increasingly address sociocultural aspects and social contexts (Lei & Liu, 2019). This approach would allow Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia to evolve not only in its practical applications but also on a solid scientific foundation.

#### 4.2 Significance of Cognitive Linguistics and Semantics

Findings from the keyword mapping indicate that cognitive and semantic aspects are key areas of focus in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. In the keyword co-occurrence visualization, terms such as “cognitive linguistics,” “polysemy,” “meaning analysis,” and “semantics” emerge as central topics, demonstrating researchers' interest in understanding how the meanings of Japanese language are interpreted and processed, particularly in cross-cultural contexts. The emphasis on cognitive linguistics, including studies on polysemy, suggests that researchers aim to explore how Japanese speakers comprehend and convey concepts that may carry different meanings depending on the context. This approach is essential for understanding the dynamics of meaning-making in the Japanese language, which often diverges from Indonesian linguistic norms.

Additionally, the focus on semantic analysis underscores efforts by Indonesian researchers to delve deeper into the meaning aspects of the Japanese language. These semantic studies are not only critical for understanding Japanese as a discipline but also play a practical role in language teaching. By understanding the nuances of meaning in Japanese, educators can help Indonesian students better master the language, especially in using words and phrases that may carry specific cultural connotations. Semantic approaches enable learners to grasp the appropriate context of usage, which is crucial in Japanese, a language with many terms that rely on contextual and social relationships for their meaning.

Overall, the emphasis on cognitive linguistics and semantics in this research highlights an effort to understand Japanese from a conceptual and meaning-based perspective. These studies enrich our understanding of the mental and conceptual structures of Japanese speakers, thus improving Japanese language learners' ability to comprehend not only vocabulary and structure but also the cultural and social contexts behind every word and phrase. Future developments in this area may include further research on how specific cognitive and semantic concepts can be applied in Japanese language teaching to enhance both linguistic skills and cultural understanding.

#### 4.3 Influence of Key Contributors and Collaboration Patterns

The analysis of key authors and citation patterns, as shown in the data on authors with the highest number of publications and citations, reveals that academic contributions in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia are evaluated not only by productivity but also by the quality and relevance of the research topics. The findings suggest that while some authors are highly productive, only a few have high citation counts, indicating that their publications have broader influence and are considered important in academic circles. For instance, Dedi Sutedi stands out in both productivity and citations,



indicating that his research is widely recognized and has significant impact. This demonstrates that research that is not only prolific but also focuses on relevant topics is more likely to have a greater influence.

Moreover, authors like R.G. Ramadhan and A. Surahman, although not among the most prolific authors, have high citation counts. This indicates that despite their limited contributions in terms of quantity, the quality or relevance of their work is highly valued by the academic community. This phenomenon underscores that academic contributions in Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia are not solely determined by the number of studies produced but also by the substantive impact of these studies on knowledge and understanding in the field. The relevance of topics addressed by these authors, such as cognitive linguistics and semantics, plays a role in enhancing the appeal of their work among other researchers.

The limited number of authors with high citations also highlights the need for broader collaboration among researchers to strengthen the impact of the research. Inter-institutional collaborations, both domestically and with institutions in Japan, can help enrich perspectives and broaden the scope of research. Such collaborations enable researchers to leverage more resources and conduct deeper investigations, potentially increasing the quality and relevance of the resulting studies. Furthermore, international collaboration can enhance the visibility and recognition of Japanese linguistics research conducted in Indonesia, making it more influential in the global academic arena.

In terms of institutional contributions, several universities dominate the field of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. Notably, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia and Universitas Gadjah Mada have produced a significant number of publications, particularly in applied linguistics and language teaching. Other key institutions include Universitas Negeri Semarang, Universitas Hasanuddin, Universitas Indonesia, and Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, which contribute across both pure and applied themes. The prominence of these institutions reflects their established Japanese language programs and highlights the structural patterns of research production in Indonesia.

Overall, this analysis demonstrates that academic contributions depend not only on the number of publications but also on the substantive impact offered by the research. Researchers who focus on relevant and in-depth topics are more appreciated, and collaboration among researchers can be an effective strategy to enhance the quality, relevance, and influence of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia. Future research directions may include efforts to build stronger collaboration networks, both nationally and internationally, to improve the quality and reach of research outputs in this field.

#### 4.4 Future Research Directions

Based on the findings, Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia has opportunities to evolve further by integrating theoretical and applied studies more deeply. The findings show that research in Japanese linguistics in Indonesia is currently divided between theoretical focuses, such as structural studies and meaning analysis, and applied focuses related to language teaching, public language use, and sociolinguistics. To maximize its impact, future research could adopt a more integrative approach, connecting theoretical findings with practical applications in Indonesia's local context.

One potential area for development is the application of cognitive linguistic and semantic concepts in Japanese language teaching. For instance, understanding how Japanese speakers process meanings or use polysemy could help design more suitable learning materials for Indonesian students. In this way, theoretical aspects such as meaning analysis would not only remain an academic pursuit but could also be directly applied to teaching, thereby improving the effectiveness of Japanese language learning. This could also help language learners understand nuances and social contexts behind each word or phrase, which are crucial in cross-cultural interactions.

Furthermore, future studies could focus more on sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic aspects to understand how Japanese is used and perceived in social interactions in Indonesia. Given the increasing interaction between Indonesians and Japanese in education, culture, and economics, such research could make a significant contribution to bridging cultural gaps and promoting cross-cultural understanding. In-depth studies on how Japanese is used in public spaces, for example, could reveal patterns of Japanese language adaptation in the Indonesian context, which in turn could enrich teaching materials and help create a more contextual and relevant learning environment for students.

Overall, future research has great potential to grow by combining theory and practice. Integrating theoretical findings with practical needs could improve the quality of Japanese language teaching and the social relevance of linguistics research. Collaboration among researchers domestically and internationally, as well as between academics and educational practitioners, will be key to developing this field. With a more holistic approach, Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia will not only contribute scientifically but also have tangible impacts in supporting Japanese language education and fostering deeper cultural interactions between the two countries.

## 5 Conclusion

This study contributes by providing the first systematic bibliometric mapping of Japanese linguistics research in Indonesia, covering two decades of scholarly production. By analysing publication trends, thematic distributions, and key contributors, it offers a comprehensive overview of how the field has developed and where it is heading. The findings highlight the dominance of applied linguistics alongside significant contributions from pure linguistics, emphasizing the importance of integrating theoretical insights with practical applications.

Beyond mapping the current landscape, the study offers implications for educators, researchers, and policymakers. For educators, the results provide guidance in aligning teaching strategies with emerging research trends. For researchers, the analysis identifies underexplored areas such as phonology, morphology, and psycholinguistics, encouraging future investigations. For policymakers and institutions, the study underscores the value of fostering collaboration networks and supporting Japanese language programs as key drivers of research productivity.

As with any bibliometric study, this research has limitations. The dataset was based on Google Scholar and may not capture every relevant publication, particularly those outside mainstream databases. Furthermore, the categorization of research themes, while systematic, inevitably involves a degree of interpretation. Future studies could address these limitations by expanding the dataset across multiple databases and refining theme classification with qualitative validation.

## Disclosure Statement

The authors claim there is no conflict of interest.

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